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GOLD COAST.

REPORT FOR 1917.

(For Report for 1916 see No. 948.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

August, 1919.



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GOLD COAST

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK

FOR 1917.

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1.—GENERAL.

ADMINISTRATION.

The Government of the Colony was administered by Mr. A. R. Slater, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, until the 24th of April, when Sir Hugh Clifford, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, returned from leave of absence, and administered the Government for the remainder of the year.

HONOURS.

Companionship of the Imperial Service Order was conferred upon Mr. A. A. C. Finlay, Senior Assistant Colonial Secretary.

The following officers were made Companions of the Distinguished Service Order :—

Major H. Goodwin, Gold Coast Regiment.

Major F. W. F. Jackson, R.F.A., (Provincial Commissioner.)

Captain H. A. A. F. Harman, Gold Coast Regiment. (Principal, Accra Training College.)

The following officers were awarded the Military Cross :—

Dr. A. J. R. O'Brien (Captain.)

Captain J. L. Leslie Smith, Gold Coast Regiment.

do. R. H. Poyntz, do.

do. G. Shaw, do.

do. J. G. Foley, do.

Lieutenant G. B. Kinley, do.

do. T. B. C. Piggott, do.

do. S. B. Keast, R.E. (Superintending Sanitary Engineer.)

Dr. A. J. R. O'Brien and Captain G. Shaw also received a Bar to the Military Cross.

The French Government conferred the Legion d'Honneur, Croix d'Officier, upon Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. de B. Rose, Gold Coast Regiment, and the Croix de Guerre upon Major H. Goodwin, Gold Coast Regiment.

The Italian Government conferred the Silver Medal of the Italian Order of Saint Maurice and Saint Lazarus upon Lieutenant T. B. C. Piggott, Gold Coast Regiment.

OBITUARY.

The following officers of the Gold Coast Regiment were killed whilst on active service in East Africa :—

Lieutenant G. H. Shields, Headmaster, Education Department.
do. R. de B. Saunderson, Assistant District Commissioner.
do. R. C. Woods.

The number of officers who died during the year would have been exceptionally large even without the heavy list of casualties involved in the loss through enemy action of the mail steamers "Abosso" and "Apapa" when homeward bound on the 24th of April and the 28th of November respectively. The list of those who met their death by these dastardly acts of war included certain of the most valued members of the Public Service. The names of the officials who were passengers on these vessels when the disasters occurred, and who lost their lives, are as follows :—

On the S.S. "Abosso" :—

The Honourable E. B. Reece, Treasurer.
Mr. E. V. Collins, Inspector General of Police and Prisons.
Mr. K. R. Chatfield, Provincial Engineer, Public Works Department.
Mr. J. R. Whitaker, Assistant District Commissioner.

On the S.S. "Apapa" :—

The Honourable W. R. Townsend, Attorney General.
Mr. C. A. Harragin, Deputy Comptroller of Customs.
Mr. A. Farrar, Senior Assistant Colonial Secretary.
Mr. C. H. Holtermann, Assistant Transport Officer.
Miss E. D. Soward, Secretariat Assistant.

The S.S. "Umgeni" which sailed from the United Kingdom with passengers on the 31st of October, was lost with all hands, whether by enemy action or stress of weather is unknown. Amongst the passengers were the following officials of this Colony :—

Lieutenant Kingham, Gold Coast Regiment.
do. Barber, do.
Mr. T. H. B. North, Assistant Accountant, Railway Department.
Mr. J. G. Dilke, do.
Dr. K. Manson, West African Medical Staff.

In addition to the foregoing heavy list of officials who died at sea, the death through more normal causes of the following officers has also to be recorded as having occurred during the year :—

The Honourable F. G. Crowther, Secretary for Native Affairs.
Captain T. W. Breckenridge, Provincial Commissioner, Northern Territories,

Lieutenant G. F. H. Moore, District Commissioner.
 Mr. P. E. Greville, Assistant District Commissioner.
 Mr. A. C. Couldery, Draughtsman, Railway Department.
 Lieutenant F. J. Bussel, Gold Coast Regiment.
 do. Howell Williams do.
 do. J. G. Ironside, do.
 do. F. P. F. Mayer, do.
 Band-Master C. T. Leeder, do.
 Sergeant A. J. Jones, R. E. (Senior Surveyor, Surveys Department.)

APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. E. M. Bland was appointed to the office of General Manager of the Government Railways in succession to Mr. F. H. Waller, who had retired on the ground of ill-health; Mr. J. T. Furley, Provincial Commissioner, was promoted to the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. F. G. Crowther, Secretary for Native Affairs; Mr. D. R. A. Bettington was appointed to the post of Inspector General of Police and Prisons which was rendered vacant by the death of Mr. E. V. Collins.

ESTABLISHMENT.

Ever since the outbreak of war, constant efforts have been made by the Government to release as many of its European Officers as possible for military service, and to carry on the public business of the Colony with as small a staff as is compatible with safety and efficiency. On the 4th of August, 1914, the European Establishment of the Colony and its Dependencies numbered 613 officers. Before the end of the year under review, the European Establishment had been reduced to 521 men. Of this number of 521, no less than 91 were seconded for war service, thus leaving only 430 available for duty in the Gold Coast and its Dependencies. The total reduction since the outbreak of war thus amounted to approximately thirty per centum. The volume of work to be done has been reduced in many directions—notably in connection with public works of all descriptions, but in many other departments the business of Government is not susceptible of any material reduction. To permit, therefore, of so large a diminution in staff as has been indicated it has been necessary temporarily to increase the period of service, and simultaneously to curtail the period of leave of absence.

THE GOLD COAST REGIMENT.

The Gold Coast Regiment after having taken the leading part in the conquest of Togoland in 1914, and a prominent share in the conquest of the Cameroons, which was completed in February, 1916, had sailed for East Africa in July, 1916, and remained in East Africa throughout the whole of the year under review bearing a distinguished part in the victorious operations which resulted, in the final month of the year, in the complete evacuation by the German forces of their last remaining Colony.

In the early part of the year, the Acting Governor, Mr. A. R. Slater, C.M.G., with the Acting Colonial Secretary Mr. C. H. Harper and the Assistant Director of Recruiting for West Africa, Colonel Haywood, D.S.O., conducted a recruiting tour in the Colony and Ashanti for the purpose of raising recruits to provide reinforcements for the Gold Coast Regiment on active service in East Africa. The results were on the whole satisfactory. Recruiting was also carried on in the Northern Territories by civil officers specially seconded to the Gold Coast Regiment for this work. The source of personnel for the Gold Coast Regiment still lies mainly in the Northern Territories.

MOTOR TRANSPORT SECTION OF THE GOLD COAST REGIMENT.

An appeal for motor-drivers for overseas service met with a ready response, and 237 volunteers were sent overseas before the end of the year, whilst many more were awaiting embarkation.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE WAR.

The generous response which has been made by all sections of the community since the outbreak of war to the various appeals which have reached them was amply maintained during the year under review.

In February, the Legislative Council decided to invest a sum of £500,000 of the surplus funds of the Colony in the five per cent Imperial War Loan.

Money for the purchase of an aeroplane was contributed by Ashanti Chiefs, making the third aeroplane which has been forthcoming from this Dependency.

The Autumnal appeal on behalf of the Red Cross resulted in the contribution throughout the Colony and its Dependencies of the handsome sum of £15,750.

Various other funds also received generous support.

SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

In the Report for the previous year, reference was made to the Government's policy of supporting the system of tribal administration. This system has been fully explained by the Governor in the following paragraphs of his Message to the Legislative Council on the 28th October, 1918.

"One of the distinctive features of the Gold Coast, which in some sort differentiates it from the Crown Colonies in other parts of the world with which I am acquainted, is that it cannot rightly be regarded as a single entity,

even to the extent to which Ashanti, under the rule of its native kings, could be so regarded. During historical times, the Tribes of the Gold Coast Colony have never owed allegiance to a single central Native Authority. Instead, there has existed here for many centuries a mosaic composed of a large number of small, self-dependent and mutually independent Native States, each ruled by its elected Chief, who with his Sub-Chiefs, Counsellors, Linguists and other Court functionaries, constitutes its Tribal Authority. Any extra tribal cohesion which has been imparted to these small Native States was in old days the result of temporary or traditional alliances, which were formed, or which were regarded as existing, between certain tribes when, as in the case of the all too frequent Ashanti invasions, a common danger threatened them from without. For the rest, even when certain tribes were separated from others by ethnological and linguistic differences, a certain bond grew up between those of them which happened to regard themselves as dependent upon, or allied to one or another of the European nations which chanced to have won a foothold in this part of West Africa. This spirit was manifested in an unmistakable manner when, in 1867, the British and Dutch Governments, desiring to render their settlements on the Gold Coast as self-contained as possible entered into an agreement for the rectification of their boundaries. This entailed the surrender to Holland of certain Tribal Divisions which traditionally owed allegiance to Great Britain, but so strenuously was the proposed arrangement resisted by the native populations concerned that in 1871 the Dutch were glad to be rid of so troublesome a business, and by a further convention ceded all their forts on the Gold Coast to Great Britain in exchange for what at that time were regarded as much more important concessions secured by them in the island of Sumatra.

There is yet another respect in which the Gold Coast Colony differs from the majority of British tropical possessions. The authority of the Government of Great Britain has not been established here through conquest or cession, but instead has asserted itself throughout the country, at present included within the boundaries of the Colony proper, by a process of natural and more or less fortuitous growth. The original British settlements in this part of West Africa consisted of fortified trading-depots, whereof the occupants were concerned exclusively with trade, and with the none too easy task of defending themselves against the armed rivalry of the merchant-settlers of other European nationalities similarly situated. These British traders, though exercising authority in the immediate vicinity of their forts over their European agents and garrisons and over the natives in their direct employ, did not attempt to extend their jurisdiction over the indigenous populations in their neighbourhood, or to acquire sovereign or territorial rights over their country; nor were they conscious of any obligation to interfere with barbarous practices, or to endeavour to improve the moral or material condition of the natives.

British civil administration in the Gold Coast had its beginning between 1830 and 1844, and its inception was mainly due to the virtues and personality of a single man. Captain George Maclean was appointed Governor at Cape

Coast in the former year by the Committee of Merchants in London, which at that time was chosen by the Home Government to administer the West African Settlements of Great Britain. He opened a court of justice at Cape Coast, over which he presided, often assisted by one or more of the Native Chiefs, and to this tribunal little by little the people from all parts of the country began voluntarily to resort. He also stationed one policeman in each of the more important centres of population, and by this means, for the first time, exerted a certain restraining and controlling influence over the actions of the Tribal Authorities. His jurisdiction, however, except in the immediate neighbourhood of his Forts, was not confirmed by treaties and had no legal foundation. It rested solely upon the personal influence of Maclean himself, and it owed its force to the confidence and the respect which his wisdom and integrity inspired. It was not until 1844, by which time Maclean's enemies had so far compassed his downfall that he had been superseded in the Governorship and had been relegated to the lower office of Judicial Assessor, that the British jurisdiction which he had established was at last based upon a formal treaty. This document, which was signed by the principal Chiefs in what is to-day the Central Province of the Colony, on behalf of their people, was a formal acknowledgment by them of the "power and jurisdiction" of the Queen's Government over the Native States concerned. It provided for the abolition of "human sacrifice and other barbarous customs"; and it laid down that "murders, robberies and other crimes and offences will be enquired of before the Queen's judicial officers and the chiefs of the districts, moulding the custom of the country to the general principles of British law."

This treaty was the forerunner of many similar agreements, by means of which the power and jurisdiction of the British Crown were gradually extended over the whole of the area now comprised within the limits of the Colony; but in none of these documents, it will be noted, was any cession of territory made or contemplated. At a much later date, the Gold Coast was constituted a Crown Colony, of which Ashanti and the Northern Territories are its Dependencies; but this Act effected no change in the status of the little Native States which compose it, and did not materially alter in any way their relations with the Colonial Government.

The Colony to-day, therefore, is what it has always been a collection of little States, each of which is self-contained and entirely independent of its neighbours, to which a measure of unity is imparted by their common allegiance to His Majesty the King, and by the fact that all have voluntarily accepted the power and the jurisdiction of the British Crown, as exercised by its servants, as the ultimate determining force in the administration of the country and in the management of the affairs of its inhabitants."

GENERAL CONDITION OF THE COLONY.

In 1917, the third year of hostilities, the Colony began to experience in a sensible degree, the effects of the Great War. The hardships of the local community, however, were limited to such as were the direct outcome of the restrictions on shipping. The prohibition or limitation of certain classes of Imports, and the high and increasing prices of those commodities which

were not under any ban made it necessary for the inhabitants generally to reduce their style of living and resort in not a few cases to the simpler standard of earlier years. More serious, because fraught with potential danger to the staple industry of the Colony, was the fall in the price of cocoa. The poor return to the farmer was such as to test his sturdiness and his foresight, but though this obviously entailed some risk to the industry, present information gives ground for the hope that no permanent injury has resulted.

There is clear testimony to show that no signs of war weariness, or of failing loyalty and interest in the allied cause, have manifested themselves among the inhabitants of the Colony. The contributions to the Red Cross Fund in the year under review, have been double the totals of 1915 and 1916. Of greater honour is the fact that the call to service overseas evoked enthusiastic effort and response from all sections of the community throughout the Colony and its Dependencies. At no time was there any doubt that the drafts to maintain the Gold Coast Regiment at its full fighting strength would be forthcoming, and in addition to the large number of recruits needed for this purpose, approximately 1,000 natives from the chief towns enlisted as motor drivers for service in East Africa. It can be said now with confidence that the people of the Colony have never once failed to respond to any call that has been made upon them during the Great War.

II.—FINANCIAL.

REVENUE.

The Revenue for the year amounted to £1,624,124, a decrease of £211,865 upon the revenue for 1916. The increases and decreases under the several heads as compared with the figures for 1916 are shewn in the appended table :—

Heads of Revenue.	1917.	1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	893,785	1,132,000	—	238,215
Light Dues	1,501	1,656	—	155
Licences	63,732	53,964	9,768	—
Fees of Court &c. ..	60,191	48,127	12,064	—
Railways	494,338	505,665	—	11,327
Posts and Telegraphs ..	30,399	18,248	12,151	—
Rents of Govt. Land ..	5,478	1,419	4,059	—
Interest	33,424	16,165	17,259	—
Ashanti	—	44,824	—	44,824
Northern Territories ..	—	3,502	—	3,502
Miscellaneous	39,644	10,105	29,539	—
Land Sales	1,632	314	1,318	—
Total ..	£1,624,124	£1,835,989	£86,158	£298,023

Nett Decrease £211,865

The Revenue and Expenditure for Ashanti and the Northern Territories during 1917, instead of being entered as separate heads of account were amalgamated with the Revenue and Expenditure for the Colony and recorded under the various heads of detail. This change in the method of accounting is naturally responsible for an increase being shewn under certain heads.

The decreases in Revenue derived from Customs, Light Dues, and Railways, are entirely due to the scarcity of shipping, to the restrictions on exports from the United Kingdom and from other parts of Europe, and to the consequent falling off in Imports and in Railway Goods-traffic.

The increase of £17,259 in respect of Interest on Colonial Funds is due to £500,000 of the Colony's surplus funds having been invested in the 5 per cent. Imperial War Loan in February 1917.

The increase under Posts and Telegraphs is due to the inclusion of revenue derived from sale of postage stamps, this item having previously been included under Fees of Court. At the same time the substantial increase under Fees of Court is due to the inclusion of the Revenues derived from Ashanti and the Northern Territories, which, as explained above, have hitherto been accounted for under separate Heads.

Customs and Railway receipts represent the bulk of the revenue and the proportion which they bear to the total revenue is shown hereunder:—

Year.	Customs.		Railway.		Other Sources.	
	Receipts.	Percentage to total Revenue.	Receipts.	Percentage to total Revenue.	Receipts.	Percentage to total Revenue.
1912 ..	£735,470	59·75%	£329,399	26·76%	165,981	13·49%
1913 ..	779,593	59·89%	357,329	27·46%	164,644	12·65%
1914 ..	768,829	57·73%	380,716	28·59%	182,168	13·68%
1915 ..	828,015	56·87%	445,898	30·62%	182,217	12·51%
1916 ..	1,132,000	61·66%	505,665	27·54%	198,324	10·80%
1917 ..	893,785	55·03%	494,338	30·44%	236,001	14·53%

As has been the case in past years, a considerable portion of the Colony's Revenue was derived from the importation of spirits. This is due not to the relatively large quantities of spirits imported, as compared with other commodities, but to the fact it is possible to impose on spirits import duties which would be prohibitive if levied upon any other article of import. The general depression in trade during 1917 caused however a reduction of nearly 50 per cent in the imports of spirits, with the result that the proportion of revenue accruing from this source in 1917 amounted to little more than a quarter of the total revenue for the year.

IMPORTATION OF SPIRITS.

	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917
Total Quantity (in Gallons) Imported	1,762,910	1,719,646	1,534,080	1,785,819	919,372
Gallonage at 100 converted from liquid Gallons varying in strength ..	835,780 £	848,976 £	714,714 £	829,843 £	442,489 £
Declared Value ..	214,202	214,583	215,748	354,766	213,325
	£	£	£	£	£
Customs Duties ..	502,429	494,072	514,043	585,151	394,202
Licence Fees ..	39,717	42,835	41,804	45,672	41,949
Railway Freightage	38,688	42,563	46,024	51,610	24,116
Total Revenue on Spirits	580,834	579,470	601,871	682,433	460,267
Percentage which Revenue on Spirits bears to Aggregate Revenue for the year derived from all sources	45%	44%	41%	36%	28%

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £1,424,279 or £41,667 less than in 1916. The expenditure had been estimated at £2,363,472, but early in the year, it was foreseen that the revenue would fall heavily short of the amount estimated which was £2,098,640. Measures of rigid economy and drastic retrenchment were therefore applied, resulting, despite the fact that the revenue only reached £1,624,124, in an excess of revenue over expenditure for the year to the amount of £199,845.

The increases and decreases under the several heads of expenditure as compared with the figures for the year 1916 are shown in the appended table:—

Head of Expenditure.	1917	1916	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Governor	6,876	8,125	—	1,249
Supreme Court	11,716	11,599	117	—
Law Officers	4,495	3,976	519	—
Colonial Secretary's Office and Legislature	12,364	10,845	1,519	—
Printing Office	13,879	14,556	—	677
Political Administration	77,548	—	77,548	—
Native Affairs	—	1,775	—	1,775
Prov. & Dist. Commrs.	—	38,070	—	38,070
Treasury	16,635	18,726	—	2,091
Audit Department	5,114	4,936	178	—
Customs	37,480	33,074	4,406	—
Preventive Service	12,484	14,147	—	1,663
Marine	3,380	2,647	733	—
Accra Harbour Maintenance	37,170	20,962	16,208	—
Railways	196,069	212,277	—	16,208
Accra Water Works Railway	—	2,782	—	2,782
Posts and Telegraphs	55,573	49,865	5,708	—
Transport Department	5,014	4,075	939	—
Medical	58,413	61,118	—	2,705
Sanitation	57,012	53,912	3,100	—
Veterinary	681	862	—	181
Education	33,620	31,122	2,498	—
Agriculture	15,901	15,864	37	—
Forestry	1,992	2,534	—	542
Mines	2,320	2,593	—	273
Geological Survey	1,371	2,286	—	915
Gold Coast Regiment, (W.A.F.F.)	85,119	74,695	10,424	—
Volunteers	1,872	3,752	—	1,880
Police	60,551	54,908	5,643	—
Prisons	26,577	22,298	4,279	—
Public Cemeteries	1,848	1,859	—	11
Ashanti	—	37,552	—	37,552
Northern Territories	—	28,951	—	28,951
Northern Territories Consta- bulary	12,378	12,837	—	459
Miscellaneous Services	20,557	10,701	9,856	—
Pensions and Gratuities	24,878	24,014	864	—
Public Debt Charges	136,885	131,770	5,115	—
Carried forward ..	1,037,772	1,026,065	149,691	137,984

Head of Expenditure.	1917	1916	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ..	1,037,772	1,026,065	149,691	137,984
Public Works Department ..	62,770	64,750	—	1,980
Public Works Recurrent ..	64,325	48,306	16,019	—
Accra Water Works Maintenance	7,337	7,815	—	478
Public Works Extraordinary	106,688	119,735	—	13,047
Railway Capital Maintenance	29,574	19,964	9,610	—
Posts and Telegraphs Extraordinary	7,115	3,856	3,259	—
Special Works	48,682	86,488	—	37,806
Repayment of Loans ..	15,000	20,000	—	5,000
War Contribution to Imperial Government ..	20,000	30,000	—	10,000
War Expenses	26,218	37,273	—	11,055
War Expedition to Togoland	1,202*	1,694	—	2,896
Total ..	1,424,279	1,465,946	178,579	220,246

Nett Decrease £41,667

*Overpayment recovered.

The increases and decreases under the heads Colonial Secretary's Office and Legislature, Political Administration, Native Affairs, Provincial and District Commissioners, Ashanti, and the Northern Territories, are due to changes in the method of accounting.

Other increases and decreases call for no special comment.

The yearly revenue and expenditure for the period 1913 to 1917 is shown in the following table:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1913	1,301,566	1,353,291
1914	1,331,713	1,755,850
1915	1,456,130	1,627,015
1916	1,835,989	1,465,946
1917	1,624,124	1,424,279

It will be observed that whilst the Expenditure has been reduced each year since the outbreak of war, 1917 was the first year to show any falling-off in Revenue.

Loan Expenditure.

The following table shows the various items of expenditure up to the 31st of December 1917 which have been charged to Loan Account:—

Seccondee-Coomassie Railway	£1,812,556
Accra-Akwapim Railway	300,000
Tarquah-Prestea-Broomassie Railway	135,000
Accra Harbour Works	158,000
Seccondee Harbour Works	168,312
Accra Water Works	200,000
Seccondee Water Works	156,817
	£2,930,685

In addition to the above sums charged to loan account, expenditure has been defrayed from revenue during the years 1912 to 1917 in respect of special works as under:—

Accra Harbour Works	£123,359
Seccondee Harbour Works	52,037
Accra-Mangoase Railway	95,264
Tarquah-Prestea-Broomassie Railway	26,837
Accra Water Works	57,191
Seccondee Water Works	35,194
	£389,882

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 1st of January 1917 was £662,865. At the close of the year this excess had risen to £862,710, the increase of £199,845 representing the excess of revenue over expenditure for the year.

Out of its surplus funds, the Colony in February 1917, invested the sum of £500,000 in the 5 per cent. Imperial War Loan, and the Crown Agents had, at the close of the year advanced at call the sum of £80,000 at varying rates of interest.

The Public Debt of the Colony was reduced from £3,424,118 on the 1st of January to £3,409,118 on the 31st of December, 1917, by the repayment during the year of the sum of £15,000 to the Imperial Government.

The amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Fund for the amortization of the funded portion of the Public debt on the 31st December, 1917, was £246,066, contributions from General Revenue during the year amounting to £26,455 and £8,834 accruing from interest on investments having been added to the Fund.

CURRENCY.

Silver coin to the face value of £52,000 was received from the Currency Board during the year and the balance in the hands of the Currency Officer on the 31st December amounted to £218,000.

No nickel coins were imported during the year. The total face value of these coins imported into the Colony is as follows:—

Imported in 1912	£1,500
1913	1,500
1914	2,500
1915	1,362
1916	2,505
	£8,867

West African Currency Notes to the value of £37,545 were in circulation on the 31st December, 1917, as follows:—

20/- Notes	£24,495
10/- „	12,000
2/- „	1,050

These notes were introduced experimentally in 1916 but up to the end of the year under review had not been made legal tender. The 20/- and 10/- note are used in the larger towns; but the notes generally do not, at present, find ready acceptance in the upcountry districts.

BANKING.

Representatives of the Colonial Bank arrived in the Colony towards the close of 1916 and the Bank opened branches at Accra in February 1917, and at Seccondee in June 1917. Government opened accounts at both branches in September 1917. The usual Government accounts at the various branches of the Bank of British West Africa throughout the Colony were maintained during the year.

MUNICIPAL BODIES.

Town Councils are established at Accra, Cape Coast and Seccondee.

The following table shows their Revenue and Expenditure for the past five years:—

	1913		1914		1915	
	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Accra	9,537	10,637	11,156	11,340	13,108	11,516
Seccondee	4,734	5,172	5,521	5,551	5,247	5,223
Cape Coast.. .. .	3,890	3,547	5,288	3,966	3,335	5,161

	1916		1917	
	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.
	£	£	£	£
Accra	13,848	13,403	13,986	15,766
Secondee	5,690	5,324	5,923	5,564
Cape Coast	4,521	4,223	4,137	4,538

III.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS.

The total value of imports during 1917 (exclusive of expenses on Specie and of the value of free goods imported across the inland frontiers) was £3,386,480—a decrease of £2,613,269, or 43 per cent, as compared with 1916.

This total is made up of goods imported on behalf of the Colonial Government valued at £256,066, Specie valued at £165,961 and Commercial imports valued at £2,964,453.

Imports on behalf of the Colonial Government show an increase of £41,220 or 19 per cent. This increase is more than accounted for by the increased cost of commodities.

Imports of Specie show a decrease of £737,021 or 82 per cent as compared with 1916. This is due almost entirely to the reduced need for Specie for purchasing cocoa, in consequence of the low prices ruling during the year.

The value of other commercial imports shows a decrease of £1,917,467 or 39 per cent as compared with 1916. In considering this decrease, it should not be forgotten that an increase of £1,765,234 was recorded in 1916. Were it not for the higher ruling prices of commodities, the decrease appearing under this head would be far greater, but there can be no doubt that whatever decrease has occurred is due to two causes, viz. the difficulty in procuring goods, and the lack of tonnage to convey them. It is remarkable that notwithstanding the long and heavy slump in the Cocoa market, there was no shortage of money in the Colony. The demand for imported goods has not slackened in spite of the soaring prices, and the market could easily have absorbed the goods in much greater quantities had they been available.

The values of the various commodities imported during 1917 as compared with the figures for the previous year are recorded in detail in the annexed table "A."

TABLE "A."

THE FOLLOWING IS A COMPARATIVE TABLE OF THE QUANTITIES AND VALUES OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF IMPORT FOR THE YEARS 1916 AND 1917.

Articles.	1916.		1917.		Increase in Value.	Decrease in Value.
		£		£		
Ale and Porter (Gallons)	148,259	30,307	27,771	7,323	—	22,984
Apparel, Wearing	—	152,936	—	97,786	—	55,150
Beads	—	36,066	—	32,480	—	3,586
Beef and Pork (lbs.)	1,050,306	21,867	334,841	8,411	—	13,456
Brass and Copperware	—	9,503	—	6,020	—	3,483
Bread and Biscuits (cwts)	9,825	18,676	1,735	3,998	—	14,678
Building Materials	—	109,783	—	71,262	—	38,521
Coal (tons)	38,346	87,673	31,800	132,980	45,307	—
Coopers' Stores	—	23,528	—	10,612	—	12,916
Cordage (cwts)	8,847	52,212	7,595	58,393	6,181	—
Cotton Yarn & Twist (lbs.)	247,287	20,166	269,119	28,905	3,739	—
Cotton Goods other than Yarn & Twist (lbs.) ..	10,703,826	1,033,186	4,187,540	565,143	—	473,043
Earthenware	—	35,875	—	23,024	—	12,851
Flour (cwts.)	69,367	89,243	37,360	56,603	—	32,640
Furniture	—	68,471	—	37,900	—	30,571
Gunpowder (lbs.)	279,464	9,421	77,073	3,437	—	5,984
Guns and Pistols	3,876	4,030	6,087	24,273	20,243	—
Hardware	—	74,799	—	124,257	—	50,542
Lumber (Sup. Ft.)	2,904,125	41,232	1,921,814	28,559	—	12,673

GOLD COAST, 1917.

TABLE A—continued.

Articles.	1916.		1917.		Increase in value.	Decrease in value.
		£		£		
Machinery	—	115,971	—	100,231	—	15,740
Oil (Petroleum) (Gallons) .. .	1,269,441	44,314	1,558,733	69,302	24,988	—
Perfumery	—	102,916	—	61,971	—	40,945
Provisions	—	335,317	—	113,141	—	222,176
Railway Plant and Rolling Stock .. .	—	74,107	—	10,689	—	63,418
Rice (cwts.)	106,664	105,192	55,719	73,075	—	32,117
Salt (cwts.)	111,903	25,853	73,227	20,934	—	4,919
Silk Goods	—	13,458	—	7,128	—	6,330
Soap (cwts.)	59,581	71,748	39,907	58,267	—	13,481
Spirits (Gallons)	1,785,830	354,786	919,370	213,325	—	141,461
Sugar (cwts.)	34,974	73,517	16,109	38,324	—	35,193
Tobacco (including Cigars & Cigarettes) .. .	—	197,322	—	82,494	—	114,828
Vehicles—Carriages and Carts (Number) .. .	573	11,051	477	5,976	—	5,075
" Motor Cars and Lorries (Number) .. .	398	136,790	388	116,579	—	20,211
" Motor Cycles (Number)	118	8,639	102	5,017	—	3,622
" Other Cycles (Number)	2,586	22,649	550	7,008	—	15,441
Woollen Goods	—	8,339	—	5,881	—	2,458
Wines (Gallons)	58,998	33,046	27,366	16,450	—	16,596
Bullion and Specie	—	907,244	—	167,381	—	739,863
Other Articles (including Postal Parcels) .. .	..	1,333,515	..	891,741	—	441,774
Total value of all Articles	—	5,999,749	—	3,386,480	105,458	2,718,727

Nett Decrease 12,613,369

Examination of this table will show that the only items which present any notable increase are :—

Coal	£45,307 or 51%
Petroleum	£24,988 or 56%
Guns and Pistols	£20,243 or 502%
Cotton Yarn and Twist	£ 8,739 or 43%
Cordage	£ 6,181 or 12%

The increase in value of the imports of these goods was due to increase in price excepting as regards Guns and Pistols, wherein the increase was occasioned solely by the quantity of weapons imported to meet Government requirements.

The decrease in other items was caused by the difficulty in obtaining the goods, and by the scarcity of tonnage to convey them.

The following comparison between the percentages of decrease in quantities and those of decrease in values of certain imported goods as compared with 1916 is interesting.

	<i>Decrease per cent in quantity imported.</i>	<i>Decrease per cent in value imported.</i>
Beef and Pork	65%	61%
Bread and Biscuits	82%	78%
Cottons, excluding Yarn and Twist	62%	45%
Flour	48%	36%
Lumber	34%	30%
Rice	48%	30%
Soap	75%	33%
Rum	36%	10%
Gin	75%	67%
Sugar	55%	49%
Cigarettes	60%	59%
Tobacco, unmanufactured	59%	58%

The Commercial Imports for the five years ending with 1917 were valued as follows :—

	£
1913	3,250,673
1914	3,158,171
1915	3,116,686
1916	4,881,920
1917	2,964,453

The annexed table " B " shows the value of imports (exclusive of specie) derived from the principal supplying countries in 1917 and each of the four preceding years, and the percentages arrived at by comparing the several figures with the total imports for the year.

TABLE " B."

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE VALUE OF IMPORTS (EXCLUSIVE OF SPECIE) DERIVED FROM THE PRINCIPAL SUPPLYING COUNTRIES IN 1917 AND EACH OF THE FOUR PRECEDING YEARS, AND THE PERCENTAGES ARRIVED AT BY COMPARING THE SEVERAL FIGURES WITH THE TOTAL IMPORTS FOR THE YEAR.

Country of Origin.	1913.		1914.		1915.		1916.		1917.	
	Value.	Percentage of Total.	Value.	Percentage of Total.	Value.	Percentage of Total.	Value.	Percentage of Total.	Value.	Percentage of Total.
	£		£		£		£		£	
United Kingdom	2,468,604	70%	2,660,682	74%	2,734,991	79%	3,860,765	75%	2,235,439	69%
Germany	386,670	11%	289,288	8%	9,839	—	128	—	—	—
France	44,299	1%	32,979	1%	37,285	1%	77,089	2%	56,429	2%
United States of America	251,742	7%	270,176	8%	349,106	10%	751,225	15%	723,182	22%
Holland	189,165	5%	170,810	5%	199,644	6%	217,976	4%	81,783	3%
Nigeria	23,535	1%	24,312	1%	36,351	1%	75,902	2%	60,413	2%
Other Foreign Countries	124,964	4%	121,072	3%	95,588	3%	81,759	2%	56,801	2%
Other British Colonies	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,471	—

This table shows that whereas in 1915 the United Kingdom contributed 79 per cent (in value) of our imports, this percentage dropped to 75 per cent in 1916, and again to 69 per cent in the return for the period now under review. These declines are in each case almost exactly balanced by corresponding increases in the percentage in value of imports derived from the United States of America. It does not however follow that the use of American goods has increased to the extent indicated by these figures though undoubtedly the consumption of such goods has been greatly stimulated by the shortage in the United Kingdom. Much of the increase however is more apparent than actual, large quantities of American goods having, in pre-war days, been imported *via* the United Kingdom, and having thus been included in the British Returns. During 1916 the submarine menace was growing in seriousness. The result was a tendency to import goods direct from the United States of America instead of *via* British ports. This tendency naturally developed still further during 1917.

Reference has been made to the importation of Spirits into the Colony, and to the revenue derived therefrom, in the Financial Section of this Report.

No other feature of the Import Trade of the Colony during 1917 calls for special mention.

EXPORTS.

The total value of all Exports excluding gold from the Colony during 1917 amounted to £4,646,442.

Of this amount £834,507 represents the value of specie exported, £1,349 was the value of exports made on behalf of Government whilst the value of Commercial Exports exclusive of gold and Specie was £3,810,586, a decrease of £564,680 or 13 per cent. from the corresponding figures for 1916.

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

TABLE "C."

THE FOLLOWING IS A COMPARATIVE TABLE OF THE QUANTITIES AND VALUES OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF EXPORT FOR THE YEARS 1916 AND 1917.

ARTICLES.	1916.		1917.		Increase in Value.	Decrease in Value.
		£		£		
Cocoa (Tons)	72,161	3,847,720	90,964	3,146,851	—	700,869
Kola Nuts (lbs.)	6,760,898	130,566	11,984,645	239,134	108,568	—
Copra (Tons)	633	14,384	736	19,916	5,532	—
Auriferous By-Products (lbs.)	101,377	41,262	37,501	22,316	—	18,946
Lumber,—Native Timber (Sup. Ft.)	10,334,793	93,980	7,481,468	69,128	—	24,852
Palm Kernels (Tons)	5,857	85,899	4,768	74,911	—	10,988
Palm Oil (Gallons)	450,360	38,299	198,900	24,770	—	13,529
Rubber (lbs.)	2,215,973	78,865	2,961,204	110,272	31,407	—
Specie	—	239,772	—	834,507	594,735	—
Other Articles	—	44,912	—	104,637	59,725	—

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

Specie:—(Increase of £594,735). The bulk of this was transferred to Nigeria where the demands of the local produce markets were greater than in this Colony.

Kola Nuts:—(Increase £108,568 or 83 per cent). This increase was due to the provision of greater shipping facilities than in the previous year to the principal market, Nigeria.

Rubber:—(Increase £31,407 or 40 per cent). The value of the rubber exported was more than four times the value of the amount exported in 1915. This sudden "boom" is due to better prices and to greater demand in the United Kingdom. It has resulted in a better quality of rubber being obtained by the Natives, who took more care in its collection and preparation for sale,

Copra:—(Increase £5,532 or 38 per cent). This is due to the development of the industry in the Quittah District, and to the greater demand for Oleaginous products.

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

Cocoa:—(Decrease of £700,869 or 18 per cent in value but an increase of 18,803 tons or 26 per cent in quantity). Thus in spite of the conditions brought about by the war, glutted markets, and declining prices, another record was established in the quantity of Cocoa exported from the Colony. Even so, only a small proportion of the 1917—18 season's crop was exported, and much of the Cocoa purchased from the 1916—17 crop still remained in the Colony at the end of 1917. The failure to export all the cocoa was due to freightage not being available, and to the limitation of imports into the United Kingdom. Otherwise, the quantity of cocoa exported from the Colony would have been far greater.

For reasons of national importance, ships were compelled to give preference to freights of Palm Oil, Kernels and Ground Nuts, and when such freights were available, they were not permitted to take Cocoa. This resulted in homeward-bound vessels passing the Gold Coast laden with Oil Produce from Nigeria, with consequent loss to our Cocoa Trade.

The United States of America took nearly one third of the year's exports, as against about one eighth of those of 1916. France took less than in 1916. The quantity taken by the United Kingdom was slightly in excess of that taken

in 1916, which must be attributed to heavy shipments having been made prior to the restrictions on Cocoa imports into the United Kingdom coming into operation.

The amount collected as Export duty on cocoa during 1917 amounted to £212,045 as compared with £32,568 in 1916. In 1916, however, it must be remembered that this duty came into force only on October 1st. In 1917 too this revenue was affected by a reduction of the duty from $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to $\frac{1}{8}$ d. per lb. as from the 1st December. This reduction was conceded in fulfilment of a promise made when the duty was first imposed, that if prices sank so low as to cause hardship to the cocoa farmer, the amount of the duty would be reconsidered. The reduction is estimated to have cost the Revenue of 1917 £4,960.

Lumber :—(Decrease of £24,852 or 26 per cent in value and of 2,853,325 superficial ft. or 28 per cent in quantity). This was due to shortage of shipping.

Palm Oil :—(Decrease of £13,529 or 35 per cent in value and of 251,460 gallons or 56 per cent in quantity).

Palm Kernels :—(Decrease of £10,988 or 12 per cent in value, and of 1,098 tons or 18 per cent in quantity).

It is not easy to account for these decreases, since prices stood higher than ever before, and there was no lack of demand. The depression of the Cocoa-market should have the effect of stimulating the trade in this particular quarter, but that effect has clearly not been attained as yet.

The values of the total exports (exclusive of specie) sent to the principal consuming countries in 1917 and each of the four preceding years are shown in the annexed Table "D."

TABLE "D."

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE VALUE OF EXPORTS (EXCLUSIVE OF SPECIE) SENT TO THE PRINCIPAL CONSUMING COUNTRIES IN 1917 AND EACH OF THE FOUR PRECEDING YEARS, AND THE PERCENTAGES ARRIVED AT BY COMPARING THE SEVERAL FIGURES WITH THE TOTAL IMPORTS FOR THE YEAR.

COUNTRY.	1913.		1914.		1915.		1916.		1917.	
	Value.	Percentage of Total.	Value.	Percentage of Total.	Value.	Percentage of Total.	Value.	Percentage of Total.	Value.	Percentage of Total.
	£		£		£		£		£	
United Kingdom	3,416,637	68%	3,028,997	68%	4,370,377	75%	3,453,868	62%	3,588,743	65%
Germany	899,468	17%	554,632	12%	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	455,583	9%	528,780	12%	963,634	16%	1,374,815	24%	666,249	12%
United States of America	101,055	2%	93,383	2%	329,466	6%	603,772	12%	1,005,204	18%
Nigeria	145,023	3%	141,968	3%	139,247	2%	130,913	2%	242,736	4%
Other British Colonies ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,036	—
Other Foreign Countries ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25,450	—

TOTAL TRADE.

The total value of the sea-borne trade of the Colony during the year, including expenses on Specie, amounted to £9,737,673, a decrease of £2,077,271 or 18 per cent as compared with 1916. The total value of the trade of the Colony is arrived at by adding to the value of the sea-borne trade the value of dutiable imports and exports conveyed across the inland frontiers, which amounted in 1917 to £16,063. Thus the total value of the trade of the Colony during 1917 amounted to £9,753,741, a decrease of £2,073,835 or 18 per cent as compared with 1916.

Deducting from this, the value of Specie imported and exported including expenses, £1,002,804, and the value of imports and exports on behalf of the Colonial Government £257,416, the total value of the Commercial Trade of the Colony for 1917 is shewn to be £8,493,521, a decrease of £1,966,942 or 19 per cent as compared with 1916.

Hence there can be no disguising the fact that the trade of the Colony suffered a severe set-back in the year under review.

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS.

The following table gives the value of imports and exports which passed through the principal ports of the Colony during 1917:—

	<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	£	£	£
Seccondee	1,232,062	3,045,598	4,277,660
Accra	1,218,946	2,215,512	3,434,458
Winnebah	149,556	398,561	548,117
Saltpond	115,391	244,258	359,649
Cape Coast	128,975	168,298	297,273
Addah	128,473	79,886	208,359
Quittah	124,121	58,216	182,337
Axim	53,940	80,640	134,580
Appam	27,487	41,658	69,505
Half Assinie.. ..	35,354	9,334	44,688

A diminution in the trade of the smaller ports is particularly noticeable and is due to a certain disinclination which has naturally been manifested by masters of vessels, since the quantity of shipping available fell below normal requirements, to call at the smaller ports where lading facilities are limited and slow, and where delay would in consequence be involved. Steamers to the number of 313 with a tonnage of 705,584 entered the ports of the Colony during the year as compared with 340 having a tonnage of 776,315 in 1916. This decline is smaller than would have been expected in view of the serious destruction of shipping which has taken place.

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

	<i>Steam Vessels.</i>		<i>Sailing Vessels.</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
1912	686	1,448,506	1	958
1913	692	1,511,197	1	851
1914	637	1,413,009	1	751
1915	354	818,356	8	7,259
1916	340	766,315	20	16,331
1917	313	705,584	23	16,902

The nationality of the vessels which entered the Ports of the Colony during 1916 and 1917 is shewn in the following table:—

Nationality.	1916		1917	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	283	642,346	262	609,449
French	55	122,237	41	82,781
Spanish	—	—	1	1,257
Norwegian	1	14	5	5,322
Greek	—	—	2	3,989
Danish	—	—	3	3,450
Portuguese	—	—	3	1,009
U.S.A.	21	18,049	19	15,229
Total	360	782,646	336	722,486

PREVENTIVE SERVICE.

The Preventive Service was efficiently maintained during the year on the Western Frontier from Half Assinie to Debisu, and on the Eastern Frontier from Obosumanu to Wupe and thence along the South Eastern Frontier to Afiao.

The total revenue collected during the year amounted to £3,017 as against £2,253 in 1916. Export duties on cocoa which came into force on the 1st October 1916 are responsible for this increase.

MINING.

The average number of labourers employed daily by the Mining and Dredging Companies was 16,419 as compared with 15,296 in 1916. There was a sufficiency of both surface and underground labour.

Of these labourers 16,004 were natives and 415 were Europeans.

The number of deaths from accidents during the year was 31, including one European. The rate of deaths by accident was therefore 1·88 per 1000, which compares favourably with that of 2·16 per 1000 for 1916.

The only mining that was carried on in addition to gold-mining was performed by the Wassaw Exploring Syndicate Limited, on the deposit of Manganese Ore which was discovered in 1915 by the Government Geological Survey to exist on the land comprised in the Dagwin Concession. Removal of Manganese Ore was carried on throughout the year and 31,136 tons were shipped. A much larger quantity could have been exported had freightage been available.

AGRICULTURE.

During the year 1917, the local cocoa-market plumbed depths of depression never before experienced. Prices diminished as a whole from the beginning of the year to the end. In January, they were 7/6 to 15/- per load (of 60 lbs); in July 2/6 to 10/-; and in December, 5/- to 10/-. This depression was, of course, mainly accounted for by difficulties in obtaining freight, and by the risks of storing cocoa locally, which rendered purchase of the crop a more speculative operation than it had previously been. But when every allowance has been made for these factors, it is impossible to avoid the reflection that in many cases cocoa-buyers, both native and European, took unwise advantage of their opportunity to force down prices. There is an obvious danger lest such a policy should lead the cocoa-growers as a body to believe that the crop has permanently lost its value. Farms were extensively abandoned, and whilst the quantity of cocoa exported from the Colony during 1916 once more exceeded all previous records, much of this consisted of cocoa that had been held over from the previous year, and it is to be feared that the returns for 1918 will show a heavy fall, since it is only to be anticipated that an appreciable percentage of the crop will have been left to rot on the trees. The only encouraging feature in the situation was the improvement in the preparation of cocoa for market which was reported from several parts of the country. It has now been established that well-prepared cocoa can be stored in the Colony for twelve months or more without serious deterioration, and with the opportunities for shipping

cocoa so uncertain, merchants were more exacting than formerly with regard to the quality of the cocoa purchased by them.

There is little doubt that the cocoa crop for the year had it all been collected, would have been found to have greatly exceeded that for 1916.

With the object of inducing cocoa-farmers to maintain their farms during the period of depression, the Agricultural Department has endeavoured to introduce the use of cocoa as an article of diet. In spite of the fact that a crude form of chocolate is very simply prepared and that the natives readily agree to its palatableness, the attempt to encourage its use has not as yet met with the success it deserves.

A further means of supporting the cocoa-industry through the crisis which prevailed during the period under review and which seems likely to continue, would be provided if a market could be obtained for 'cocoa-butter. Experiments at Aburi in the extraction by primitive methods of this valuable fat from unfermented beans gave an extraction of as much as 17 per cent. There is a considerable demand for this commodity in England, and the question of its production in the Colony for export will continue to engage the attention of the Agricultural Department.

It might naturally have been expected that the depression of the cocoa-market would have reacted favourably in regard to the other staple crops of the Colony. Especially as regards the products of the Oil-Palm,—Palm-Oil and Palm-Kernels—might this effect have been anticipated, since the demand for these was considerable and prices ruled unprecedentedly high. The interest, however, so far evinced by the natives in the collection of these products has not shewn any marked sign of stimulation.

This applies in a less degree to trade in Cola, which attracted more attention during 1917 than in recent years. In due course as regards Palm Products also, it is probable that the native will reluctantly devote more energy to these, unless the cocoa-trade shows speedy symptoms of revival.

Little interest has as yet been displayed by the natives in the attempt which the Government has made to extend the Copra industry.

A considerable improvement was noticed in the quality of the Funtumia (wild) Rubber offered for sale in 1917.

The cultivation of the ordinary native food-crops was well maintained and no scarcity was apparent. So long as the prices of imported European provisions remain at the height which ruled during the year, there is no likelihood of any decline in the market for native food-stuffs.

The distribution of decorative and shade-tree seedlings for gardens, and for street-planting, was maintained during the year.

The number of students who attended classes in Agriculture at the five stations of the Department, was 201. Two King Edward VII Scholarships were awarded in agriculture, each of the value of £30, tenable for three years.

WORK CONDUCTED AT THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE DURING THE YEAR 1917, FOR THE COLONY OF THE GOLD COAST.

Economic Investigations.—The following subjects were dealt with during the year in the Scientific and Technical Research Department.

Drugs.—A sample of *Strophanthus hispidus* seed from the Northern Territories was forwarded to the Imperial Institute by the Director of Agriculture for examination and valuation. As stated in the report on the work of the Imperial Institute for the Gold Coast in 1916, there is a temporary demand at present for this variety of *Strophanthus* seed owing to the scarcity of *S. Kombé* seed, and a firm of manufacturing chemists who were consulted by the Imperial Institute offered to purchase a consignment of the *S. hispidus* seed from the Gold Coast. On further enquiries being made, however, it appeared that only a very limited quantity of the seed could be obtained at the present time, but it is proposed to encourage the natives to collect the seed which will then be sent to the Imperial Institute for sale in London.

Oil Palm Products.—A memorandum was furnished by the Imperial Institute with reference to a scheme submitted by the Director of Agriculture for the investigation of a number of problems in connection with the oil palm industry in the Gold Coast.

Miscellaneous.—During the year a report was furnished to the Colonial Office on the results of the examination at the Imperial Institute of minerals and concentrates collected by the Geological Survey.

Reports were also furnished to Government officers in the Gold Coast on specimens of minerals and drugs.

Economic Enquiries.—A number of enquiries relating to Gold Coast products were dealt with by the Technical Information Bureau during the course of the year.

In connection with an enquiry received from an important firm of cocoa manufacturers with reference to the cultivation in the British Empire of a South American type of cocoa which is greatly appreciated in the United Kingdom and commands high prices, the Bureau suggested to the Director of Agriculture that attempts should be made to cultivate this variety in the

Gold Coast. The Director of Agriculture having expressed his willingness to undertake such trials, steps were taken at the Imperial Institute with a view to securing a supply of young plants for the purpose.

Information was supplied to a firm of merchants as to the present methods of cultivating and preparing cocoa in the Gold Coast, in connection with the question of improving the product obtained from the existing types of cocoa in the Colony.

Other subjects relating to the Gold Coast which were dealt with by the Bureau included palm oil, palm kernels, castor seed and other oilseeds; palm kernel machinery; cassava starch; mangrove bark; the cultivation of indigo, cotton, plantains, papaw, cassava and yams; timber; rubber paste; sugar mills; pottery wheels; and bauxite. General enquiries relating to the resources of the Colony were also answered.

Publications :—The following articles dealing with products of the Gold Coast or relating to subjects of special interest to the Colony were published in the "Bulletin of the Imperial Institute" for 1917 (Vol. XV) :—

Production and Uses of Rice.

The African Palm Oil Industry. III. Machinery.

Palm nut Cracking Machinery.

Raffia or Bass; Its Production, Preparation and Utilisation.

Iapok from Togoland.

Baobab Wood and Bark for Paper-Making.

The Distribution and Uses of Titanium Ores.

The fourth volume of the Imperial Institute Series of Handbooks to the Commercial Resources of the Tropics, entitled "Cotton and other Vegetable Fibres; their Production and Utilisation," by Ernest Goulding, D.Sc. (London), F.I.C., of the Scientific and Technical Department, Imperial Institute was published during the year. The book is written with special reference to British West Africa and deals with all the most important fibres of commerce, including the following, which are of particular interest to the Gold Coast; cotton, Mauritius hemp, *Sansevieria*, Hibiscus, banana, pineapple piassava.

Gold Coast Court — The new exhibits added to the Court include samples of rubber and oil seeds. The statistical statement of trade, and the models representing the gold output of the Colony, have been brought up to date.

During the latter part of the year a portion of the Public Exhibition Galleries, including the Gold Coast Court, was taken over by the Government for temporary occupation by the Ministry of Food. Arrangements are being made for the display elsewhere of a representative collection of Colonial products, in which the exhibits of the Gold Coast Court will be adequately represented.

IV.—LEGISLATION.

Eighteen Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during the year under review, of which the following are the most important:—

Nos. 1 and 9 of 1917.—The Motor Traffic Ordinance, 1915, Amendment Ordinance, 1917, and the Motor Traffic Ordinance, 1915, (Further Amendment) Ordinance, 1917, prohibit the use of motor-cars fitted with twin tyres. This provision has proved necessary for the purpose of preventing undue injury being done to the roads in the Colony, which are unmetalled.

No. 3 of 1917.—The Education Ordinance, 1887, Amendment Ordinance 1917, reconstitutes the Board of Education on a sounder basis, and alters the syllabus of subjects required to be taught in Government-Assisted Schools. The latter now includes for Standard Classes Colloquial English, Drawing, Nature Study and Industrial Training, with, in the case of children in Standard IV and higher Standards, Hygiene, and, in the case of children in Standards VI and VII, lessons on the Rights and Duties of a British Subject.

No. 8 of 1917.—The Infectious Diseases Ordinance, 1908, Amendment Ordinance, 1917, empowers the Governor in Council to make regulations preventing the disturbance of soil which may contain germs of plague.

No. 11 of 1917.—The Enemy Property Control and Disposal Ordinance, 1917, makes more ample provision for the sale of immovable property of enemies and for the payment of debts due by enemy owners. Provision is made for the purchasers of such immovable property to acquire a reliable title; and all derogatory interests other than those of the Crown are accordingly extinguished, subject to payment of compensation in proper cases. Enemies, enemy subjects, and corporations under enemy control are precluded from purchasing any of the properties from the Controlling Officer, and also from acquiring them by subsequent transactions.

The Ordinance lays down the order of priority in which debts are to be paid by the Controlling Officer, and also imposes restrictions on payments to enemies and enemy subjects, who, if resident, or carrying on business, elsewhere than in British territory or in a British Protectorate, can only be paid under licence granted by the Governor.

The Ordinance is drafted in somewhat similar terms to the corresponding enactment of the Nigerian legislature, No. 2 of 1917.

No. 14 of 1917.—The West African Frontier Force (Prolongation of Service during the War) Ordinance 1917, legalizes the retention in the (old

Coast Regiment for the duration of the present war of non-commissioned officers and privates whose terms of service would otherwise have expired.

No. 17 of 1917.—The Customs Tariff Ordinance, 1915, Amendment Ordinance, 1917, raises the import duties payable on spirits by one shilling per Imperial Gallon or part thereof.

No. 18 of 1917.—The Government Kwahu Lease Validation Ordinance, 1917 ensures fixity of tenure to the Government of the Land leased to it by a native authority in Kwahu; the lease under reference being a mining lease for 99 years of an area containing deposits of bauxite which it was deemed necessary to secure for the Government.

In 1917 three Ordinances were enacted with respect to Ashanti. Of these the following is that which possesses the most general importance:—

No. 2 of 1917.—The Ashanti Commissioners Ordinance, 1907, Amendment Ordinance, 1917, appoints the Police Magistrate, Coomassie, to be Sheriff for Ashanti and each Provincial Commissioner and District Commissioner to be a Deputy Sheriff within his province and district respectively.

V.—EDUCATION.

The schools under the management of Missionary bodies which are subject to inspection by Officers of the Education Department and which receive grants-in-aid from public funds numbered at the close of the year 175. There were sixteen schools under direct Government control. Of this total of 191 Government and assisted schools, 28 were open to boys only, 7 were for girls only, 119 were open to both boys and girls, the remaining 37 being infant schools.

In December 1917 all Basel Missionaries of German nationality were deported, and the control of the schools and seminaries of the Basel Mission was taken over by the Government Education Department. This course had already in 1916 been adopted in the case of the Bremen Mission, and the schools formerly established and maintained by that Mission were controlled by the Government throughout the year under review.

The following is a comparative table showing the number and denominations of the schools inspected during the year, and the enrolment of pupils under each Denomination:—

	No. of Schools.	Enrolment.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
African Methodist Episcopal Zionist Mission	5	672	78	750
Basel Mission	76*	5,663	2,041	7,704
Bremen Mission	24*	1,428	300	1,728
Church of England Mission ..	4	642	76	718
Roman Catholic Mission ..	32..	2,689	293	2,982
Wesleyan Mission	39	6,415	822	7,237
Secondary S. P. G. Grammar School, Cape Coast ..	1	46	—	46
Total Mission Schools inspected	181	—	—	—
Government Schools	16	3,050	509	3,559
Total ..	197	20,605	4,119	21,724

*Including all the Schools which were formerly under the control of the Basel and Bremen Missions but which were temporarily taken over by the Government.

The total number of pupils enrolled upon the registers of schools supported by contributions from the public funds during the year 1917, was 24,724 which exceeds the number on record for any previous year, and which constitutes an increase of 2,268 over the number for 1916. Moreover, the average attendance during 1917 shows an increase which is even greater in proportion than the large increase in the enrolment.

The Grants-in-aid paid to schools on the assisted list amounted to £9,556, an increase of £401 over the amount paid in 1916.

In addition to this, the amount of the salaries paid to the Bremen Mission teachers was £1,395.

The total expenditure by the Government on Education in the Colony and its Dependencies in 1917 amounted to £33,620, an excess of £2,497 over the expenditure in 1916. This increase arose mainly in respect of the upkeep of the Bremen Mission schools.

At the Government Training College for Teachers at Accra, there were eighty-five Students in residence during the year, and at the Government Technical School, thirty-five.

There are one hundred and thirteen Government and assisted schools in the Eastern Province as compared with forty-four in the Central Province and only seventeen in the Western Province.* In Ashanti, there are fourteen Government and assisted schools, and in the Northern Territories three Government schools.

A King Edward VII Scholarship (Trade Section) was awarded to a pupil in the Metal-work Department of the Government Technical School.

During the year unmistakable evidence was manifested that there exists throughout the Colony a rapidly growing demand for education.

VI.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS AND ASYLUM.

During the year 1,555 Europeans and 53,318 natives were treated in the hospitals and dispensaries of the Colony as compared with 1,748 and 30,800 respectively in the previous year.

The number of patients admitted into the Accra lunatic asylum during the year was 49 males and 2 females. The number discharged was 18 males and 1 female. The daily average number of inmates was 113.5, as compared with 102 in 1916.

VII.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE.

The total strength of the Police Force of all ranks on the 31st of December 1917 was 1,154, made up as follows:—

General Police	..	..	..	366
Escort Police	..	..	..	541
Mines Police	..	..	..	18
Railway Police	..	..	..	94
Marine Police	..	..	..	9
Recruits	..	..	..	81
Disciplinary Staff &c.	..	..	..	45
				1,154

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

The strength of the Mines Police was reduced as a commencement towards the abolition of that Division as regards a separate nomenclature and scale of pay.

The total number of recruits enlisted in 1917 was 450 as compared with 399 in 1916, and the casualties from death, desertion, discharge, resignation and dismissals amounted to 360 as against 404 in 1916.

The depression in trade had a stimulating effect on recruitment for the Force, a specially satisfactory feature being the number of literate recruits who were enlisted.

The construction of the New Police Barracks at Accra was completed, and in March the Accra contingent entered into occupation. This fine building which contains accommodation for an European Police Officer, and four Superintendents in addition to 198 rooms for the men, will undoubtedly exercise a beneficial effect upon the whole Police Force. Centralization of the men is conducive to the establishment of a better discipline, and of a more effective control, than was attainable when the members of the force were compelled to rent rooms in the town and to cohabit with all and sundry.

Government specie was escorted during the year as usual. The sum of £357 was realised in commissions for the escorting of private specie as compared with £267 in 1916.

The Police dealt with 11,683 cases of crime during the year under review, a decrease of 733 as compared with the previous year. Of this number 390 cases were committed for trial. Of the 11,293 cases dealt with summarily, 8,657 resulted in convictions being obtained, 233 cases were not proceeded with, 1,862 resulted in acquittals, and 541 were withdrawn.

Valuable service was rendered by the Force in connection with the outbreak of plague in the Accra District in March.

During the year, minor disturbances which occurred in different parts of the Colony were promptly and efficiently dealt with.

The total expenditure for the year amounted to £60,551 as compared with £54,908 in 1916. The amount paid in gratuities on discharge was £1,875 as compared with £692 in 1916.

PRISONS.

During 1917, the daily average of the number of prisoners confined in the four central prisons of the Colony for the accommodation of long-sentence prisoners, as compared with the numbers in 1916 is shewn in the following table :—

	1917	1916
Accra	321	287
Seccondee	317	267
Cape Coast	84	80
Elmina	35	28

It will be observed that in each case the daily average number of prisoners was higher in 1917 than in 1916.

Prisoners whose sentences are for less than six months serve their time in the smaller gaols at Axim, Secondee, Tarquah, Saltpond, Winnebah, Akuse, Addah, Quittah and Dunkwa. In Ashanti, prisoners undergo sentences up to three years at Obuassi or at Coomassie. The daily average of prisoners in these prisons during 1917 was 68 and 159 respectively, as compared with 69 and 125 in 1916. Smaller gaols in Ashanti are at Kintampo, Sunyani, Krachi and Juaso. The Prisons at Goaso and Wenchi were closed down during the year.

The number of persons committed to prison in 1917, was 6,528, an increase of 359 as compared with 1916. The committals during 1917 included 239 women and 215 juveniles. Of the total committals, 62 per cent. were for purposes of penal imprisonment, 10 per cent. were for debt, and the remaining 28 per cent. were for purposes of custody pending trial.

The number of persons committed for purposes of penal imprisonment during 1917 was 4,053 as compared with 3,965 in 1916.

The daily average number of inmates in the prisons of the Colony was 1,447, as compared with 1,320 in 1916. The number of escapes recorded was 65 in the period under review as compared with 45 in the previous year. Eleven of the escapes were intramural. Twenty-two recaptures were effected.

There were eight executions at Accra and two at Secondee, making a total of ten, as compared with twelve in 1916.

The general health of the prisoners was good, the daily average per cent. on the sick-list being 2.4, as compared with 2.2 in 1916.

The total expenditure on rations amounted to £6,729, an increase of £402 from the expenditure in 1916. The average daily cost per prisoner was 3.06d. as compared with 3.36d. in 1916.

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

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

Shortage in the staff of warders was the cause of the loss of a large proportion of potential prison labour.

The total earnings in respect of prison labour and industries amounted to £2,221 as compared with £1,748 in 1916.

The total expenditure for the year was £25,972, an increase of £3,674 over the amount of the expenditure in 1916.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The number of convictions in the Superior Courts of the Colony, Ashanti and the Northern Territories during 1916 and 1917 was as follows:—

	1916	1917
Offences against the person	91	118
Slave Dealing	—	—
Offences against Property (other than praedial larceny)	81	103
Other Offences	108	37
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	280	258
	<hr/>	<hr/>

There were 144 Acquittals in 1917, as compared with 147 in 1916.

The number of summary convictions in 1916 and 1917 was as follows:—

	1916	1917
Offences against the Person	1,991	2,362
Slave Dealing	15	5
Offences against Property (other than Praedial larceny)	2,787	2,426
Other Offences	6,075	9,731
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10,868	14,524
	<hr/>	<hr/>

There were 3,133 acquittals, as compared with 2,997 in 1916.

CIVIL ACTIONS.

There were 391 civil actions brought in the Divisional Courts of the Colony during 1917, as compared with 374 in 1916 and 488 in 1915.

Court Fees and Fines collected during 1917 amounted to £4,539 as compared with £2,986 in 1916. (The scale of fees was raised in October 1916).

The number of writs of *fi : fa :* (*feri facias*) issued by the Courts for execution during the year was 207 involving an amount of £14,621 of which 4,968 was collected. These figures show a considerable decrease as compared with the figures for 1916, when 290 writs of *fi : fa :* issued, involving an amount of £23,106 of which £10,535 was collected. The number of writs of *Ca : Sa :* (*Capias Satisfaciendum*) issued during 1917 was 726 involving an amount of £24,890, whereof a sum of £5,222 was collected.

VIII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The Population of the Gold Coast and its Dependencies amounted at the last census in 1911 to 1,503,386.

The number of Europeans resident in the Colony during the year 1917 was 2,172.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

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

1917.	Number of Residents.	Deaths.	Invalided.	Death Rate per 1000.	Invaliding Rate per 1000.
Officials	597	9	19	15·1	31·8
Merchants	718	11	45	15·3	62·7
Mining Companies ..	718	6	48	8·4	66·9
Missions	139	1	2	7·2	14·4
Total	2,172	27	114	12·43	52·49

The Death Rate amongst Europeans resident in the Colony during 1917 was 12·43 per 1000 as compared with 6·9 in 1916; the invaliding rates per 1000 for the same periods were 52·49 and 52·3 respectively.

Of the nine deaths which occurred amongst European Officials in the Colony and its Dependencies in 1917, three were due to Yellow Fever, two to Blackwater Fever, one to Malarial Fever and Pneumonia, one to Chronic Malaria, and two to other diseases.

Of the eighteen deaths of European non-officials, six were due to Blackwater Fever, and the others to miscellaneous diseases.

Thirteen European non-officials were invalided with Blackwater Fever.

The average daily number of European Officials on the sick list compared to the average daily number resident in the Colony was 2.55 per cent as compared with 1.66 per cent in 1916 and 1.10 per cent in 1915.

On the whole, the sick returns for 1917, amongst Natives as well as amongst Europeans, indicate that the year under review was an exceptionally bad one.

No means exist whereby accurate statistics relating to the health of natives can be obtained. Treatment was given in 3,507 cases of Malaria, 519 cases of Dysentery, 236 cases of Pneumonia, 261 cases of Tuberculosis, and in a large number of cases of minor complaints.

Since the introduction of the pipe-borne water supply to Accra there has been a marked reduction of the number of cases of Guinea-worm that present themselves for treatment.

In all, 52,150 cases of disease were treated during the year, and of these the number that proved fatal was 281. The figures for 1916 were 48,155 and 282 respectively.

In March 1917, an outbreak of Pneumonic Plague occurred in the Accra district. Six cases came under the observation of the medical authorities, all of which proved fatal. It is estimated that in all there were at least thirty-nine deaths. As was the case with regard to the outbreak of plague in 1908, it was not found possible to trace the origin of the outbreak of 1917, nor to prove that it had been introduced from without.

Outbreaks of Small-Pox were reported from Ashanti and the Northern Territories. Three hundred and fifty-eight cases came under observation and there were sixty-two deaths. 15,619 successful vaccinations were performed as compared with 7,848 in 1916.

Thirteen cases of Sleeping Sickness were treated during the year whereof six terminated fatally. Of twenty-four cases of Blackwater Fever treated, eight proved fatal, and of five cases of Yellow Fever, all resulted in death.

SANITATION.

The rainfall of 1917 was even heavier than that of 1916 which was considerably in excess of the averages. This necessarily acted as a stimulus to the breeding of mosquitoes, although vigorous combative measures were as usual taken at all the principal stations.

The total expenditure upon Sanitation during the year amounted to £57,012 as compared with £53,912 in 1916.

CLIMATE.

General Remarks.—The climate, though hot and damp, is cooler than that of most tropical countries situated in the same latitudes. It is not in itself unhealthy; but an evil reputation has been earned for it in the past by the prevalence of mosquito-borne diseases, against which all possible precautions have constantly to be taken. The Gold Coast is peculiarly free from many of the discomforts associated with tropical countries: hot nights and intense heat by day are the exception rather than the rule, while insects are comparatively unobtrusive. The efforts of the sanitary and medical authorities in promoting hygiene and treatment of disease continue to exercise a beneficial effect on the general health of Europeans.

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

METEOROLOGY.

The rainfall registered at Accra in 1917 was 44.20 inches as compared with 41.05 inches in 1916 and 22.81 inches in 1915.

At the Agricultural Department Head-Quarters at Aburi, a rainfall of 73.16 inches was recorded, the average for the previous five years being 45.97 inches.

At Accra the mean shade temperature for the year was 80.87 F., slightly in excess of that of the previous year which was 80.14 F.

At Coomassie and Secondee the mean shade temperature was 79.47° F. and 78.82° F. respectively, as compared with 79.06° F. and 79.19° F. in 1916.

The mean daily range of temperature at Accra was 10.80.

IX.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

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

	1916.	1917.
Sale of stamps for postal purposes ..	£14,036	£13,461
Number of Letters and Postcards received and despatched ..	5,948,714	5,118,180
Registered Packets	568,434	528,060
Book Packets	1,181,352	799,392
Parcels	132,376	80,883
Money Orders (Value)	£149,340	£153,807
Postal Orders (Value)	£197,509	£167,090
Postal Orders (Number)	280,523	222,212
Inland Telegrams Private	153,407	173,690
Inland Telegrams Official	78,217	84,952

There were 103 Offices in the Colony, Ashanti and the Northern Territories open at the end of the year, whereof 66 were Postal Agencies.

The total amount of traffic dealt with shews a decrease which is in conformity with the decrease in the general trade of the Colony in 1917 as compared with the previous year.

Five Homeward Mails and One Outward Mail were lost at sea as a result of acts of the King's Enemies.

One Outward Mail was lost on board the S.S. "Umgeni" which was also lost at sea (*vide page 6 supra*).

The business transacted by the Post Office Savings Bank was adversely affected by the prevailing depression in trade. The Deposits made during the year were 10,935 in number, an increase of 142, but the total value, amounting to £39,940, shews a decrease of £3,552, as compared with 1916. Withdrawals increased from 5,642 in number to 6,461, and in value from £39,014 to £44,985. The average value of each deposit was £3 13s. 1d. as against £4 0s. 7d. in 1916, and of each withdrawal £6 19s. 3d. as against £6 18s. 4d. The amount standing to the credit of the 5,905 depositors on the 31st of December 1917 was £57,757 representing an increase of 98 in the number of depositors as compared with the position on the 31st of December 1916, but a decrease of £3,663 in amount.

The number of telegrams transmitted in 1917 shews an increase both as regards Official messages (increase eight per cent) and as regards Unofficial messages (increase 13 per cent) over the number transmitted in 1916. The average number of words in the private messages was 15, and in the Official messages (which are transmitted free) 38.

The total number of telegraph Offices open to the public in the Colony, Ashanti and the Northern Territories at the end of the year was 58 and the length of wire maintained during the year was approximately 2,600 miles. The exceptionally heavy rainfall occasioned many minor interruptions in the

lines, although the only serious breakdown which occurred was due to the Volta River Cable at Addah being carried away, thus necessitating communication being maintained by means of the ferry, an arrangement which was still in force at the end of the year.

Cable traffic for 1917 showed a substantial increase over the return for the previous year.

The total number of private messages received and transmitted by the Wireless Station at Accra was 127. The Station was used mainly for Government purposes.

The telephone systems at Accra, Secondee, Tarquah and Dodowah—Aburi were maintained throughout the year, as also were the trunk-lines connecting Accra—Aburi—Dodowah, Quittah—Danoë—Lome, and Addah—Akuse. There were a total of 224 telephones in use, of which 85 were in the hands of private subscribers.

X.—RAILWAYS AND ROADS.

RAILWAYS.

The length of line open for traffic at the end of 1917 was 269 miles as compared with 264 miles at the end of 1916.

The mean length of line operated during the year was 268 miles as against 248 miles during 1916. The total capital expenditure on the 31st of December 1917, stood at £3,210,585.

The gross revenue for the year amounted to £494,185 an increase of £4,273 over the gross revenue for 1916. The interest earned on the total combined capital of £3,210,585 was 9·30 per cent as against 9·24 per cent in the previous year, 8·93 per cent in 1915, 7·32 per cent in 1914, 8·26 per cent in 1913, and 8·05 per cent in 1912. In considering the high rates of interest in recent years it must be remembered that expenditure both capital and recurrent has been reduced to a minimum and that in the near future a large expenditure on renewals must be faced.

The number of passengers conveyed during the year was 886,672, a decrease of 1,770 as compared with the previous year.

The total tonnage carried during 1917 was 335,386, an increase of 37,293 as compared with 1916. There were seven fatal and three non-fatal personal accidents during 1917, as compared with nine and four respectively during the previous year.

The rainfall during 1917 was exceptionally heavy and this resulted in an abnormal number of "washouts," the most serious of which occurred through the collapse of a twenty-foot span bridge near Dunkwa.

Increased use of wood-fuel in consequence of the high price of imported coal proved advantageous on the Secondee-Coomassie line, but on the Accra railway, suitable wood is not locally procurable. The Mining Companies are depending more and more upon the use of wood-fuel.

During the year the installation of an Electric Lighting system in Secondee, both for public street-lighting and also for private dwelling-houses, was completed. The installation is worked in connection with the Railway Electric Power Station.

ROADS.

In the Colony, the Main Roads are constructed and maintained by the Public Works Department. In addition to the main roads, 2121 miles of secondary roads in the Colony have been placed under the Roads Ordinance (No. 13 of 1894) and are maintained by the native chiefs.

The total length of the principal main roads constructed and maintained by the Public Works Department and available for light lorry traffic for the greater part of the year was 326 miles, of which 143 miles were situated in the Eastern Province, 141 miles in the Central Province and 42 miles in the Western Province.

The Streets and Town Roads in all the principal towns were maintained by the Public Works Department as far as restricted expenditure permitted.

A scheme which is being pursued in spite of adverse financial conditions is that of a "Coastal" Road connecting Accra with Axim. The term Coastal Road is not strictly accurate since the route decided upon, instead of following the Coast line, runs twenty or thirty miles inland in certain parts. The total length of the proposed route is some two hundred miles. At the end of 1917 motor-traffic was able to make use of the sections of the road between Secondee and Chamah, Kommendah and Elmina, and Saltpond and Winnebah.

In Ashanti, the Coomassie-Ejura-Effiduasi trunk road was well maintained by the Public Works Department, and keenness was shewn by the Chiefs and people in the maintenance and construction of other roads, resulting in an increased mileage, being available for motor traffic.

In the Northern Territories, as was also the case in the Colony and Ashanti, the abnormal rainfall caused considerable damage to the roads, and impeded road construction generally.

XI.—PUBLIC WORKS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The total expenditure on Public Works amounted to £210,988 as compared with £240,843 in 1916, a decrease of £29,855.

New works and buildings show a decrease of £32,662 and roads and bridges an increase of £10,706.

Early in the year the original estimate of £511,676 had to be ruthlessly cut down in consequence of a serious falling-off in revenue. This policy of retrenchment necessarily involved the postponement of the construction of many important works.

ACCRA WATER WORKS.

A constant supply of water to Accra was maintained throughout the year except for two short periods when failure was due to bursts on the trunk main. The total quantity of water consumed was 92,293,000 gallons, which is equivalent to an average daily consumption of 252,858 gallons. The quality of the water was fairly good although it has not yet reached the standard of purity aimed at. In order to obviate the growth of algae which had previously caused a certain amount of trouble, the water, on being pumped into the storage reservoirs was treated with one part per million of Copper Sulphate. This treatment had to be discontinued in the latter part of the year owing to copper sulphate being unobtainable. The result was that the growth of algae again became noticeable.*

SECONDEE WATER WORKS.

On the 3rd of July, the ceremony of the turning on of the public water-supply was performed by Lady Clifford, in the presence of His Excellency the Governor.

The standard of purity of the water is naturally as yet imperfect.

The expenditure during the year amounted to £22,780. The construction of the Anankwan Dam proceeded satisfactorily.

ACCRA HARBOUR WORKS.

The expenditure on these works during the year under review amounted to £47,150.

The total outlay upon them up to the end of 1917 was £281,359.

Unfortunately the results afforded by this heavy expenditure are anything but satisfactory, an efforts to overcome the persistent setting up having failed.

The expenditure for the year consisted of £6,400 on constructional work, and £40,750 on maintenance by means of sand pumping. Three pumps (8 inch, 10 inch and 12 inch) were at work during the greater part of the year. A considerable area of the lagoon was reclaimed by the delivery of sand into it from the 12 inch pumping plant.

Certain settlements having occurred in the foundations of the break-water, considerable repairs were necessary. These repairs were not completed at the end of the year.

*NOTE:—Recent experiments appear to show that the water can be effectively purified by "the Excess Lime Process."

SECCONDEE HARBOUR WORKS.

The expenditure on these works during 1917 amounted to £12,162.

Dredging operations had unfortunately to be suspended in April in consequence of the foundering of the Rockbreaker in a tornado. She had subsequently to be broken up, but the Rockbreaker Crane was salvaged, and it was decided to erect it upon a travelling bogie carriage supplied by the Railway Department. This operation was in hand at the close of the year.

Satisfactory progress was made with the construction of Jetty No. 3, and four electric cranes were erected upon Jetty No. 4 which was completed in 1916. Advantage was taken of the installation of the pipe-borne water supply to Seccondee, with which connection was made in November.

The aggregate outlay upon these works up to the end of 1917 amounted to £192,011, and the success of the works, and the improvement which they have constituted in the facilities of the port, amply justify this expenditure.

XII.—THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

On the 30th of December, 1916, a discovery of possibly great importance was made by the Director of the Geological Survey, Mr. A. E. Kitson. A large deposit of high-grade bauxite was found to occur in a mountain on the Kwahu plateau. By means of a careful survey and of the cutting of trenches across the area upon the surface of which the bauxite was observed, the occurrence of a large quantity of this valuable mineral, the ore from which the metal aluminium is obtained, was clearly established. The result of analysis indicated that the percentage of alumina was more than 60%, whilst the proportion of silica was about 1%.

This discovery may prove to be of the highest Imperial importance. It was therefore considered advisable that the rights in it should be reserved by the Government. The necessary concession was accordingly obtained, the terms granted by the Government to the land-owning Chiefs being very considerably more generous than those usually offered by private companies when seeking mining concessions.

The deposit is situated in a locality which at the present time is very difficult of access. Moreover an elaborate and extensive plant is likely to be necessary for its adequate exploitation. For these reasons it is at present still doubtful whether the deposits will turn out to be capable of remunerative working.

The Director of the Geological Survey also examined another locality where small pieces of bauxite are obtained by the natives and used by them for making beads and ornaments. The extent and character of the bauxite occurring in this neighbourhood remain to be determined, although it was apparent that deposits of fair quality are present.

Limestone beds which may prove to be valuable were discovered in the Afram River, similar to the deposits found in 1915 near the junction of the Afram and the Volta.

More than thirty thousand tons of Manganese Ore were exported from the deposit discovered by the Director of the Geological Survey in 1914 near the Sekondi-Coomassie Railway.

In the near future there is likely to be a rapid increase in the output of this comparatively accessible source of supply of a mineral which, so far as is known, is but sparingly distributed throughout the world, and which plays an essential part in the manufacture of certain steels.

XIII.—TRANSPORT.

The Transport Department has continued to perform its difficult function of handling passengers' luggage and loads of all kinds arriving in Seccondee, whether by rail from the North or by sea, supplying Government officers travelling with the necessary carriers, and arranging for the conveyance of passengers and their luggage, of mails and other loads from Railhead at Coomassie to other places in Ashanti and the Northern Territories. A motor service was maintained between Coomassie and Ejura, a distance of 61 miles, and a boat service on the Volta River between Yeji and Yapei, 88 miles. Apart from these two stretches everything must travel on the heads of native men and women. A load destined for Tamale, the headquarters of the Northern Territories, goes from the seaport of Seccondee to Coomassie by rail (168 miles), from Coomassie to Ejura by motor (61 miles), from Ejura to Yeji (87 miles—4 days) on the head of a carrier, from Yeji to Yapei (88 miles) by boat, and from Yapei to Tamale (some 30 miles—2 days) by carrier. The time taken by the load in transit from Seccondee to Tamale, making no allowance for pauses at the various depots is, 12 or 13 days, and its costliness by the time it has reached its destination after so much handling and so many different modes of conveyance is of course considerably enhanced. Many loads are despatched from Coomassie by carrier direct to places, near and far, in Ashanti and the Northern Territories.

The number of loads dealt with in 1917 at the various stations was as follows :—

Coomassie	..	..	..	..	..	17,537
Seccondee	..	..	..	..	..	12,008
Ejura	..	..	..	..	..	6,445
Yeji	..	..	..	..	..	1,636
Yapei	..	..	..	..	..	682

925 passengers were conveyed from Coomassie to Ejura by motor, and 699 from Ejura to Coomassie.

Carriers' Savings Bank accounts numbered 846 at the end of 1917 as compared with 825 at the end of 1916.

W. H. S. TRUETT,
Acting Assistant Colonial Secretary.

25th December, 1918.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

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

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year
967	Solomon Islands	1917-1918
968	Grenada	" "
969	Turks and Caicos Islands	1917
970	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
971	Ceylon	"
972	Hong Kong	"
973	Zanzibar	"
974	St. Helena	"
975	Malta	"
976	British Guiana	"
977	St. Vincent	1917-1918
978	Bahamas	"
979	Gambia	1917
980	Jamaica	1917-1918
981	Gibraltar	1917
982	Bermuda	"
983	Swasiland	1917-1918
984	Trinidad	1917
985	Mauritius	"
986	Cyprus	1917-1918
987	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
988	East Africa Protectorate	1916-1917
989	Barbados	1917-1918
990	Sierra Leone	1917
991	Straits Settlements	"
992	Leeward Islands	1917-1918
993	Uganda	"
994	British Honduras	1917
995	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1917-1918
996	Nyasaland	"
997	Basutoland	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

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

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