

COLONIAL REPORTS- - ANNUAL

Annual Report on the Social and Economic
Progress of the People of

THE GAMBIA, 1938

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE GAMBIA, 1938.

CHAPTER I. HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE.

History.

The first Europeans to visit the River Gambia were Aluise da Cada Mosto, a Venetian, and Antoniotto Usi di Mare, a Genoese. They were commissioned by Prince Henry the Navigator of Portugal to lead an expedition along the African coast to the south of Cape Verde. They arrived in the River Gambia in 1455, but only proceeded a short way upstream. They repeated their voyage in the following year, when they proceeded further up the river and got into touch with some of the native chiefs. When they were near the river's mouth, "they cast anchor on a Sunday morning at an island in the shape of a smoothing iron, where one of the sailors, who had died of a fever, was buried; and, as his name was Andrew, being well loved, they gave the Island the name of St. Andrew." For some three centuries afterwards the history of the European occupation of the Gambia was largely the history of this island.

This discovery was followed by attempts on the part of the Portuguese at settlement along the river banks. The number of settlers never appears at any time to have been large and such few as there were intermarried with the native African races. The European strain in their descendants rapidly diminished and in course of time it became difficult to distinguish them from the indigenous races except for the fact that they styled themselves Portuguese, affected European dress and names, and professed to be Christians. Communities of Portuguese descent continued to live on the banks of the Gambia in separate villages well into the middle of the eighteenth century. Portuguese churches existed up to 1730 at San Domingo (near Albreda), Geregia (see Portuguese "igreja") near Kansala in Foni, and Tankular. The furthest Portuguese settlement up the river was at Setuku near Fattatenda.

In 1580 the throne of Portugal was seized by Phillip II of Spain and a number of Portuguese took refuge in England. In 1587 one of these refugees, Francisco Ferreira, piloted two English ships to the Gambia, and returned with a profitable cargo of hides and ivory. In the following year Antonio, Prior of Crato, who laid claim to the Portuguese throne, sold to certain London and Devon merchants, the exclusive right to trade between the Rivers Senegal and Gambia. This grant was confirmed to the grantees for a period of ten years by letters patent of Queen Elizabeth. The patentees sent several vessels to the coast, but owing to Portuguese hostility did not venture further south than Joal—thirty miles to the north of the mouth of the River Gambia.

They reported that the Gambia was "a river of secret trade and riches concealed by the Portugals. For long since one Frenchman entered with a small barque, which was betrayed, surprised and taken by two gallies of the Portugals". In 1612 another attempt by the French to settle in the Gambia ended disastrously owing to sickness and mortality.

Letters patent conferring (*inter alia*) the right of exclusive trade in the River Gambia were subsequently granted in 1598, 1618, and 1632 to other adventurers, but no attempt was made by the English to explore the river until 1618. The expedition in that year was commanded by George Thompson and had for its object the opening up of trade with Timbuktu. Leaving his ship at Gassan, Thompson proceeded with a small party in boats as far as the River Neriko. During his absence the crew of his ship were massacred by the Portuguese, but some of Thompson's party managed on their return to make their way overland to Cape Verde and thence to England. Thompson remained in the Gambia with seven companions, but was killed by one of them in a sudden quarrel. In the meantime a relief expedition had been sent out under the command of Richard Jobson, who seized some Portuguese shipping as a reprisal for the massacre at Gassan. Jobson also made his way up to Neriko and subsequently gave a glowing account of the commercial potentialities of the River Gambia in his "Golden Trade". But both his and the previous expedition had resulted in considerable losses and a subsequent voyage, which he made in 1624, proved a complete failure. In the circumstances the patentees made no further attempt to exploit the resources of the Gambia, but confined their attention to the Gold Coast.

In 1651 the Commonwealth granted a patent to certain London merchants, who in that and the following year sent two expeditions to the River Gambia and established a trading post at Bintang. Members of the expedition proceeded as far as the Barakunda Falls in search of gold, but the climate took its toll: In 1652 Prince Rupert entered the Gambia with three Royalists ships and captured the patentees' vessels. After this heavy loss the patentees abandoned further enterprise in the Gambia.

In the meantime James, Duke of Courland, who was the godson of James I of England, had in about 1651 obtained from various native Chiefs the cession of St. Andrew's Island and land at Banyon Point (Half Die), Juffure and Gassan. Settlers, merchants and missionaries were sent out from Courland and forts were erected on St. Andrew's Island and at Banyon Point. In 1658 the Duke of Courland was made a prisoner by the Swedes during a war between Sweden and Poland. As a consequence funds ceased to be available for the maintenance of the garrisons and settlements in the Gambia and in 1659 the Duke of Courland's agent at Amsterdam entered into an agreement with the Dutch West India Company, whereby the Duke's possessions in the Gambia were handed over to the Company until such time as the

Duke should be in a position to resume possession thereof. In 1660 St. Andrew's Fort was captured and plundered by a French privateer in the Swedish service. The Dutch thereafter abandoned the fort and the Courlanders resumed possession.

After the Restoration English interest in the Gambia was revived as the result of information, which Prince Rupert had obtained in 1652 regarding the reputed existence of a gold mine in the upper reaches of the river. In 1660 a new patent was granted to a number of persons, who were styled the Royal Adventurers trading to Africa and of whom the most prominent were James, Duke of York, and Prince Rupert. At the end of that year the Adventurers sent an expedition to the Gambia under the command of Major Robert Holmes, who had been with Prince Rupert in the Gambia in 1652. Holmes arrived in the river at the beginning of the following year. He proceeded to occupy Dog Island, which he renamed Charles Island, and to erect a temporary fort there. On March 18th, 1661, he sailed up to St. Andrew's Island and called upon the Courlander officer in command to surrender, threatening to bombard the fort if his request was not complied with. There were only seven Europeans in the garrison and the Courlanders had no alternative but to submit. On the following day Holmes took possession of the fort, which he renamed James Fort after the Duke of York. An attempt was made in 1662 by the Dutch West India Company to gain possession of the fort, firstly, by inciting the natives of Barra against the English, secondly, by offering bribes to certain of the English officers and lastly, by bombarding the fort. None of these measures proved successful and the English remained in possession of the Island. In the meantime the Duke of Courland had lodged a protest against the seizure of his possessions in time of peace. On November 17th, 1664, after protracted negotiations he relinquished in favour of Charles II all claim to his African possessions and in return was granted the Island of Tobago and the right for himself personally to trade in the River Gambia.

In 1677 the Royal Adventurers sublet their rights between Capes Blanco and Palmas to another body of adventurers, who came to be known as the Gambia Adventurers. These latter Adventurers enjoyed those rights until 1678, when on the expiration of their lease they reverted to the Royal African Company, which had purchased the rights and property of the Royal Adventurers six years previously.

In 1677 the French wrested the Island of Goree from the Dutch. The history of the next century and a half is the history of a continuous struggle between England and France for political and commercial supremacy in the regions of the Senegal and Gambia. By 1681 the French had acquired a small enclave at Albreda opposite to James Island. Except for short periods, during which trouble with the natives of Barra or hostilities with England compelled them temporarily to abandon the place, they retained their foothold there until 1857.

In the wars with France following upon the English Revolution James Fort was captured on four occasions by the French, namely, in 1695, 1702, 1704 and 1708, but no attempt was made by them to occupy the fort permanently. At the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 the French recognised the right of the English to James Island and their settlements in the River Gambia.

One of the aftermaths of these wars was an outbreak of piracy along the West African coast. The English trade in the Gambia suffered heavily from the depredations of these pirates. In 1719 one of their number, Howel Davis, captured James Fort. An even more serious disaster occurred in 1721, when part of the garrison mutinied under the leadership of one of their officers, Captain John Massey, and seizing one of the Company's Ships, themselves turned pirate. Finally in 1725 James Fort was very extensively damaged by an accidental explosion of gunpowder.

After these setbacks the African Company enjoyed twenty years of comparative prosperity. A very detailed account of the life and work of the Company's servants in the Gambia during this period is given in Francis Moore's "Travels into the Inland Parts of Africa". Factories were established as far up the river as Fattatenda and at other places and a fairly considerable trade was carried on with the interior of the continent.

Nevertheless, despite an annual subsidy from the British Government for the maintenance of their forts, the African Company became in course of time involved in grave financial difficulties. In 1749 James Island was found to be "in a most miserable condition, the people in a melancholy situation for want of goods to carry on trade to support their garrison, not having had any supplies for upwards of five years, and not being allowed to trade for themselves—the consequence of which was that they were obliged to call in their out-factors on the continent.....By being so neglected the chief trade is gone down the River Senegal to the French factory." In the following year it was reported that the garrison at James Fort "was reduced by sickness from twenty-five or thirty men to five or eight; and, the officers being all dead, a common soldier had succeeded to the command."

By 1750 the position had become critical and an Act of Parliament was passed divesting the African Company of its charter and vesting its forts and settlements in a new company, which was controlled by a committee of merchants. The Act prohibited the new company from trading in its corporate capacity but allowed it an annual subsidy for the upkeep of the forts. It was hoped thereby to prevent the monopolistic tendencies of rule by a joint stock company and at the same time to save the government the expense entailed by the creation of a colonial civil service.

In 1766 the fort and settlements in the Gambia were by another Act of Parliament taken from this new company and vested in the Crown. For the next eighteen years the Gambia formed part of the Crown Colony of Senegambia. Government head-

quarters were at St. Louis at the mouth of the River Senegal and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed to take charge of James Fort and the settlements in the Gambia.

In 1779 the French captured James Fort for the fifth and last time. On this occasion they so successfully demolished the fortifications that at the close of the war it was found impossible to rebuild them. Except for a brief period after the Napoleonic wars, when the island was temporarily occupied by a handful of troops as an outpost, James Island ceased to play any part in the history of the Gambia.

In 1780 the French privateer "Sénégal" captured four vessels, which had been sent with part of the British garrison at Goree under the command of Major Houghton to the Bintang Creek to obtain building material. The "Sénégal" was in its turn attacked by H.M.S. "Zephyr" and captured after a very warm action off Barra Point. The prizes had in the meantime been destroyed, but the troops, who had taken refuge on shore and had been befriended by the Jolas of Foni, were rescued by the "Zephyr".

In 1783 St. Louis and Goree were handed back to France and Senegambia ceased to exist as a British colony. The Gambia was therefore once more entrusted to the care of the African Company, which, however, made no attempt to administer the Gambia.

In 1785 Lemain (MacCarthy) Island was acquired by the British Government with a view to the establishment of a convict settlement, but nothing came of the plan, the convicts being eventually diverted to other places.

For the next thirty years British influence in the Gambia was confined to the operations of a number of individual traders. Settlements were established by these traders along the river banks. Perhaps the most important of these was at Pisania (Karantaba). This settlement, which was already in existence in 1779, was occupied by a doctor named Laidley and a family of the name of Aynsley. Subsequently invaluable assistance was rendered by both Laidley and the Aynsleys to Major Houghton (1790), Mungo Park (1795 and 1805) and Major Grey (1818) in the course of their journeys of exploration into the interior of Africa.

In 1794 on the representations of the African Association, James Willis was appointed Consul General for Senegambia and was ordered to proceed to Fattatenda to promote British trade and influence in the upper regions of the Gambia and Niger. For various reasons this expedition never sailed and it was left to Mungo Park under the auspices of the African Association to make his way from Karantaba to the upper reaches of the Niger.

In 1807 the African slave trade was abolished by Act of Parliament. At that date the British were in possession of Goree. With the co-operation of the Royal Navy the garrison of that fort

made strenuous efforts to suppress the traffic in the River Gambia, which was being carried on by American and Spanish vessels: On more than one occasion the slavers offered a stubborn resistance and the Royal African Corps suffered severe casualties.

At the close of the Napoleonic Wars it was agreed as part of the terms of the treaty of peace that Goree should be returned to France. On the recommendation of Sir Charles MacCarthy and in order to suppress the traffic in slaves the British Government issued instructions that James Island or some other suitable place in the river should be occupied as a military post. Captain Alexander Grant of the African Corps was accordingly despatched with some troops for the purpose. James Island was reoccupied but owing to the ruinous state of the fort it was found to be unsuitable as a military base. On April 23rd, 1816, Grant entered into a treaty with the King of Kombo for the cession of the island of Baujol to the British Government. The island was renamed St. Mary's Island and the settlement, which was established there, was called Bathurst after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

In 1821 the African Company was dissolved by Act of Parliament and the Gambia was placed under the jurisdiction of the government of Sierra Leone. The Gambia was administered from Sierra Leone until 1843, when it was created a separate colony. This arrangement continued until 1866 when the Gambia and Sierra Leone were once more united under the same administration.

In the meantime the British Government extended its territorial acquisitions beyond St. Mary's Island by concluding treaties with a number of native chiefs. In 1826 the north bank at the river's mouth was ceded to Great Britain by the King of Barra. In 1823 Major Grant acquired Lemain Island, which was renamed MacCarthy Island and was made into a settlement for liberated African slaves as well as the headquarters of a Wesleyan mission. In 1840 and 1853 considerable areas of the mainland adjoining St. Mary's Island were obtained from the King of Kombo for the settlement of discharged soldiers of the West India Regiments and liberated Africans. Cessions of other tracts of land further upstream were obtained at various dates. In 1857 Albreda, which as a foreign enclave in the middle of British territory had proved a constant source of friction between the British and French governments, was handed over to Great Britain who in exchange renounced her rights to the gum trade at Portendic.

In 1870 and 1876 negotiations were entered into between the French and British Governments for the exchange of the Gambia for other territory in West Africa, but the proposal aroused such opposition in Parliament and amongst various mercantile bodies in England and the native inhabitants of the Gambia that the British Government felt unable to press the scheme.

In 1888 the Gambia was once more separated from Sierra Leone and has ever since that date been a separate colony. In the following year an agreement was arrived at between the French and British Governments for the delimitation of the boundaries of the Gambia, Senegal, and Casamance.

In the meantime, despite a number of petty wars, the Gambian Government had been able to conclude a series of treaties with the principal chiefs living upon the banks of the river. Some of these provided for the cession of small tracts of territory, but the majority of the later treaties conferred British protection. The last and most important of these was concluded in 1901 with Musa Molloh, the paramount chief of Fuladu. In 1894 an Ordinance was passed for the better administration of those districts, which had not been ceded to, but merely placed under the protection of the British Government. It was also found that in practice it was not feasible to administer as part of the Colony isolated tracts of land lying at a considerable distance from the seat of government. Consequently in 1895 and the following years ordinances were passed bringing a number of these strips of territory under the protectorate system of administration. Finally by a Protectorate Ordinance passed in 1902 the whole of the Gambia with the exception of the Island of St. Mary was brought under the protectorate system.

Geography.

The Colony, which comprises the towns of Bathurst and Georgetown and some adjoining land, has an area of only sixty-nine square miles.

The Protectorate is a narrow strip of territory for the most part ten kilometres wide on each bank extending up the river for nearly 300 miles from Bathurst. The Gambia River has its source near the village of Labe on the Futa Jallon plateau. It flows westward for about 700 miles. The river is navigable for ocean-going steamers as far as Kuntau-ur, 150 miles up river, and for vessels drawing less than two fathoms as far as Koina—292 miles from Bathurst—the easternmost village in the Protectorate, where there is a rise of two feet daily with the tide. During the rains the upper river rises some thirty feet.

The inhabitants of the Protectorate are mostly Jolofs, Mandinkos, Fulas, and Jolas. Nearly all of these are Mohammedans, except the last named tribe who are pagan; the Mohammedan religion is, however, gaining ground amongst them and, as a result, they are gradually dropping their primitive customs.

Upper River Province comprising the districts of Wuli, Kantora, Sandu and Fuladu East has an area of 790 square miles and a population of 49,008. The greater number of the inhabitants are Mandinkos and Sarahulis with a rather smaller proportion of Fulas.

The Headquarters of the Province are situated at Basse, which is both the largest town in the Province and one of the most important river ports in the Protectorate.

The districts of Sandu, Kantora and Wuli are all relics of former native kingdoms.

MacCarthy Island Province consists of the Districts of Sami, Niani, Nianija, Upper Saloum, Lower Saloum, Western Niamina, Eastern Niamina, Niamina Dunkunku, Fuladu West, and MacCarthy Island. The area of the Province is 1,101 square miles and the population 47,508. The Headquarters are at Georgetown. The bulk of the population is Jolof and Mandinko.

South Bank Province includes the Districts of Western Jarra, Central Jarra, Eastern Jarra, Eastern Kiang, Central Kiang, Kiang West, Foni Jarrol, Foni Bondali, Foni Kansala, Bintang-Karenai, Foni Brefet, South Kombo, East Kombo, Central Kombo, North Kombo and Kombo St Mary. The area of the Province is 1,294 square miles and the population 60,828. The Headquarters are at Bakau, Cape St. Mary. The majority of the inhabitants are Mandinkos but there is a large number of Fulas in the more easterly Districts, while the Foni Districts are largely populated by Jolas.

North Bank Province has an area of 814 square miles and a population of 33,665. The districts of the Province are Lower Niumi, Upper Niumi, Jokadu, Lower Baddibu, Central Baddibu and Upper Baddibu. Of these the three Baddibu districts are predominantly Mandinko in population; Jokadu has a mixed population of Mandinkos, Jolofs and Tukulors while the two Niumis are mainly mixed Jolof and Mandinko districts. The Headquarters are at Kerewan.

Climate.

The climate of the Gambia is not healthy, though, with better sanitation and housing, conditions of living generally have greatly improved during recent years. The most trying part of the year is from June to October, which is the wet period. During the remaining months the climate compares favourably with that of other tropical countries.

METEOROLOGICAL STATISTICS, 1938.
Cape St. Mary Station.

Month.	Mean Air Temperature.	Relative Humidity.	Rainfall (inches).
January	74.2	30	—
February	72.9	52	—
March	76.1	63	—
April	74.0	63	—
May	77.5	57	0.14
June	79.7	67	0.02
July	79.1	72	7.54
August	79.5	75	17.54
September	79.8	80	12.39
October	80.3	74	7.27
November	79.7	71	0.24
December	74.7	60	—
		Total ...	45.14

Other Records of Rainfall were:--

Bathurst	...	...	...	...	46.93 inches
Yoroheri-kunda, MacCarthy Island Province					34.47 ..
Wuli, Upper River Province			...	...	47.71 ..

CHAPTER II. GOVERNMENT.

The main political divisions of the Gambia are the Colony of the Gambia and the Protectorate, the latter consisting of four Provinces each administered by a Commissioner. The whole country is under the control of the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, to whom the Commissioners are responsible for their respective Provinces. The Colony includes the Island of St. Mary (on which the town of Bathurst is situated), Brefet, Bajana, MacCarthy Island, the Ceded Mile and British Kombo, which, the Island of St. Mary excepted, are administered by the Commissioners under the Protectorate system. The Governor is assisted by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary (ex-officio Member) and three other senior officials. The Legislative Council of the Colony, of which the Governor is the President, includes the Colonial Secretary (ex-officio Member), five official Members, including the members of the Executive Council, and also four Unofficial Members.

Protectorate System.—This system was introduced in 1894 by an “ Ordinance to provide for the exercise in the Protected Territories of certain powers and jurisdiction by Native Authorities and by Commissioners ”, (No. 11 of 1894), which laid down that “ All native laws and customs in force in the Protected Territories, which are not repugnant to natural justice nor incompatible with any Ordinance of the Colony which applies to the Protected Territories, shall have the same effect as Regulations made under this Ordinance ”. The Ordinance defined the powers of the Chiefs in the following terms :—

“ 31. Every Head Chief and Headman shall possess and exercise—

(a) The powers of a Conservator of the peace, including the power of binding over unruly persons with sureties of the peace and of preventing or suppressing riots, affrays and tumults of every description.

(b) The power of carrying into execution within his district, sub-district or village any law of the Imperial Parliament or of the Colony of the Gambia, any Order of Her Majesty in Council, any decree or order of the Supreme Court, or any order of the Commissioner, subject to such instructions as he may from time to time receive from the Administrator or Commissioner; or, in respect of decrees or orders of the Supreme Court, from the Chief Magistrate;

(c) The power of apprehending, detaining and sending to the Commissioner’s Court for examination, or to the Courts at Bathurst for examination and trial, of every person accused of any serious offence or crime, such as murder,

robbery, slave-dealing, whether of the like or a different kind, and it shall be the duty of every Head Chief and Headman to use his utmost endeavour to discover the authors of all such offences."

The protection of persons executing Chiefs' orders was provided for by Section 32 of the Ordinance which reads "Every person employed by a Headman or Native Court in carrying into effect any order lawfully made, shall have the like protection for that purpose as a person authorised to execute Process of the Supreme Court."

Ordinance No. 11 of 1894 was later superseded by the Protectorate Ordinance of 1913 and during 1933 an advance was made in the administration of the Protectorate by the enactment of the Native Authority and Native Tribunals Ordinances (Nos. 3 and 4 of 1933). The two Ordinances, though each deals with separate matters of detail are in fact directed to one common purpose, the development of local self-government by the Seyfolu (Head Chiefs) and people of the Protectorate, under the advice and supervision of the Commissioners who represent the Governor.

The Native Authority Ordinance provides for the establishment and constitution of Native Authorities in the Protectorate and provision is made for the continuation of existing Seyfolu and Alkalolu (Headman) as Native Authorities.

It defines in far greater detail than did the Protectorate Ordinance, 1913, the duties and powers of Seyfolu and Alkalolu in their executive capacity. It confers on Native Authorities power to issue administrative orders dealing with a great variety of matters in regard to persons subject to their jurisdiction and also imposes duties in connection with the prevention and suppression of crime.

The Native Tribunals Ordinance establishes throughout the Protectorate a system of Native Tribunals with defined jurisdiction both criminal and civil. It deals with the judicial powers of Seyfolu and Alkalolu, as the Native Authority Ordinance deals with their executive powers. Sections dealing with the removal of proceedings from Native Tribunals to the Court of a Commissioner and with the revisory powers of Commissioners reproduce in a clearer manner the rules which governed these matters in the Protectorate Ordinance, 1913, which was re-enacted in consolidated form in April, 1935, on account of the many amendments necessitated by the Native Authority and Native Tribunals Ordinances, 1933.

Commissioners no longer sit with Native Tribunals, which are now quite separate from the Courts of the Commissioners.

The administration in the Protectorate still hinges on the Chief (or Seyfu) and the Headman (or Alkali), the Alkali being responsible to the Seyfu for his town and the Seyfu to the Commissioner of the Province for his district. The Alkali is

Local Government.—In 1935, the Bathurst Urban District Council and Board of Health, formed in 1931 for the purpose of advising Government upon matters relating to the welfare of the inhabitants of Bathurst, gave place to the Bathurst Advisory Town Council.

The constitution of the new Council is the same as that of the old, and is made up of representatives of the various Government Departments most closely concerned in the administration of Bathurst, of six Members elected by the Town Wards of Bathurst and of four Members nominated by the Governor to represent commerce, industry or other interests.

Meetings of the Council are held every quarter. Much useful advice on matters affecting the town of Bathurst and its inhabitants has been tendered to Government by the Members of these Councils both in their individual and collective capacities, and the Council serves as a valuable link between Government and the public.

chosen by the people of the village and his position is confirmed by the Commissioner. He acts as the representative of his village in dealing with Government and personifies the village community. This is exemplified by the fact that it is the Alkali who allots, to those who need it, unoccupied land belonging to the village as a community. He is bound by tradition to seek and to listen to the advice of the elder men in the village.

In the event of disputes arising in the community which cannot be composed by the friends or relatives of the parties the Alkali, although armed with no judicial powers, is often able by virtue of his office to act successfully as arbitrator and prevent the matter from reaching the point of litigation.

The Seyfu holds a position partly established by legislation and partly inherited from the Kings of former times. The Mandinka word for King (Mansa) is now applied only to the Governor who is, in native phraseology, the " King of Bathurst ", and this limitation of the word reflects the passing of much of the old kingly powers. Yet a good deal of the standing and authority of the Kings remains, especially in cases where it is possible to appoint as Seyfu one of an old ruling family. It is now the policy, therefore, to appoint such men as far as possible, since on the authority inherent in the office depends a great part of the Seyfu's utility and prestige.

The Seyfu is appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Commissioner, who has previously ascertained which of the candidates has the best claim or most commands the respect and obedience of the district. This district opinion is becoming an increasingly important factor in the choice of Seyfolu. Apart from his general administrative duties and the supervision of his district, the Seyfu is usually the President of the Native Tribunal of his district and exercises powers which may be compared roughly to those of a Police Court, appeals lying from his Court to that of the Commissioner. The former system of advances of seed ground-nuts and rice to the Seyfolu and people of the Protectorate was discontinued in 1932, and in 1933 each Native Authority made a rule under which every cultivator of ground-nuts in the Protectorate is required to deposit in the village store, after the winnowing of the year's crop, five bushels of seednuts. Of the amount so deposited four bushels are returnable to the depositor at the beginning of the next planting season, the remaining bushel being placed in the village reserve.

The scheme, with the full co-operation of the Seyfolu and people, has worked very well and has resulted in an adequate supply of seed.

Increased supplies of home-grown food-stuffs are now being produced and from the scheme there has resulted a considerable gain in morale and a more confident local administration by Seyfolu and Native Authorities.

CHAPTER III. POPULATION

The population of the Gambia according to the 1931 Census was 199,520 of which 14,370 inhabitants resided on St. Mary's Island. The Island contains few inhabitants outside the town of Bathurst.

Generally speaking the various races are distributed throughout the Protectorate with the exception of the Jolas who are practically confined to the South Bank Province. The numerical distribution of the races in the Protectorate was given in the Census as follows:—

Mandinko	...	...	...	...	...	85,640
Jolof	...	...	...	...	...	25,864
Fula	...	...	...	...	...	22,273
Jola	...	...	...	...	...	19,410
Sarahuli	...	...	...	...	...	12,316
Tukulor	...	...	...	...	...	11,653
Bambara	...	...	...	...	...	3,261
Aku	...	...	...	...	...	786
Others	...	...	...	...	...	3,947
Total	...	...	...	...	...	185,150

People of all these races are included amongst the inhabitants of Bathurst.

Vital statistics are recorded in the Island of St. Mary only as, owing to the illiteracy of the people, the collection of reliable data in the Protectorate is impossible.

The statistics in respect of Bathurst for the past five years are as follows:—

Year.	Births.	Rate Birth per 100.	Deaths.	Death Rate per 100.	Infantile Mortality (per 1,000 births registered.)
1934 ...	351	2·4	422	3·07	265
1935 ...	386	2·7	452	3·18	310·8
1936 ...	357	2·5	431	3·05	369
1937 ...	370	2·63	414	2·92	254·1
1938* ...	429	3·02	363	2·56	184·1

*1938 figures based on estimated population of 14,163.

As regards the above figures it should be noted that the death rate in Bathurst is raised very considerably by the fact that the chief hospital of the Colony is situated there, that people come from all over the Colony for treatment, and that many of them are in a moribund condition when they reach Bathurst.

Registration of births is more accurate than previously as all midwives are now registered.

172 live births took place in the Clinic as compared with 126 in 1937.

Of the children who attended the Clinic in 1938 only sixteen died within twelve months of their births. This can be regarded as satisfactory even when the general Infantile Mortality rate is so much smaller than ever before.

Emigration and immigration.—There is practically no emigration from the Gambia.

At the beginning of each ground-nut planting season a number of natives cross the border into the Protectorate from French territory for the purpose of assisting the local farmers in the planting and harvesting of the crop. These "strange farmers" return to their homes after the crop has been marketed. Likewise a considerable number of foreign labourers and petty traders come to Bathurst at the beginning of each trade season and leave again when the season ends. The number of "strange farmers", labourers and petty traders visiting the Gambia naturally fluctuates according to trade conditions. Immigration returns show that during the past four years the persons entering Bathurst by sea numbered as follows:—518 in 1935, 855 in 1936, 894 in 1937 and 878 in 1938: but it may be assumed that the majority of these people returned or will return, to their homes. Immigration is controlled by the Immigration Restriction Ordinance (No. 12 of 1924) under which no person is allowed to enter the Gambia who:—

- (a) is likely to become a pauper or a public charge,
- (b) is an idiot or insane,
- (c) is deemed by the Governor to be an undesirable immigrant,
- (d) is a prostitute, or
- (e) is not in possession of a passport valid under the law of the country of which he is a citizen.

Any person who appears to the Immigration Officer to be without visible means of support is required to deposit the sum of £60, or to give security by bond in that amount. At the expiration of eighteen months from the date of entering the Gambia, or at any earlier period, if the depositor, not having become destitute or unable to support himself departs from the Gambia, his deposit is returned to him.

CHAPTER IV. HEALTH.

The Colony cannot be considered healthy as a whole though there is an undoubted improvement in Bathurst and many of the Wharf Towns; a scheme, however, has been prepared for the betterment of sanitation throughout the Colony mainly through propaganda and by an increase in the number of trained Sanitarians available for work in the Protectorate. The scheme which will take many years to complete, will be put into operation in 1940. The training of the necessary personnel has already started.

The pumping plant installed in the Box Bar area of Bathurst proved to be most successful during the rainy season.

A type of permanent septic tank latrine suitable for use in rural districts has been evolved and is slowly replacing the old type of temporary septic tank constructed of oil drums. The new latrines have been installed in Basse, Upper River Province after preliminary experiments in Bathurst, and they are proving to be successful.

Markets in the Protectorate have generally been very unsatisfactory from the health view-point; a start was made during the year to remedy the situation and lay-outs for both permanent and temporary markets were prepared. Much work, however, remains to be done. The question is correlated with the improvement of sanitation as a whole, and will be largely dependent on the scheme of sanitary supervision and propaganda which has now been formulated.

The chief diseases treated during the year were trypanosomiasis, malaria and pneumonia. 1,631 cases of trypanosomiasis were recorded and 843 cases of malaria; which was more prevalent during early December than at any other time of the year. It is satisfactory to record that only 33 per cent of the cases of pneumonia which were treated in Bathurst were fatal.

During the year a new and thoroughly equipped hospital was opened at Bansang and the hospital at Georgetown was converted for use as a Prison. A dispensary, however, is still maintained at Georgetown.

The medical institutions in the Colony now consist of three hospitals, at Bathurst, Bansang and Bwiam, six dispensaries at Basse, Georgetown, Kau-ur, Kerewan, Kaiaff and Cape St. Mary, one lying-in home and Infant Welfare Clinic in Bathurst, and Infant Welfare Clinics and Ante-Natal Centres in Bathurst, Sukuta, and Cape St. Mary, the last two being visited weekly by the Sister-in-Charge of the Clinics.

There are, in addition, two Leper Settlements at Fukinaf and Buruku, and an Infectious Diseases Hospital and a Home for the Infirm in Bathurst.

A successful health week, which included a Baby Day, was held in Bathurst during the year.

CHAPTER V. HOUSING.

Housing in Bathurst.

The Technical Office Assistant, Public Works Department, appointed in 1937 also functions as Building Inspector for the town of Bathurst.

The solution of the housing problem is dependent on the Reclamation Scheme. To insist on too rigid an enforcement of the law before that would be a waste of the inhabitants' money, but once the level of the ground has been raised the value to health will be almost nullified if strict adherence to the Building Regulations is not enforced.

The majority of native houses in the town are of bamboo matting (krint'ng) covered with lime plaster constructed on a framework of rhun palm posts and with a corrugated iron roof.

Housing in the Protectorate.

Improvement in the housing in native villages awaits the development of the scheme for rural sanitation. Plans have been drawn up for model villages in the Kombo, South Bank Province to house any villagers who may be dispossessed as a result of the development in air services and the construction of an adequate aerodrome at Jeshwang. It is hoped that such model villages will form an example to the natives in the rest of the Protectorate. The construction of the houses will follow native practice in the use of mud, wattle or thatch as material but will be controlled as to size, ventilation and general lay-out.

Statistics.

Province.	Population.	No. of Houses or Huts.
North Bank Province	33,665	23,300
South Bank Province	60,828	28,552
MacCarthy Island Province ...	47,508	24,716
Upper River Province	49,008	23,552
St. Mary's Island (Bathurst)* ...	14,370	3,177

* Census figures 1931.

CHAPTER VI. NATURAL RESOURCES.

The Gambia is almost entirely dependent upon groundnut cultivation which forms the staple export crop. The export crop, which varies from 40,000 to 70,000 tons, is raised entirely by African farmers, as the country is unsuitable for European settlers. There are no permanent plantations or estates, the whole of the cultivation being carried out by what is usually described as "shifting cultivation".

As a result of propaganda, instruction and better prices, the majority of the main markets in the country are now preparing their hides by the improved methods advocated. Skins are now receiving similar attention.

Improvement in the quality of palm kernels and beeswax offered for sale is slow, but it is hoped that continued propaganda and the higher prices offered for better quality produce will meet with success.

Shea butter has been planted experimentally as a minor forest product in all districts by the chiefs, supervised by the Agricultural Department. Several of the areas have received reasonable attention by the people but as may be expected, this tree, which naturally grows slowly in its earlier years, has not created any real interest as yet.

Ploughing with cattle is beginning to interest farmers and a few undertook the work with oxen and men trained by the Agricultural Department. It is pleasing to note that without any pressure on the part of the Agricultural Department or other officials some of the farmers are becoming keener to develop their farms by cattle cultivation. This is a result of the production during the past rainy season of groundnuts and foodcrops by means of ploughing.

Irrigation also is receiving more attention from the people, particularly the women, and when the men can be persuaded to undertake the initial work of laying out the farms there is no doubt that they will be readily cultivated by the women at least during the rains. Efforts are being made to interest the people in the cultivation of a crop in the dry season also.

Remarkable strides have been made during the year in food production and though the ideal of being fully self-supporting in this respect may not have been yet achieved, a big advance in this direction has been made which is due partly to propaganda on the part of all officials of Government in contact with the people and partly to the poor export produce values which have obtained during the year.

The groundnut crop exported during 1938 showed a vast improvement in quality to previous years. Intensive propaganda to plant early, harvest later and pay proper attention to after treatment of the crop has brought about this improvement. Attention was given in this respect to the crop grown during 1938 and

there is every reason to believe that it will be as good if not better than the previous crop. Unfortunately these improvements have coincided with a falling market price.

The tonnage and value of groundnuts exported from the Colony during the last five years were as follows:—

Year.	Tons (undecorticated.)	Tons (decorticated.)	Value (undecorticated)	Value (decorticated.)	Total Value.
			£	£	£
1934	71,919	—	387,345	—	387,345
1935	45,110	—	368,887	—	368,887
1936	49,654	—	427,317	—	427,317
1937	66,576	508	646,635	6,954	653,589
1938	46,204	7.7	240,872	5,819	246,691

A small export trade is done in palm kernels, hides and wax. In 1938 the exports of this commodities were:—

	£
Palm kernels	681 tons value 1,698
Skins	824 cwt. value 1,845
Hides	12,973 lb. value 4,535
Beeswax	49,331 lb. value 262

There is no organised animal industry in the Gambia, although it is estimated that there are usually about 35,000 head of cattle in the Colony and Protectorate. As the Gambia consists mainly of a narrow strip of territory on either side of the river and much of the land adjacent to the river is more or less swampy and tsetse-ridden, the position is to some extent analogous to that existing in larger Colonies where cattle are compelled, at certain seasons of the year, to frequent river valleys in which, while grazing is good, casualties from disease amongst the herds are numerous. The extensive French territories surrounding the Gambia act as a cattle reservoir for the Colony. There is consequently a continual movement of cattle to and fro across the border and the herds are owned by individuals on both sides of the border. As the border is some 600 miles in length the establishment of any effective control over the graziers and the movement of animals is impracticable. During 1935 some 1,667 head of cattle were reported to have died of rinderpest in the Gambia but it is impossible to say how many of these were, in fact, animals which had recently crossed the border or were owned by natives in French territory. The ownership of cattle in the Gambia does not appear to differ in kind from that which obtains amongst other agricultural communities in West Africa. There is, strictly speaking, no communal ownership and most cattle are the property of individuals. The owner is, however, seldom the person who grazes the herd and conversely the grazier seldom owns more than

a few head of cattle in the herd which he tends, but he is usually given the milk and butter and a certain proportion of the calves born. The graziers in the South Bank Province are usually Jolas. In the other three Provinces practically all the graziers are Fulas.

From February to May 1933 the Veterinary Pathologist investigated the situation. He was joined in April by the Chief Veterinary Officer, Nigeria and a scheme was outlined to deal with rinderpest. At the conclusion of this visit and as a result of their investigations, an immunization scheme, extending over a period of five years at an estimated cost of £6,448 was put forward. This scheme was sanctioned by the Secretary of State and grants not exceeding one half of the total cost up to a maximum of £3,200 are being made from the Colonial Development Fund.

The scheme was begun in November, 1933, when a Veterinary Officer was seconded from the Nigerian Veterinary Department for the period November 1933 to May 1934. The Veterinary Pathologist from that country also paid a second visit in November and December 1933 to assist in the preliminary work.

In October 1934, a Veterinary officer was seconded again from Nigeria and inoculations were carried out in the South Bank and the MacCarthy Island Provinces.

In November, 1935 and November, 1936, the Veterinary Pathologist was seconded from Nigeria and continued to inoculate cattle in MacCarthy Island Province and Upper River Province. He again commenced inoculations in November, 1937, in the North Bank of MacCarthy Island Province and the season closed with the inoculation of cattle in the Western portion of the North Bank Province.

The season 1937-38 will conclude the last inoculating period under the five-year scheme. It has been decided that the scheme should be continued for two more seasons in 1938-39 and 1939-40 and that the position should be then reconsidered. The inoculations in the year 1938-39 will be confined to the South Bank Province where the largest number of cattle in the country are concentrated. There is no doubt that the value of immunization has been appreciated by the cattle owners and the results of these inoculations are clearly indicated by the notable increase in immunized herds.

The demands for the inoculations have also considerably increased and with each successive season the control of rinderpest will be facilitated.

There is every prospect that the cattle industry of this country will be restored in the near future to its former prosperity.

In addition to cattle a considerable number of sheep, goats and pigs are reared, mainly for local consumption.

No minerals of commercial value are known to exist in the Colony and there are no important industries other than those already mentioned. A certain amount of leather, metal and pottery work is made for sale locally.



CHAPTER VII. COMMERCE.

The extent of the trade of the Gambia, both internal and external, is dependent on the annual production of groundnuts coupled with considerations of price in the European market for oil seeds.

The Colony is largely dependent on imported food supplies (principally rice) and textile goods for wearing apparel, and the ability of the African to pay for these requirements fluctuates with the local groundnut prices from season to season. Commercially the year under review was one of the poorest in the history of the Colony and the aggregate trade at £566,391 was the smallest since 1902; the large carry-over of general merchandise at the end of 1937 and the general shortage of money caused by the low price of groundnuts in the 1937-38 trade season were the factors chiefly responsible.

As compared with 1937 the value of the imports (exclusive of specie) declined by 61 per cent to £277,440 and the value of the exports and re-exports (excluding specie) by 59 per cent to £288,951. The decline in the value of the import trade was due to reduced imports of goods of almost every description, in particular cotton piece goods (- £147,885), rice (- £88,222) and kola nuts (- £28,575), and the smaller tonnage and lower value of the groundnut crop—46,981 tons at £246,691 as against 67,084 tons at £653,589 in 1937—were responsible for the decline in the value of the export trade.

On the 1st of April, 1928, c.i.f. valuation of goods was adopted as the basis of assessment of *ad valorem* duty and all *ad valorem* duties were simultaneously reduced by approximately 10 per cent in order to compensate for the resultant increased value of goods for duty purposes.

As a result of the recent Anglo-American Trade Agreement certain reductions of the general rate of duty were made in respect of motor cars, canned fish, flour, grease, lubricating oil and certain classes of timber as from the 6th of December, 1938.

The maximum price at which rice may be sold by retail in the Colony is controlled by Government, and imports of certain classes of textile piece-goods of Japanese manufacture are subject to restriction by quota.

2. *Air Services*.—299 aircraft were entered and cleared in 1938 as compared with 270 in the previous year.

3. *Shipping*.—429 vessels of a total net tonnage of 1,135,524 were entered and cleared in 1938 as compared with 554 vessels, 1,306,884 tons in 1937. British vessels accounted for 70.81 per cent of the total tonnage entered and cleared. This was an increase of 3.53 per cent on the British tonnage in 1937.

The tonnage of the cargo landed during the year was 11,624 as against 33,139 in 1937, and the export tonnage (principal domestic produce) was 47,731 as compared with 67,965 in 1937.

4. The total value of the imports, domestic exports and re-exports during the year 1938, as compared with the previous four years was as follows:—

Imports.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise ...	327,185	483,287	582,267	705,165	277,440
Specie, etc. ...	4,526	30,000	200	96,551	128,350
Total ...	331,511	513,287	582,467	801,716	405,790

Domestic Exports.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	£	£	£	£	£
Produce and Manufactures ...	394,272	376,102	435,429	665,000	255,701
Bullion ...	50	—	—	—	—
Total ...	394,322	376,102	435,429	665,000	255,701

Re-exports.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise ...	7,577	16,622	9,975	34,148	33,250
Specie, etc. ...	53,850	103,980	55,834	10,912	46,900
Total ...	61,427	120,602	65,809	45,060	80,150

5. (a) The percentage of British and foreign imports, exclusive of specie, for the year 1938, as compared with the previous four years, was as follows:—

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	42·43	46·32	53·60	45·76	45·77
British Possessions	22·32	27·31	23·15	28·57	19·39
Foreign Countries ...	35·25	26·37	23·25	25·67	34·84
	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

(b) The principal supplying countries provided the following percentages (exceeding five per cent):—

Countries.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	42·43	46·32	53·60	45·76	45·77
India ...	10·04	11·14	10·73	15·42	—
Sierra Leone ...	10·81	13·90	9·97	8·51	10·36
France ...	9·04	7·27	—	—	5·43
Germany ...	5·10	—	6·12	7·95	12·33
Japan ...	5·03	—	—	—	—

6. (a) The percentage of the domestic exports, excluding, bullion, sent to British and foreign destinations in 1938, as compared with the previous four years, was as follows:—

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	10.83	24.17	19.39	32.01	26.38
British Possessions ...	0.60	0.16	0.12	0.18	1.65
Foreign Countries ...	88.57	75.67	80.49	67.81	71.97
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

(b) The percentage, exceeding 10 per cent, of the domestic exports, exclusive of bullion, sent to each of the principal countries of destination was as follows:—

Countries.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	10.83	24.17	19.39	32.01	26.38
Belgium ...	—	22.18	20.60	26.39	24.03
Denmark ...	—	20.38	24.09	25.04	18.76
France ...	—	—	—	—	10.83
Germany ...	50.94	10.10	11.80	—	—
Netherlands ...	24.80	22.19	23.25	15.99	17.13

7. (a) The quantities and values of the principal imports, other than bullion and specie, for the year 1938 as compared with 1937 are as follows:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	1937.	1938.	1937.	1938.
			£	£
Aircraft parts & accessories ...	—	—	18,818	26,016
Apparel ...	—	—	13,445	9,629
Cotton piece goods sq. yds	7,082,284	1,008,545	171,346	23,461
Cotton yarn ... lbs	150,092	23,224	12,729	1,608
Cotton manufactures (excluding piece-goods, yarn & apparel) ...	—	—	22,064	5,208
Flour, wheaton cwt.	16,999	7,827	13,786	5,254
Kola nuts (centals of 100 lb.)	23,448	13,002	50,563	21,988
Metals, (all kinds) ...	—	—	37,446	22,125
Motor vehicles No.	96	33	11,914	4,210
Oils, non-edible galls.	422,293	263,790	21,101	13,064
Rice ... cwt.	229,408	30,445	101,700	13,478
Sugar ... cwt.	19,076	10,553	13,730	8,977
Tobacco, (all kinds) lbs.	190,930	117,831	15,806	10,187

(b) The principal sources of supply of the articles enumerated above were as follows in 1938 and (1937):—

Aircraft parts and accessories: Germany supplied the total imports in both years for the use of the Deutsche Lufthansa, South Atlantic air mail service.

Apparel: United Kingdom—£3,583 (£5,813); Hong Kong—£776 (£4,020); Czechoslovakia—£1,851 (£2,539).

Cotton piece goods: United Kingdom—646,230 square yards, £14,714 (6,334,709, £151,115); Hungary—92,056 square yards, £1,933 (108,613, £2,218).

Cotton yarn: United Kingdom—15,305 lb., £1,138 (100,479 lb. £8,445); Belgium—nil (49,508 lb., £4,281); France—7,919 lb., £470 (105 lb., £3).

Cotton manufacturers (excluding piece-goods, yarn and apparel): United Kingdom—£1,804 (£6,934); Italy—£1,780 (£2,083).

Flour, wheaten: United Kingdom—3,367 cwts., £2,474 (5,239 cwts., £4,872); France—2,212 cwts., £1,066 (7,043 cwts., £4,649); Canada—1,782 cwts., £1,414 (4,158 cwts., £3,824).

Kola nuts: Sierra Leone—12,985 centals of 100 lb., £21,945 (26,255 centals of 100 lb., £50,536).

Metals, all kinds: United Kingdom—£18,171 (£19,623); Germany—£1,305 (£10,732).

Motor vehicles: United Kingdom—No. 17, £2,230 (No. 26, £2,886); Canada—No. 6, £978 (No. 57, £8,196).

Oils, non-edible: United States of America—124,086 gallons, £6,049 (261,102 gallons £11,307); British West Indies—27,208 gallons, £1,643 (86,428 gallons, £4,963).

Rice: Burma—22,827 cwts., £9,788 (227,413 cwts., £100,515).

Sugar: France—5,182 cwts., £3,288 (1,056 cwts., £684); United Kingdom—3,773 cwts., £2,855 (11,557 cwts., £9,123).

Tobacco, all kinds: Canada—62,994 lb., £2,974 (100,104 lb., £4,629); United Kingdom—27,861 lb., £6,256 (41,852 lb., £9,576).

Domestic Exports.

8. The quantities and values of the principal domestic exports and re-exports other than bullion and specie for the year 1938, as compared with 1937 were as follows:—

Commodities	1937.		1938.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Groundnuts ... tons	67,084	427,317	46,981	246,691
Hides & Skins... lbs.	109,108	1,839	105,261	1,960
Palm Kernels... tons	861	4,858	681	4,535
Beeswax ... lbs.	35,424	909	49,331	1,845

Re-exports.

Articles,	1937.		1938.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Aircraft parts & accessories	—	24,704	—	22,792
Metal Manufactures ...	—	2,576	—	2,996
Motor vehicles & parts ...	—	1,960	—	827
Motor spirits ... galls.	31,194	1,601	36,885	2,252
Textile manufactures ...	—	1,372	—	1,387

9. Imports and exports of coin and currency notes in 1938, as compared with the previous four years, were as follows:—

Imports.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	£	£	£	£	£
Coin ...	604	—	200	51,551	128,350
Currency Notes	3,722	30,000	—	45,000	—

Exports.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	£	£	£	£	£
Coin ...	53,600	100,496	34,000	10,000	46,400
Currency Notes	150	3,484	21,834	912	500

CHAPTER VIII. LABOUR.

The principal labour in the Protectorate is peasant—proprietor farming. Each year a fluctuating number of natives from the neighbouring French territories enters the Colony to engage, on a share-cropping basis, in the production of groundnuts and some of these immigrants obtain alternative work in the wharf towns transporting nuts between stores for the buyers and loading ships. The number of these labourers is small compared with those engaged in agriculture and theirs is the only other form of labour in the Protectorate. There are no mines, plantations, estates or European enterprises of other kinds for which labour is needed.

In Bathurst the only constant employer of labour is the Government and the three departments mainly concerned, the Public Works Department, the Health Department and the Marine Department, employ at their busiest periods less than 1,000 in the aggregate, including skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour. These labourers are engaged in road work, water-pipe laying and electrical work, sanitation and shipyard work.

Non-governmental labour is subject to great numerical fluctuation. At the peak of the short trading season, November to April, the number of men employed by the mercantile firms rises as occasion demands, *i.e.*, when ships are being loaded, to as many as 2,000 but that rate of employment is maintained for very short periods. This casual, seasonal labour is all unskilled; it is indeed almost all some form of portage, and a large number of those engaged in it come from the neighbouring French territory. The supply of such migratory labour varies in accordance with the amount of financial profit to be anticipated from the production of groundnuts. After a good season, when selling prices have been high, the supply of immigrant labour decreases, though never sufficiently to cause anxiety. An increase in the rates of pay is enough to procure the numbers required from more proximate sources. After a year of bad selling prices the supply of migratory workers exceeds the demand. There are no factories or industries in Bathurst.

The Labour (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, amended the definition of "night work" (which includes the interval between 10.0 p.m. and 5.0 a.m.) in the Labour Ordinance, 1933, by empowering the Governor, if he is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances affecting the workers employed in a particular industry or area, and after consultation with employers and employed, to order that in the case of women employed in that industry or area the interval between 11.0 p.m. and 6.0 a.m. may be substituted for the interval between 10 p.m. and 5.0 a.m.

The Ordinance also provides that the general prohibition of the employment of women in night work shall not apply to women holding responsible positions of management who are not ordinarily engaged in manual work. These two amendments were made to

give effect to the Draft International Convention concerning the Employment of Women during the Night, 1934 which constitutes a revision of the Draft Convention of 1919, the provisions of which were given effect to in the Labour Ordinance, 1933.

Under section 21 of the Labour Ordinance, 1933, the Governor appointed an Advisory Board for the purpose of keeping himself informed of the labour conditions in the Gambia.

The Labour Advisory Board was formed in April, 1938, and the following were appointed Members:—The Harbour Master and Marine Superintendent, the Medical Officer of Health, Councillor W. Hayward, Agent Elder Dempster Lines, and Mr. J. L. N'Jie, President of the Bathurst Trade Union. At a meeting of the Board held on 8th December, 1938, it was decided that the Labour Advisory Board should function in an advisory capacity only, that a labour officer should be appointed and that legislation should be passed making statistical returns compulsory. Regulations are being prepared prescribing the duties and governing the procedure of the Board in accordance with those decisions.

27. The value of the imports for the last five years was as under :—

Articles.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
	£	£	£	£	£
Specie	69,355	83,251	67,552	115,376	126,273
Other articles ...	171,572	194,408	185,095	188,239	214,790
Total	240,907	277,659	252,647	303,615	341,063

28. The following return may be interesting as showing the total value of imports, exclusive of specie, for the last five years, distinguishing the countries from which the imports came, together with their averages :—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	France.	French Colonies.	Other Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1899	88,781	35,256	28,202	979	18,353	171,572
1900	102,121	41,103	35,932	3,009	12,241	194,408
1901	91,289	23,196	46,620	832	23,158	185,095
1902	103,706	30,241	33,932	1,891	18,418	188,239
1903	105,629	34,658	37,906	6,338	30,259	214,790
Total	491,526	164,454	182,642	13,049	102,428	954,104
Average	98,305	32,851	36,524	2,610	20,486	190,821

(B.) EXPORTS.

29. The total value of exports for the year amounted to £334,017 as compared with £248,140 in the previous year; an increase of £86,877.

30. The total value of exports, exclusive of specie, for 1903 was £290,740, and for 1902, £210,350, an increase in favour of 1903 of £80,390.

31. The whole of this increase can be attributed to ground nuts, which show an increased value of £81,909 over the quantity exported in 1902. The tonnage of the nuts exported in 1902 was 31,612 tons, of the value of £193,485, while in 1903 the tonnage was 45,777 tons of the value of £275,394. This is the largest quantity ever exported from the Colony.

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1901 ...	91,289	23,196	46,620	832	23,158	185,095
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29. The total value of exports for the year amounted to £334,017 as compared with £248,140 in the previous year; an increase of £86,877.

30. The total value of exports, exclusive of specie, for 1903 was £290,740, and for 1902, £210,350, an increase in favour of 1903 of £80,390.

31. The whole of this increase can be attributed to ground nuts, which show an increased value of £81,909 over the quantity exported in 1902. The tonnage of the nuts exported in 1902 was 31,612 tons, of the value of £193,485, while in 1903 the tonnage was 45,777 tons of the value of £275,394. This is the largest quantity ever exported from the Colony.

CHAPTER IX. WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The Labour Ordinance of 1933 empowers the Governor-in-Council to regulate rates of wages, and agreements between employers and labour but not to prescribe the weekly hours of labour. The normal day's work is 8½ hours.

Wages.—The usual wages paid for artisans such as carpenters, masons, etc., vary from 2s. 6d. to 6s. a day according to the skill of the employee.

Unskilled labour rates vary slightly and might be classified as:—

(a) Monthly employees—30s. to 36s. with generally a rice-ration allowance of 45 lbs.

(b) Casual labour on daily wage—1s. to 1s. 3d. a day.

(c) Farm labourers—board and lodging during the planting season and a proportion of the proceeds. Such labour is generally from outside the colony and returns home after the reaping of the crops.

(d) Semi-skilled such as sanitary labourers—1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. a day.

(e) Piece work labourers—employed usually on loading or discharging ships, may earn 2s. to 5s. a day.

There are no factories or industries; local activity is principally restricted to producing the staple product of groundnuts which is seasonal, although a considerable amount of millet, guinea corn, rice and garden produce is also grown.

The crops are grown by the native population on their own behalf, and there are no permanent plantations. The hired labour is therefore small and is principally confined to the trading firms and the various Government Departments.

Cost of Living.—The native population lives principally on rice, millet and guinea-corn but a considerable amount of sugar, fish and salt is also consumed; meat and groundnuts are also used.

The daily cost of a labourer's food in the towns may be reckoned as:—

Rice or corn	...	...	...	...	3d.
Bread	...	...	...	...	1d.
Fish	...	...	...	...	1½d.
Oil (generally palm)	...	...	...	...	1½d.
Sugar	...	...	...	...	½d.
Condiments	...	...	...	...	½d.
					—
				Total ...	8d.
					—

If meat and groundnuts are substituted for fish and rice the daily cost is increased by about 1d.

House rent and clothing enter very little in the cost of living, possibly not more than 3s. a month is expended on an average.

The prices of those imported foodstuffs in general use are given below:—

	£	s.	d.	to	£	s.	d.
Rice per bag of 216 lb.	1	0	0		1	4	0
Salt per bag of 28 lb.					0	0	10
Flour per bag of 98 lb.					1	0	0
Edible oil (palm) per 4 gal. tin					0	6	6
Sugar per lb.					0	0	3

The prices of the locally produced foodstuffs would be:—

	£	s.	d.
Fillet per lb.	0	0	9½
Steak per lb.	0	0	7½
Meat with bone per lb.	0	0	6
Heart liver and brain per lb. ...	0	0	5
Kidney each	0	0	4½
Skin, tripe, trimmings and offal per lb.	0	0	5
Mutton per lb.	0	0	6
Kidney (sheep) each	0	0	2
Fish per lb. approximately	0	0	1½
Groundnuts per bushel	0	1	0
Corn (guinea) per bag of 216 lb. ...	0	12	0

Cost of living.—European Government Officials—The cost of living varies according to the income and tastes of the individual, but the following is considered to be the annual minimum outlay, exclusive of clothing and luxuries, of an unmarried Government Official living in Bathurst:—

	£
Servants	70
Washing	12
Fuel and lighting	30
Food	120
Total	£232

To this amount must be added expenditure on personal comforts, which amounts almost to a necessity, and which varies according to taste. The cost of the normal personal comforts is:—

Cigarettes (Players, Gold Flake, etc.)	2s. per tin of 50.
Whisky	9s. 6d. a bottle.
Gin	6s. 6d. a bottle.
Beer	11d. a bottle.
Wines (table)	2s. a bottle and upwards.

CHAPTER X. EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

At the end of 1937 the Education Department, which had previously been in the charge of an Administrative Officer holding the duty post of Superintendent of Education, was put under the charge of a full-time Superintendent of Education seconded from Nigeria. Towards the end of 1938 the title of this officer was changed to that of Director of Education.

The headquarters of the Education Department are in Bathurst where the Director has his quarters and office. At Georgetown the Assistant Commissioner, MacCarthy, Island Province, is also Officer-in-Charge of the Armitage School for the sons and relatives of Chiefs.

There is a Board of Education which is presided over by the Director of Education. The Board consists of one representative from each mission or educational body working in the Colony or Protectorate appointed by the Governor, together with not less than three other members of whom one must be an African, and one a woman. It is the duty of the Board to recommend to the Governor any changes in legislation; to make any reports to the Governor which it may consider necessary on matters of importance affecting education; and generally to perform such duties as may be prescribed or as the Governor may direct. The Board met three times during the year and a number of schemes for the improvement of the existing details of educational organization were considered, approved and subsequently put into action with Government's consent.

In Bathurst, with the exception of one school, elementary and secondary education are provided by the Missions with the aid of Government grants. The exception is the Muhammedan School which is supervised by a Committee of leading Muhammedans assisted by the Director of Education. The teachers in this school are paid by Government.

There are six elementary schools in Bathurst which in 1938 had a total of 1,698 pupils on the registers (1,154 boys and 544 girls) and an average attendance of 1,277. These schools provide education up to the seventh standard.

There are four secondary schools; one for boys and one for girls, neither of them fully graded, maintained by the Roman Catholic Mission, and one fully graded Boys' High School and one fully graded Girls' High School both maintained by the Methodist Mission. The total numbers on the registers in 1938 were sixty-nine boys and 128 girls with average attendances of fifty-seven and 101 respectively. Four scholarships to these secondary schools are awarded each year by the Government.

The Teacher Training School which was opened in Bathurst in 1930 continues to train students and there were six students on the roll in 1938.

In the Protectorate there is a Government boarding school at Georgetown in the MacCarthy Island Province, for the sons and near relatives of Chiefs, with fifty-six on the register during 1938. Pupils in this school are drawn from all parts of the Protectorate and a large portion of the curriculum is devoted to handwork and agriculture. The small assisted day school at Georgetown run by the Methodist Mission which was closed in 1937 owing to staffing difficulties was re-opened during the year and is being run on less academic and more utilitarian lines. The Anglican Mission maintains two day schools and the Roman Catholic Missions three day schools (all unassisted) in the Protectorate.

In addition to the local school Standard VII and the Clerical Service examinations, the following external examinations were held during the year:—London Matriculation, the Cambridge School Certificate, Junior and Preliminary examinations.

The year witnessed several improvements in educational organisation among which may be mentioned a higher percentage of school attendance, the decision to introduce more up-to-date text-books, greater attention to Physical Training in the curricula, and the cutting down of abnormally large classes. All schools are gradually being organized in accordance with the Schedule of the 1935 Education Ordinance.

The closing, owing to staffing difficulties, of the Manual Training Centre for schools maintained by Government at the Public Works Department has left a gap in educational activities which has not yet been filled but it has led schools to consider ways and means of broadening their curricula so as to include a certain amount of handwork, and some have made arrangements for the teaching of carpentry and gardening to their pupils. Special attention is paid to Domestic Science in the Roman Catholic Girls' Schools.

There is no University Education in the Colony.

Welfare Institutions, etc.—Free Medical Treatment is provided at the various Government Hospitals and Dispensaries for those unable to pay fees. As stated in Chapter IV, the Government maintains Maternity and Children's Welfare Clinics and also a Home for the Infirm. There are no philanthropical institutions nor is there any insurance scheme for the provision of medical treatment, etc., in the Colony.

Recreations, etc.—In Bathurst, Government maintains a public ground (MacCarthy Square) in which games are played by the inhabitants including the school children. A second public sports ground in Half Die, Bathurst, is in course of construction and should be available for use in the near future. This ground is to be a memorial to His late Majesty King George V and part of the money required for its construction is being raised by subscriptions from past and present residents in the Gambia.

Organised games are conducted by the schools, which are allowed to import free of duty all materials required for sports. Football and cricket leagues have been formed by the African residents of Bathurst. Government has also provided two concrete tennis courts for their use.

Singing is taught in all the schools. Free concerts are given once a week by the Police Band in front of Government House where the Marina gardens are open to the public. The concerts are well attended and are much appreciated by the public.

CHAPTER XI. COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

External.

For ocean mail services the Colony is almost entirely dependent upon the ships of Messrs. Elder Dempster Lines, Ltd. There is a regular monthly service; intermediate ships call outwards and homewards once in about every three weeks.

The Government continued the agreement with the Deutsche Luft Hansa A.G. for the carriage of airmail between the Gambia and Europe. This company operates a service weekly throughout the year.

The company commenced operating their regular trans-Atlantic mail service between Berlin and Natal on the 1st February, 1934.

The ports of call are Frankfurt—Marseilles—Lisbon—Las Palmas—Bathurst—Natal for Buenos Aires.

The South American ports are served by the Condor Syndicate and Pan American Airways.

The Luft Hansa Bathurst establishment consists of a landing ground at Jeshwang, a catapult ship, flying-boats and airplanes.

The outward mail leaves London on Wednesday evening, Frankfurt on Thursday at 6 a.m. and arrives in Bathurst on Friday at 1 a.m. The trans-Atlantic crossing is effected direct from Bathurst by flying boat, and the mail reaches South America on Friday at 8 p.m.

The homeward mail plane leaves Natal on Friday, arriving in Bathurst on Saturday morning. The mail is then transferred to a land plane which leaves Bathurst on Saturday morning, arrives in Frankfurt on Sunday afternoon and in London on Monday.

Elders Colonial Airways Ltd. started a weekly airmail service between Freetown and Bathurst in June, 1938. The Service calls at Bolama and Conakry and is available for a limited number of passengers. It is operated by one flying-boat based on Freetown, and was for technical reasons suspended for several months at the end of the year.

Bathurst Harbour.

The Harbour of Bathurst is limited by the coast of St. Mary's Island and a line drawn parallel thereto at a distance of three miles from Government House to the entrance of Malfa Creek.

Bathurst is a deep water harbour. Anchorages off shore vary from nine to fourteen fathoms. The harbour is comparatively sheltered except during tornadoes which are of a short duration and which occur in July and October. In the channel from the open sea to the harbour the least depth of water charted is 27 feet.

Government Wharf is supported on concrete and steel piles and has a decking of ferro-concrete. It is equipped with two 2½ ton petrol cranes and a system of hand truck rails. The "T" head

of Government Wharf is 221 feet long, with a depth of 11 feet close alongside at L.W.O.S.T. There are eleven other wharves the "T" heads of which are from 20 to 60 feet in length, with an average depth of about 11 feet.

The tidal streams turn about 1½ hours after high and low water by the shore; their strength is considerable, but varies frequently without any apparent cause. During the ebb stream swirls sometimes occur at springs during and immediately after the rainy season.

The harbour and approaches are well marked by a light vessel, buoys, and light structures, an additional light having been established at Barra Point in 1938.

Internal.

River Transport.—The River Gambia is navigable for ocean-going vessels of not more than twelve feet draught, as far as Georgetown, 176 miles from Bathurst.

At Kuntaur, 150 miles from Bathurst, an ocean-going vessel can load to a maximum draught of nineteen feet. Vessels not exceeding six feet six inches in draught can proceed above Georgetown to Fattoto, 288 miles from Bathurst, whilst launches and small boats can navigate as far as Koina, 292 miles from Bathurst.

During the trading season, groundnuts are brought down the river in ocean-going vessels, river steamers and lighters. Cutters are employed to a large extent in transporting groundnuts from creeks and small ports to transit stations where deep-water vessels can load.

Marine Department.—A regular passenger and cargo service is maintained by the Government Steamers "Prince of Wales" (400 tons) and "Lady Denham" (250 tons). Two Government lighters "Vampire" (170 tons) and "Mansa Kila Ba" (70 tons) are also available for additional cargoes.

The Steamers call at twenty-eight ports outward and homeward when proceeding to Basse (242 miles). They do not normally proceed beyond Basse but should they go to Fattoto (288 miles) thirty-three ports are called at. A weekly service which has been temporarily curtailed to fortnightly sailings is maintained during the trade season from November to May and a fortnightly or monthly service for the remainder of the year.

Statistics regarding the freight and passengers carried by the Marine Department are as follows:—

	1936.	1937.	1938.
Passengers carried	12,751	13,410	6,701
Cargo (tons) ...	6,076	6,334	917*
Revenue from passenger traffic	£3,952 0 0	£3,858 0 0	£2,307 11 3
Revenue from Freight	£4,069 0 0	£4,245 0 0	£1,796 11 0

* Exclusive of 23,011 packages carried.

Revenue from freight includes £139 2s. 0d. from hire of launches.

A noteworthy feature of the decline in freight is the withdrawal of shipments of groundnuts by firms. In 1937 the revenue derived from the transport of groundnuts was £1,371 19s. 1d. This fell to £60 in 1938.

The refitting of Government steamers and of vessels belonging to firms is carried out by the Marine Slipway and Engineering Works. The workshop is fitted with modern equipment and is capable of carrying out repairs and refits to vessels of 400 tons gross—the tonnage of the largest river steamer at present in the Gambia.

The Marine Department also maintain and run launches which are mainly used for the conveyance of Government Officials in the Protectorate and for harbour services at Bathurst.

Ferries.—Passengers and vehicular ferries, installed by Government in connection with the road system, plied at the following points:—

Kerewan (Road No. 2)	
Brumen (connecting roads Nos. 1 and 3)	
Lamin Koto—MacCarthy Island	
Sankulikunda—MacCarthy Island	
Bansang	} continuation of Road No. 2.
Basse	
Fattoto (Passenger only)	
Kau-ur—Jessadi	

Between Bathurst and Barra a regular ferry service is maintained by a private firm which received a subsidy of £200 from Government in 1938.

Roads.—There are four trunk roads, which are except for No. 1. unmetalled:—

- No. 1. Bathurst - Jeshwang - Abuko - Lamin - Yundum - Brikama - Kafuta - N'Dembun - Bwiam - Brumen Ferry (90½ miles). This road is metalled as far as Brikama.
- No. 2. Barra - Berrending (Bantanding) - Dasilami - Kerewan Ferry - Saba - Banni - N'Jakunda - Illissa (62 miles).
- No. 3. Illiassa - Katchang - Konkoba - Kwinella - Jataba - Brumen Ferry (22½ miles) with a branch eastwards at Jataba to Sandeng and the French boundary (2½ miles).
- No. 4. Bantanding (site of old village on trunk road No. 2) to the French boundary (¾ miles).

In addition there is a secondary road running from Illiassa via Ballanghar, Kau-ur and Kuntau-ur to Bansang Ferry where it connects with the secondary road on the south bank running from Kwinella (on trunk road No. 3.) to Kudang, Bansang, Basse and Fattoto.

There are also a number of secondary feeder roads to the various river ports in the Protectorate.

The total mileages of secondary feeder roads in each Province are approximately as follows:—

North Bank Province	116 miles.
South Bank Province	95 „
MacCarthy Island Province	280 „
Upper River Province	200 „

Postal Services.—Mails are conveyed by Government river steamers weekly during the dry season and fortnightly or monthly during the rainy season. Travelling Post Offices are established on these boats and all classes of postal business are transacted at the ports of call. The General Post Office is at Bathurst and District Post and Wireless Offices are established at Georgetown, Basse and Kuntau-ur. The Kuntau-ur office is closed during the rainy season (June to October). There is also a postal agency at Kerewan, North Bank Province.

The total number of letters, postcards, papers, etc., dealt with during 1938 was 236,617—a decrease of 6,712 over the preceding year.

Parcels dealt with during the year numbered 3,259 as compared with 4,668 in 1937. In addition, 1,228 small postal packets were handled. 22,004 airmail letters were despatched and 15,149 were received during the year.

Money and Postal Order Statistics are as follows:—

	1937.	1938.
	£	£
Money Orders issued and paid, value ...	24,948	10,993
Revenue derived from Money Orders ...	145	95
Postal Orders issued and paid	8,834	6,754
Revenue derived from Postal Orders ...	71	54

The total revenue derived from the Postal Services in 1938 was £10,439 as compared with £14,132 in 1937.

Telephone Service.—A 24 hours' service was satisfactorily maintained in Bathurst and at Cape St. Mary, the total number of subscribers exclusive of extensions, being 115. The total value of the service was £717, of which amount £487 represented the value of free service to Government Departments.

Wireless Service.—Internal communication is maintained by four wireless stations established at Bathurst, Kuntau-ur, Georgetown and Basse, respectively.

The station at Bathurst has a range of 500 miles and communicates with ships at sea and with Dakar. Press from Rugby is received daily. The other three stations are purely for inland work and have a transmission range of 250 miles.

The total revenue derived from the Wireless service in 1938 was £835 including £452 in respect of Government messages. The corresponding figures for 1937 were £1,077 and £407 respectively.

Telegraph Cables.—There is no land line telegraph system in the Gambia.

The Eastern Telegraph Company, Ltd., has a station in Bathurst and cables run to Sierra Leone to the south and St. Vincent to the north.

CHAPTER XII. PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department is responsible for the execution of the public works in the Colony and the Protectorate for which provision is made in the Annual Estimates, for the maintenance of all Government buildings and property entrusted to the Department, for the licensing and control of Petroleum Stores under the Petroleum Ordinance and for the enforcement of the Building Regulations for the Town of Bathurst.

The Engineering Staff consists of the Director of Public Works, one Executive Engineer, one Technical Office Assistant, two Clerks of Works, one Mechanical Foreman, Electrical Superintendent and Assistant Electrical Foreman, and three African Foremen of Works. The Stores and Accounts Staff consists of an Accountant and nine African Clerks.

The Department operates the Bathurst electric light and power services comprising some forty-seven miles of distribution mains, the ice making plant, the Albert Market refrigerating plant, the Bathurst Waterworks, the fire protection plant and the Government motor transport service.

Roads, streets, tram lines and the Government Wharf in Bathurst are maintained by the Department and in the Protectorate the main road from Bathurst which branches to Cape St. Mary and to the Kombo North and Central Districts is similarly maintained.

(a) Maintenance. (Expenditure £18,048.)

Bathurst Water Supply.—The total number of gallons pumped at the Abuko Station during 1938 was calculated as 57,617,600 gallons.

The rates charged are as follows:—

General Water Rate	...	...	1½% on rateable value.
Water supply rate	...	...	£2 per annum.
Supply rate to vessels	...	...	1s. 4d. per 100 gallons.
Meter rate	...	...	1s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons
Washing out ground nut stores	...	...	£2 10s. per hour.

Revenue, 1938:

			£
General and Supply rates	...	...	801
Supply to vessels	...	...	222
Meter rate	...	...	91
			<hr/>
Total	...	£1,114	<hr/>

Water supplied to the following metered consumers was:—

R.W.A.F.F.	750,000	gallons.
Prison	1,174,365	„
Botanical Gardens, Cape St. Mary ...	611,035	„
Cooling Plant, Albert Market, Bathurst	401,572	„
Power Station	394,080	„
Marine Department	495,775	„
Ships and private consumers ...	1,246,983	„
	<hr/>	
	5,073,810	gallons.

Electric Light and Power Services.—The Power Station is situated in the centre of the Town of Bathurst and the generating plant consists of five solid injection heavy oil engines driving direct coupled alternators 1 × 220 kw., 2 × 100 kw., 1 × 50 kw., and 1 × 25 kw. Total 495 kw.

System A.C. 3 phase, 4 wire, 50 periods. Consumers voltage 230 lighting, 400 power.

Feeder and distributors overhead cable.

Number of private consumers 284 an increase of seven during the year.

Supply commenced June, 1926.

Total units generated 1938, 552,643 B.T.U.

Maximum load recorded 202.5 kw.

Total connected load 674.5 kw.

Total motors connected 345 b.h.p.

Public lighting 710 gas filled lamps.

The low tension network supplies and lights some thirteen miles of streets in Bathurst, supplies a 65 K.V.A. transformer at the north end of the town—the voltage being stepped-up to 6,600 volts and conveyed by overhead cable to Cape St. Mary eight miles away, where it feeds a 43.5 K.V.A. stepped-down transformer which supplies a low tension network of about five miles. Voltage 230 lighting, 400 power.

Units consumed during 1938 were as follows:—

(a) Units sold	112,954
(b) Ice Factory	5,875
(c) Public Services, Street Lighting	260,190
(d) Public Services, Govt. House ...	20,338
(e) Public Services, Hospital, Clinics, etc.	32,313
(f) Public Services, Market	9,637
(g) Public Services, Police Station and Prison	8,545
(h) Public Services, Customs Shed and Wharf	2,925

Carried forward... 333,948 118,829

	<i>Brought forward</i> ...	333,948	118,829
(i)	Public Services, Half Die Pumping Station	1,919	
(j)	Public Services, Box Bar	7,600	
(k)	Public Services, Post Office, Wireless, Telephones and Wireless Station	4,857	
(l)	Public Works Department	8,899	
(m)	Public Services, Marine	13,686	
(n)	Public Services, Printing Office	2,925	
(o)	Public Services, Fire Protection Plant	70	
(p)	Public Services—Other Government Offices	3,953	
		<hr/>	377,867
(q)	Power Station (auxiliaries)		41,050
(r)	Lost in distribution		14,907
			<hr/>
	Total Units generated		552,643

Excluding emoluments of the permanent staff provided for under personal emoluments of the Estimates the expenditure during 1938 on maintenance amounted to £3,987.

Ice Factory.—The Public Works Department also operate and maintain an ice factory and ice is sold to the public at 1d. per lb. Ice sold for last year amounted to approximately 19½ tons.

Market Cold Store.—A small cold storage plant is installed in the Albert Market, Bathurst. Approximately 153½ tons of meat passed through this storage in 1938.

(b) *Construction, etc. (Expenditure £11,607.)*

The principal works carried out during the year included:—

	£
Minor Works	540
Roads	3,903
Hospital Bausang	2,160
Agricultural Headquarters Georgetown	1,146
Sanitary works (latrines and soakage chambers)	672
Customs Shed Extension (completion)	407
Timber Store, Marine	222
King George V Memorial	1,508

Colonial Development Scheme.—The development of water supply, Bathurst (£15,693) was carried on during the year and satisfactory progress was made.

The work is practically completed except for the coupling of the new pumps.

Revenue earned by the Department:

	£
Water	1,114
Electric Light	13,731
Ice factory	170
Transport	1,537
Petroleum Licence and Magazine Rent	461
Miscellaneous	100

CHAPTER XIII. JUSTICE AND POLICE.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

The Courts in the Colony are the Supreme Court, the Court of Requests, the Bathurst Police Court, the Coroner's Court and the Mohammedan Court.

The Mohammedan Court was established in 1905. It is presided over by the Cadi who sits alone or with two Assessors, who are Justices of the Peace. It has jurisdiction in matters exclusively affecting Mohammedan natives and relating to civil status, marriage, succession, donations, testaments and guardianship. Appeal lies to the Supreme Court.

The Bathurst Police Court is usually presided over by the Police Magistrate. His Court, which is a Subordinate Court of the first class may, under the Criminal Procedure Code (sec. 7), pass the following sentences:—

- (a) Imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.
- (b) Fine not exceeding £200.
- (c) Corporal punishment.

His jurisdiction extends to the summary trial of all offences not made cognisable only by the Supreme Court (Criminal Procedure Code, Sec. 4). Further summary jurisdiction over a variety of matters is conferred by a number of local Ordinances.

In addition the Police Magistrate may be empowered in certain circumstances by the Supreme Court to exercise the powers and jurisdiction of a Commissioner in civil and criminal matters arising in the Protectorate. (cf. p. 43).

This Court may also be presided over by two or more Justices of the Peace. This Court when presided over by Justices of the Peace is a Subordinate Court of the second class and may, under the Criminal Procedure Code (Sec. 8), pass the following sentences:—

- (a) Imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.
- (b) Fine not exceeding £50.
- (c) Corporal punishment.

Its jurisdiction extends to the summary trial of all offences not made cognisable only by the Supreme Court or by a Subordinate Court of the first class. The Justices generally sit in the absence of the Police Magistrate on leave or in case of sickness. An appeal lies from the Bathurst Police Court, whether constituted by the Police Magistrate or Justices of the Peace, to the Supreme Court and the Court may be required to state a case.

The Court of Requests is a civil court having jurisdiction in all claims up to £50, except malicious prosecution, libel, slander, criminal conversation, deduction and breach of promise of marriage. The Court may be constituted by the Police Magistrate or by two Commissioners, who are Justices of the Peace. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court is a Superior Court of Record and has analogous jurisdiction to that of the High Court of Justice in England. It is constituted by one Judge. In addition to receiving appeals from the Subordinate Courts, the Judge reviews criminal cases tried by these courts and by Native Tribunals. The Judge is also empowered to carry out the duties of the Police Magistrate, if necessity arises. In certain circumstances a Deputy Judge may be appointed by the Governor to exercise all the powers of a judge concurrently with the Judge.

The Supreme Court has the same jurisdiction over matters occurring in the Protectorate as it possesses in respect of matters occurring in the Colony.

The Protectorate Courts are the Provincial Courts and the Native Tribunals.

Provincial Courts were established by the Provincial Court Ordinance, 1935, and are presided over by a Commissioner, or an Assistant Commissioner. When presided over by a Commissioner they are Subordinate Courts of the first class with the same criminal jurisdiction as the Bathurst Police Court when presided over by the Police Magistrate (q.v.). When an Assistant Commissioner presides the Court is a Subordinate Court of the second class with the same jurisdiction as the Bathurst Police Court when presided over by Justices of the Peace (q.v.) Provincial Courts have a civil jurisdiction in all claims up to £100. An appeal lies from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court, and the Court can also be required to state a case for the Supreme Court in a criminal matter.

Whenever in any civil or criminal matter or cause pending before a Provincial Court it is made to appear to the Judge of the Supreme Court that such an order will tend to the more speedy or satisfactory administration of justice or is otherwise expedient, the Judge may order such cause or matter to be heard by the Police Magistrate, who for such purpose shall have all the powers and jurisdiction vested in a Commissioner.

Native Tribunals were established in each District by the Native Tribunals Ordinance, 1933. These Courts, constituted by the native members only, have jurisdiction only over natives. They administer native law and custom, the Mohammedan Law relating to civil status, marriage, divorce, dowry, succession, the rights of parents and guardianship, when the parties are both Mohammedans, and also the provisions of local Ordinances which confer jurisdiction on them. The jurisdiction of a Native Tribunal is defined in the Warrant of the Governor establishing it. Native Tribunals are divided into two grades with the following jurisdiction:—

Grade A.—Criminal causes, which can be adequately punished by nine months' imprisonment or a fine of £15 or both such imprisonment and fine. Civil actions in which the debt, demand or damages does not exceed £50.