

COLONIAL <sup>and steamers</sup>  
<sup>trading</sup>—ANNUAL.

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No 353.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

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REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899-1900 *see* No. 315.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.  
*April, 1902.*

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1902.

The following, among others, relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
326	Barbados ... ..	1900
327	Bahamas ... ..	"
328	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"
329	Malta ... ..	"
330	Straits Settlements... ..	"
331	Fiji ... ..	"
332	St. Lucia ... ..	"
333	Seychelles ... ..	"
334	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
335	Mauritius and Rodrigues ... ..	"
336	British New Guinea ... ..	1899-1900
337	Leeward Islands ... ..	1900
338	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
339	British Honduras ... ..	"
340	Hong Kong ... ..	"
341	Ceylon ... ..	"
342	Gibraltar ... ..	"
343	Basutoland ... ..	1900-1901
344	Gold Coast ... ..	1900
345	Grenada ... ..	"
346	Northern Nigeria ... ..	1900-1901
347	British Solomon Islands ... ..	"
348	Lagos ... ..	1900
349	British Guiana ... ..	1900-1901
350	St. Vincent ... ..	1900
351	Jamaica ... ..	1900-1901
352	Cocos Islands ... ..	1901

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast ... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	British Solomon Islands
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla ... ..	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands ... ..	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas ... ..	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada ... ..	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ... ..	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ... ..	Report for 1898-1900.
18	Hong Kong ... ..	Operations in New Territory during 1900.

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## SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

(For Report for 1899-1900, *see* No. 315).

HIGH COMMISSIONER SIR R. MOOR TO MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,  
- Old Calabar,  
24th January, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward enclosed the Blue Book for the calendar year 1900 and Report thereon in duplicate. The instructions in your despatch of the 17th of September last required that the Blue Book should be confined to the calendar year, and as the Blue Book and the Report on receipt of your despatch mentioned were not completed, the change was at once made, as there was considerable advantage in starting it with the year 1900, the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria with its present area and administration having been inaugurated from the 1st of January in that year.

2. The Financial Returns in the Blue Book are dealt with for the financial year, 1st April, 1899, to 31st March 1900, and the Public Works Returns, being regarded as principally financial, have been treated in the same way.

3. The imports and exports include those for Northern Nigeria, and it has not been found possible to distinguish them in the year 1900, but instructions have been issued that in future years while the total imports and exports will be given together a separate return will show the imports and exports of Northern Nigeria. In future years also the imports and exports returns will be arranged in groups.

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4. The delay in forwarding the Blue Book and Report thereon is due to the change that was made by your despatch above referred to at the time that the Blue Book and Annual Report were preparing for the financial year, so that entirely fresh returns had to be obtained. I hope in future years to furnish the Blue Book and Report thereon within four months of the termination of the year.

I have, &c.,

R. MOOR,

*High Commissioner.*

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## REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1900.

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By the Southern Nigeria Order in Council, 1899, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1900, part of the territories of the Royal Niger Company, Chartered and Limited, was added to the Niger Coast Protectorate, and the combined territories were constituted into the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria, under the administration of a High Commissioner.

The statistical system which obtained in the Royal Niger Company differed from the system observed in the Niger Coast Protectorate Blue Books, and comparison is therefore impracticable between the figures in the Blue Book for 1900 and the statistics contained in the Blue Books of the Niger Coast Protectorate.

It has recently been decided that the Blue Books and other annual reports (except the financial reports) should be drawn up to cover the calendar year instead of the financial year (1st April to 31st March). As the Blue Book of the Protectorate for 1900 is, for the reason already given, the first of a series, its publication has been delayed in order that the statistics contained in it might as far as possible cover the calendar year. The change in the period covered by the Blue Book is, therefore, a second reason why no useful comparison can be made between its contents and those of previous reports.

### FINANCIAL.

The Financial Returns in the Blue Book of 1900 relate to the period ending on the 31st March, 1900, and consequently do not wholly represent the statistics either of Southern Nigeria or of the Niger Coast Protectorate. The following table, however, shows, as far as can be shown by the yearly totals, the extent to

which the statistics have been altered by the inclusion of the Royal Niger Company's territories during the last quarter of the financial year:—

SOUTHERN  
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1900.

*Revenue.*

Heads of Revenue.	Totals for year ending March 31st, 1900.	Totals for year ending March 31st, 1899.
Customs ... ..	£ 156,491	£ 160,669
Licences, &c. ... ..	775	656
Fees, &c. ... ..	3,358	3,719
Postal Revenue ... ..	1,397	1,688
Miscellaneous ... ..	2,085	2,833
Total ... ..	164,108	169,567
Decrease in year ending 31st March, 1900 ...	5,459	—

*Expenditure.*

Heads of Expenditure.	Total during year ending March 31st, 1900.	Total during year ending March 31st, 1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
Pensions ... ..	£ 280	£ 1,630	£ —	£ 1,350
Commissioner and Consul-General.	4,046	3,984	62	—
Secretary's Department ...	655	41	614	—
Political and Administrative staff.	20,327	18,246	2,081	—
Judicial Department ...	967	834	133	—
Survey " ... ..	—	—	—	—
Carried forward ...	26,275	24,735	2,890	1,350

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Expenditure—continued.

Heads of Expenditure.	Total during year ending March 31st, 1900.	Total during year ending March 31st, 1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
Brought forward ...	£ 26,275	£ 24,735	£ 2,890	£ 1,350
Treasury Department ...	2,352	2,400	—	48
Customs „ ...	7,251	6,478	773	—
Post Office „ ...	3,115	3,053	62	—
Printing „ ...	1,328	1,231	97	—
Audit „ ...	769	786	—	17
N.C.P. Force ...	30,196	21,372	8,824	—
Marine Department... ..	32,531	22,097	10,434	—
Prisons „ ...	7,200	6,038	1,162	—
Botanical „ ...	1,171	1,255	—	84
Medical „ ...	9,272	10,129	—	857
Sanitary „ ...	1,147	1,140	7	—
Transport „ ...	5,729	6,161	—	432
Aborigines ...	8,236	7,115	1,121	—
Miscellaneous ...	11,006	9,346	1,660	—
Public Works Department... ..	3,896	3,437	459	—
„ „ Recurrent ...	5,387	5,565	—	178
„ „ Extraordinary	19,267	14,407	4,860	—
Total ...	176,128	146,745	32,349	2,966
Increase in period ending 31st March, 1900.	29,383	—	—	—

From the table of revenue it will be noticed that there was a decrease of £5,459 in the revenue of the year ending 31st March, 1900, as compared with the revenue of the previous year. The decrease is the more noteworthy because during the last quarter

of the year, duty was received in respect of the importations of the Niger Company. The amount of duty received at Akassa during the last quarter was £4,617, and probably a similar amount was collected at ports in the Western Division. But for this increase, the decrease mentioned above would therefore have been nearly £15,000. It has to be further remembered that *ad valorem* duties were levied during the last quarter of the year for the first time. The decrease can, however, be accounted for by the large decrease in the importations of gin and rum which was probably, in part, due to the large importation during 1898-99, as is shown by the following figures:—

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—	1899-1900.	1898-99.	1897-98.	1896-97.
Gin ... ..	Gallons. 614,298	Gallons. 980,944	Gallons. 857,802	Gallons. 598,073
Rum ... ..	164,208	324,161	266,969	253,289

Of the increase, £29,389, which took place during the year in the expenditure, £11,710 was due to increases in personal emoluments and £17,678 to expenditure on other charges. It will be seen, therefore, that as regards the period ending 31st March, 1900, the incorporation of territories of the Royal Niger Company produced relatively little change in the expenditure and revenue of the Protectorate.

#### ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The financial year ending 31st March, 1899, showed an excess of assets over liabilities of £58,469, and on March 31st, 1900, this excess had increased to £67,089.

Of the latter sum, £27,500 was invested at interest, and a sum of £5,340 was set aside to meet the cost of making good depreciation in the yacht "Ivy," the balance consisting of cash, remittances in transit, etc.

#### CURRENCY.

By universally accepted custom, the currency of the Protectorate is, as between persons who are not natives of the Protectorate, the British currency. The natives in dealings between themselves, use in different parts of the Protectorate brass rods, manillas, brass wire, gin, cloth, and tobacco. In transactions between or with Europeans, these articles cannot be regarded in any way as serving the purpose of a currency, their use in such transactions being merely an instance of barter. In the Benin territories, as in Lagos, cowries are used for small purchases, and may be regarded as acting as a currency to a limited extent.

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The absence of coin in the districts has made it necessary to recognise that orders of the Native Courts can be complied with by payment in manillas, brass rods, etc., and even in "trade goods," except gin. This custom probably originated with the provisions contained in Section CXI. of the Africa Order in Council, 1889.

The estimated average value of brass rods is  $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ , of manillas,  $1\frac{1}{4}d.$ , and of wires,  $\frac{1}{8}d.$  The value varies, however, not only in different districts but also at different times of the year. The use of "wires" is confined to parts of the Old Calabar and Cross River districts. In other districts the absence of a small medium of exchange is remedied in native transactions by sub-dividing tobacco, gin, etc.

By the "Amended Customs Tariff Proclamation of 1900," silver of the realm (meaning of course the United Kingdom) not being of the established standard in weight or fineness is absolutely prohibited from importation.

During 1900 specie was imported to the value of £135,309. The importations of specie into the Niger Coast Protectorate during the years 1897-98, 1898-99, 1899-1900, were £29,202, £29,290, and £36,372, respectively. Practically there was no exportation of specie during 1900.

#### TAXATION.

The Customs duties during the year were collected under Proclamation No. 2 of 1900, by which the previous tariff was repealed. The duties levied under this law include a comparatively short list of specific duties, the principal items in which are unmanufactured tobacco,  $3d.$  per lb.; salt,  $20s.$  per ton; gunpowder,  $6d.$  per lb.; flint lock guns,  $2s. 6d.$  each; and spirits,  $3s.$  per gallon. Subject to the "free" list, which includes building materials, cooper's stores, mining and sawing machinery, etc., all the importations not included in the specific duty list were made liable to an *ad valorem* duty of 5 per cent. The law provided that the territories of Lagos, Northern Nigeria, and Southern Nigeria should for Customs purposes be regarded as one territory. Chiefly in connection with the latter provision an amending law was necessary and was prepared (The Amended Customs Tariff Proclamation, 1900, No. 28 of 1900), but as the law did not come into operation until the 1st January, 1901, it is unnecessary to detail its provisions here.

#### IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

From the summary given below it will be noticed that the exports and imports in 1900 nearly balanced one another, there being a surplus of £18,021 only of exports over imports. This



surplus, however, is only arrived at by including in the imports the sum of £135,309, the amount of specie imported. As there was practically no export of specie, the figures in reality show that the value of the imports exceeded the value of the exports by over £100,000.

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The following table also shows that the exports from the Protectorate to foreign countries was very largely in excess of the imports from those countries. This large excess is due to the large quantity of palm kernels shipped to Germany, and in a minor degree to the palm oil shipped to France.

In the case of the United Kingdom, the imports into the Protectorate were, unlike those from foreign countries, in excess of the exports from the Protectorate. This surplus of imports over exports is largely due to the fact that £130,850 specie was imported from the United Kingdom.

*Summary of Exports and Imports in 1900.*

	£
Total exports ... ..	1,133,604
Total imports ... ..	1,115,583
	<hr/>
Surplus of exports ...	18,021
	<hr/> <hr/>
United Kingdom—	
Imports from ... ..	927,905
Exports to ... ..	672,900
	<hr/>
Surplus of imports ...	255,005
	<hr/> <hr/>
British Colonies—	
Imports from ... ..	6,256
Exports to ... ..	215
	<hr/>
Surplus of exports ...	6,041
	<hr/> <hr/>
Foreign Countries—	
Exports from ... ..	460,483
Imports to ... ..	181,421
	<hr/>
Surplus of exports ...	279,067
	<hr/> <hr/>

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	Imports from.	Exports to.
	£	£
Germany ... ..	87,489	385,806
Holland ... ..	83,378	8
United States of America.	6,053	—
Spain ... ..	3,212	—
France ... ..	—	74,156

The following tables show the principal imports and exports to and from different countries. Kerosene and lamp oil to the value of £6,047 was imported from the United States, and £1,665 of kerosene and lamp oils and £4,459 of specie reached the Protectorate from Grand Canary. With these exceptions the principal importations were confined to imports from the United Kingdom, Germany, and Holland, and the principal exports to those sent to the United Kingdom, Germany, and France.

It will be noticed that the importation of perfumery from Germany largely exceeds the importation from the United Kingdom. The importation of gin and Geneva from Holland and Germany and the liquors from Germany complete the list of cases in which the imports from the United Kingdom were exceeded by the imports from other countries.

*Table showing the principal Imports into the Protectorate and the Countries whence imported.*

Article.	Value.	United Kingdom.	Germany.	Holland.
	£	£	£	£
Ale, beer, porter, cider, &c.	4,176	2,076	2,079	17
Bags and sacks ... ..	11,810	10,908	894	—
Beads ... ..	11,582	8,963	2,380	11
Beef and pork ... ..	8,752	8,684	68	—
Building materials ...	45,653	42,337	2,809	419
Boats and canoes ... ..	5,715	5,336	143	—
Bread and biscuit ... ..	5,739	5,736	—	—

*Imports—continued.*SOUTHERN  
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Article.	Value.	United Kingdom.	Germany,	Holland.
	£	£	£	£
Coal ... ..	19,496	17,114	1,292	1,089
Cooper's stores ... ..	65,695	61,581	414	3,700
Cotton goods... ..	274,249	271,477	2,037	475
Earthenware ... ..	9,932	8,858	1,066	—
Furniture ... ..	7,210	5,678	1,375	3
Dane guns ... ..	8,853	4,187	641	4,010
Gunpowder ... ..	7,358	7,029	329	—
Haberdashery ... ..	4,472	4,389	31	—
Hardware and cutlery ... ..	52,157	36,848	10,305	4,493
Kerosene and lamp oils ... ..	7,919	167	40	—
Perfumery ... ..	2,619	529	2,062	25
Pipes ... ..	2,920	1,372	34	110
Provisions ... ..	32,210	28,530	2,438	44
Rice ... ..	18,856	17,122	1,689	—
Salt... ..	34,115	34,115	—	—
Silk goods ... ..	20,924	17,290	3,600	—
Soap ... ..	9,443	9,251	189	—
Brandy ... ..	720	631	79	1
Gin and Geneva ... ..	99,118	1,523	30,342	67,250
Liqueurs ... ..	915	116	798	—
Rum ... ..	13,438	2,502	10,083	18
Whiskey ... ..	5,135	5,064	46	—
Wines ... ..	6,001	5,432	264	1
Tobacco, unmanufactured ... ..	67,638	67,588	49	—
Umbrellas ... ..	6,157	5,747	394	—
Wearing apparel ... ..	28,950	27,616	1,115	88
Specie ... ..	135,309	130,850	—	—

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*Table showing the principal Exports and the Countries  
to which exported.*

Article.	Value.	United Kingdom.	Germany.	France.
	£	£	£	£
Cocoa ... ..	2,709	2,489	220	—
Coffee ... ..	725	709	16	—
Ebony ... ..	1,665	1,558	106	—
Fibre ... ..	2,922	2,922	—	—
Ground Nuts ...	3,704	3,704	—	—
Gum Copal ... ..	1,513	1,512	1	—
Ivory ... ..	13,794	12,872	922	—
Native Timber ...	7,013	6,792	221	—
Miscellaneous Products.	37,091	33,716	66	3,276
Palm Kernels ...	430,016	83,019	346,997	—
Palm Kernel Shells	637	637	—	—
Palm Oil ... ..	491,131	392,156	28,094	70,880
Rubber ... ..	137,289	128,440	8,848	—
Specie ... ..	20	20	—	—

No change in the direction of trade appears to have taken place. The import and export returns contained in the Blue Book for 1900 include the imports into and exports from Northern Nigeria. This fact accounts for the amount of gum copal exported and also for the large exports in ivory. But with these two exceptions there is nothing to show that the export returns have been greatly increased by exports from Northern Nigeria.

The following table shows the principal imports and exports into and from the Niger Coast Protectorate during the years 1897-98, 1898-99, and 1899-1900.

The decrease in the value of manufactured tobacco during the year 1899-1900 was attributed to larger importations of manufactured tobacco. The decrease has not, however, continued, as the foregoing table shows that £67,638 of unmanufactured tobacco was imported during 1900.

*Imports.*SOUTHERN  
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—

Article.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£	£	£
Specie ... ..	29,202	29,290	36,372
Cotton goods ... ..	156,880	198,763	194,281
Gin and Geneva ... ..	65,193	81,020	85,469
Tobacco, unmanufactured ...	57,324	60,898	27,864
Cooper's stores ... ..	50,970	44,396	50,816
Building Materials ... ..	11,174	16,785	18,954
Hardware and cutlery ... ..	37,849	32,319	30,733
Wearing apparel ... ..	17,878	24,427	22,902
Salt ... ..	10,992	9,098	18,448
Provisions ... ..	17,368	19,200	21,193

*Exports.*

Article.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£	£	£
Palm Kernels ... ..	295,544	305,791	340,218
Palm oil ... ..	410,133	397,868	420,680
Rubber ... ..	32,959	60,607	105,116
Ivory ... ..	2,530	2,589	3,326
Ebony ... ..	2,291	739	229

## AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY.

The Botanical Gardens are situated at Old Calabar. Largely owing to the ease with which the collection of oil and nuts provides for the requirements of their lives, the natives do not readily attempt to grow or collect other products. To a limited extent the Botanical Gardens have been successful in distributing young coffee and cocoa plants.

With the object of supplying rubber seedlings for transplantation into the forest lands between villages, twenty large

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nurseries for young rubber were established during the year in the Benin territories. These nurseries were supplied by the rubber seed collected during 1899. The labour of transplanting and subsequently caring for the young rubber will be performed, subject to the supervision of the Forestry Inspectors, by the inhabitants of those villages which will ultimately be enriched by the matured rubber.

Twenty timber concessions were granted during the year, and a large number of licences to collect rubber were issued in the Benin territories, and the fees in connection with these amounted to over £700. The timber (mahogany) cut was in some cases too small, and the conditions of the concessions and licences were not strictly adhered to, with the result that further legislation and organisation was decided upon but could not be carried out during the year.

During the year two large beds of honckeya were planted in the Botanical Gardens, and 100 plants were sent by request to the Botanical Gardens at Aburi, on the Gold Coast. Fifty mango plants (including No. 11, Peach, Mistake, Gordon, Malda, and Peters) were imported from Trinidad, and of these 36 have grown.

The plantations of the Royal Niger Company on the Niger were taken over by the Protectorate. With the exception of a small area of cocoa the plantations were devoted to coffee cultivation, and the number of trees at each place will be found in the appendix to this report.

#### SHIPPING.

The total number of steam vessels that cleared from ports in the Protectorate during 1900 was 638 (tonnage, 924,124; crew, 25,965). During the year 645 entered (tonnage, 940,389; crew, 25,400). Of these vessels, all were British except 26 foreign vessels (tonnage, 33,853; crew, 596) which cleared, and 22 (tonnage, 33,014; crew, 712) which entered.

These figures show that vessels entering the ports of the Protectorate have relatively smaller crews than when clearing, and that this difference is most marked in the case of foreign steamers.

During the year 18 British steamers and 1 foreign steamer entered in ballast, and 24 and 1 cleared in ballast respectively.

Of the foreign steamers 1 was Spanish and the remainder German.

Of the foreign steamers, 11 came from Germany and 1 from Fernando Po. The same number of foreign steamers cleared for Germany and Fernando Po, and in addition to these 1 cleared for Grand Canary.

The British steamers that cleared and entered included 115 and 114 Lagos steamers respectively. A large proportion of

these must have been the branch steamers by which the cargo is taken between Lagos and Forcados, at which latter place the Lagos cargo is transhipped to or from ocean-going steamers.

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Of the remainder of the British steamers, 28 entered from Germany and 2 from Belgium; 26 cleared for Germany, 2 for the United States of America (both in ballast). The remainder of the British steamers cleared for (82) or entered from (88) the United Kingdom.

Only 4 sailing vessels entered the ports of the Protectorate and only 2 cleared.

The sailing vessels were all foreign.

#### LEGISLATION.

The Southern Nigeria Order in Council 1899 (*see* beginning of this report) gave law-making powers to the High Commissioner subject, of course, to the pleasure of the Crown. On January 1st, 1900, it became necessary to enact laws for the government of the Protectorate. The "Ordinance Extension Proclamation of 1900" was accordingly passed, by which the Niger Coast Protectorate laws mentioned in the schedule to the Proclamation were made to extend and apply to the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria. By the Company's Regulations Repealing Proclamation, 1900, the laws of the Royal Niger Company were repealed.

By the end of April, 1900, twenty Proclamations were passed which were necessary for the proper constitution of the Protectorate. The most important of these laws was perhaps the Supreme Court Proclamation, by which a Supreme Court was established with the same jurisdiction, so far as local circumstances permit, as is vested in the High Court of Justice in England. The law contained a provision to the effect that its terms should not deprive the Court of the right to observe and enforce the observance, nor should deprive any person of the benefit of any law or custom existing in the Protectorate and not repugnant to natural justice, equity, and good conscience. This law was supplemented firstly by the "Commissioners Proclamation," by which, subject to limits therein specified, the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court was conferred on District Courts, and secondly by the Criminal Procedure Proclamation, which is binding on the Supreme Court and the District Courts.

By the "Native Courts Proclamation," Native Courts were constituted with a criminal and civil jurisdiction, in which cases wherein natives only are concerned can be disposed of by natives under the supervision of a District Commissioner who is *ex officio* President of all Native Courts in his district.

During the year laws were passed regulating prisons,

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marriages, patents, trade marks, the importation of spirituous liquors, and the navigation of the Niger.

By the Trade Credit Proclamation, no Court can enforce against a native any obligation of a commercial character based on credit, which has been incurred by him towards a person who is not a native of the Protectorate. By the Folded Woven Goods Proclamation, the importation is prohibited of folded woven goods unless the latter are folded in folds of not less than 36 inches in length, and unless each piece is marked so as to show its length. By Proclamation No. 1 of 1900, no person not being a native can acquire directly or indirectly any right or interest in land without the consent of the High Commissioner.

#### EDUCATION.

There is no secondary education in the Protectorate, and the primary education is limited to the schools connected with the churches and missions, with the exception of the Eyamba School at Duke Town, Old Calabar, which is managed by a committee of natives. In the schools at Old Calabar and Onitsha, industrial education is combined with primary education.

An important step was taken by the Government in commencing a scheme by which it is hoped that industrial education may be combined with primary education in many places throughout the Protectorate. The scheme met with strong support from the merchants and from Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Company and native chiefs. The first institution of the kind was established at Ogugumanga, near Bonny, where a site and building were granted for the purpose of the new educational institute by the merchants. The revenue amounted to £923 10s., of which £240 was granted by the Government, £31 10s. was given by Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Company, £450 was collected from donations from the chiefs of Bonny, Opobo, and New Calabar, and the balance, £202, from school fees.

Pupils at the institution have to enter for a term of not less than five years, and accommodation is provided both for day pupils and boarders. The curriculum, as already stated, is confined to primary education, but a payment of 7s. 6d. a quarter (for each subject) enables the pupils to obtain tuition in book-keeping, shorthand, mathematics, and music.

#### GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

The only hospitals are the European Hospital and the Native Hospital at Old Calabar. In the districts, however, a very large number of cases are treated as extra patients

The following table shows the death rate and the invaliding



rate of Europeans.\* The proportions are based upon the estimated average number of Europeans (namely, 316) in the Protectorate.

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1900.

Class.	Number.	Died.	Invalided.	Death rate per 1,000.	Invaliding rate per 1,000.
Officials ...	101	7	12	69.34	118.71
Non-Officials...	215	13	26	60.46	120.93
Total (or mean rate.)	316	20	38	63.29	120.25

The greatest number of deaths and of persons invalided was at Old Calabar, where the numbers during the year were 6 and 8 respectively; but as Europeans naturally endeavour when ill to get to Old Calabar in order to benefit by being nursed in the European Hospital, it does not at all follow that Old Calabar is an unhealthy station. At Asaba there were 4 deaths and 7 persons invalided.

At the European Hospital, 79 cases were treated, of which, as just stated, 6 ended in death. There were 32 cases of malarial fever, 8 of hæmoglobinuria, or blackwater fever, and 37 of unclassified fevers.

In St. Margaret Hospital (Native), 551 cases were treated, of which 30 ended in death. The following are the numbers of cases of the most prevalent diseases:—

Diseases of respiratory system ... ..	75
Diseases of digestive system ... ..	56
Varicella ... ..	54
Diseases of connective tissue ... ..	49
Local injuries ... ..	46

Special reports were made on three cases of exceptional interest, one of hemiplegia, reported on by Dr. R. A. Bennett; one of a fever resembling scarlatina, reported on by Dr. E. J. Moore; and a case of ankylostomiasis, reported on by Dr. R. A. Shekleton.

In all the stations as well as in Old Calabar much attention was given to the drainage of spots likely to breed *anopheles* (mosquitos).

In Old Calabar a system of water supply was begun but not actually completed within the year. Works were also begun at Old Calabar by which the sewage will be disposed of on Moule's system.\*

\* These figures are for the year ending March 31st, 1901.

SOUTHERN  
NIGERIA,  
1900.

*Prisons.*

There are two large prisons, one at Old Calabar and one at Asaba. At Degama, Sapele, and Benin City there are district prisons, and at the other stations in the Protectorate there are "lock-up" houses.

Under the Prisons Proclamation the mark system was introduced, and has worked satisfactorily. There were 765 prisoners committed during the year ending March, 1901, throughout the Protectorate, of whom 3 per cent. were female, and 4 per cent. juveniles. Only 20 persons were imprisoned for more than five years, 380 were committed for three months or less, and the remainder were sentenced for terms exceeding three months but under five years.

The cost of feeding and clothing the prisoners amounted to £2,632, and the estimated value of the work done by them was £3,238, an amount based on the supposition that the work done by a prisoner at hard labour (grass cutting, birch making, road making, sanitary work, etc.) is worth 9*d.* per day, and that the work done by those at light labour is worth 6*d.* per day.

There were 38 escapes, of whom 23 were recaptured.

*Criminal Statistics.*

During the year 1900, the number of informations in the Supreme Court amounted to 31, and resulted in 4 acquittals and 27 convictions.

The number of offences reported to the District Commissioners (who are in charge of the Court Messengers, *i.e.*, the local police) was 496. Of the cases reported, 356 were convicted summarily, 98 were acquitted, 11 were discharged for want of evidence, and the remainder were dealt with in the Supreme Court.

The following table shows how the 356 cases of convictions were dealt with and also the crimes committed:—

—	Total number of cases.	Assaults.	Offences against property, other than malicious injury to property.	Offences against revenue, &c.	Other offences.
Fine ... ..	88	24	—	9	55
Imprisonment in lieu of payment of fine.	4	—	—	1	3
Peremptory imprisonment.	243	52	117	9	65
Whipping ...	6	1	2	—	3
Bound over or other trivial punishment.	15	9	—	—	6
Total ...	356	86	119	19	132

The figures only cover the period from April 1st, 1900 (when the new laws began to operate) to the end of the year.

SOUTHERN,  
NIGERIA  
1900.

There are no records of the criminal cases disposed of by the Native Courts.

*Meteorological Observations.*

The returns for 1900 relate to one station only, namely Old Calabar.

On only three days during the year was there an absence of wind, the latter, however, was by no means constant throughout the day, there having been 179 days when it was calm at 7 a.m., 118 days when it was calm at 1 p.m., and 102 days when there was no wind at 9 p.m. The wind was most apt to fall away in the months of August, July, December, and January, and the mean air temperature was lowest in August, July, and January. December and January were the driest months.

Month.	Mean air temperature.	Periods of calm at 7 a.m., 1 p.m., 9 p.m. or at two or all of those times.	Mean tension of vapour.	Mean relative humidity.	Rainfall.
January ... ..	83·8	35	·780	79·7	1·67
February ... ..	84·8	26	·864	77·7	5·40
March ... ..	84·8	30	·879	81·9	5·80
April ... ..	82·3	33	·833	83·5	13·50
May ... ..	81·7	29	·859	84·0	4·59
June ... ..	80·8	26	·833	84·4	32·59
July ... ..	77·8	49	·802	85·7	13·63
August ... ..	77·	43	·807	88·1	6·39
September ... ..	80·4	27	·820	89·07	11·84
October... ..	82·3	27	·793	83·5	9·38
November ... ..	82·5	29	·862	83·8	11·34
December ... ..	81·96	45	·834	83·6	1·30
Year ... ..	81·70	—	·830	83·42	117·45

SOUTHERN  
NIGERIA,  
1900.

*Post Office.*

The chief office is at Old Calabar; there are 11 district offices and 6 postal agencies.

The gross postal revenue during 1900 was £1,786, of which £141 was commission on money orders, and £4 was the value of unclaimed money orders. The cost of the postal service within the Protectorate was £2,855. The cost of conveyance of mails beyond the Protectorate was £435.

*Statement of estimated total number of Letters &c., dealt with during 1900.*

—	Internal.	United Kingdom.		Total.
		From	To	
Letters and Post cards.	188,796	89,639	90,935	369,370
Newspapers, Book Packets, &c.	29,680	70,179	4,207	104,066
Parcels ... ..	5,033	3,085	1,381	9,499

—	Money Orders issued in Protectorate.	Money Orders received in Protectorate.
United Kingdom ...	£ 4,812	£ 335
West African Colonies...	5,296	172
Internal ... ..	1,008	1,019

*Military Forces and Expenditure.*

On the 1st January, 1900, the military force of the Protectorate was raised from 550 to an establishment of 1,050. Part of the arrangement by which the territories of the Royal Niger Company were transferred to the Protectorate was that a portion of the Royal Niger Company's forces, amounting to an establishment of 500 men with arms and ammunition should be taken over by the Protectorate. The increased establishment thus authorised was organised in accordance with the general

recommendations of the Committee who reported in 1899 upon the Amalgamation of the Colonial Military Forces in West Africa. The change necessitated the force being re-armed with the Martini-Enfield carbine (artillery pattern 303 calibre), and an increase in the number of officers from 17 to 29. The force thus established became the 3rd (Niger) Battalion of the West African Frontier Force.

The expenditure during 1900 amounted to £30,196, of which £23,632 was spent on pay and allowances, and the balance, £6,564, on other charges, the chief items in which were £1,352, cost of clothing, accoutrements and necessaries, and £3,767, the cost of ammunition and purchase and repairs of arms.

*Public Works.*

The returns of expenditure on Public Works cover the year ending 31st March, 1900.

The following are works completed during that period:—

—	Estimated cost	Actual cost.
	£	£
Public works house annex ... ..	200	351
Native Prisons ... ..	—	21
Native rest houses ... ..	200	136
Upkeep of break-water Opobo ...	100	72
"    "    "    Bonny ...	50	16
Extension of temporary building used as post office.	100	97
Moveable brickmaking plant at Old Calabar River.	150	481
Native hospital ... ..	—	95
House for Treasury officials ... ..	—	277
House for Customs officials at Brass...	—	105
Quarters for native staff, Cross River	50	65
Bridge across creek ... ..	—	271

The new prison was begun but not finished, the expenditure during the year being £3,770.

The breakwater at Old Calabar (Quay Wall Works) which is being constructed under the supervision of Messrs. Coode, Son & Matthews, made good progress at a cost of £8,250.

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1900.

The Benin City officers' quarters were nearly completed at a cost of £2,641. The sum of £1,026 was spent on the new house for judicial officers out of £1,800, the estimated cost for completion.

£2,448 was spent on current repairs to public buildings.

*Staff.*

On December 31st, 1900, there were 374 officers employed in the Protectorate who had given bond for the proper discharge of their duties. The security given was that prescribed by the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund Proclamation, 1900.

LESLIE PROBYN,

*Secretary.*

January 15, 1902.

Appendix showing the number of coffee plants in the plantations on the Niger which were transferred to the Protectorate by the Royal Niger Company.

SOUTHERN  
NIGERIA,  
1900.

*Number of Coffee Plants on the plantations at Abutshi and Onitsha.*

Name of plantation.	Name of plants	In permanent places.	In Beds.
Abutshi ... ..	Liberian Coffee	11,863	4,989
do. ... ..	Cocoa ... ..	612	40
Nkissi ... ..	Liberian Coffee	72,690	—
do. ... ..	Arabian „	140	380
do. ... ..	Rio Pongo „	1,200	—
do. ... ..	Cocoa ... ..	30	—
Akpakka ... ..	Liberian Coffee	16,200	3,610
do. ... ..	Arabian „	400	—
do. ... ..	Cocoa ... ..	364	600
The Creek ... ..	Liberian Coffee	15,030	13,350

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