

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 159.

BRITISH GUIANA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894-5.

(For Report for 1893-4, see No. 133 of this Series.)



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1895.

Price Three Halfpence.

BRITISH
GULIANA.
1894-5.

POST AND TELEGRAPHS.

There was again a general increase of postal and telegraph business in all branches. The number of articles posted rose from 1,835,000 to 1,932,000, and value of local money orders from 28,261*l.* to 29,958*l.* The Foreign money order business increased with the United States and Barbados and fell off with the United Kingdom and Trinidad. The parcel post was more largely used with the United Kingdom, but the business done with other countries remained stationary.

Two more post offices, three telegraph offices, and four money order offices were established during the year in outlying districts.

There was no extension of the Government telephone service, which has some 420 subscribers.

Much trouble was experienced with the telegraph cables during the year. The formation of the beds of the rivers and the exposure to damage from anchors or sunken trees carried along by the tide appear to render our cables peculiarly susceptible to injury, and costly to maintain. For some months, communication with Bartica, the point of departure for most of the gold diggings, was interrupted, and so firmly was the cable inbedded in the "caddy," that it long resisted all efforts to restore communication.

SAVINGS BANKS.

The general depression which existed throughout the year has naturally affected the Treasury savings banks although scarcely to the extent which might have been expected. The number of depositors is practically the same, 14,952, but the amount deposited, 157,964*l.*, is less by 7,000*l.* than in the previous year; the amount withdrawn, 171,247*l.*, greater by a like sum than in the previous year, while for the first time for many years the amount standing to the credit of depositors, 255,742*l.*, has shrunk by some 6,000*l.*

The Post Office savings banks, from their popularity and efficiency, continue to justify the experiment of their establishment. There are now 18 of them, two having been opened during the year. The number of depositors rose from 3,120 to 4,200 and the amount at their credit increased from 16,534*l.* to 20,610*l.*, the greater portion of which is invested in Government securities. The revenue amounted to 633*l.* 15*s.* and the expenditure to 468*l.* This increase of business is not responsible for the decrease in the Treasury savings banks, for the latter attract a wholly different class of customer.

RAILWAYS, CANALS, ROADS AND TELEGRAPHS.

It was hoped that some substantial progress in railway extensions might have been reported this year, but the little line from