

COLONIAL REPORTS--ANNUAL.

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No. 318.

BRITISH GUIANA.

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REPORT FOR 1899-1900.

(For Report for 1898-99, *see* No. 290.)

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

*March* 1901.

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LONDON:  
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,  
By DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from  
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.,  
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OLIVER & BOYD, EDINBURGH; or  
E. PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1901.

[Cd. 431-10.] *Price* 2d.

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## POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The statistics under this head are for the most part of a normal nature. The export of raw gold through the medium of the Parcel Post is a new and interesting feature. Gold to the value of £166,226 was so exported.

## MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

There are no Imperial troops now stationed in the Colony. There is a militia force and a semi-military armed police force.

### *Militia.*

The total strength at the end of the year was 425, with a reserve of 244. There are three companies of infantry and one of artillery in Georgetown, and one company of infantry in New Amsterdam.

The total expenditure for the year, including the band, was £5,478.

### *Police.*

The total strength of all ranks on the 31st March, 1900, was 739, the authorised strength being 766. There is an Inspector General of Police, 1 Chief County, 4 County, and 5 District Inspectors, 7 Sub-Inspectors, an Adjutant and Musketry Instructor, and a Pay and Quarter-Master. The total expenditure on the force was £53,699, inclusive of £3,441 for Fire Brigade purposes, which duties are also performed by the Police.

### *Rural Constabulary.*

This force, at the end of the year, consisted of 167 Non-Commissioned Officers and 981 men.

## GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The chief event in the Colony's history during the year under consideration was undoubtedly the settlement of the long contested question of the boundary line with the Republic of Venezuela. The Arbitration Tribunal constituted by the Treaty between that country and Great Britain, dated the 2nd February, 1897, after protracted sittings, gave their decision in Paris on the 3rd October, 1899. This decision was in favour of a line coinciding in the main with the Schomburgk line, but awarding to Venezuela, Point Barima and the immediately adjacent land, as well as a small district in the upper reaches of the Cuyuni.