

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO
AFRICA IN MICROFORM

General Editor: Neville Rubin

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Introduction by
Dr. D.C. Dorward

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GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO NIGERIA, 1862-1960

This four part series of microfilms consists of the complete runs of British colonial government periodical publications, i.e. *Annual Reports*, *Blue Books*, *Government Gazettes and Trade Supplements*, as well as selected Command Papers, relating to: (Group I) The Colony and Protectorate of Lagos, 1862 - 1906; (Group II) The Niger Coast (Oil Rivers) Protectorate, 1891 - 1899, and the Protectorates of Southern Nigeria, 1899 - 1913, and Northern Nigeria, 1900 - 1913; (Group III) the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria, 1914 - 1939; and (Group IV) the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria, 1940 - 1959, each division of the documentation corresponding to transitions in colonial administration.

The geo-political entity "Nigeria" is a colonial creation whose origins are to be found in the three British proto-colonial economic polities, the Colony of Lagos, which was under the supervision of the Colonial Office, the Niger Coast (Oil Rivers) Protectorate under the Foreign Office, and the territory of the Royal Niger Company, a royal chartered company vested by Her Majesty's Government with judicial and administrative powers. This introduction seeks to provide a brief account of the successive amalgamations which led to the creation of Nigeria and other historical background to the government publications, as well as to draw the reader's attention to various anomalies and alterations which have occurred in the various publications over the course of the colonial era.

The sources in Group I commence with the events of December, 1851, when, in response to mounting pressure from British traders and missionaries and in reaction to an earlier abortive attempt at armed intervention in Lagos politics by the British Consul for the Bights of Benin and Biafra, a British naval force deposed the reigning Oba of Lagos, Kosoko, and installed his principal rival, Akitoye, who promptly signed a treaty with the British government granting protection and support to Christian missionaries, free trade privileges to British subjects and most-favoured-nation status to the British government, as well as agreeing to the abolition of human sacrifice and the export trade in slaves, with the concession that, "If at any time it shall appear that Slave Trade has been carried on through or from the territory of the King and Chiefs of Lagos, the Slave Trade may be put down by Great Britain by force upon that territory...". Thus Britain, whose commercial ties with the coastal region of the Bights of Benin and Biafra were long-standing, embarked upon a course of action which was to lead to increasing involvement and responsibility in the internal affairs of Lagos.¹

During the following decade successive British Consuls at Lagos sought to advance British interests in the face of repeated efforts by Kosoko to regain his throne, the disruptive effects of the Yoruba civil wars in the Lagos hinterland, and clashes between European commercial and missionary factions. Confronted with an apparently anarchistic situation, British officials became increasingly convinced that the solution lay in direct political control through the annexation of Lagos as a British colony. This was effected by means of the treaty of 30th July, 1861, wherein Docemo, Akitoye's successor, ceded Lagos to the British in return for an annual pension.²

¹ See Command Paper No. 1445, "Papers relative to the Reduction of Lagos, with Plan" (1852), 1445. The familiar prefix C was not added to Command Paper numbers until 1868.

² See Command Paper Nos. 2982 and 3003, "Papers relating to the Occupation of Lagos" (1862), 2982; "Additional Papers relating to the Occupation of Lagos" (1862), 3003.

The annexation of Lagos proved not to be a panacea. The economic dependence of Lagos upon trade with the interior and of the colonial government upon revenue derived from duties upon that trade is clearly illustrated in the accounts of the *Lagos Blue Books*. Yet, as H. Stanhope Freeman, the first Governor of the colony, emphasized in his *Annual Report* for 1863, trade had been brought practically to a standstill by war between Ibadan and Abeokuta, in the hinterland beyond his jurisdiction. John Hawley Glover, who governed Lagos from 1864 until 1872, tried on several occasions to establish peace in the hinterland through active intervention but without lasting success.³ Moreover, Glover's "forward" policy was not viewed with favour in London.

In 1865 a Parliamentary Select Committee recommended the gradual curtailment of British commitments in West Africa. Accordingly, in 1866 the "Administrator" of Lagos was placed under the supervision of the Governor of West African Settlements, stationed at Freetown, Sierra Leone. Distance and poor communications facilities tended to nullify the effectiveness of such supervision, consequently in 1874 British administration on the coast was again reorganized, with a Lieutenant-Governor at Lagos under the authority of the Governor of the Gold Coast. In the mid-1880s, however, the tempo of activity at Lagos began to accelerate once more.⁴

In 1886, Lagos regained its status as a separate colony and, under the energetic governorship of Sir Gilbert Carter (1891 - 1897) and of his successors, the Yoruba hinterland was gradually brought under British sovereignty as the Protectorate of Lagos.⁵ Finally, in 1906, the Colony and Protectorate of Lagos were amalgamated with the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria to form the Colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria, which had its headquarters at Lagos.

The government publications not only record these changes, they were affected by them. The *Annual Reports*, while published as Command Papers, separate from the *Blue Books*, were in fact covering letters which accompanied the annual *Blue Books* and which tended to contain item by item commentaries on the essentially statistical information contained in the *Blue Books*. However, over the course of time, *Annual Reports* came to contain an increasing amount of information, particularly of a political and social nature, not directly related to material in the *Blue Books*. As to their presentation, from 1862 until 1886 the *Lagos Annual Reports* were included in an often multi-volume annual Command Paper, "Reports Showing the Present State of Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions, Transmitted with the Blue Books".⁶ Beginning in 1887, Colonial *Annual Reports* were normally presented separately, though under a common annual Command Paper number, each individual possession's report being distinguished by a distinct sub-section number. One of the effects of the demotion of Lagos to the position of a satellite between 1866 and 1886 was that the *Annual Reports and Blue Books*, commencing with those for the year 1865, were forwarded to London via Freetown or later Cape Coast Castle and therefore were

³See Command Papers C 3523, "Papers relating to the War among the Native Tribes in the Neighbourhood of Lagos" (1865), 3523.

⁴ See Command Papers C 4957, C 5144, and C 5249-33, "Correspondence respecting the War between Native Tribes in the interior and Negotiations for Peace conducted by the Government of Lagos" (1887), C 4957; "Further Correspondence respecting the War between the Native Tribes in the interior and the Negotiations for Peace conducted by the Government of Lagos" (1887), C 5144; "Report of the Resources and Conditions of the Western District, Lagos" (1888), C 5249-33.

⁵ See Command Paper C 7227, "Dispatches from Sir Gilbert T. Carter, furnishing a report of the Lagos Interior Expedition of 1893, with the reply of the Secretary of State" (1893/4), C 7227.

⁶ As a result, the *Lagos Annual Reports* for 1885 and 1886 bear a common Command Paper number, C 5239, having been printed as parts of the same paper.

accompanied by a second covering letter from the supervisory Governor, which was also included in the printed report. Moreover the system led to delays and confusion. The entry for the Lagos *Annual Report* for 1870 bears the notation "Not Received", while no *Annual Reports* for Lagos were submitted to Parliament for the years 1883 or 1884. The *Annual Report* for 1865 consists of a covering letter by Governor Samuel Blackall in Freetown, but none from the Administrator in Lagos, while Glover's report for 1866 is very succinct.

On the other hand, the *Annual Report* for 1869 contains an interesting report by William J. Maxwell, Deputy Collector of Customs at Lagos and one of the highest ranking non-Europeans in the Lagos administration. Furthermore, it should be noted that though there exists a *Gold Coast and Lagos Annual Report for 1885*, it contains very little material relating to Lagos and should not be confused with C 5239, the *Lagos Annual Report for 1885*. Similarly, the *Annual Report for Southern Nigeria (Lagos) for 1905*, Cd 2684-53, the last in the Lagos series and in Group I of these microfilms, should not be confused with the *Annual Report for Southern Nigeria for 1905*, Cd 2684-58, which is included in Group II of the microfilms. Finally, a single combined *Annual Report* was presented for the years 1900 and 1901, though separate *Blue Books* for Lagos were submitted for 1900 and 1901, thus illustrating the divorce of the *Annual Reports* from the *Blue Books*.

The *Blue Books* were far more uniform in content and format. While new items were added to the list of categories, e.g. Postal Returns in 1868, Hospitals and Lunatic Asylums in 1870, and Criminal Statistics in 1875, most change was in the direction of an increase in the quantity and quality of the information provided, a generalisation applicable to the *Blue Books* throughout the colonial era. Some indication of the scope and contents of the *Blue Books* can be seen from the following list of subject headings:

Taxes, Duties and other sources of Revenue
Statements of Revenue and Expenditure
Expenditure on Public Works
Military Expenditure
The Public Debt
Legislation, Laws, and Proclamations
Civil Establishment, including names, ranks, and salaries
Population Statistics, Marriages, Births, and Deaths
Ecclesiastical Returns
Education
Import and Export Statistics
Agriculture; Cultivated and Uncultivated Land and Uses
Wages
Average Prices of Selected Staple Foodstuffs
Manufacturing, Mines, and Fisheries
Grants of Land
Gaols and Prisons
Meteorological Observations

Though the *Blue Books* for the years 1862 to 1878 and 1881 to 1883, inclusive, were not printed, they retain a uniformity of style since entries were made in ink upon printed forms which were then bound. Naturally these early manuscript *Blue Books* are extremely rare, having been copied by hand for limited distribution, and unfortunately no copy of the Lagos *Blue Book* for 1864 appears to have survived.⁷ In 1879 and 1880 the *Blue Books* were printed in Lagos, by "Jacob Sylvanus George, Government Printer", who also produced many of the *Blue Books* after that of 1885, when the annual *Blue Books* were consistently printed, generally in Lagos.

As for the *Lagos Government Gazette*, which commenced in 1881, it was the official journal of the colonial government, containing important judgments of the Lagos High Court, legislation and ordinances, appointments, postings, and promotions, and other public notices, as well as a wide range of miscellaneous detailed information, such as jury lists, monthly shipping intelligence, and "Simple Rules of Advice to Officers who have to go out in the sun to perform their duties". The issue for the 11th July, 1887, No. 7 of 1887, is a fascinating Extraordinary Jubilee Edition.

Group II of the microfilm series commences with the publications relating to the Niger Coast (Oil Rivers) Protectorate, something of an administrative anomaly since it came under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Office. In 1885, Her Majesty's Government had declared a protectorate over the "Niger Districts", a paper protectorate which included the line of coast between the Lagos Protectorate on the west and the west bank of the Rio del Rey on the east.⁸ On the 10th July, 1886, a Royal Charter was granted to the "National African Company", later renamed the "Royal Niger Company", empowering it with authority within a large part of the ill-defined territory of the Niger basin claimed by Britain.⁹ However, except for the irregular intervention of the British Consul for the Bights of Benin and Biafra,¹⁰ it was not until the appointment of Major Claude MacDonald as "Commissioner and Consul-General in the Oil Rivers Protectorate" in 1891 that an administrative organization for the coastal region came into being. A notice appeared in the *London Gazette* on the 13th May, 1893, changing the name of this latter territory to that of the "Niger Coast Protectorate". On the 1st April, 1899, the Foreign Office handed over control of the Niger Coast Protectorate to the Colonial Office and, on the 1st January, 1900, the Protectorate was amalgamated with part of the territory formerly administered by the Royal Niger Company to form the "Protectorate of Southern Nigeria". The greater part of the territory ostensibly under the control of the Royal Niger Company became the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria. As has already been noted, the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria absorbed the Colony and Protectorate of Lagos, on the 1st May, 1906. Finally, on the 1st January, 1914, the Colony and Protectorate of

⁷ The *Blue Book* for 1864 was submitted, as can be seen from Glover's *Annual Report* for 1864, however careful investigation has failed to locate a copy. The appropriate entry in the catalogue of the CO151 series at the Public Record Office, London, bears the notation "missing".

⁸ *London Gazette*, 5th June, 1885.

⁹ The National African Company (Royal Niger Company) was a private company exercising authority under a Royal Charter and its publications and records therefore fall outside the scope of this microfilm series. However two Command Papers, C 7977 and C 9372, relating to the Royal Niger Company are included. "Report by Sir John Kirk on the Disturbances at Brass" (1896), C 7977; "Papers relating to the Revocation of the Royal Niger Company's Charter and to the Government of the Niger Districts; Notes on the Niger Districts and Niger Coast Protectorate, 1882-1893; the Royal Charter of the National African Company; List of Treaties with Native Chiefs; Balance Sheets and Statements of Revenue and Expenditure, 1887-1898" (1899), C 9372.

¹⁰ See Command Paper C 5365, "Papers relating to King Jaja of Opobo and the opening of the West African Market to British Trade" (1888), C 5365

Southern Nigeria was amalgamated with the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria to form the "Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria".

The publications relating to the Niger Coast (Oil Rivers) Protectorate differ from those of the other colonial administrations as a result of its having been under the Foreign Office for most of its existence. Instead of the usual *Annual Reports*, there is a series of *Diplomatic and Consular Reports on Trade and Finance*, covering the years 1891 to 1895/6, which overlap and mesh with a series of *Reports on the Administration of the Niger Coast Protectorate*, both series being published as Command Papers. Command Paper C 8277-52 bears the hybrid title *Diplomatic and Consular Report on Trade and Finance, Africa: Report for the Year 1895/6 on the Administration of the Niger Coast Protectorate*. Only the last of the series of reports, that for the year 1898/9, bears the more familiar title *Annual Report*.

The *Diplomatic and Consular Reports* tend to focus on trade, rather than administration. However, Major MacDonald's *Report on the Administration of the Niger Coast Protectorate, August 1891 - August 1894*, (1895) C 7596, provides a summary covering this earlier period. MacDonald's *Report on the Administration of the Niger Coast Protectorate, 1894/5*, (1895) C 7916, is also of particular interest since it is composed of a number of signed departmental reports with covering notes by MacDonald, unlike the usual compilation by a Governor or High Commissioner.

The *Blue Books* for the Niger Coast Protectorate, four volumes covering the years 1896/7 to 1899/1900, are of the standard type, being on Colonial Office forms with the words "Colony of" crossed out. There were no *Blue Books* for the Oil Rivers Protectorate, though some relevant information of the type normally found in the *Blue Books*, particularly on matters relating to trade, can be found in the *Diplomatic and Consular Reports*. Moreover, no *Government Gazette* was published by the Niger Coast (Oil Rivers) Protectorate. Finally, in addition to those Command Papers relating to the Royal Niger Company, three Command Papers relating to important events in the history of the Protectorate have been included.¹¹

The *Annual Reports and Blue Books* for Southern Nigeria require little special comment, other than to note that there was an *Annual Report for 1899/1900*, Cd.431-7, covering the period from the assumption of Colonial Office authority, as well as an *Annual Report for 1900*, Cd.788-23, and to reiterate that the *Annual Report for Southern Nigeria for 1905*, Cd.2684-58, should not be confused with the *Annual Report for Southern Nigeria (Lagos) for 1905*, Cd.2684-53, the latter being included in Group I of the microfilm series. However the relevant *Government Gazettes* did undergo alterations. From 1900 until the final "Extraordinary Government Gazette" of 1st May, 1906, it was the *Government Gazette for the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria (Calabar)*. After the amalgamation with Lagos, the title changed to the *Southern Nigeria Government Gazette*.

The *Annual Reports, Blue Books, and Government Gazette* for Northern Nigeria, which form the third sub-section of Group II of the microfilm series, are of the standard format. On the other

¹¹ "Correspondence respecting the Disturbances in Benin and the operations against the Chief Nanna, 1894" (1895), C 7638; "Papers relating to the Massacre of British Officials near Benin and the Consequent Punitive Expedition" (1898), C 8677; "Further Correspondence relating to the Benin Territories Expedition in 1897" (1899), C 9529.

hand, the first High Commissioner for Northern Nigeria, Sir Frederick Dealtry Lugard, was far more effective than most at using the *Annual Reports* to convey his own views on a wide range of issues and they bear the stamp of his personality. This section also includes four Command Papers on correspondence relating to the Kano Campaign,¹² Lugard's Memorandum on Taxation,¹³ correspondence relating to the Munshi Campaign and the Satiru Rising,¹⁴ and Lugard's monumental Amalgamation Report.¹⁵

Group III of the series covers the heyday of colonial rule in Nigeria, from 1914 to 1939. In addition to the *Annual Reports*, *Blue Books* and *Government Gazette*, this section includes a series of publications variously known as the *Nigerian Trade Statistical Abstract* and *Nigerian Trade Report*, as well as the famous Command Paper Cmd 3784, relating to the 1929 disturbances in Eastern Nigeria.¹⁶ There are relatively few anomalies worthy of note. During the First World War years of 1916, 1917 and 1918, the relevant *Blue Books* were drastically reduced in volume, with a large number of topics being omitted.¹⁷ Two interesting additions to the *Blue Books* were the inclusion of information on Port and Harbours in 1920 and on Air Service in 1936. One of the impacts of the Second World War, at the end of the period, was the discontinuation of the publication of the *Annual Reports*. No *Annual Report for 1939* appeared.

Group IV covers the period from 1940 to independence, the period of decolonisation. In 1946, the *Blue Book*, which had weathered the war years, disappeared, while the *Annual Reports* re-emerged in a revised and enlarged form which incorporated much of the material formerly contained in the *Blue Books* and which contained a new "public relations" aspect, with emphasis on "colonial development". An increasingly regional focus led to the discontinuation of these *Annual Reports for Nigeria* in 1955. The *Government Gazette*, however, continued to appear throughout the period to independence.

One of the major themes of this final period was the constitutional developments which occurred in response to the growth of Nigerian nationalist consciousness. The series of eleven Command Papers relating to this theme have therefore been included on Reel 177.

¹² "Correspondence relating to Kano" (1903), Cd 1433.

¹³ "Memorandum of the Taxation of Natives in Northern Nigeria" (1907), Cd 3309.

¹⁴ "Correspondence relating to Sokoto, Hadeiga and the Munshi Country" (1907), Cd 3620.

¹⁵ "Report by Sir Frederick Lugard on the Amalgamation of Northern and Southern Nigeria and Administration, 1912-1919" (1919), Cmd 468.

¹⁶ "Disturbances in 1929 - Despatches from the Secretary of State to the Officer Administering the Government of Nigeria regarding the Report of the Commission of Enquiry into the Disturbances at Aba and other places in South Eastern Nigeria in November and December, 1929" (1930/1), Cmd 3784.

¹⁷ The *Blue Books* were reduced from a non-wartime average of approximately five hundred pages to around one-hundred and twenty-five pages during these war years.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO NIGERIA 1862 - 1960

INDEX TO THE MICROFILMS

Group I: Lagos Colony and Protectorate 1862 - 1906

Reel 1 Annual Reports 1862 - 1882, 1885 - 1905

The Report for 1870 consists merely of a notice stating that the Annual Report for 1870 had not been received. It would appear that no Annual Reports were submitted for the years 1883 - 1884. From 1874 - 1886 the administrations of Lagos and the Gold Coast were merged under the authority of the Governor at Cape Coast Castle in the Gold Coast. However, there is no material relating to Lagos in the Gold Coast Reports. A "Gold Coast and Lagos" Report for 1885 was submitted but it contains nothing concerning Lagos and should not be confused with the Lagos Annual Report for 1885.

Miscellaneous Additional Command Papers:

- 1445 Papers relative to the Reduction of Lagos (1852)
- 2982 Papers relating to the Occupation of Lagos (1862)
- 3003 Additional papers relating to the Occupation of Lagos (1862)
- 3523 Papers relating to the War among the Native Tribes in the Neighbourhood of Lagos (1865)
- C 4957 Correspondence respecting the War between Native Tribes in the Interior and Negotiations for Peace conducted by the Government of Lagos (1887)
- C 5144 Further correspondence respecting the War between the Native Tribes in the Interior and the Negotiations for Peace conducted by the Government of Lagos (1887)
- C 5249-33 Report of the Resources and Conditions of the Western District of Lagos (1888)
- C 7227 Dispatches from Sir Gilbert T. Carter, furnishing the report of the Lagos Interior Expedition of 1893, with the reply of the Secretary of State (1893/4)

Reel 2 Blue Books 1862 - 1863, 1865-1868

Reel 3 Blue Books 1869 - 1871

Reel 4 Blue Books 1872 - 1874

Reel 5 Blue Books 1875 - 1880

Reel 6 Blue Books 1881 - 1886

Reel 7 Blue Books 1887 - 1898

Reel 8	Blue Books	1899 - 1905
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With the exception of the Blue Books for 1879 and 1880, Lagos Blue Books were not printed, as such, before 1884. Information was entered in ink by hand on printed forms supplied by the Colonial Office. In format, therefore, they have the consistency of printed documents, yet entries are in pen and ink, hence their manuscript quality. Because the Lagos Blue Books before 1884 were hand copied, distribution was extremely limited.

No Lagos Blue Book for 1864 exists. After 1905 information regarding Lagos was included in the Blue Books for Southern Nigeria.

Reel 9	Government Gazettes	1887 - 1888
Reel 10	Government Gazettes	1889 - 1890
Reel 11	Government Gazettes	1891 - 1892
Reel 12	Government Gazettes	1893 - 1894
Reel 13	Government Gazettes	1895 - 1896
Reel 14	Government Gazettes	1897 - 1898
Reel 15	Government Gazettes	1899 - 1900
Reel 16	Government Gazettes	1901 - 1902
Reel 17	Government Gazettes	1903 - 1904
Reel 18	Government Gazettes	1905
Reel 19	Government Gazettes	1906 (Jan to April only)

Group IIA: Niger Coast (Oil Rivers) Protectorate 1891 - 1899

Reel 20	Annual Reports on Trade and Administration
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Though the British government declared a Protectorate over the "Niger Districts " in 1885 by a notification in the London Gazette on 5th June 1885 it was not until the appointment of Major Claude MacDonald as Consul-General and Commissioner in 1891 that the administration began to assume the bureaucratic attributes of a structured organisation, the territory being referred to as the "Oil Rivers Protectorate". On the 13th May 1893 a notice appeared in the London Gazette changing the name to the "Niger Coast Protectorate".

In 1899 the administrative jurisdiction for the Niger Coast Protectorate was transferred from the Foreign Office to the Colonial Office, whereupon the name was again changed, this time to the "Protectorate of Southern Nigeria". At the same time the territorial limits were extended by the incorporation of the area south of Iddah on the Niver River which had formerly been administered by the Royal Niger Company under a royal charter.

- C 6550-125 Foreign Office Annual Series 1063, 1892. Diplomatic and Consular Report on Trade and Finance; Africa. Report for the year 1891 on the Trade of the Oil Rivers Protectorate (Old Calabar)
- C 6855-31 Foreign Office Annual Series 1144, 1892. Diplomatic and Consular Report on Trade and Finance, Africa; Report for the year 1891/92 on the Trade of the Oil Rivers Protectorate (Old Calabar)
- C 6855-102 Foreign Office Annual Series 1215, 1893. Diplomatic and Consular Report on Trade and Finance; Africa. Further Report for the year 1892 on the Trade of the Oil Rivers Protectorate (Old Calabar)
- C 7828-35 Foreign Office Annual Series 1618, 1895. Diplomatic and Consular Report on Trade and Finance; Africa. Report for the year 1894 on the Trade of the Niger Coast Protectorate
- C 7916 Africa, No. 9 (1895). Report on the Administration of the Niger Coast Protectorate, 1894 - 1895
- C 8277-52 Foreign Office Annual Series 1834, 1897. Diplomatic and Consular Report on Trade and Finance; Africa. Report for the year 1895/6 of the Administration of the Niger Coast Protectorate
- C 7596 Africa, No. 1 (1895). Report on the Administration of the Niger Coast Protectorate, August 1891 - August 1894
- C 8775 Africa, No. 3 (1898). Annual Report on the Niger Coast Protectorate, 1896 - 1897
- C 9124 Africa, No. 2 (1899). Annual Report on the Niger Coast Protectorate, 1897 - 1898
- Cd 3-12 Annual Report on the Niger Coast Protectorate, 1898 - 1899

Blue Book 1896/7

Reel 21 Blue Books 1897/8 - 1898/9

Reel 22 Blue Book 1899/1900

Miscellaneous Additional Command Papers:

- C 5365 Papers relating to King Jaja of Opobo and the opening of the West African Market to British Trade (1888)
- C 7638 Africa, No. 3 (1895). Correspondence respecting the Disturbances in Benin and the operations against the chief Nanna (1894)
- C 7977 Report by Sir John Kirk on the Disturbances at Brass (1896)

- C 8677 Papers relating to the Massacre of British Officials near Benin and the Consequent Punitive Expedition (1898)
- C 9529 Further Correspondence relating to the Benin Territories Expedition in 1899
- C 93 72 Papers relating to the Revocation of the Royal Niger Company's Charter and to the Government of the Niger Districts; Notes on the Niger Districts and Niger Coast Protectorate, 1882 - 1893; the Royal Charter of the National African Company; Lists of Treaties with Native Chiefs; Balance Sheets and Statements of Revenue and Expenditure, 1887 - 1898

Extensive research has failed to reveal a single copy of a Government Gazette for the Niger Coast Protectorate. None is listed in the Public Record Office's catalogue and there are no references to such in other relevant sources. One can only conclude that, if a Government Gazette for the Niger Coast Protectorate was printed, no copies appear to have survived.

Group IIB: Protectorate of Southern Nigeria 1899 - 1913

The Protectorate of Southern Nigeria was created in 1899 from the territory formerly known as the Niger Coast Protectorate and part of the territory formerly administered by the Royal Niger Company. In 1906 it absorbed the Colony and Protectorate of Lagos, only to be amalgamated in 1914 with the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria to form the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria.

Reel 23	Annual Reports Blue Book	1899/1900 - 1913 1900
Reel 24	Blue Books	1901 - 1902
Reel 25	Blue Books	1903 - 1904
Reel 26	Blue Book	1905
Reel 27	Blue Books	1906 - 1907
Reel 28	Blue Book	1908
Reel 29	Blue Book	1909
Reel 30	Blue Book	1910
Reel 31	Blue Book	1911
Reel 32	Blue Books	1912 - 1913

After 1913, information pertaining to Southern Nigeria is to be found in the Blue Books for Nigeria.

Reel 33	Government Gazettes plus Customs Statistics June to November 1901	1900 - 1901
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Reel 34	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1902 - 1903
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These Gazettes often included Supplements, and occasionally an Extraordinary Gazette was issued, the pages of which were numbered in a different sequence to that of the main body of the Gazette. Consequently the pagination in these reels of film is not continuous, but the publications are kept in strict chronological order.

Reel 35	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1904 - 1905
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Reel 36	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1906
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Until 1906, the Southern Nigeria Gazette was published in Calabar, but from 1907 onwards it was published in Lagos.

In 1906 the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria absorbed the Colony and Protectorate of Lagos and its headquarters were moved from Calabar to Lagos.

Reel 37	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1907 Jan - June
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Reel 38	Government Gazettes and Supplements plus Southern Nigeria Financial Report for 1907	1907 July - Dec
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Reel 39	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1908 Jan - June
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Reel 40	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1908 July - Dec
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Reel 41	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1909 Jan - June
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Reel 42	Government Gazettes and Supplements plus Southern Nigeria Financial Report for 1908 (this appears after Gazette No. 62)	1909 July - Dec
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Reel 43	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1910 Jan - June
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Reel 44	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1910 July - Dec
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Reel 45	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1911 Jan - June
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Reel 46	Government Gazettes and Supplements plus Southern Nigeria Financial Report for 1910 (this appears after Gazette No. 91)	1911 July - Dec
Reel 47	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1912 Jan - April
Reel 48	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1912 May - Aug
Reel 49	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1912 Sept - Dec
Reel 50	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1913 Jan - June
Reel 51	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1913 July - Dec

Group IIC: Protectorate of Northern Nigeria 1900 - 1913

Reel 52	Annual Reports	1900 - 1913
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Miscellaneous Additional Command Papers:

Cd 1433	Northern Nigeria; Correspondence relating to Kano (1903)
Cd 3309	Northern Nigeria; Memorandum on the Taxation of Natives in Northern Nigeria (1907)
Cd 3620	Northern Nigeria; Correspondence relating to Sokoto, Hadeija and the Munshi Country (1907)
Cd 468	Report by Sir Frederick Lugard on the Amalgamation of Northern and Southern Nigeria and Administration, 1912 - 1919

Blue Books	1900 - 1901
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Reel 53	Blue Books	1902 - 1906
Reel 54	Blue Books	1907 - 1910
Reel 55	Blue Books	1911 - 1913

After 1913 information pertaining to Northern Nigeria is to be found in the Blue Books for Nigeria.

Reel 56	Government Gazettes	1900 - 1905
Reel 57	Government Gazettes	1906 - 1909
Reel 58	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1910 - 1911

Reel 59	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1912 - 1913
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Group III: Nigeria 1914 - 1939

Reel 60	Annual Reports	1914 - 1938
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From 1939 - 1945 no Nigeria Annual Reports were published for reasons of wartime economy.

Reel 61	Blue Book	1914
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Reel 62	Blue Books	1915 - 1918
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Reel 63	Blue Books	1919 - 1920
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Reel 64	Blue Books	1921 - 1923
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Reel 65	Blue Books	1924 - 1925
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Reel 67	Blue Books	1928 - 1929
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Reel 68	Blue Books	1930 - 1931
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Reel 69	Blue Books	1932 - 1933
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Reel 70	Blue Books	1934 - 1935
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Reel 71	Blue Books	1936 - 1937
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Reel 72	Blue Books	1938 - 1939
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Reel 73	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1914 Jan - April
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Reel 74	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1914 May - Aug
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Reel 75	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1914 Sept - Dec
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Reel 76	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1915 Jan - June
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Reel 77	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1915 July - Dec
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Reel 78	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1916 Jan - April
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Reel 79	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1916 May - Aug
Reel 80	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1916 Sept - Dec
Reel 81	Government Gazettes Supplements	1917 Jan - Dec 1917 Jan - June
Reel 82	Supplements	1917 July - Dec
Reel 83	Government Gazettes Supplements	1918 Jan - Dec 1918 Jan - Dec
Reel 84	Government Gazettes Supplements	1919 Jan - Dec 1919 Jan - Dec
Reel 85	Government Gazettes Supplements	1920 Jan - Dec 1920 Jan - Dec
Reel 86	Government Gazettes Supplements	1921 Jan - Dec 1921 Jan - Dec
Reel 87	Government Gazettes	1922 Jan - Dec
Reel 88	Supplements	1922 Jan - Dec
Reel 89	Government Gazettes	1923 Jan - Dec
Reel 90	Supplements	1923 Jan - Dec
Reel 91	Government Gazettes Supplements	1924 Jan - Dec 1924 Jan - June
Reel 92	Supplements	1924 July - Dec
Reel 93	Government Gazettes	1925 Jan - Dec
Reel 94	Supplements	1925 Jan - Dec
Reel 95	Government Gazettes	1926 Jan - Dec
Reel 96	Supplements	1926 Jan - Dec
Reel 97	Government Gazettes	1927 Jan - Dec
Reel 98	Supplements	1927 Jan - June

Reel 99	Supplements	1927 July - Dec
Reel 100	Government Gazettes	1928 Jan - Dec
Reel 101	Supplements	1928 Jan - June
Reel 102	Supplements	1928 July - Dec
Reel 103	Government Gazettes	1929 Jan - Dec
Reel 104	Supplements	1929 Jan - June
Reel 105	Supplements	1929 July - Dec
Reel 106	Government Gazettes	1930 Jan - Dec
Reel 107	Supplements	1930 Jan - June
Reel 108	Supplements	1930 July - Dec
Reel 109	Government Gazettes	1931 Jan - Dec
Reel 110	Supplements	1931 Jan - Dec
Reel 111	Supplements	1931 July - Dec
Reel 112	Government Gazettes	1932 Jan - Dec
Reel 113	Supplements	1932 Jan - Dec
Reel 114	Government Gazettes	1933 Jan - Dec
Reel 115	Supplements	1933 Jan - June
Reel 116	Supplements	1933 July - Dec
Reel 117	Government Gazettes	1934 Jan - Dec
Reel 118	Supplements	1934 Jan - June
Reel 119	Supplements	1934 July - Dec
Reel 120	Government Gazettes	1935 Jan - Dec
Reel 121	Supplements	1935 Jan - Dec

Reel 122	Government Gazette	1936 Jan - Dec
Reel 123	Supplements	1936 Jan - Dec
Reel 124	Government Gazette	1937 Jan - Dec
Reel 125	Supplements	1937 Jan - Dec
Reel 126	Government Gazette	1938 Jan - Dec
Reel 127	Supplements	1938 Jan - Dec
Reel 128	Government Gazette	1939 Jan - Sept 7 th
Reel 129	Supplements	1939 Jan - Sept (No. 56)
Reel 130	Government Gazette and Supplements	1939 Sept 9 th - Dec
Reel 131A	Miscellaneous Additional Trade Statistics	1913 - 1916
Reel 131B	Nigeria Trade Statistical Abstracts	1917 - 1920
Reel 132	Annual Reports on the Customs Department of Nigeria	1921 - 1925
Reel 133	Annual Reports on the Customs Department of Nigeria	1926 - 1930
Reel 134	Nigeria Trade Reports	1931 - 1934
Reel 135	Nigeria Trade Reports	1935 - 1939

Miscellaneous Additional Command Papers:

Cmd 3784 Disturbances in 1929 - Despatches from the Secretary of State to the Officer Administering the Government of Nigeria regarding Reports of the Commission of Enquiry into the Disturbances at Aba and other places in South Eastern Nigeria in November and December 1929 (1930 - 1931)

Group IV: Nigeria 1940 - 1960

Reel 136	Annual Reports	1946 - 1955
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As a wartime economy, no annual reports were published during the years 1939 - 1945. No Annual Reports for Nigeria were published after 1955. From 1956 onwards the Regions each produced their own Annual Report, an apt reflection of the regionalisation of Nigerian polity.

Reel 137	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1940 Jan - June
Reel 138	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1940 July - Dec
Reel 139	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1941 Jan - June
Reel 140	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1941 July - Dec
Reel 141	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1942 Jan - June
Reel 142	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1942 July - Dec
Reel 143	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1943 Jan - June
Reel 144	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1943 July - Dec
Reel 145	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1944 Jan - June
Reel 146	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1944 July - Dec
Reel 147	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1945 Jan - June
Reel 148	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1945 July - Dec
Reel 149	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1946 Jan - June
Reel 150	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1946 July - Dec
Reel 151	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1947 Jan - June
Reel 152	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1947 July - Dec
Reel 153	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1948 Jan - June
Reel 154	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1948 July - Dec
Reel 155	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1949 Jan - June
Reel 156	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1949 July - Dec
Reel 157	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1950 Jan - June
Reel 158	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1950 July - Dec
Reel 159	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1951 Jan - June

Reel 160	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1951 July - Dec
Reel 161	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1952 Jan - June
Reel 162	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1952 July - Dec
Reel 163	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1953 Jan - June
Reel 164	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1953 July - Dec
Reel 165	Government Gazettes	1954 Jan - Dec
Reel 166	Supplements	1954 Jan - Dec
Reel 167	Government Gazettes	1955 Jan - Dec
Reel 168	Supplements	1955 Jan - Dec
Reel 169	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1956 Jan - June
Reel 170	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1956 July - Dec
Reel 171	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1957 Jan - Dec
Reel 172	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1958 Jan - June
Reel 173	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1958 July - Dec
Reel 174	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1959 Jan - June
Reel 175	Government Gazettes and Supplements	1959 July - Dec
Reel 176	Blue Books	1940-1945

The last two Blue Books in the series and attenuated volumes covering the periods 1943 - 1944 and 1944 - 1945, respectively.

Reel 177 Miscellaneous Additional Command Papers:

- Cmd 6599 Nigeria: Proposals for the Revision of the Constitution (1945)
- Cmd 8934 Report of the Conference on the Nigerian Constitution, London, July and August 1953 (1953)
- Cmd 9026 Nigeria: Report of the Fiscal Commission on the Financial Effects of the Proposed New Constitutional Arrangements, Lagos, December 8th 1953 (1953)

- Cmd 9059 Nigeria: Report of the Resumed Conference on the Nigerian Constitution (Chairman: Rt. Hon. O. Lyttleton, MP) held in January and February 1954, in Lagos (1954)
- Cmnd 51 Nigeria: Report of the Tribunal appointed to enquire into allegations reflecting on the Official Conduct of the Premier of, and certain Persons holding Ministerial and other Public Offices in the Eastern Region of Nigeria (Chairman: Sir Stafford Foster-Sutton, KCMG, OBE) December 20th 1956
- Cmnd 207 Nigeria: Report of the Nigerian Constitutional Conference (Chairman: Rt. Hon. Alan Lennox-Boyd, MP) held in London in May and June 1957 (1957)
- Cmnd 481 Nigeria: Report of the Fiscal Commission (Chairman: J. Raisman) June 24th 1958 (1958)
- Cmnd 505 Nigeria: Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the Fears of Minorities and Means of Allaying Them. (Chairman: H. Willink) July 30th 1958 (1958)
- Cmnd 569 Nigeria: Report of the Resumed Nigerian Constitutional Conference (Chairman: Rt. Hon. Alan Lennox-Boyd, MP) held in London in September and October 1958 (1958)
- Cmnd 1063 Nigeria: Constitutional Discussions held in London, May 1960 (1960)
- Cmnd 1214 Federation of Nigeria: International Rights and Obligations; Exchange of letters between the Federation of Nigeria and the Government of the United Kingdom (1960)

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