Government Publications relating to Africa in Microform

ANNUAL DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS RELATING TO THE GOLD COAST AND BRITISH TOGOLAND 1843-1956

Introduction by
D.C. Dorward, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
Senior Lecturer in African History
La Trobe University
Melbourne, Australia

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The Annual Departmental Reports relating to the Gold Coast and British Togoland are a complementary series to the earlier microform collection of Blue Books and Government Gazettes, titled Government Publications relating to the Gold Coast (EP Microform, 1974). For the purpose of organization the present collection has been divided under ten headings: Administration (including the Annual Report of the governor), Finance, Judicial and Police, Natural Resources, Social Services, Transport and Public Works, Communications and Post Office Savings Bank, Commerce, Miscellaneous material relating to the Gold Coast, and finally the Annual Report for British Togo. Within each section, departmental series have been organized on chronological principles, prefaced by selected extraordinary and sessional papers of particular relevance, and followed by the reports of subsidiary branches and departments. Specific bibliographic and historical information relating to discrete series, as well as more complete explanations of the functions and activities of departments where titles are not self-explanatory are provided in the detailed departmental lists below.

British policy toward the administration of the Gold Coast and official responsibility for the British commercial enclaves on the coast vacillated throughout much of the nineteenth century. In one of its periodic assertive moods, the Crown declared its authority over the British settlements on the coast, in 1843. In addition, Britain claimed certain jurisdictional rights under treaties with a number of indigenous coastal states, the so-called 'protected territoroes'. The forts, settlements and protected territories were under the administration of a Lieutenant Governor, who was responsible to the Governor-General for West Africa resident in Sierra Leone. However the arrangement proved impractical due to the distance and poor communications. Consequently the Gold Coast was declared a separate colony in 1850, only to have the situation reversed fifteen years later. Under the recommendations of the Parliamentary Select Committee of 1865, it was envisaged that Britain would eventually abandon all her West African possessions, with the possible exception of Sierra Leone. Once again the Gold Coast administration was placed under the authority of the Governor of Sierra Leone. Yet centralized control still proved unworkable, despite faster and more reliable steamship communications. In 1874 the Gold Coast, together with Lagos Colony, were detached from Sierra Leone and the Gambia and constituted a separate dependency. The coastal forts and settlements formed the 'colony' of the Gold Coast, wherein the citizenry were British subjects accountable under British Law, while the remaining treaty territories were formally declared a 'Protectorate', the indigenous population being 'protected persons'. This distinction was retained even after the Gold Coast was separated from Lagos in 1886. It was not abandoned until 1895 when the whole of the coastal territory under British sovereignty was declared a 'colony'.

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Meanwhile British activities on the Gold Coast had brought them into conflict with the indigenous hinterland Asante Confederacy, resulting in a series of British-Asante wars. In 1896 the British accused the Asante monarch, Prempeh, of violating an Anglo-Asante treaty of 1874 and British troops occupied Kumasi, the capital of the Confederacy. Britain formally declared its sovereignty over Asante (or Ashanti as it was called), Prempeh and several of his leading chiefs were exiled to the Seychelles and a huge indemnity imposed upon the Asante. It was an uneasy peace, ruptured by the provocative actions of the Governor, Sir Frederick Hodson, who informed the Asante in 1900 that their monarch would not be restored, that an annual tribute was to be imposed, and that the Golden Stool, the symbol of Asante nationhood, was to be surrendered to the Governor. The ensuing rebellion was crushed, though not without the mobilization of considerable colonial forces from elsewhere in British West Africa. By an Order in Council of 1901, Ashanti was annexed outright as a colony by conquest. At the same time the area north of Ashanti was annexed as the Protectorate of the Northern Territories. Overall authority for the two additional dependencies was vested in the Governor of the Gold Coast, who submitted an Annual Report for Ashanti and an Annual Report for the Northern Territories, commencing in 1897 and 1901, respectively.

Finally, with the outbreak of war with Germany in 1914, Anglo-French military forces invaded German Togo, conquering it within three weeks. The victorious powers partitioned the German colony, a territorial arrangement ratified by the League of Nations under the 'mandate' system. Though administered more-or-less as an adjunct of the Gold Coast Colony, under the mandate system, Britain, and thus the Governor of the Gold Coast, was required to submit an Annual Report to the League, not dissimilar in nature and content to that of a colonial governor's annual report to Parliament. (See introduction to Part X, British Togoland, below).

With the notable exception of the Medical and Sanitary Department, until the 1890s most of the information relating to the various government departments was incorporated into the governor's Annual Report. However with the proliferation of departments, their activities could no longer but subsumed under a single general report. Moreover, once departments began to issue their own annual reports, it became possible to include a wealth of detailed and often highly specialised technical information. Much of the data contained is generally available from any other sources, the correspondence and reports upon which the annual departmental reports were based not being readily accessible.

GROUP I

ADMINISTRATION

Until the 1890s, most of the information relating to the various government departments was incorporated into the Governor's Annual Report for submission to Parliament, a series which stemmed from the recommendations of the 1845 House of Commons' Select Committee on Colonial Accounts. The first Annual Report for the Gold Coast was that of 1846, the commencement of a series which continued with minor interruptions until 1954.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reel</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gold Coast</td>
<td>1846-1881</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>1867-1871</td>
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<td>1888-1899</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Gold Coast</td>
<td>1900-1918</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Gold Coast</td>
<td>1919-1931/32</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Gold Coast</td>
<td>1932/33-1938/39</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Gold Coast</td>
<td>1946-1949</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Gold Coast</td>
<td>1950-1954</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In addition a separate series, identical in form and content to Annual Report for the Gold Coast, were produced for both Ashanti and the Northern Territories.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reel</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ashanti</td>
<td>1897-1899</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1901-1928/29</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ashanti</td>
<td>1929/30-1930/31</td>
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<td>1933/34-1934/35</td>
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<td>1936/37-1938/39</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Northern Terr</td>
<td>1901-1929/30</td>
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<td>Northern Terr</td>
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<td>1933/34-1934/35</td>
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<td>1936/37-1937/38</td>
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</table>

In contrast to the wide ranging reports of the governor, there were the more parochial and narrowly administrative reports of the Provincial Commissioners. Intended primarily for the information of the governor, they were printed from 1912 to 1930/31 and thereafter submitted in typescript. Unfortunately no reports from the Gold Coast Colony Provincial Commissioners for 1917 have been located.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reel</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Central Province of the Gold Coast</td>
<td>1912-1916</td>
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<td>1918-1930/31</td>
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<td>1933/34-1934/35</td>
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<td>1936/37-1938/39</td>
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<td>Eastern Province of the Gold Coast</td>
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<td>1918-1930/31</td>
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<td>1936/37-1938/39</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Western Province of the Gold Coast</td>
<td>1912-1916</td>
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<td>1918-1930/31</td>
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<td>1933/34-1934/35</td>
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<td>1936/37-1938/39</td>
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</table>
Native Affairs:

The Department was formed in March 1902 as a branch of the Colonial Secretary's Office, "...the intention being to secure greater continuity in the Administration of Native Affairs and to collect more complete records with regards to them than has previously been possible".

See also Reports of the Special Commissioner for Anthropology, under Section IX, Miscellaneous.

Reel 14  Native Affairs  1903-1926/27

The Gold Coast also contained a number of major municipalities, e.g. Accra, Cape Coast, Sekondi, etc., whose finances and activities were duly recorded in Annual Reports.

Reel 15  Municipal Annual Reports  1918-1930/31

Reel 15  Municipal Annual Reports  1934/35-1938/39

Reel 15  Municipal Annual Reports  1944/45-1948/49

Finally, the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony was assisted by an advisory Legislative Council, whose sessions were opened by an Address from the Governor which often contained major official policy statements. See also the appended Review by Sir Frederick Gordon Guggisburg.

Reel 16  Governor's Addresses on the Opening of the Legislative Council  1929-1941

Reel 17  Governor's Addresses on the Opening of the Legislative Council  1943-1950

Sir Frederick Gordon Guggisburg, The Gold Coast; a Review of the Events of 1920-1926 and the Prospects of 1927-1928

GROUP II  FINANCE

Dependencies were expected to be self-supporting, albeit accountable to and under the supervision of the Colonial Office. The Audit, Estimates and other financial reports provide a wealth of information on the sources of revenue and allocation of resources by and within the Colonial Government.

Accounts:

Reel 18  Treasurer's Report  1895-1918

Reel 19  Treasurer's Report  1919-1930/31

Reel 20  Treasurer's Report  1931/32-1936/37

Superseded by Accountant-General's Report on Finance and Accounts  1937/38-1944/45
Reel 21
Public Accounts Committee of the Legislative Council 1951/52-1955/56
General Deposit Accounts, Statement of Outstanding Miscellaneous Deposit Accounts as of... 1950-1953

Audit:
Reel 22
Audit 1902-1946/47
Director of Audit 1947/48-1952/53
Auditor-General 1953/54-1955/56
Memorandum by Minister of Finance to Audit 1950/51

Reel 23
Audit - Railway and Takoradi Harbour 1946/47-1955/56
Despatches relating to the Separation of the Accounts of the Gold Coast Railway from that of the Colony (SF 1/1946)

Finance:
Financial Statement 1953/54-1955/56
Income Tax 1944/45-1955/56
Revenue and Expenditure of Local Governments in the Colony, Ashanti and Northern Territories 1948/49
Local Government Finance 1949/50-1951

Reel 24
Estimates 1900-1908
Reel 25
Estimates 1933/34-1939/40
Reel 26
Estimates 1940/41-1944/45
Reel 27
Estimates 1945/46-1949/50
Reel 28
Estimates 1950/51-1951/52
Reel 29
Estimates 1952/53-1953/54
Reel 30
Estimates 1954/55-1955/56
Reel 31
Despatches of the Secretary of State for the Estimates
Select Committee on Estimates 1933/34-1939/40, 1933/34-1950/51
Reel 32
Estimates of Gold Coast Railway 1945/46-1951/52
GROUP III JUDICIAL AND POLICE

The maintenance of 'law and order' was regarded by the British colonial government as one of its principal functions.

See also Reports on the Gold Coast Volunteer Riflemen, 1895-1907 under Group IX, Miscellaneous.

Judiciary:

Reel 33 Accra District Commissioner's Court 1895
Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court 1895-1938/39
Judiciary, Northern Territories and Ashanti 1928/29-1932/33

Police:

The sub-section is prefaced by:

Reel 34 W.H. Gillespie, The Gold Coast Police 1844-1939
Constabulary 1895-1899
Police 1895-1937/38
1950

Prisons:

The sub-section is prefaced by:

Reel 35 Report of the Principal Probation Officer, Department of Social Welfare and Housing 1947
Prisons 1895-1931/32

Reel 36 Prisons 1932/33-1946/47
Treatment of Offenders 1947/48-1955/56
Committee on Prisons 1951

GROUP IV NATURAL RESOURCES

Agriculture:

While the Gold Coast had a significant mining sector, agriculture remained the mainstay of the export economy, as well as the basis of the domestic economy. In terms of export volume and value, the most important export of the Gold Coast was cocoa. The agriculture sub-section is prefaced by a number of special reports relating to agriculture:

Reel 37 Economic Agriculture on the Gold Coast (C. 5897-40) 1889
Further Report on the Economic Agriculture on the Gold Coast (C. 6270) 1889
W.H. Johnson, Report on Cocoa and Cola Industries on the Gold Coast 1906
C.Y. Shepard, Report on the Economics of Peasant Agriculture in the Gold Coast (SP 1/1936) 1890-1894
Aburi Botanic Station 1895-1902
Forestry:

British efforts to exert control over land and forests in the Gold Coast met with stiff African opposition. Moreover the situation was exacerbated on the British side by the attitude of H.N. "Timber" Thompson, Conservator of Forests in Southern Nigeria and adviser to the Gold Coast government, upon whose recommendations the Forestry Department was established, in 1899. Thompson tended to regard African interests in forest areas as at best an unfortunate impediment to good forest management.

"Owing to the European war and the consequent depletion of the Forest staff, the Department was closed down from 1 January 1916 to November 1919". (Forestry Department Annual Report, 1920)

Fisheries:

The Gold Coast had a major indigenous fishing industry servicing the domestic market, however it was not until the 1940s that serious consideration was taken of the possibility of fisheries development.
Veterinary/Animal Health:

Reel 46  Veterinary  1909-1929/30
Animal Health  1930/31-1934/35
Game Department  1950/51-1951/52

Geological Survey:

Reel 47  Memorandum by Sir Albert Kitson on the  1913-1930
operations of the Geological Survey  1913/14-1955/56
Department (SP 22/1930-1)
Geological Survey

Reel 48  Geological Survey Bulletins (irregular) Nos. 1-17

Reel 49  Geological Survey Bulletins (irregular) Nos. 18-22  1919
Geological Survey Memoirs (irregular)  Nos. 1-9

Mines Survey:

On the termination of the mines survey, a small Survey Department was formed. Though closed at the beginning of the First World War, it was resuscitated in 1919.

Reel 50  Mines Survey  1901-1907
Survey  1908-1913
1919-1938/39

Reel 51  Survey Records  Vols. 1-6  1925, 1926
Survey Departmental Notes Nos. 1, 2

Land:

For an account of British efforts to impose a Land Ordinance for the Gold Coast and African opposition, see David Kimble, A Political History of Ghana (Oxford, 1965). The Department was established in 1927 from the Land Branch of the Survey Department.

Land  1927/28-1938/39
1951-1954/55

GROUP V  SOCIAL SERVICES

Education:

Reel 52  Education  1894/95-1905
Reel 53  Education  1906-1923/24
Reel 54  Education  1924/25-1935/36
Reel 55  Education  1936/37-1956
Education, Northern Territories  1926/27-1927/28
Reel 56  Educational Statistics, Series I,  1954-1956
Nos. 1-3
Achimota College  1924/28-1939/40
Medical and Sanitary:

The Gold Coast Reports include the Medical and Sanitary Reports for Ashanti and the Northern Territories, 1902-1911. Thereafter the Services were integrated.

Reel 57  Sanitary and Medical  1886/87-1887/88  1897-1910
Reel 58  Sanitary and Medical  1911-1919
Reel 59  Sanitary and Medical  1920-1921
Medical  1922/23-1923/24
Medical and Sanitary  1924/25-1928/29
Reel 60  Medical and Sanitary  1929/30
Medical  1930/31-1935
Reel 61  Medical  1936-1952
Ministry of Health  1953-1955
Reel 62  Laboratory  1911, 1914-1917

Initially established as the Plague Laboratory following the 1908 outbreak, its annual reports were incorporated as appendices in the Annual Report of the Medical and Sanitary Department from 1918.

Public Cemeteries  1895-1907
Registrar of Births and Deaths  1919-1929
Reel 63  Registrar of Births and Deaths  1930-1938
Kumasi Public Health Board  1926/27
Tsetse Control  1949-1954/55

The Tsetse Control Department was founded in November 1949 from the Entomological Section of the Trypanosomiasis and Yaws Campaign of the Medical Department.

Welfare and Development:

Social Welfare and Community Development  1946/51-1956

The initial report covers the period from the origins of the department to 31 March 1951 and is titled "Welfare and Mass Education in the Gold Coast".

Development and Welfare Progress  1946-1954/55
Development Plan  1951
Reel 64  Agricultural Development Corporation  1951
Agricultural and Fisheries Development Corporation  1952/53-1954/55
Agricultural Development Corporation  1955/56
Industrial Development Corporation  1950/51-1955/56
Tema Development Corporation  1953/54-1955/56
Labour:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Labour</th>
<th>1938/39-1954/55</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mines' Labour Enquiry Committee</td>
<td>1953</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

GROUP VI    TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works:

The Annual Reports were regularly printed until 1929/30, thereafter cyclostyle copies are available until 1938/39. The Report for 1952/53 noted, "...no annual reports of the activities of the Department have been published for over ten years due to various factors such as World War II, lack of staff in relation to work load, and restrictions on printing".

Reel 65    Public Works    1895-1925/26
Reel 66    Public Works    1926/27-1933/34
Reel 67    Public Works    1934/35-1938/39
               | 1952/53-1955/56 |
Reel 68    Harbour Work, Accra    1914-1915
               | Harbour Work, Secondee |
               | Water Supply          | 1914-1919
               | 1946/47-1955/56            |

Transport:

The history of road and rail transport development in the Gold Coast is closely entwined as the colonial government was particularly concerned to control road transport so as to lessen competition with the government owned railway.

Reel 69    Railway    1903-1919
Reel 70    Railway    1920-1930/31
Reel 71    Railway    1931/32-1938/39
Reel 72    Railway    1947/48-1955/56
               | Road, Ashanti and Northern Territories |
               | Coomassie (sic)-Ejura Road    1895, 1910-1911 |
               | 1912-1914                  |
Reel 73    Transport    1901-1918
               | 1922/23-1938/39 |
               | Civil Aviation Statistics 1948/49-1949/50 |

GROUP VII    COMMUNICATIONS AND POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

Post and Telegraph:

Reel 74    Post Office    1895-1898
               | Telegraph    1895-1898 |
               | Post and Telegraph 1899-1928/29 |
Reel 75        Post and Telegraph          1929/30-1938/39
Reel 76        Post Office Handbooks       1938-1940

Post Office Savings Bank:

Between 1912 and 1936, information relating to the Post Office Savings Bank was incorporated into the Annual Report of the Post and Telegraph Department.

Savings Bank                           1898-1900
Post Office Savings Bank               1901-1911
                                           1936/37-1955/56

Broadcasting:

Broadcasting                           1937/38-1938/39

Printing:

Reel 77        Printing                    1895-1938/39

GROUP VIII      COMMERCE

Customs:

Reel 78        Customs                     1898-1908
Customs and Marine                           1909-1921

The Annual Report of the Customs and Marine Department includes the Annual Trade Report for the years 1909 to 1926.

Reel 79        Customs and Marine         1922-1926
Reel 80        Customs and Marine Trade   1927-1932
Reel 81        Trade                       1927-1930
Reel 82        Trade                       1931-1935
Reel 83        Trade                       1936-1939
Reel 84        Trade                       1940-1944
Reel 85        Trade                       1945-1951

Co-operatives:

Reel 86        Co-operative                1944/45-1955/56

Commerce:

Report of the Commercial Intelligence Bureau 1930
Established in 1925, this is the only published report of the Commercial Intelligence Bureau.

Economic Survey of the Gold Coast 1952-1955
Handbook of Trade and Commerce 1951-1955

Marketing Boards:

During the Second World War, the West African Produce Control Board was established in the United Kingdom as the responsible authority for the purchase of the major export crops of the Gold Coast. When the war time arrangement lapsed, the Cocoa Marketing Board and, subsequently, the Agricultural Produce Marketing Board were established.

Cocoa Marketing 1947/48-1955/56
Agricultural Produce Marketing 1950-1954

Mining:

Reel 87 Mines 1889
1903/04-1911
Mining Industry 1912-1924/25
Mines 1925/26-1938/39
1945/46-1955/56

GROUP IX MISCELLANEOUS

Reel 88 Gold Coast Volunteer Riflemen 1885-1907
Special Commissioner for Anthropology 1921/22-1929/30
National Archives 1950-1956
Migration Statistics 1953-1957

Censuses:

Reel 89 Census of the Gold Coast Colony, Ashanti 1921
and the Northern Territories and the
Mandated Area of Togo
Gold Coast, Appendices containing
comparative Returns and General
Statistics of the Census 1931
Gold Coast, Census of Population,
Returns and Tables 1948

Reel 90 Meteorological Observations 1949-1956
Public Officers' Guarantee Fund 1898-1915


Reel 91 Staff Lists 1896-1902
Reel 92 Staff Lists 1903-1906
Reel 93 Staff Lists 1907-1908
Reel 94 Staff Lists 1909-1910/11
Reel 95 Staff Lists 1912-1914/15
GROUP X  

BRITISH TOGOLAND

Following the Anglo-French conquest of the German colony of Togoland in 1914, the territory was partitioned by the colonial conquerors, a division of spoils later confirmed under the Paris Peace Treaties. Though the conquered German territories were declared "mandates" of the League of Nations (later Trust Territories of the United Nations), this had little practical effect in terms of day-to-day administration. However, under the provisions of the mandate, the United Kingdom was required to submit an Annual Report on its administration. In format and contents the Annual Reports for Togo resembled the Governor's Annual Report for the Gold Coast and was prepared under his signature.

The series was discontinued during the Second World War.
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