TRADE OF THE GERMAN PROTECTORATES

AS the last of the European Powers Germany has entered the colonial arena. Since the year 1884 it acquired by treaties with native chiefs and the Powers, interested in Africa and the Pacific, nine Protectorates covering together no less than 26,000,00 sq. km. The largest of these Protectorates are the four African Possessions: TOGO, KAMERUN, DEUTSCH SUEDE WEST AFRICA, and DEUTSCH OST AFRICA. Next in importance come the colonies in the Pacific: DEUTSCH NEU GUINEA, KAROLINEN, MARIANEN, PALAU, SAMOA, MARSHALLINSELN. The smallest is the Chinese Protectorate of KIAUTSCHOU. When Germany acquired these colonies, their value from a trading point was almost nil, whilst hardly any attempt had been made to develop their natural resources. Ost Africa was regarded by the Arab traders only as a hunting ground for elephants and slaves. Owing to interior wars and famines its population was too poor to buy from the civilised world anything but beads, powder, guns and spirits. Togo and Kamerun were valuable only as markets for bad spirits. Their exports consisted entirely of small quantities of palm kernels and palm oil. Sued West Africa was considered to be so barren and hopeless that neither the Cape Colony nor the English Government would incur the obligation of maintaining order and peace there. Trade was almost unknown. Of what little importance the German Possessions in the Pacific were up to a very recent date is no less well known. Under these circumstances it is not surprising to see, that the trade of these Protectorates is still little

developed and very small if compared with that of neighbouring older colonies. The value of the exports and imports of all German colonies was in 1899, the last year for which complete statistics are published, 52,043,200 M. = £2,602,160. This shows great progress, if we compare the figures of the last eight years for which the trade statistics are available.

TOTAL VALUE OF THE TRADE OF THE GERMAN PROTECTORATES.

1892 ¹	M28,670,000	=	£1,933,500
1893.....	28,244,000	=	1,412,200
1894.....	28,447,000	=	1,422,300
1895.....	26,315,000	=	1,315,750
1896.....	25,886,000	=	1,294,300
1897.....	32,910,000	=	1,645,500
1898.....	44,297,000	=	2,214,800
1899.....	53,069,200	=	2,653,460

A great part of the exports of the Protectorates go to foreign markets, and a great deal of the merchandise imported there comes from foreign countries, which enjoy in every respect the same treatment and the same advantages as the mother country.

The part taken by Germany in the trade of its Protectorates is shown in the following table :—

1892.....	M10,331,000	=	£516,550
1893.....	10,227,000	=	511,350
1894.....	10,270,000	=	513,500
1895.....	8,975,000	=	448,750
1896.....	11,348,000	=	567,400
1897.....	14,245,000	=	712,250
1898.....	16,868,000	=	843,400
1899.....	20,809,000	=	1,040,450

The trade of the different German Protectorates has taken a somewhat irregular development : internal wars, failures of crops, and other obstacles having exercised for some time a pernicious influence. Nevertheless the statistics prove in general a not unfavourable continual progress of export and import trade for the eight years in question, as will be shown in the following figures :—

¹ First year for which complete statistics have been published.

TRADE OF THE GERMAN PROTECTORATES.

DEUTSCH OST AFRICA (GERMAN EAST AFRICA):

	Imports from	and	Exports to Foreign Countries.
1892	M8,054,000	.....	M7,029,500 M15,083,500
1893	7,712,800	.....	5,580,700 13,493,600
1894	7,167,700	.....	4,877,000 12,044,700
1895	7,603,500	.....	3,257,600 10,866,100
1896	8,665,000	.....	4,117,100 12,782,100
1897	9,042,100	.....	4,958,500 13,980,600
1898	11,852,700	.....	4,532,900 16,185,600
1899	10,822,600	.....	3,957,100 14,759,700

KAMERUN:

1892	M4,470,800	.....	M4,263,800 M8,734,600
1893	4,761,600	.....	4,633,400 8,795,000
1894	6,497,400	.....	4,455,300 10,952,700
1895	5,658,200	.....	4,089,800 9,748,000
1896	5,358,900	.....	3,961,300 9,320,200
1897	6,326,800	.....	3,385,500 9,712,300
1898	9,296,800	.....	4,601,600 13,898,400
1899	11,133,200	.....	4,840,800 15,974,000

Togo:

1892	M2,135,900	.....	M2,411,500 M4,547,400
1893	2,414,900	.....	3,413,900 5,828,800
1894	2,240,600	.....	2,894,400 5,135,000
1895	2,353,300	.....	3,048,500 5,401,800
1896	1,886,800	.....	1,651,400 3,538,200
1897	1,975,900	.....	771,000 2,746,900
1898	2,490,900	.....	1,470,484 3,961,400
1899	3,279,700	.....	2,582,700 5,862,400

SUED WEST AFRICA:

1897 ¹	M4,837,300	.....	M1,246,700 M6,134,000
1898	5,868,200	.....	915,800 6,785,000
1899	8,941,200	.....	1,399,500 10,340,700

DEUTSCH NEU GUINEA, ETC.: ²

1892	M151,000	.....	M154,000 M305,000
1893	251,000	.....	36,000 267,000
1894	259,000	.....	470,000 729,000
1895	144,000	.....	121,000 265,000
1896	283,000	.....	204,000 487,000
1897	304,000	.....	210,000 514,000
1898	320,000	.....	362,000 682,000
1899	666,000	.....	360,000 1,026,000

¹ First year for which statistics have been published.² Statistics concerning only the trade with Germany.

SAMOA :¹

	Imports from	and	Exports to Foreign Countries.	
1892	M1,354,900		M609,300	M1,964,200
1893	1,386,800		596,100	1,282,900
1894	1,844,200		1,069,400	2,913,600
1895	1,667,900		864,200	2,533,100
1896	1,243,400		949,800	2,193,200
1897	1,337,800		811,700	2,149,500
1898	1,573,300		1,213,300	2,786,600
1899	2,226,600		1,879,700	4,106,300

If in all these Protectorates the imports show a larger increase than the exports the principal reason is to be found in the difficulty of opening up the interior for the output of its natural products and the long time needed for the introduction of regular cultivation of the soil. As long as there does not exist a network of railways and steamers bringing the products of the more remote places at very cheap rates to the harbours, and the soil of the colonies cannot be systematically and successfully worked, the bulk of their trade will always be very limited and not correspond to their size. Every internal war and every failure of crops have exercised an unfavourable influence on the commerce.

The German colonial administration has been endeavouring for some time to better this state of things in the Protectorates. It has constructed roads and bridges and is furthering by all means the shipping to and from the colonies. At the same time lines of telegraph have been established in all African Protectorates and in Deutsch Ost and Sued West Africa, and railways are now being constructed. Other lines for Togo and Kamerun are under consideration, as well as harbours and piers in the chief places. No less effort has been made for the purpose of developing the cultivation of the colonies. By the publication of the results of scientific investigation of their resources and giving privileges and assistance of various kinds, capitalists have been induced to make experiments with the cultivation of tropical plants and to examine the mineral wealth of several Protectorates. While researches of the latter kind are now made in Sued West Africa, Ost Africa, and Neu Guinea, plantations of coffee, cocoa, cotton, etc., have been started in all the tropical colonies.

But all these attempts are not yet finished, and exercise so

¹ For Kiautschou complete statistics of trade are not available for 1899. Bulk of trade with Germany 1900 = 5,704,000 M.

far only little effect on the bulk of the trade of the German Protectorates. Coffee was exported up to 1899 only from Deutsch Ost Africa and in very small quantities. Cocoa comes only from Kamerun and cotton from Neu Guinea. The following tables show the development of these industries :—

EXPORT OF COFFEE FROM OST AFRICA.

1895	M46,000	=	£2,300
1896	37,000	=	1,850
1897	112,000	=	5,600
1898	241,000	=	12,500
1899	93,000	=	4,650
1900	275,000	=	13,750

EXPORTS OF COCOA FROM KAMERUN.

1894	M157,000	=	£6,850
1895	127,000	=	6,350
1896	44,000	=	2,200
1897	239,000	=	11,950
1898	297,000	=	14,850
1899	192,000	=	9,600

EXPORTS OF TOBACCO.

	From Ost Africa.			From Kamerun.		
1894	M249,000	=	£12,450	—		—
1895	35,000	=	1,250	M18,000	=	£900
1896	73,000	=	3,650	16,000	=	800
1897	108,000	=	5,400	10,000	=	500
1898	41,000	=	2,050	—		—
1899	61,500	=	3,075	—		—

FROM NEU GUINEA.

1894	M268,000	=	£13,400
1895	37,000	=	1,850
1896	146,000	=	7,300
1897	132,000	=	6,600
1898	215,000	=	10,750
1899	88,000	=	4,400
1900	120,000	=	6,000

EXPORTS OF COTTON FROM NEU GUINEA.

1894	M6,000	=	£300
1895	13,000	=	650
1896	6,000	=	300
1897	15,000	=	750
1898	15,000	=	750
1899	20,000	=	1,000
1900	11,000	=	550

The chief articles of export of the Protectorates are here, as in the British and French West African colonies, the usual African products, as is seen in the following figures :—

EXPORTS OF PALM KERNELS.

	From Kamerun.		From Togo.
1894	M1,431,000 = £71,550	.....	M1,687,000 = £84,350
1895	1,122,000 = 56,100	.....	1,653,000 = 82,650
1896	1,323,000 = 66,150	.....	1,158,000 = 56,900
1897	878,000 = 43,900	.....	428,000 = 21,400
1898	1,274,000 = 63,700	.....	780,000 = 39,000
1899	1,260,000 = 63,000	.....	1,291,000 = 64,550

PALM OIL.

1894	M1,210,000 = £60,500	.....	M1,089,000 = £54,450
1895	1,038,000 = 51,900	.....	1,084,000 = 54,200
1896	288,300 = 49,400	.....	196,000 = 9,800
1897	771,000 = 35,500	.....	245,000 = 12,250
1898	940,900 = 47,045	.....	130,000 = 6,500
1899	850,000 = 42,500	.....	774,600 = 38,730
1900 .....	— —	.....	1,015,000 = 50,750

RUBBER.

1894	M1,304,000 = £65,200	.....	M116,000 = £5,800
1895	1,103,000 = 55,150	.....	206,000 = 15,300
1896	1,078,000 = 53,900	.....	298,000 = 14,900
1897	887,500 = 44,375	.....	245,000 = 12,250
1898	1,600,300 = 80,015	.....	421,000 = 21,050
1899	1,398,000 = 69,900	.....	366,000 = 18,300
1900 .....	— —	.....	521,000 = 26,050

RUBBER FROM OST AFRICA.

1894	M609,000 = £30,450
1895	772,000 = 38,600
1896	892,000 = 49,600
1897	1,149,000 = 57,450
1898	970,000 = 48,500
1899	1,537,000 = 66,850
1900	1,058,000 = 52,900

EXPORTS OF IVORY.

	From Ost Africa.		From Kamerun.
1894	M2,149,000 = £107,450	.....	M454,000 = £27,700
1895	1,423,000 = 71,150	.....	596,000 = 29,800
1896	1,684,000 = 84,100	.....	370,000 = 18,500
1897	1,495,000 = 79,750	.....	534,000 = 26,735
1898	1,292,000 = 64,600	.....	443,800 = 22,190
1899	994,000 = 49,700	.....	670,000 = 32,000
1900	997,000 = 79,850	.....	— —

EXPORTS OF COPRAH.

From Ost Africa.

1895	M47,000	=	£2,450
1896	103,000	=	5,150
1897	205,000	=	10,250
1898	314,000	=	15,700
1899	108,000	=	5,400
1900	210,400	=	10,520

EXPORTS OF COPRAH.

From Neu Guinea.

From Samoa.

1898	M82,000	=	£4,100	.....	M2,000,000	=	£100,000
1899	190,000	=	9,500	.....	4,000,000	=	200,000
1900	133,000	=	6,650	.....	—	=	—

The chief articles of import in the German Protectorates are the same as in all countries undergoing similar development. In the first place may be mentioned textile goods ; of no less importance are hardware, engines, provisions. Spirits, arms and gun-powder do not play a less important rôle in this trade, as is often pretended. The figures for imports for the year 1899 give sufficient proof for this assertion :—

KAMERUN.

Total imports	M11,133,000	=	£556,600
Imports of textile goods	2,840,000	=	142,000
„ hardware	890,000	=	44,500
„ wood	990,000	=	49,500
„ spirits	936,000	=	46,800
„ powder	458,000	=	22,900
„ arms	372,000	=	18,600

OST AFRICA

Total imports	M10,823,000	=	£541,160
Imports of textile goods	4,659,000	=	232,950
„ rice	1,884,000	=	94,200
„ hardware	376,000	=	18,300
„ provisions	1,256,000	=	62,800
„ spirits	574,000	=	28,700
„ powder	163,000	=	8,300

Togo.

Total imports	M3,280,000	=	£164,000
Imports of textile goods	1,022,000	=	51,100
„ hardware.....	89,000	=	4,450
„ provisions	598,000	=	29,900
„ spirits	634,000	=	31,700
„ powder	82,000	=	4,100

SUD WEST AFRICA.

Total imports	M5,868,200	=	£293,410
Imports of textile goods	537,500	=	26,575
„ hardware.....	770,700	=	38,535
„ wood	678,200	=	33,910
„ provisions	723,200	=	36,160
„ spirits	537,400	=	26,870

ALFRED ZIMMERMAN.