

a heavy steel canoe from Egbon, through a forest belt intersected by ravines, to a wide and deep creek on the way, thus facilitating the passage of these guns, which were essential to our success. During our absence on the Florin expedition, Mr. Wallace organized with remarkable promptitude and judgment the Ganaga tribes, who are to hold the reserved three-mile strip on the north-east bank of the Niger, and who, under his guidance, have elected their king and other officers, as before the Fulah conquest.

It would require a more capable pen than mine to convey to the Council adequately, yet without an appearance of exaggeration, the wild outburst of joy that has been displayed throughout the extensive regions now secured from slave-raiding, where there is hardly a family that is not welcoming back some near relative, who had been carried off as a slave. I cannot but fear that this excessive, though natural, ebullition of feeling, if unduly prolonged, will seriously affect the production of the food supplies in the coming season.

I have to-day issued on behalf of the Council an Administrative Decree abolishing the legal status of slavery in the Niger Territories, to take effect on the completion of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign.

I have, &c.,
GEORGE TAUBMAN GOLDIE,
 Governor.

NIGER SUDAN CAMPAIGN.

The following reports have been received from Major (local) A. J. Arnold, Lieutenant 3rd King's Own Hussars, who commanded the Expeditionary Force, by the Governor and Council, Royal Niger Company, Chartered and Limited.

FIRST EXPEDITION.

Composition of Force.

THE Expedition, which was accompanied by the Governor, Sir George Taubman Goldie, K.C.M.G., and which consisted solely of your constabulary, led by British officers, was arranged as follows:—

Royal Niger Constabulary.

Seven Companies:—

No. 1. Lieutenant A. McClintock, Seaforth Highlanders.

Lieutenant W. D. Bird, Royal West Surrey Regiment, in charge of Maxim gun.

Under Officer, Sergeant D. Ackin.

Rank and File, 70.

No. 2. Major G. G. Cunningham, D.S.O., Derbyshire Regiment.

Lieutenant E. I. de S. Thorpe, Bedfordshire Regiment (Maxim gun).

Lieutenant H. C. C. Musters, 3rd King's Own Hussars.

Rank and File, 71.

No. 3. Lieutenant C. F. S. Vandeleur, D.S.O., Scots Guards (Maxim).

Lieutenant J. A. Burdon, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.

Lieutenant V. J. Tighe, West Riding Regiment.

Rank and File, 71.

No. 4. Lieutenant F. M. Gillespie, South Wales Borderers.

Lieutenant E. C. Margesson, South Wales Borderers (Maxim).

Under Officer, Sergeant G. Murfit.

Rank and File, 72.

No. 5. Lieutenant C. E. Pereira, Coldstream Guards (Maxim).

Lieutenant P. G. Rigby, Derbyshire Regiment. Sub-Commandant E. Rokeyby Robinson, late Isle of Wight Artillery.

Rank and File, 71.

No. 6. Lieutenant G. H. Neale, Royal West Surrey.

Under Officer, Sergeant J. H. Reed.

Rank and File, 70.

No. 7. Captain F. H. S. Hatton, 4th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment.

Under Officer, Sergeant C. Bayford.

Rank and File, 70.

Gunners—Corporal A. E. Boshier and Bombardier J. Halfpenny.

Rank and File, 18.

Staff.

In command—Major A. J. Arnold, Lieutenant 3rd King's Own Hussars.

Adjutant—Lieutenant A. H. Festing, Royal Irish Rifles.

Galloper—Lieutenant J. W. V. Carroll, Norfolk Regiment.

Transport—Lieutenant A. C. Thomson, Leicestershire Regiment.

Total.

19 Officers

6 Under Officers

513 Rank and file (Hausas).

Executive—Senior Executive Officer, W. Watts.

Medical—Dr. E. Craster, Principal Medical Officer, Niger Territories.

Dr. Stanton, M.R.C.S.

Armament.—Artillery—2 7-pounder mountain guns.

Machine guns—5 Maxim automatic, .45 calibre.

Rank and file were armed with Snider rifles.

Ammunition.—Artillery—
 48 common shell } per gun.
 49 shrapnel shell }

S. A. Machine Gun—

1,000 rounds per gun, carried with gun.

24,000 rounds reserve, carried by transport.

Snider—

50 rounds per man, carried by rank and file.

120 rounds per man, reserve, carried by transport.

Transport.

Supply and transport was under the direction of Lieutenant A. C. Thomson, Leicestershire Regiment.

The collection and enrolment of local carriers was under Senior Executive Officer Watts, who throughout the expedition managed and controlled them, assisted therein by Mr. Marmon.

Lokoja.—Captain Sangster, Leinster Regiment, Lieutenant Parker, South Wales Borderers, Captain Anderson, 3rd Middlesex, with Corporal Chambers, were left to garrison Lokoja, the most thorough organization of the defence being completed ere I felt it safe to move.

The force left numbered 170 all told.

Lokoja to Sura.

The expedition constituted as above left Lokoja on the 6th January, 1897, and made the march to Sura in six days, reaching Sura on the 11th.

Sura to Kabba.

At Sura we learnt that the Prince Makum was still at Kabba Camp, and at that place I determined to form the major part of my force as a flying column, and advance rapidly upon the enemy's war camp at Kabba.

A permanent camp was established at Sura,