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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

334

No. 255.

BASUTOLAND.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897-8.

(For Report for 1896-7, see No. 224.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
January, 1899.



LONDON:

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

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No. 255.

BASUTOLAND.

(For Report for 1896-7 see No. 224.)

GOVERNOR SIR ALFRED MILNER to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Cape Town,
20th September 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your information a copy of a despatch from the Resident Commissioner of Basutoland enclosing the Annual Reports on the territory for the year ended 30th June last.

These reports do not appear to require much comment by me, more especially as the principal matters referred to, arising out of the conduct of Masupha, have already been dealt with in separate despatches.

The trade of Basutoland has been seriously affected during the year by drought, rinderpest, and internal disturbances; but it is satisfactory to find that in spite of these calamities the revenue collected has exceeded that of any previous year.

The harvest prospects of the coming year are not very encouraging, but I trust that the early break up of the drought which at present exists may prevent actual scarcity or distress.

I have, &c.,

A. MILNER,

Governor and High Commissioner.

BASUTOLAND
1897-8.

From the RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, Basutoland, to the
HIGH COMMISSIONER, Cape Town.

Resident Commissioner's Office,
Basutoland,
5th August 1898.

SIR,

IN transmitting Your Excellency my report and enclosures for the year ended 30th June 1898, I have the honour to state that it has been politically eventful.

Whilst we were struggling hard against the ravages of rinderpest, and had scarcely emerged from the troubles which a section of the tribe, led by Lerothodi's sons, had brought upon the country by arousing superstitious fears concerning inoculation and other preventive measures, a serious disturbance, organised by Masupha, broke out in Berea district, involving the loss of six lives.

For many years these annual reports have revealed the story of vital opposition to the Paramount Chief Lerothodi headed by Masupha, an opposition always passive and sometimes dangerously active. He has sought every opportunity to dispute and impair the paramountcy, at times taking the initiative prominently, at other times supporting those who were put up to play the game. There is good reason to believe that the Berea disturbance was intended by Masupha as a prelude to something greater. Plans were laid for it. Certain chiefs like Maama were looked upon as active adherents; others, whose power was material, as neutrals. But it failed of the development anticipated, for a reason characteristic of the Basuto which marks their discrimination and intelligence.

It is well known that the old chief Moshesh, having constructed the tribe, divided the inheritance amongst his four principal sons, *i.e.*, Letsie, Molapo, Masupha, and Majara. Majara died early, bequeathing his portion to his son Leshoboro. During the "Gun War" of 1880-1881, Masupha acquired prestige and power that enabled him to swallow up certain rights adjoining his own and to encroach at pleasure upon others. The rights of Majara during the minority of Leshoboro offered a fair field, which was taken advantage of. In 1885-1886 the late Paramount Chief Letsie was so incensed at these encroachments that he twice took the offensive with armies—once to protect and redetermine the rights of Ramanella, secondly in support of Leshoboro. My predecessor was associated with both these movements. The respective boundaries were pointed out and duly recorded. Masupha never recognised these settlements. His attitude year after year led to disturbance and conflicts.

In the disturbance under review, the immediate cause was an attempt by Leshoboro, with Lerothodi's moral support, to appropriate land properly awarded to him. This was resisted by Thebe, a restless son of Masupha. Leshoboro adopted questionable tactics in retaliation, sustained a reverse, and bloodshed ensued. Pursuing the constitutional course, I summoned the parties to Maseru for the purpose of dealing with the case in council. Masupha, relying upon the countenance of certain other chiefs disaffected towards Lerothodi, notably Jonathan and Maama, objected to attend the court or to allow his son Thebe to attend.

BASUTOLAND
1897-8.

After exhausting all reasonable means of persuasion, during which process Lerothodi and a large body of chiefs and people were kept loitering at Maseru, I announced to Masupha that the court would sit immediately whether his son, whose presence was required, was present or not. Masupha appeared at once with his son. He came, however, in a demonstrative way, attended by a large body of men whose weapons were, according to later intelligence, concealed beneath their blankets. The case proceeded. The combatant chiefs Thebe and Leshoboro were each found at fault for the bloodshed, were fined, and the boundary records were read out and affirmed in open pitso. Masupha then indulged in angry recrimination with Lerothodi, whom he treated defiantly, and the pitso broke up in some confusion after angry passions had been aroused. The fines were duly paid.

There is no doubt that Masupha calculated upon being able to command such tribal sympathy as would fortify him in resisting the attendance of his son at court, as well as compliance with any order, boundary delimitation, or settlement, not congenial to his own ideas, with which Lerothodi was connected. But the sense of the large tribal council associated with me was emphatic. They refused to aid or encourage Masupha in any action directed against previous judicial settlements. Seeing this, he submitted sullenly to my decisions, at the same time venting his spleen against Lerothodi in no measured language.

Subsequently, Lerothodi, with my approval, supported Leshoboro whilst the latter ploughed the fields he was entitled to, though it entailed the presence in reserve of 1,500 armed men. This occurred in August 1897. It will be seen that the evil day of open opposition on Masupha's part was foreshadowed and only postponed.

Early in December, a junior son of Masupha, named Moiketsi, followed into the Orange Free State a Mosutu woman who had run away from her husband with another man, and, on failing to secure their return to Basutoland quietly, adopted forcible measures of a rough and ready nature, in the execution of which he was apprehended by the Free State authorities, tried, and sentenced there with a band of followers to lashes and imprisonment. He escaped from lawful custody (whether through

BASUTOLAND carelessness of guards or what) together with another criminal named Maboka, and fled successfully to Basutoland. The Orange Free State applied for extradition. As an escaped convict, Moiketsi might have been liable to surrender under a protocol to the Extradition Treaty signed by the High Commissioner and Acting President of the Orange Free State. But this protocol remained unratified by the Orange Free State Volksraad, and had become for all reciprocal purposes inoperative. His surrender as a convict was therefore refused, and the fact of his being domiciled in Basutoland precluded his surrender, under the provisions of the Treaty regarding domicile, upon any other charge. The other refugee was extraditable upon its appearing that his domicile was the Orange Free State.

The usual course was pursued of sending to Masupha for the arrest of his son, whom it was necessary to place upon trial for prison breaking, under a clause of our regulations providing that "any person domiciled in Basutoland who shall commit any offence in any place out of Basutoland may be dealt with in like manner as if such offence had been committed in Basutoland."

Had Masupha complied the affair would have been a minor one. This was explained to him. He knew it; but he again relied upon the sympathy of other chiefs in what he deemed to be a more popular resistance to authority, and, scenting in Lerothodi's remonstrances a chance of rupture with that chief, refused compliance.

Again recourse was had to all reasonable persuasion but without success. Finally, I had no alternative but, with Your Excellency's sanction, to call upon the Paramount, whose privilege it is to assert in the tribe the authority of the law when directed to do so, and whose prayer it had been to be allowed to do so without foreign help. Lerothodi, who had previously done his best to guide matters into a working channel, responded loyally by calling out his people and assembling them near Thaba Bosigo, where Masupha resided. Before taking any positive action he appealed to the latter through the agency of weighty councillors. Masupha responded by gathering his clans and sympathisers, and retiring to a stronghold overlooking his village adjacent to the Putyatsana river.

It was now clear that armed resistance was intended. The Paramount Chief, who feared the defection of Jonathan and some of his brothers, collected his full strength, anticipating a keen struggle for the supremacy which had been so often threatened. He had acted rightly so far, and I gave him every encouragement and moral support.

At this juncture Masupha, seeing the drift of things, handed over the convict Maboka, saying that was all he intended to do, his idea being that by doing so he would deflect the course of events. The refugee was brought to Maseru on December 30th

and placed in gaol. Simultaneously, Jonathan Molapo, who with a large force had given Masupha confidence while affecting to support Lerothodi, suddenly went home, leaving all parties compromised equally by his presence and retirement. He had neither helped Masupha nor Lerothodi materially, and taught both to mistrust him. He had erred by stultifying his professions in support of law and order, and had unguardedly given hope of help to those in revolt. He had tried to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds—a course in which his betters have failed, and he too in recent times.

BASUTOLAND
1897-8.

On January 3rd Lerothodi made his first demonstrative movement by marching in strength through a part of Masupha's country to the north of Thaba Bosigo.

No serious opposition was offered. On the 7th he occupied Masupha's deserted village and, on advancing towards the latter's stronghold, was fired upon. A general action ensued. Lerothodi lost three killed and five wounded. The first shots were fired by Masupha.

Being now certain that the Paramount Chief had lent himself genuinely to the duty entrusted to him I aided him with a limited amount of ammunition.

Hostilities proceeded. A cordon was gradually drawn round Masupha's stronghold, his supplies and water cut off. The siege was protracted by reason of the inaccessibility of the stronghold, of swollen rivers which prevented communications, and of procrastinating overtures from Masupha. During this period, the number of killed were—on the side of Lerothodi, who attacked in the open, 31; on the side of Masupha, who was mostly behind walls, 24.

On the 17th January Moiketsi was surrendered and brought into Maseru personally by Lerothodi, who was informed that the evacuation of the stronghold by Masupha and the destruction of his late village were regarded as essential conditions of that chief's capitulation. Swollen rivers again delayed matters.

On the 27th January I sent an officer with Lerothodi to see if the conditions were carried out. This officer, Mr. C. Griffith, returned on the 29th January, reporting the destruction of the village and evacuation of the stronghold.

On the 1st February a court was held, my native assessors being almost the entire roll of chiefs and councillors of the nation. Moiketsi was sentenced to 14 months imprisonment. Masupha was deprived of the district chieftainship which had conferred authority over other than his own family. He was forbidden to re-occupy his old village, was fined 200 head of cattle or equivalent, and deprived of certain lands and tenements he had by courtesy enjoyed for many years.

The fine was paid and other orders carried out. A few attempts to evade them met with unconditional negatives by Government and the Paramount Chief.

BASUTOLAND
1897-8.

In chronicling these unhappy events it is to be hoped that good may come out of evil. It was impossible that the system of working through a paramount chief could continue satisfactorily, if the balance of national power was not visibly on his side.

Masupha had courted this balance for years and in the final struggle staked all he knew on it. But he failed, and Lerothodi, for the first time, enjoyed the chieftainship he inherited.

Taken altogether it may be considered that the sense of the nation moved more rapidly than, according to precedent, might have been expected. It has rarely happened that the majority have been led to perceive in time the necessity of coercing a recalcitrant minority, or, having perceived it, have followed it up. Matters must, in order to enter the soul of a tribe, go through the process of circumfusion.

The distances and difficulties of propagation are great. Any electric conception of ideas is as much beyond the compass of their minds as it is beyond the compass of conveyance. Were natives indeed capable of rapid understanding they need not be in their present subordination to civilized thought and government. A sudden ultimatum is calculated to have the effect that shock has upon keener nerves, and to produce the paralysis of desperation that leads to wrong impulses.

While advancing these remarks as a plea for patience in critical dealings with natives, I must gratefully record how much the exercise of patience was fortified by the strength derived from Your Excellency's resolution should all reasonable efforts at adjustment fail. It was no less a strength to me than a manifestation to the natives, who began perhaps to realize for the first time in recent years that constitutional orders would be carried out by force if persuasion failed, and that the advice of the Queen's representative was intended to be obeyed.

For years the Basuto have quarrelled with each other, as they naturally always must do. They have, however, seriously at times disturbed the peace. I have been warned that, in view of liability to complications, it could not be tolerated by Her Majesty's Government, and have treated such warnings with composure. They ought now to have learned that such warnings have a meaning.

Whatever advantage may result from late events—and from every point of view the firmer establishment of the Paramount Chief must, with its alternative evils, be deemed of advantage—is therefore due to Your Excellency's determination to insist upon respect for law and order, and to support the Paramount Chief in all constitutional ways. This was the determining factor. It enabled me to give the Paramount the assurance and confidence he required and eventually believed in.

There has been no change in the policy by which the Basuto **BASUTOLAND** enjoy a fair measure of self government under certain restrictions. **1897-8.** But there has been a change in which Her Majesty's Government has brought home the necessity of taking up its obligations.

Allusion was made in the previous paragraph to certain alternative evils. By this may be understood that the firmer establishment of the Paramount Chief and the tribal power it confers upon him and his sons are elements that have to be reckoned with in future. The predominating power of Lerothodi's family, some of whom are none too wise, cannot be deliberately counterbalanced. Like all native chiefs he and they may soon forget from whom his real power was derived, and may be expected to give the trouble that a shrewder logic would avoid.

Apart from the principal incidents above mentioned there were the usual number of tribal disputes that required treatment, in which the factions submitted themselves happily to quiet settlements by the magistrates or by appeals.

The subject of rinderpest occupied a large portion of last year's report. The disease ran its deadly course through the country, yielding fairly to gall inoculation where accepted, and proving fatal where superstitious objection to it prevailed.

Though we were led to believe that gall immunity would only extend to a few months, the more permanent value of it is so far established, as regards Basutoland, by the fact that there has been no recrudescence of the epidemic for 18 months.

The most attractive feature of the year, which will be marked as an historical landmark, was the visit and enthusiastic reception of Your Excellency in the territory. This visit was regarded from its length and thoroughness as one of great import, inasmuch as the High Commissioner was known not only to have seen the masses and the country, but was seen of many who knew of him only as the emblem of unseen power.

It is almost impossible to indicate from year to year any specific national progress. Individuals display it; there is a demand for technical education, and many natives are to be seen working throughout the country at useful trades which a few years ago only trained white men were capable of.

Lurking behind the veneer of civilization, which consists in a great measure of wearing smart European clothes, there is, of course, deeply rooted superstition that will take generations to eradicate. Reference to the records of a dozen years ago reveal a marked change in the demeanour of chiefs and people generally. Their characteristic energy and desire to become wage earners is illustrated by the returns of passes issued during the 12 months to those in search of foreign labour, which give the number of 30,274 men. This represents more than three-fifths of the male population. Many who go to the mining centres

BASUTOLAND become handy workmen. At the same time they contract the vices easily acquired from contact with low whites, and learn readily such civilized accomplishments as clever house-breaking and the like. This must be expected.

1897-8.

In co-operating for the suppression of crime and facilitating the ends of justice the chiefs have as a rule behaved well. Though conforming to the regulations, they contravene them by stealthy introduction of liquor and guns whenever they can evade police patrols, which is possible enough along an open 200 mile boundary. So long as an unprincipled class of low whites tempt them by carrying on such trade over the border it is hard to stop it, and harder still to secure convictions, to defeat which both buyers and sellers combine. The borders of all native territories are infested with illicit dealers whose professions offer high profits.

The season's crops were, owing to drought, miserable on the whole. Leribe district alone produced a marketable quantity. In other districts there is scarcity of food which may develop into want if we do not have a good and early spring.

Wheat, which of late years formed a great trade commodity, entirely failed, many having lost even their seed reserve. To remedy this a public spirited movement by the Chamber of Commerce to supply seed met with the hearty co-operation of Government, the result being that over 6,000 bags have been distributed on the easiest practicable terms.

In consequence of the failure of crops, trade suffered materially, as the statistics will show, and the Customs duties fell off proportionately.

It remains to be seen whether the new tariff, if it comes into operation, will sensibly affect Basutoland.

Crime statistics compare favourably with other years. The loss of cattle by rinderpest has probably conduced to more stealing than formerly. Otherwise serious crime is not conspicuous.

Culpable homicides spring rather from undue beer drinking than from malice.

The native police continue to do their work well.

Hospital work, as recorded in the reports of medical officers, is well maintained. The doctors would all be encouraged were it practicable to give them a higher standard of buildings, appliances, and nurses.

The general revenue is in excess of any previous year. Hut tax was well paid, continuing its upward tendency in proportion to the rise of population. Masupha failed in many ways last year. His tax was worse than usual. As a last resource it was necessary to send appointed messengers with the Paramount Chief and collect it summarily in Berea district. This was successful.

Education under the hand of the various Mission Societies progresses favourably. There is no undue attempt to reach unnecessarily high standards, but rather to keep the teaching within useful limits. It is proposed, with Your Excellency's approval, to have an examination of the principal schools by an Inspector kindly lent by the Cape Government.

BASUTOLAND
1897-8.

Missionary enterprise, encompassed as it is by difficulties and re-action, is nevertheless a prominent feature of the country, the French Protestant Society being, as heretofore, highly conspicuous.

I beg to bear hearty testimony to the good service rendered by the Government Secretary and officers of the administration as a body. Their *esprit de corps* and desire to promote the best interests of the country are as commendable as they are valuable.

I have, &c.,

G. Y. LAGDEN,

Resident Commissioner.

His Excellency the High Commissioner, &c.,
South Africa.

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BASUTOLAND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT
1897-8.
SECRETARY, BASUTOLAND, FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 30TH JUNE 1898.

FINANCE.

The revenue collected in Basutoland during the past year is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Colonial contribution ...	18,000	0	0
Hut Tax	23,438	10	0
Post Office	1,619	17	2
Licences	1,506	0	0
Fines	589	8	8
Ferry Tolls	224	3	3
Fees of Court	118	2	10
Miscellaneous	1,059	5	7
Total ...	£46,555	7	6

Of the Hut Tax paid, the amount of £1,267 10s. was arrear tax paid by defaulters of previous years. At each collection there are a number of men absent from their homes at the various labour centres and other places. The amount of tax paid for the current year was £22,171, as against £21,750 collected during the previous financial year.

Tax has been paid on 45,236 huts.

A refund to the Cape Government of £1,757 16s. 8d. has been made. The amount actually contributed by the Cape Government towards Basutoland expenditure therefore stands as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Drafts paid to Basutoland Government ...	18,000	0	0
Customs Dues on Imports to Basutoland	10,699	19	6
Refund	1,757	16	8
		12,457	16 2
Net amount of Colonial contribution ...	£5,542	3	10

The total expenditure during the year under report was **BASUTOLAND**
 £44,797 10s. 10d. This includes the large and abnormal **1897-8.**
 expenditure of £1,375 on rinderpest, and, as Public Works,
 the cost of a new and commodious gaol at Mafeteng, and a new
 water supply for Maseru, which promises to meet in a satis-
 factory manner a much felt public need.

TRADE.

The amount of dutiable goods imported into Basutoland during
 the year ended 31st March 1898, was—

	£	s.	d.
From Cape Colony	48,696	0	0
From Orange Free State ...	51,584	0	0
Total ...	£100,280	0	0

The imports of the previous year ended 31st March 1897
 amounted to £135,560. It was only to be expected that rinder-
 pest, drought, and internal disturbances would have this effect
 upon the trade of the country. The Customs Dues credited to
 Basutoland, (being 85 per cent. of the total duties upon the above
 Imports) were:—

	£	s.	d.
By Cape Colony	5,269	12	7
By Orange Free State ...	5,430	6	11
Total ...	£10,699	19	6

The Customs earnings have suffered by the operation of the
 tariff which came into operation on 1st July 1897, under which
 the ad valorem rate on imported goods was reduced from
 12 to 9 per cent. On the other hand the proposed new tariff,
 when in operation, may be expected to add considerably to the
 amount to be credited to Basutoland, woollen and cotton manu-
 factures (upon which the new rate of 20 per cent. is to be
 imposed) constituting a large proportion of the Basutoland
 imports.

The following is a comparative return of exports from
 Basutoland for the year ending 31st December 1895, and for
 the years ended 30th June 1897 and 30th June 1898. The
 returns for the two latter years have been compiled for the
 period covered by our financial year for the purpose of uniform
 comparison with revenue and other returns.

Articles.					Year ended 31st December 1895.			
					Quantity.	Value.		
Wheat	Muids.	£	s.	d.
					151,077	74,475	4	0
Mealies	82,429	33,957	9	8
K. Corn	3,681	1,675	14	6
Meal	4,037	4,529	0	0
Mealie Meal	1,361	832	14	0
Wool	Lbs. 1,116,939	15,988	0	2
Mohair	83,657	3,499	7	2
Cattle	427	1,348	5	6
Horses	409	1,964	19	6
Miscellaneous	—	1,325	1	5
Total	—	139,495	15	11

Year ended 30th June 1897.			Year ended 30th June 1898.		
Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.	
Muids.	£	s. d.	Muids.	£	s. d.
58,951	52,599	7 6	19,984	17,450	4 7
64,576	42,424	11 0	99,352	52,590	14 3
4,746	4,273	13 3	14,739	8,760	6 0
1,060	1,663	12 6	1,876	2,813	11 0
40	44	0 0	17	13	0 0
Lbs. 854,879	10,234	0 2	Lbs. 1,992,131	24,989	15 4
72,672	2,567	2 2	128,067	4,448	2 2
227	932	5 0	711	3,959	1 0
1,336	9,892	19 6	1,986	12,628	12 0
—	279	11 10	—	10,846	0 5
—	124,911	2 11	—	138,499	6 9

The miscellaneous exports for the last year, amounting to **BASUTOLAND** £10,846 0s. 5d., consisted principally of hides, a testimony as to 1897-8.
the mortality that has taken place among the cattle.

The diminished export of wheat during the past two years is remarkable. The severe drought of last year caused the loss of most of the wheat sown in the spring, and it has been necessary to supplement by Government aid the praiseworthy efforts of the mercantile community to supply the Basuto with seed wheat for the coming year.

Consequent upon the loss of most of the ploughing cattle by rinderpest, it was advisable to encourage the Basuto to use their horses for agricultural work. A number of sets of simple horse harness adapted for this purpose were distributed on loan throughout the country, and the natives have eagerly availed themselves of the privilege, and have thereby been induced to adopt horse ploughing to a considerable extent.

In response to a request, the Director of the Bacteriological Institute at Grahamstown was good enough to supply a quantity of fungus for locust destruction, and whether from this treatment or from the severe cold of the winter, the large swarms of "voetgangers" that were threatening the country have almost entirely disappeared.

Licences to trade were granted to 141 general traders and 74 hawkers. Seventy-five free licences were issued to burghers of the Orange Free State and others for the purpose of permitting them to barter produce and purchase grain for food.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The following are the results of observations carried on at the different stations in the country for the calendar year 1897 :—

Average rainfall	...	...	22.23
Daily range of temperature	...	48	(approximate)
Minimum registered	...	...	18
Maximum registered	...	...	99

LABOUR.

The country has been visited by a number of labour agents employed in recruiting for the various companies at the gold fields. The Basuto, however, appear to prefer, as a rule, to make their own way to Johannesburg, and to engage themselves to employers without the intervention of agents.

BASUTOLAND
1897-8.

Comparative Return of Passes Issued.

—	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
Labour	28,115	11,778	30,274
Other purposes	41,286	19,521	45,516
Total	69,401	31,299	75,790

POLICE AND CRIME.

The Basutoland Mounted Police consists of—

European officers	...	...	...	10
European constables	...	...	...	8
Native officers	...	...	...	6
Native sergeants	...	...	...	7
Native corporals	...	...	...	9
Native privates	...	...	...	204

who, in addition to much political employment, have done the following police duties :—

Number of patrols	...	...	...	1,085
Estimated distance travelled	...	...	...	51,009 miles.
Arrests under Pass Law	...	...	...	129
Arrests under Liquor Law	...	...	...	47
Arrests for other offences	...	...	...	60

Return of Criminal Convictions.

Assault	...	...	...	...	8
Customs Regulations, (breaches of)	...	...	...	...	8
Contempt of court	...	...	...	...	1
Culpable homicide	...	...	...	...	10
Escape from custody	...	...	...	...	5
Fraud	...	...	...	...	1
Firearms (smuggling)	...	...	...	...	7
Housebreaking	...	...	...	...	7
Liquor Laws, (breaches of)	...	...	...	...	42

Carried forward ... 89

	Brought forward	...	89		
Pass Laws (breaches of)	...	...	109		
Public violence	...	...	3		
Resisting police	...	...	13		
Rape	...	...	1		
Minor offences	...	...	32		
Theft	...	...	61		
			308		
	Total	...	308		
			308		
Civil cases heard	...	...	37		

BASUTOLAND
1897-8.

No floggings were inflicted in Basutoland during the year. 230 prisoners were received into gaol, and 91 remained in gaol on the 30th June 1898.

Return of Lost Stock Reported.

Stock.	Reported lost.	Definitely traced to Basutoland.	Not so traced.	Re-covered.	Not re-covered.
Horses ...	76	40	36	43	33
Cattle ...	58	35	23	34	24
Sheep and goats	1,188	34	1,154	34	1,154

In some cases the stock reported as lost, but not traced into Basutoland, has been subsequently reported as recovered in neighbouring territories.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC.

The Postal Revenue for the year was £1,619 17s. 2d.

The following figures are extracted from records kept and from returns for the year furnished by the courtesy of the Postmaster General, Cape Town :—

Letters posted in Basutoland	...	150,875
Post cards	...	4,137
Newspapers	...	25,800
Book and sample packets	...	8,009
Parcels	...	2,456
	Total	191,277
		191,277

BASUTOLAND
1897-8.

Letters received	...	...	...	138,708
Post cards	„	...	...	4,347
Newspapers	...	...	...	53,575
Book and sample packets	...	...	...	14,028
Parcels	...	...	...	5,376
			Total	216,034

			£	s.	d.
Money Orders issued	...	...	7,307	16	5
Money Orders paid	...	...	4,383	19	1
Deposits in savings bank	...	...	1,443	4	11
Withdrawals	„	...	564	17	3

Telegraph messages sent (Maseru and Mafeteng)	...	...	5,059
Telegraph messages received	...	...	4,374

I have the honour to submit the Reports of the following officers :—

The Assistant Commissioner, Leribe.
 The Officer in Charge, Butha Buthe.
 The Medical Officer, Leribe.
 The Assistant Commissioner, Berea.
 The Assistant Commissioner, Maseru.
 The Principal Medical Officer, Maseru.
 The Assistant Commissioner, Mafeteng.
 The Medical Officer, Mafeteng.
 The Assistant Commissioner, Mohale's Hoek.
 The Medical Officer, Mohale's Hoek.
 The Assistant Commissioner, Quthing.
 The Medical Officer, Quthing.
 The Acting Assistant Commissioner, Qacha's Nek.

H. C. SLOLEY,
Government Secretary.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—LERIBE DISTRICT.

BASUTOLAND
1897-8.

The past year has been an eventful one for this district owing to the Masupha disturbance in January.

The chief Jonathan was then called out by the Paramount Chief to assist in vindicating the authority of the law. He went, but at a critical moment returned home leaving the work incomplete, and by his defection aggravated the trouble, as no doubt thereby he indirectly encouraged Masupha in his resistance. The Paramount Chief showed his very natural resentment in the usual native way. Threatening letters and messages were sent by him to Jonathan, and orders were sent to Jonathan's younger brothers and other minor chiefs in his district to disregard his authority, and report their matters direct to the Paramount Chief. Rumours were industriously circulated to the effect that Jonathan intended to help Masupha, and certain chiefs in this district, disaffected to Jonathan, excused themselves from helping Lerothodi by saying that if they did Jonathan would fall upon them. These rumours and excuses I knew to be quite without foundation, and indeed the sequel showed them to be so. Jonathan deserted the Paramount Chief when he had great need of him in the Government Service, and therein he was very blameworthy, but his fault ended there. He gave many excuses for his defection, but the true reasons were probably a sort of sentimental veneration for Masupha, who is his father-in-law as well as his uncle, and distrust of Lerothodi caused by unredressed grievances, the principal ones being probably the cattle post questions which have been alluded to in Leribe Annual Reports for several years by my predecessors and by me, and which are still unredressed.

In March, Jonathan sent humble messages of apology to Lerothodi, in which he confessed his fault, and, so to speak, threw himself on the mercy of the court, and the very light fine of ten head of cattle was inflicted upon him by Lerothodi. The fine was paid, and accepted in professedly final settlement of the matter. The intriguing, however, still continued, and towards the end of May it took an alarming shape. There is in this district a small chief called Motsweni. He is the eldest son of Jonathan's eldest brother Joseph who, owing to his being a lunatic, has never been in a position of authority.

Motsweni, therefore, by his birth should be chief of Leribe, and I believe was in his infancy indicated by Moshesh as the future Paramount Chief of Basutoland. His character, however, is such as to render him quite impossible for the position, and this was fully recognised by the late chiefs Letsie and Molaypo.

BASUTOLAND Without being absolutely mad like his father he is very weak-minded. In his normal condition he can speak and act reasonably enough, but if he is in the slightest degree checked, or if anything is said or done that he does not like, he at once loses all control over himself.

1897-8.

To this man Lerothodi addressed a letter harmless enough in itself, if rather injudicious, considering to whom it was addressed, instructing him to stand between Jonathan and anyone whom he was oppressing, and inform him and the court about it.

On the strength of this letter, Motsweni gathered all the malcontents in the district around him, who, of course, were quite ready to use him for their own purposes, and proclaimed himself chief over Leribe. A dangerous cabal was formed and reports of their doings, no doubt in many cases exaggerated, caused grave anxiety in the district, and might very well have led Jonathan into committing himself with Government by taking up arms. This no doubt was just what those who started these intrigues wanted, but I am happy to say that, acting on my advice, he kept quiet, and, though very much provoked, contented himself with reporting matters and rumours to me as they occurred or came to his knowledge.

Finally, Lerothodi and Jonathan were called together by the Resident Commissioner and a *modus vivendi* arrived at between them. Jonathan wants to place out his son Tau, and in this he requires Lerothodi's support; indeed he cannot do without it. I hope he is wise enough to see this.

An understanding having been arrived at between Lerothodi and Jonathan, I was able to bring about the collapse of the local conspiracy by securing the withdrawal of Joel and Khetisa from it, so that the outlook for next year is considerably better than it was.

Affairs at Makhoakhoeng are in much the same state as they were last year, the cause being probably that Lerothodi and Jonathan have never been in accord. It is Lerothodi's way of showing Jonathan that he cannot do without him.

One case of "eating up" by chief Tlasoa was brought to my notice. I called him before me, and on his failing to show sufficient cause for his action I ordered restitution to be made, which has now taken place.

I attach a return of revenue in this district. The Hut Tax was paid well, and shows an increase on last year.

				£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	...	...	...	5,625	0	0
Licences	...	...	...	457	0	0
Fines	...	...	...	99	11	6
Fees of court	...	...	...	4	16	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	128	1	3
Total	...	...	...	£6,314	9	3

The amount of arrear Hut Tax collected is £234 10s. Tax **BASUTOLAND**
has been paid on 10,936 huts. 1897-8.

There are forty-three licensed general traders in the district. Forty-one hawkers' licences have been issued, of which twelve were free.

I append a return showing the results of action taken in the matter of tracing and recovering lost stock.

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Not traced.	Re-covered.	Not re-covered.
Horses	21	19	2	19	2
Cattle	13	11	2	10	2
Sheep	3	3	—	3	—

It will be noted that in every case except one where stock has been traced to Basutoland it has been recovered. The exception was a case in which a stolen cow had been slaughtered by the thief.

The following is a list of cases tried in my court :—

Civil actions	...	...	...	...	9
Theft	...	...	...	...	16
Housebreaking	...	...	...	...	3
Infanticide	...	...	...	...	1
Homicide	...	...	...	...	3
Fraud	...	...	...	...	1
Escape	...	...	...	...	1
Resisting police	...	...	...	...	11
Contravening Pass Law	...	...	...	...	67
Contravening Customs Regulations	...	...	...	...	3
Contravening Liquor Regulations	...	...	...	...	5
Contravening Law relating to Firearms	...	...	...	...	6

The harvest was scanty, but, still, in this district there was a crop, and I do not anticipate any famine. Indeed, grain in considerable quantities is being exported to the districts where crops have entirely failed.

BASUTOLAND
1897-8.

The following is a list of prices paid for produce :—

Wheat	25s. per bag.
Mealies	12s. „
Kafir corn	14s. „
Ponies	£4 to £10 each.
Cattle	£3 to £7 „
Sheep	15s. to 20s. „
Goats	10s. to 20s. „
Wool	3d. per lb.
Mohair	8d. per lb.
Forage	25s. to 30s. per 100 bundles.

The wheat crop of Leribe has up to now been inconsiderable, but this year a large quantity of seed wheat has been issued to natives on credit by an arrangement between Government and the Chamber of Commerce which, if the crop is successful, should add greatly to the purchasing power of the people. 20,332 passes have been issued during the year, of which 7,505 were to persons in search of work.

The following is a return of patrols performed by my police :—

No. of Patrols.	No. of Men.	Miles travelled.	Arrests.		
			Contravening Liquor Regulations.	Contravening Pass Regulations.	Other Offences.
387	586	12,406	6	57	15

I attach a report from the officer in charge at Butha-Buthe.

Relations with the officials of the Orange Free State continue to be of a friendly nature.

J. C. MACGREGOR.

Assistant Commissioner.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—BUTHA-BUTHE SUB-DISTRICT. BASUTOLAND
1897-8.

I took over the duties of this district on the 2nd June 1898. On looking over the records of the past year, I find that the usual disturbances have taken place in Letsika's ward.

In July a dispute arose between Letuma and Malekopa, and arms were taken up, but fortunately no damage was done. Letuma was proved to be the aggressor, and he and some of his men were fined.

Dijo was building a village last March near the Phakoeng Hill, without having first obtained the permission of the chief Letsika, who despatched armed men to burn the huts, and a general fight occurred. Dijo was driven away, and fortunately there were no casualties. The case was tried by the Assistant Commissioner, and Letsika and Dijo were both fined 10 head of cattle.

Rinderpest broke out in this district last July and decimated the large cattle herds. The chief Joel was against inoculating at first, but afterwards consented, and every effort was made to carry on the inoculation, but without very good results, as nearly all the cattle herds became infected.

Large swarms of locusts appeared early in January, but did very little damage in this district.

AGRICULTURE.

The crops of mealies and kafir corn are very fair considering the severe drought we have experienced, and that most of the cattle have been swept off. In some places ploughing has been done with horses. The wheat crop was a failure.

TRADE.

There are sixteen trading stations in this district, and licences for five others have lately been applied for. Trade has been bad during the past year.

EDUCATION.

There are three Government-aided schools in this ward.

BAHUTOLAND
1897-8.

			REVENUE.		
			£	s.	d.
Hut Tax...	...	...	1,580	0	0
Licences ...	...	...	177	0	0
Fines ...	...	...	15	4	0
Fees ...	...	...	0	11	6
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	5	0	0
Total ...			£1,777	15	6

Arrear Hut Tax amounting to £76 has been paid. Tax was paid on 3,059 huts.

LICENCES.

General traders ...	...	...	...	16
Hawkers (paid) ...	...	...	...	15
Hawkers (free) ...	...	...	...	2

RETURN OF LOST STOCK.

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Not traced.	Re-covered.	Not re-covered.
Horses ...	13	13	—	13	—
Cattle ...	4	4	—	4	—
Sheep ...	3	3	—	3	—

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES TRIED DURING THE YEAR.

Civil cases...	...	...	...	3
Theft ...	...	...	...	9
Housebreaking ...	...	...	...	1
Infanticide...	...	...	...	1
Escaping from custody ...	...	...	...	1
Contravention Pass Laws	...	...	...	18
Contravention Custom Regulations	...	...	...	1

CURRENT PRICES OF PRODUCE AND STOCK.

BASUTOLAND
1897-8.

Wheat...	...	...	£1 5s. per muid.
Mealies	...	...	12s. „
Kafir corn	...	...	14s. „
Horses...	...	...	£4 to £10.
Cattle ...	...	...	£3 to £7.
Goats ...	...	...	15s. to 20s.
Wool ...	...	...	3d. per lb.
Mohair	...	...	8d. „
Forage...	...	...	25s. to 30s. per 100 bundles.

RETURN OF PASSES ISSUED.

Seeking work ...	...	...	...	2,224
Other purposes...	...	...	...	4,932
			Total	7,156

RETURN OF PATROLS.

No. of Patrols.	No. of Men.	No. of Miles.	Arrests.		
			Contravening Pass Law.	Contravening Liquor Regulations.	Other Offences.
62	109	2,641	16	—	1

E. D'A. BLYTH,

Sub-Inspector B.M.P.

BASUTOLAND
1897-8.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—BEREA DISTRICT.

The past year can only be described as an unfortunate one for Berea district.

In my last Report I mentioned an outstanding claim made by Masupha to some lands of Leshoboro. This claim he began to enforce in the early spring. Shots were fired, and five men were killed. The whole tribe was against Masupha's contention, and he gave up his claims.

The Resident Commissioner called a large and representative meeting at Maseru, at which the matter was thoroughly thrashed out, and both Masupha and Leshoboro were fined as being to blame for the bloodshed.

At the end of 1897, Moiketsi Masupha having followed a runaway woman to the Orange Free State, and assaulted her paramour, was arrested in the act of forcibly bringing her back to Basutoland, and was sentenced, together with his men, by the Orange Free State Court to lashes and imprisonment. He escaped from the convict gang with a Free State subject, also a convict, and took refuge in Basutoland. The Free State demanded his extradition, which was refused. Masupha refused to surrender Moiketsi for trial by this Government according to law, but after much delay and under considerable pressure he gave up the Free State man. Lerothodi was then ordered to arrest Moiketsi, by force if necessary. He called together a considerable force and marched by way of Swilswili to Moiketsi's village. Moiketsi was not found, and the village was burnt. Lerothodi then returned to Thaba Bosiu and commenced regular operations against Masupha, who had made all preparations to resist and had occupied a strong position near Khamolane store. On Lerothodi's forces crossing the Phutiatsana river and approaching the fortified position they were fired upon by Masupha's men, and during the fighting which ensued for the next three weeks, some forty or fifty men were killed and wounded on each side. Surmon, a minor son of Masupha, was shot dead in a cavalry skirmish, and Mojela Letsie was severely wounded. Masupha eventually surrendered his stronghold at Khamolane and gave up Moiketsi.

The Resident Commissioner held a pitso at Maseru, at which Marthinus represented his father Masupha. Moiketsi was sentenced to fourteen months hard labour for his misdeeds; Masupha was fined, was ordered to leave Thaba Bosiu village, which together with the defences of his stronghold was destroyed, and was deprived of his chieftainship of Berea district.

All border lines were examined, and were readjusted where it was found that Masupha's people had encroached on other men. The district then settled down in quiet for some months.

BASUTOLAND
1897-8.

It is remarkable that throughout the fighting both sides showed a moderation hardly to be hoped for in semi-savage warfare. Flags of truce were respected, neutral buildings were spared where it was possible to do so, and on several occasions the winning side was restrained by its chiefs, where a free hand meant annihilation for the defeated men.

In April, His Excellency the High Commissioner visited Berea, but having already met all the chiefs at Maseru no political meetings were held.

Marthinus the eldest surviving son of Masupha died suddenly when starting to meet His Excellency at Maseru. For the present, Fako, his younger brother, has been appointed by Masupha, with my concurrence, to look after his ward and family.

Masupha, who is getting very old and broken, is feeling severely the want of trustworthy sons to guard his interests and those of his grandson and heir, who is still a schoolboy.

At the beginning of June, Masupha on the plea of harvesting went down to Thaba Bosiu, but refused to come back on its completion. He had no sympathisers, and finding himself deserted, at length realized that the Government decision was final, and without force being used returned to his own district. I am of opinion that this satisfactory result was to a great extent due to Jonathan Molapo's personal influence. No harm was done, except the creation of a general scare among Masupha's people in Berea.

Rinderpest during the winter and spring played havoc in Berea. Opposition to and delay in inoculation gave the disease a chance which it did not get in other districts, and the result has been disastrous. About 4,000 cattle (mostly infected) were inoculated by Government after the opposition of Masupha and others was withdrawn.

Severe epidemics of dysentery and typhoid followed the rinderpest, and caused a big death-rate among the native population.

The number of passes issued during the past year amounts to 4,787 as under :—

For labour	...	...	...	...	2,300
Other purposes...	...	...	...	...	2,407

This may be taken as about half the number issued in an ordinary year.

BABUTOLAND
1897-8.

Owing to Masupha's old age and habitual dilatoriness in the matter, and in a lesser degree the circumstances of the past year, there has been even greater trouble than usual in getting in the Hut Tax. Eventually, the Resident Commissioner sent the Paramount Chief to personally assist in the collection of the outstanding part. Owing to these measures the collection has been enabled to reach that of last year, and I have great reason to expect that the remaining arrears will be soon paid up. It must, however, be expected that the Hut Tax in Berea will show a permanent decrease for some time to come. The direct and indirect consequences of Masupha's late line of conduct have been so unpleasant that the loyalty of his followers has given way, and they are leaving the district in large numbers for other chiefs.

The following is the revenue for the last year in detail of heads of receipts :—

	£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	2,500	10	0
Licences	279	7	6
Fees	4	1	0
Miscellaneous	42	14	0
Total	£2,826	12	6

Of the Hut Tax £284 were paid for arrear Hut Tax.

The police force in this district consists of :—

European officer	1
Native sergeant	1
Native corporal	1
Native lance-corporal	1
Native privates	22
Total	26

also four men temporarily lent by Maseru for special duty.

The following was the patrol work done by the detachment :—

Number of patrols	113
„ „ men	330
„ „ miles	3,547
Arrests for Liquor Law	11
„ „ Pass Laws	2
Miscellaneous offences... ..	5

A detachment of 10 men has been stationed on the Caledon river, opposite Lady Brand, to cope with the smuggling trade which has been lately rampant on the border. BASUTOLAND
1897-8.

A list of lost stock reported at this station is shown :—

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Re-covered.	Not traced.	Not re-covered.
Horses	4	1	1	3	3
Cattle	12	10	10	2	2

The following cases were heard in this court during the year :—

Homicide	1
Assault	2
Theft	3
Public violence	3
Escape from custody	2
Liquor Laws	15
Pass Laws	5

There are 22 licenced trading stations in the district.

During the year there were 15 hawkers' licences issued, of which 11 were free and 4 were paid.

The roads are in fair order. Much damage was done by the very heavy rains of January, following on the protracted drought of the spring.

The crops, though much damaged by drought and locusts, were not bad as a whole, more damage being done by neglect during the disturbances than by want of rain. The wheat crops, however, failed completely. The natives not having even got their seed back, arrangements have been made for them to obtain seed-wheat on credit, to be paid back at harvest time.

There is no immediate danger of hunger in the district, although many people at Christmas sold their reserve of grain to prevent its capture.

L. WROUGHTON,

Assistant Commissioner.

BASUTOLAND ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8—MASERU DISTRICT.
1897-8.

The peace of the district was undisturbed for the first five months of the year, but the attitude of the chief Masupha, in disregarding the demand of the Paramount Chief for the surrender of his son Moiketsi, who made his escape from gaol in Lady Brand, threw the district into a state of intense anxiety and unrest. Lerothodi, acting on instructions from Government, found it necessary to take active measures, and was loyally supported by all the chiefs in the district, excepting Maama, who declined to take the field against Masupha, who is his uncle and father-in-law, and it was obvious that he wished to join Masupha, but his movements were closely watched by Lerothodi and frustrated. He was punished for this conduct.

After the loss of many lives on both sides the sons of Masupha realized their inability to hold their own against Lerothodi, and persuaded Masupha to surrender Moiketsi. Operations then terminated. Masupha was tried, and amongst other things was ordered to leave his village at Thaba Bosiu, which is in the Maseru district.

During the present month Masupha was permitted to come to Thaba Bosiu to reap the crops he cultivated before the row. After doing so, once having returned to his old village, he was reluctant to leave again and expressed his intention of not going away. Jonathan Molapo came to the rescue, and, using his good offices, prevailed on Masupha to abide by the Resident Commissioner's orders.

The inoculation of cattle in this district as a preventative against rinderpest was concluded in July. The operation on the whole has proved highly satisfactory, and I am pleased to report that in no instance in this district has the disease shown itself again.

A severe drought was experienced during the spring months, and as a consequence the harvest of wheat, mealies, and Kafir corn, comparatively speaking, proved a total failure. Locusts visited the district during the months of November and December, but owing to the paucity of the crops did not remain any length of time. Large swarms of vœtgangers which appeared in March were destroyed by locust fungus, which was obtained from the Grahamstown Bacteriological Institute.

His Excellency the High Commissioner was pleased to visit Basutoland, and on the day of his arrival here was met by a large gathering of chiefs and people to extend to him their expressions of loyalty and welcome.

COMMERCIAL.

BASUTOLAND
1897-8.

There has been a marked falling off of trade, accounted for by the failure of the crops. Those fortunate enough to reap even a small harvest of mealies have realized good prices.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The roads in the district are in fair order, and all Government buildings are in good repair.

POLICE.

The district detachment is efficient and consists of—

Sub-inspector	...	...	...	1
European constables	...	...	...	4
Native sergeant	...	...	...	1
Native corporals	...	...	...	2
Native privates	...	...	...	46

The following particulars are of patrols performed by the detachment during the year :—

Number of patrols	...	...	...	30
Number of men employed	...	...	...	127
Number of miles patrolled	...	...	...	3,800
Arrests for contravening Liquor Laws	...	...	...	6
Other offences	...	...	...	3

Since the removal of the restrictions necessitated by rinderpest regulations the border has been once more opened to illicit traffic in liquor, and I regret to say that it has been considerably on the increase of late.

In suppressing crime and facilitating the maintenance of law and order the chiefs have rendered the usual assistance.

The following return shows action taken in the matter of lost and stolen stock :—

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Not Traced.	Re-covered.	Not Recovered.
Horses	23	—	23	3	20
Cattle	16	6	10	6	10
Sheep	95	—	95	—	95

* Four recovered in Orange Free State.

LICENCES.

The following licences were issued during the year :—

General traders	...	...	...	26
Paid hawkers	...	...	...	11
Free	...	...	...	14

BASUTOLAND
1897-8.

The following cases were tried in my court :—

Theft	7
Housebreaking and theft	4
Contravening Gaol Regulations	1
Contravening Police Offences Act	3
Rape and theft	1
Concealment of birth	1
Contravening Customs Regulations	4
Contravening Master and Servant's Act	2
Contravening Liquor Regulations	6
Attempting to escape from gaol	1
Escaping from custody	1
Contravening Pass Regulations	2
Assault	1
Loitering	1
Contravening Hut Tax Regulations	1
Contempt of Court	1
Civil actions	13

REVENUE.

The revenue for the twelve months amounts to :—

	£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	3,984	10	0
Licences	272	0	0
Fines	49	5	0
Ferry tolls	117	19	9
Fees	9	11	4
Miscellaneous	216	3	7
Total	£4,649	9	8

Tax was paid on 7,673 huts. Arrear tax collected amounts to £396.

PASSES.

Passes were issued to—

Seeking employment	6,398
Other purposes	4,112
Total	10,510

Relations with Border States continue to be friendly.

C. GRIFFITH,
Assistant Commissioner.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—MAFETENG
DISTRICT.

BASUTOLAND
1897-8.

Mr. Kennan, Assistant Commissioner for the district, left for England on leave on February 21st, 1898, and on March 10th I arrived and took over charge from Sub-Inspector Murray.

In December, 1897, the trouble caused by Masupha broke out, and all the principal chiefs of the district left to join Lerothodi. There was, of course, considerable anxiety throughout the district, but, from what I can learn, the excitement was, on the whole, less than might have been expected.

I am sorry to have to report that the crops in this district last season were very bad indeed. There is at the present time great scarcity of food all through the district.

The following is a return of the police patrols during the year :—

Number of Patrols.	Number of Men engaged.	Estimated Distance travelled.	Arrests.		
			Liquor Laws.	Pass Laws.	Other Offences.
184	494	10,146	10	8	9

Two men are constantly stationed at each of the three gates—at Sephapo's, Van Rooyen, and Tsupane's.

The strength of the detachment is as follows :—

Sub-Inspector	...	...	...	...	1
European constables	...	...	...	...	2
Native constable	...	...	...	...	1
Native officer	...	...	...	...	1
Sergeant	..	...	...	...	1
Corporal	...	...	...	...	1
Privates	...	...	...	...	31

The following is a return of lost and stolen stock reported at this office during the year :—

Description.	Reported.	Traced to Basutoland.	Not traced.	Re-covered.	Not re-covered.
Horses	7	4	3	4	3
Cattle	12	4	8	4	8*
Sheep	134	12	122	12	122

* Four of these were found by owner in Free State.

BABUTOLAND
1897-8.

I am glad to be able to report that since my arrival in the district every help has been given by the chiefs in the matter of tracing stolen stock.

Licences issued during the year were as follows :—

General traders	...	...	...	...	23
Paid hawkers	...	...	...	...	8
Free hawkers	...	...	...	...	32

The following cases were tried in the court during the year :—

Civil cases	...	...	...	...	8
Contravening liquor laws	...	...	...	...	7
Thefts	...	...	...	...	13
Homicide	...	...	...	...	1
Concealment of birth	...	...	...	...	2
Other crimes	...	...	...	...	14

The revenue collected was :—

	£	s.	d.
Hut tax	3,835	0	0
Licences	238	0	0
Fines	113	12	0
Fees	10	1	0
Miscellaneous	279	13	0
	<u>£4,476</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>

Number of huts on which tax was collected, 7,523 ; arrears of tax collected, £99 10s. 0d.

The number of persons to whom passes were issued was—

Seeking employment	...	...	6,996
Other purposes	...	...	10,443
Total	...	...	<u>17,439</u>

Relations with the Free State officials have been very satisfactory.

W. BOXWELL,
Acting Assistant Commissioner.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—MOHALE'S HOEK
DISTRICT.BASUTOLAND
1897-8.

The early part of the past year will be long remembered in this district as a period of the severest drought experienced for many years. By many old inhabitants it was considered quite as severe as the great drought of 1862. Owing to the severity of this drought, the wheat crop in the district was practically a failure; what little was reaped was of a light and inferior quality.

In July I left my station and proceeded to the mountains at the request of the Chief Griffith Lerothodi and others, who wished for inoculation against rinderpest. I was away up to the end of August, and during that period inoculated 4,050 cattle with very satisfactory results.

Nothing of any political importance occurred until October, when the National Pitso was called by the Resident Commissioner, and many chiefs and people proceeded to Maseru to attend. It was there notified that Hut Tax collecting would commence on November 1st.

On the 1st of November the work was started, and proceeded with vigour. So well did the people respond that by the end of the month the bulk of the tax was in, and by the end of December practically finished.

In November and December much trouble was caused by persons who illicitly incited natives to leave Basutoland for labour purposes without paying their Hut Tax or obtaining passes. This illicit practice was the cause of much delay in the collection of the Hut Tax. Prompt action was at once taken to prevent a recurrence of this malpractice.

In December the young chief Griffith made a raid on the village of Mocheke, chief of the Baphuti, and looted the place; the cause of this was of long standing. It appears that Mocheke had slaughtered a stray ox, the owner of which found this out and complained to the Paramount Chief, who ordered that Mocheke was to be fined. He was called by Griffith, who was instructed by the Paramount Chief to try the case, but refused to attend court; the summons was repeated from time to time with the same result. Griffith became exasperated and took matters into his own hands and raided his village. Mocheke fled through Quthing district to Herschel.

In January Mr. Mansel, who was then on leave at Maseru, was sent to Herschel to fetch back Mocheke, who refused to return,

BASUTOLAND saying that he feared for his life. After some trouble Mr. Mansel succeeded in bringing him back. The matter was investigated by the Resident Commissioner, who ordered Griffith to restore the property taken at the raid.

1897-8.

During this month the rain that commenced in December continued and flooded all streams. The Cornet Spruit again overflowed its banks and caused a considerable amount of damage in the vicinity.

A good number of persons proceeded to Matsieng during the month, being called by the Paramount Chief to assist in suppressing the Masupha rebellion.

In February a Free State burgher, named Raats, was arrested in Basutoland for gun smuggling. He was convicted, and a Free State Government Mauser rifle, found in his possession, confiscated.

During the month the Paramount Chief sent messengers to fine all chiefs and people who did not respond to his call in January to enforce the surrender of Moiketsi Masupha.

On the 22nd of this month I received an alarming letter from Mocheko to the effect that his life was in danger from Griffith Lerothodi. I immediately proceeded to the spot and investigated the matter, and found that Mocheko's pretended alarm was without foundation. This further convinced me of his utter unreliability, which has so often and plainly shown itself.

In March a large pitso was held here, when the quarrel of Griffith and Mocheko was investigated by the Paramount Chief, with whom I was associated by order of His Honour the Resident Commissioner. Mocheko made a very poor defence, and it was apparent to me that through his weak and vacillating policy he had brought his troubles upon himself. He complained that his property, taken by Griffith at the raid, had not all been restored. The Paramount Chief gave instructions that the whole was to be restored at once, and messengers were sent to see the order carried out. In the first week of June the chief sent five horses to be handed to Mocheko to make up for any loss he might have sustained.

In April great rejoicings and satisfaction were experienced by the inhabitants of the district owing to the visit of His Excellency the High Commissioner. His Excellency was met throughout his journey by the various clans, and much loyalty and satisfaction shown.

Owing to the severity of the drought the natives were unable to cultivate, and very little grain was sown until December, when too late for certain harvest. In consequence of this very little food was grown, and grain of sorts became dear and very scarce, seed wheat especially so. Nevertheless, a fair quantity has been sown, and should rain fall in time a fair harvest may be looked forward to.

My relations with the neighbouring States continue satisfactory. Illicit traffic in guns and liquor continue, but a considerable check is put upon it through the vigilance of the police, especially in Basutoland, and also in the Free State. BASUTOLAND
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Education is being promoted. I have received good reports from the Rev. Marzloff of Maphutsing. I intended inspecting the school on my return from leave, but found the schools closed for the holidays. I am arranging for an inspection early in August next.

Owing to the scarcity of food many have left, and are still leaving, for labour markets in order to obtain money to supply their wants, and a great many passes have been issued.

The roads, which were much damaged in January by the heavy and continuous rains, have been repaired and are now in good order. Road parties, under European overseers, are maintained.

The stock in the district are in good condition, and the pasturage is good owing to the large number of cattle that died from rinderpest during last year and the early part of this. For the past few months there has been a large demand for slaughter stock, and good prices are paid for fat animals. Ponies also have been in demand and fair prices have been obtained.

Below will be found a schedule of the various returns.

PASSES ISSUED.

Labour ...	...	...	...	...	4,128
Other purposes...	...	...	...	...	2,677
				Total ...	6,805

RETURN OF PATROLS AND ARRESTS.

Number of Patrols.	Number of Men.	Miles travelled.	Arrests.		
			Contravening Liquor Regulations.	Contravening Pass Laws.	Other Offences.
121	198	8,866	4	12	8
			24		

LOST STOCK.

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Not traced.	Re-covered.	Not re-covered.
Horses ...	4	1	3	1	3
Cattle ...	1	—	1	—	1
Sheep ...	210	16	194	16	194

BASUTOLAND RETURN OF CASES TRIED IN THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S
1897-8.
— COURT DURING THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1898

Civil cases	4
Contravening liquor regulations	3
Contravening pass laws	20
Perjury	1
Theft	9
Contravening custom regulations	1
Assault with intent... ..	1
Gaol breaking	1
Gun smuggling	1
Minor offences	2
	—
Total ...	43
	—

LICENCES.

General traders	13
Hawkers (paid)	16
„ (free)	4
Dam licences	2
	—
Total ...	35
	—

REVENUE.

	£	s.	d.
Hut tax	3,774	0	0
Licences :—			
General trader's licence ...	130	0	0
Hawker's „ ...	16	0	0
Dam „ ...	3	0	0
Ferry tolls		17	0
Fines	63	17	6
Fees	3	17	6
Miscellaneous... ..	116	2	6
	—	—	—
Total ...	£4,107	14	6
	—	—	—
Arrear hut tax	£168	10s.	
Number of huts paid on ...	...	7,404	

The above table shows an increase of £332 19s. 3*d.* on last year's revenue, Hut Tax alone being £326 10s. in excess of that year. This result is all the more satisfactory when the recent ravages of rinderpest and the exceptional drought of last year are considered. During the last few years the influence of Chief Mocheko in the Baphuti ward has been gradually decreasing, while that of the Chief Griffith Lerothodi is being steadily but surely made more apparent.

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This gradual change induced me this year to associate myself more definitely with Griffith in the matter of Hut Tax collection, and I think that the improvement indicated by the above figures is greatly due to this policy.

A further cause of the increase is undoubtedly the prompt measures which were taken during the year to suppress the action of unauthorized and unscrupulous labour agents, who had been in the habit of assisting large numbers of natives who had not paid Hut Tax to leave the territory without passes. I believe that still more satisfactory results would be effected by adopting a system of permanent police outposts along the Cape Colonial border.

Below are the current prices of stock and produce :—

				£	s.	d.
Wheat, per bag	...	...	...	1	15	0
Mealies, „	...	...	...	1	0	0
Kafir corn, per bag	...	...	...	1	0	0
Barley, „	...	...	...	10	0	
Oats, „	...	...	...	10	0	
Cattle, each ...	...	...	...	6	10	0
Horses „ ...	...	...	...	6	0	0
Sheep „ ...	...	...	...	12	6	
Goats „ ...	...	...	...	10	6	

J. W. BOWKER,

Assistant Commissioner.

BASUTOLAND ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—QUTHING DISTRICT.
1897-8.

Nothing of consequence has occurred in this district during the last twelve months beyond the usual petty bickerings as to rights to land, pastures, thatch grass, &c., consequent upon the natural stress caused by a rapidly expanding population. Some excitement was, of course, prevalent among the Baphutti of this district during the incident between Griffith Lerothodi and Mocheko Letuka in the adjoining Mohale's Hoek district.

Many of the men of the district took part, under their Chief Nkwebe, in the movement against Masupha during January and February last.

Agriculture has been practically a failure during the past year. Many fields have gone out of cultivation owing to ravages of rinderpest. The drought, which lasted until January, retarded and destroyed the crops so that little grain has been harvested, and the people are likely to experience considerable want.

The phenomenal rainfall of January last, 19½ inches, caused much damage to all the district roads. These have since been put into fair order.

The police stationed in the district are fairly efficient.

The following patrols have been performed :—

Number of patrols	...	...	...	130
Number of men employed	...	...	...	311
Number of miles travelled	...	...	...	4,358
Arrests, liquor regulations	...	...	...	10
" pass "	...	...	...	32
" other offences	...	...	...	8

The police in the neighbouring territory have reported the loss of 673 sheep and 13 goats during the year. None of these have been traced to or recovered in Basutoland. It is probable that the greater number of these animals had merely strayed, and were thereupon reported to the police as having been stolen. Liquor smuggling still continues.

There is a decrease in the number of criminal cases as compared with the previous year. The numbers were as follows :—

Contravention of rinderpest regulations ...	2
Resisting police	2
Assault	4
Theft	5
Contravention of pass regulations ...	7
Culpable homicide	2
Rape... ..	1
Contravention of liquor regulations ...	5

The total revenue is practically the same as that for 1896-7 ; Hut Tax, however, shows an increase of £93 10s., the shortfall being under the head of licences.

	£	s.	d.
Hut tax	2,419	10	0
Licences	308	4	6
Fees	4	15	6
Miscellaneous	76	2	6
Total	£2,808	12	6

Taxes were paid upon 4,797 huts, and arrears amounted to £36 10s.

During the past twelve months passes have been issued to 1,831 natives leaving the district in search of labour, and 2,279 for other purposes.

F. ENRAGHT-MOONY,

Assistant Commissioner.

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ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—QACHA'S NEK
DISTRICT.

In accordance with instructions received from the Resident Commissioner, I proceeded to this station on the 12th March last, Mr. Moony shortly afterwards leaving for Quthing.

At the close of last year rinderpest had not made its appearance, but broke out in July at Sekake's village. From there it travelled slowly up the Orange river to Ledingoana's ward, where it eventually died out.

Inoculation was carried out by Mr. Moony, assisted by trained natives, with very satisfactory results. During the months of September, October, and November 10,553 head of cattle were inoculated with bile and 47 with serum, thus making a total of 10,600. A serum station was established at Qacha's Nek, as it was considered inadvisable to rely upon a certain supply from Maseru owing to the distance and difficulty of transport.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining correct returns of deaths after inoculation. It is, however, estimated that 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. is a fairly correct approximation.

Towards the latter end of December, rumours were persistently circulated in the neighbouring districts of the Cape Colony that the rebel Le Fleur, for whose arrest a warrant had been issued, was in Basutoland for the purpose of persuading the chiefs and people to assist him in carrying out his rebellious schemes in East Griqualand. The Chief Makhaola, however, voluntarily stated that Le Fleur had not to his knowledge entered the country, but had merely sent him a letter for transmission to the Paramount Chief. Makhaola returned the letter, informing Le Fleur that he did not wish to act as his messenger. Notwithstanding this assurance of Makhaola's, increased patrols were sent out and the various gates carefully watched, with the result that four of Le Fleur's following were arrested and handed over to the Colonial authorities.

On January 12th a large number of natives under Makhaola, with other chiefs, left for Thaba Bosigo, in pursuance of Lerothodi's orders calling the nation to assist him in suppressing the Masupha disturbance.

On April 1st the majority of the chiefs and people of the district left for Maseru to welcome His Excellency the High Commissioner on his visit to Basutoland. On the 15th of the same month I left for the Maletsunyane Falls, reaching them on the 18th, on which day His Excellency inspected them while camped in the vicinity.

The uneasiness mentioned in the last Annual Report with regard to the border fence, appears to have died out among the Basuto in the district. The intention of the Colonial authorities to place two guards at five of the principal gates should have a salutary effect in checking thefts of stock and liquor smuggling, the former of which appears to be on the increase since the advent of colder weather. This is no doubt due to the wish to procure money to purchase blankets and clothing for winter use. In one case of sheep stealing it was reported that the thieves were overtaken by a snow storm, and that three of them perished through cold and exposure.

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EDUCATIONAL.

There are two Government aided schools in the district, both of which I have inspected and furnished reports on.

It is noteworthy that notwithstanding that there are two native ministers in the district only two Christian marriages have taken place during the last sixteen months.

POLICE.

The police at this station consist of a corporal and twelve men. They have during the last year patrolled as follows :—

Number of patrols	...	...	...	58
Number of men	...	...	...	81
Miles patrolled	...	...	...	5,245
Arrests, pass laws	...	...	...	2
„ other offences	...	...	...	11

PUBLIC WORKS.

The road to this station continues, with slight attention, to keep in good order. Additions to gaol, officer's quarters, and stable have been erected or are in course of erection.

AGRICULTURE.

The crops in the district were in a promising condition, but hard frosts in the beginning of April, and later on a heavy snow storm, considerably reduced the prospects of an abundant harvest.

Current prices are as follows :—

Wheat	...	...	20s. per bag.
Mealies	...	...	10s. „
Kafir corn	...	...	15s. „
Horses	£2 each and upwards.
Cattle	£5 to £7 a head.
Sheep	12s. each.
Goats	8s. „
Wool...	3d. per lb.
Mohair	7d. „

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REVENUE.

	£	s.	d.
Hut tax	1,300	0	0
Licences	20	0	0
Fines	1	11	0
Ferry tolls (nil)			
Fees		5	0
Miscellaneous receipts...	2	10	0
Total ...	£1,324	6	0

The hut tax shows an increase of £68 on last year's collection. Arrear tax collected, £48 10s. Number of huts paid on, 2,503.

LOST STOCK.

The following is a return of lost and stolen stock, showing action taken, and results:—

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Not traced.	Re-covered.	Not re-covered.
Horses	4	2	2	2	2
Sheep	57	—	57	—	57

CRIMINAL.

During the year the following cases were tried at this station:—

Contravening pass laws	8
Theft	7
Perjury	1

No civil cases were adjudicated upon.

PASSES.

Passes issued to men seeking work ...	1,116
„ „ „ for other reasons...	3,691
Total ...	4,807

FLOGGINGS.

No floggings have been inflicted at this station during the year.

H. R. CARTWRIGHT,
Acting Assistant Commissioner.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—PRINCIPAL MEDICAL OFFICER.

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PUBLIC HEALTH.

The exceptionally severe drought experienced during the latter part of 1897 with its attendant diminished water supply, the pollution of the fountains by the decomposing carcasses of cattle which succumbed to rinderpest, the contamination of the air from the same cause, the restricted food supply which is the natural concomitant of a bad season : all these causes combined to render the past year exceptionally unhealthy.

Typhoid Fever, already firmly established in certain districts, has been prevalent throughout the year, and the epidemic in some wards was of a very severe and fatal character. Gradually increasing during the months of September and October 1897, the epidemic attained its maximum intensity in November. Cases were very numerous during the months of December and January, since when the epidemic has gradually declined, although sporadic cases still appear in the wards where the disease was most prevalent.

Dysentery of a severe type was prevalent during the early summer months, and the mortality was high. The epidemic subsided with the appearance of the summer rains.

Small-pox.—No cases have been reported. Vaccination is, however, enforced wherever possible.

Varicella.—A few mild outbreaks of this disease have been observed in most districts, and as has been formerly noticed, old people seem to have been the most frequent victims.

Influenza prevailed during the months of April, May, and June. The epidemic was mainly characterized by the mildness of the initial onset, and the severe and protean aspects of the sequela, which accounted for a considerable number of deaths.

Syphilis.—This disease appears to be decreasing in a most satisfactory manner.

Epidemic dropsy.—In January 1898, numerous cases of a disease hitherto, I think, unknown in South Africa, but which I believe is identical with that which has been recognized in India, and is known there as *epidemic dropsy*, came under the notice of

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the medical staff in this country. The chief symptom of the disease is the presence of general dropsy not due to either cardiac or renal disease. There is usually some fever, and in most cases at some period of this course some gastro-intestinal disturbance. Severe pains in the limbs are often complained of. In many cases, however, the dropsy is the only symptom which attracts attention. So far as our observations have extended up to the present time, children between the ages of 3 and 12 years are most commonly attacked. The disease appeared simultaneously throughout the country, and is still prevalent. Its severity and duration vary within very wide limits, from a transient oedema of the extremities which disappears spontaneously in a few days, to the most extensive general dropsy, persisting for several months. In one case this was so severe that sloughing of the tissues occurred. The mortality does not appear to be high, but death has occurred rapidly in some cases. Owing to the impossibility of obtaining post-mortem examinations in this country, the pathology of the disease as observed here rests in obscurity, and the treatment adopted has been purely empirical and eminently unsatisfactory. In some recent cases, however, the writer has obtained a fair measure of success by the exhibition of thymol, but they are too few to warrant any definite expression of opinion as to the value of this drug.

HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY WORK.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of both in-patients and out-patients. The maximum number of the former which the present hospital accommodation admits has been reached, and until a sufficient grant is available to enable properly equipped wards and nursing aid to be provided at the different centres, the work in this direction must necessarily be very restricted. The extra accommodation afforded in Maseru by the erection early in the year of the Jubilee Memorial Operating Room, and the provision for one nurse for the wards, has proved a great boon, and the value of having even a few properly equipped beds was amply demonstrated during the disturbances which occurred in the early part of the year, when a number of cases of gunshot injury were under treatment. In addition to the usual tables showing the number of attendances during the year, I append a table giving the number of operations performed at the different stations. The difficulty and anxiety attendant on surgical work in this country are great, owing to the fact that the medical officers have to work entirely single-handed, thus having to supervise the administration of the anæsthetic as well as operate. Partly with a view to obviate this difficulty and partly for the purpose of endeavouring to clear up certain points connected with a little known subject, experiments have been made to test the efficacy of hypnotism as a means of inducing anæsthesia, and as a therapeutic agent. Considerable success

has attended the adoption of this method in surgical work, and by its aid during the past 8 months, upwards of 34 operations have been painlessly performed by the writer in the Maseru hospital and dispensary. Demonstrations of the method of inducing hypnosis have been given to some of the other medical officers, who have likewise adopted it with some success. Up to the present time about 64 per cent. of a series of unselected cases have been found subject to hypnotic influence. The very old and the very young appear to be least susceptible.

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EDWARD C. LONG.

Principal Medical Officer.

TABLE showing the NUMBER of CASES treated at the various STATIONS during the year ended 30th June 1898.

Stations.	Out-patients.		In-patients.	Operations.
	New Cases.	Subsequent Attendances.		
Leribe	2,430	865	65	54
Maseru	3,991	1,589	105	140
Mafeteng	2,943	1,156	96	62
Mohale's Hoek ...	1,702	281	28	16
Quthing	747	183	—	—
Total	11,813	3,574	294	272

BASUTOLAND ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—MEDICAL OFFICER,
 LERIBE.

The following table shows the number of attendances at the dispensary and hospital during the year ended 30th June 1898:—

New cases	...	...	...	...	2,430
Subsequent attendances			...	...	365
In-patients	...	...	...	...	65
Vaccinations	...	...	...	...	2,416
				Total	5,276

The attendance for advice and medicine shows an increase over last year, but the number of vaccinations have decreased considerably. This is due to a number of causes, but chiefly to the closing of the border for a part of the year, and the consequent stoppage of emigration to the neighbouring territories.

GENERAL.

The numbers attending for the treatment of syphilis show a marked decrease, which is a hopeful sign. Diseases of the respiratory tract were very prevalent during the year, and they seem to be on the increase, and are in all probability due to the increasing adoption of European clothing without the knowledge of its dangers.

EPIDEMICS.

A severe epidemic of dysentery passed over this district during November and December. There were many deaths from it amongst the old and the very young. In one week in the camp there were 6 deaths, and from reports from outside districts the disease seems to have been equally severe.

During June influenza broke out and is still prevalent. The police suffered severely at first.

There was one case of typhoid fever in the camp, but the boy came from the Free State ill. The disease did not obtain a foothold.

There was no small-pox during the year.

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1897-8.

The health of the police has been fairly good. The prisoners suffered considerably during the epidemic of dysentery.

HOSPITAL.

During the last half of the year the six beds in the hospital were fully occupied. A number of cases had to be turned away for want of room. Most of the 65 cases admitted were surgical. There were 4 deaths, all due to chronic diseases.

SANITARY.

The sanitary condition of the camp has been good. The water supply from the fountain is ample for the needs of the place if the waste water were conserved in a suitable reservoir.

CONCLUSION.

There has been an increase of work during the year, chiefly surgical. The small fee charged has weeded out those who came for the novelty of drinking a white man's medicine. People now come who are ill, and in this way the nature of the work has changed. They are beginning to appreciate the dispensary more and more, and to have a less dread of the hospital.

N. M. MACFARLANE, M.D.,

Medical Officer.

**BASUTOLAND ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—MEDICAL OFFICER,
1897-8,
MAFETENG.**

The following list gives the attendances at the hospital dispensary for treatment and for vaccination certificates, and the list of the previous year for comparison:—

	1897-8	1896-7.
New cases	2,943	2,246
Subsequent attendances	1,156	816
Hospital in-patients	96	52
Vaccinations	7,706	1,603
Total	11,901	4,717

There have been three deaths amongst the in-patients, two from phthisis and one advanced hip disease. Owing to the limited accommodation that the hospital affords many cases have been refused admission.

In the dispensary department the cases requiring treatment have been principally those suffering from dyspepsia and syphilis. Ophthalmia has been very prevalent.

In January and February there was rather a severe epidemic of dysentery and diarrhoea, and these cases were often complicated with or followed by an attack of acute nephritis; several of these cases ended fatally, especially amongst children.

The health of the Europeans and natives in the camp has been very good, and only a few cases of chicken-pox have occurred.

Although the prison has been rather crowded at times the prisoners have kept in excellent health.

The health of the police detachment has been very good.

A. LISLE WEBB,

Medical Officer.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—MEDICAL OFFICER, BASUTOLAND
 MOHALE'S HOEK, 1897-8.

There has been an increase of attendances at the dispensary during the past year for both professional help and vaccination as a means of obtaining passes.

The following table will show this better :—

—	1896-7.	1897-8.
New cases	1,480	1,702
Subsequent attendances	272	281
Hospital in-patients	22	28
Vaccinations	1,085	3,432
Total	2,859	5,443

The increase is general, most so in number of new cases and vaccinations, the total increase being 2,584.

Of the 28 cases admitted to hospital, 18 were cured, six more or less benefited by treatment, two died, and two still remain under treatment. A large number of these patients were admitted for some venereal disorders of one sort or another.

EPIDEMICS.

During March, April, and May there was a slight outbreak of varicella (chicken-pox), but with no fatal results; adults were, however, attacked in considerable numbers.

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Throughout the year there have been isolated cases of typhoid fever which, however, was most prevalent during late summer months and autumn.

There were three or four deaths in the camp, and I heard of several others occurring in the district.

Influenza appeared just at the end of the year and most of the white population were attacked, although not in a severe manner, yet with a wonderful diversity of symptoms for so small a community. Natives have not taken much notice of it, and it does not seem to have caused them much discomfort or alarm, very few cases having presented themselves for treatment.

POLICE.

The health of the police has been good.

The sanitary arrangements of the camp cannot be complained of.

W. R. NATTLE.

Medical Officer.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—MEDICAL OFFICER, BASUTOLAND
1897-8.

QUTHING.

On the 22nd December, 1897, I arrived here, and on the following day commenced the duties of my office.

The number of patients attending during the 6 months covered by this report is 930, a number small in comparison with what might be, but large in comparison with what has been.

The want of any hospital accommodation detracts greatly from the usefulness of the medical work here, and not merely reduces the number of patients quantitatively, but influences the work qualitatively, bringing it down to exclusive out-patient work, and perforce excluding any but very minor surgical operations, and hindering continued medical treatment. The position of the camp on the top of a long steep hill also tends to keep away some who are afraid to try it, and it is a heavy climb for a person ill enough to seek the aid of the dispensary. Also, in spite of all civilising influences at work, there remains a large substratum of superstition in every native mind, and there is much more sickness in the district than the above numbers would indicate, which is treated by the "dollos" throwing and decoction brewing ngaka of the Basuto.

At the same time by reference to the books I find that the attendance during the six months now ended is between double and treble the attendance during any previous six months, so that although the natives do not take advantage to the full, or anything like it, of the medical advantages provided them by Government they are coming more and more, and as time goes on will turn their backs on the white and black quacks who have been exploiting them.

There are certain recommendations which I would make from a hygienic point of view.

1. That the source of the Quthing water supply be walled in or otherwise enclosed, so as to prevent contamination by cattle or other causes of impurity.

2. That the cesspool adjoining the offices be disinfected and closed up.

3. That the food of the prisoners should if possible have some variety, *e.g.*, by an occasional change in the nature of grain from which their food is made, and by a small admixture of fat of some kind, especially in the winter.

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The health of the Europeans in the camp is good.

The police detachment in the camp with their wives and families have on the whole enjoyed good health.

There has been no epidemic with the exception of whooping cough, of which there were 8 cases.

The prisoners have likewise had an immunity from infectious disease, but there has been a good deal of stomach and bowel disease of a slight nature which might be prevented, I think, by slightly changing the diet occasionally.

There has been no small-pox in the district since my arrival. I have done over 1,000 vaccinations in the 6 months, mostly with glycerinated lymph, which has given very satisfactory results, removing the objection to some lymph supplies of being at first virulent and then inert. This addition of glycerine not only makes it go a much longer way but also improves the quality in the way indicated above.

If not occupying too much space I would like to subjoin a few details of the work done at the dispensary. Of the 930 patients 747 were new patients, and 183 were "repeats" or plural attendance patients. The disease bulking most largely in the work done is syphilis in its various forms and steps. The figures are most instructive. Primary syphilis, 2 cases; secondary, 27 cases; tertiary, 114 cases. These figures show that the natives do not trouble much about the first manifestation, and the secondary stage does not even prove very alarming; they come, however, when they see the terrible effects of the tertiary stage, in most cases regarding it as a new disease, not a stage of the complaint they have long suffered from in a milder form. I have seen here most extensive destruction of organs and parts, and to produce so many and so extensive lesions argues the presence of a syphilis not benign and tending to self cure, but a virulent syphilis going on to extensive and deep-rooted destruction of organ and function.

I had 8 cases of typhoid fever here (enteric fever is another name).

Uterine diseases bulk largely, more so than we would expect, as the following list shows:—Chronic metritis, 23; acute metritis, 3; dysmenorrhœa, 9; menorrhopia, 3; ovarian neuralgia, 5; tubal colic, 1; ovarian tumour, 1.

Dysentery, 24; diarrhœa, 36; gonorrhœa and gonorrhœal arthritis, 32; erysipelas, 5; diphtheria and croup, 2; ophthalmia, 28, mostly catarrhal; 3 cases gonorrhœal; corneal ulcers, 8; cataract, 3; chalazion, 1; glaucoma, 1; aneurism, 2; locomotor ataxia, 1; leprosy, 1 new case; scurvy, 1, (from Kimberley); actinomy-cosis, 1; renal calculus, 2. Of tumours

21 various attended ; all those which it was practicable to remove I removed, others I recommended to wait or go elsewhere where there was hospital accommodation. BASUTOLAND
1897-8

A large number of trifling cases of coughs and colds, amongst these, however, cases of more gravity, *e.g.*, pneumonia croupous, 2 ; pneumonia catarrhal, 15, the latter mostly amongst neglected and delicate children.

There is a good deal of scabies, which is a disease yielding at once to treatment and cleanliness, so of no importance. 23 cases of acute, and 24 of chronic, rheumatism due doubtless to exposure more or less to the weather. 1 case of tubercular phthisis came under notice about which there was no doubt. 16 cases of congenital syphilis have come under my notice in the last six months.

There is one recommendation which I would like to make and which, while not directly in the line of medical work, would be preventive in some cases of death by drowning, *i.e.*, to place at Siaka under charge of the master of the Pont two life-belts of cork. It would tend to prevent drowning, which in the last few years has accounted for 14 deaths at and near Siaka drift.

D. M. TOMORY, M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer.

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