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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 313.

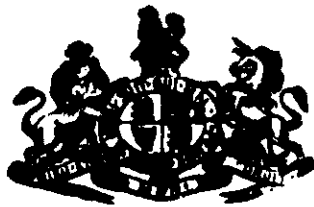
BASUTOLAND.

REPORT FOR 1899-1900.

(For Report for 1898-99, *see* No. 288.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

January, 1901.



LONDON:

PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
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1901.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

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For Report for 1898-99, see No. 288.)

GOVERNOR SIR ALFRED MILNER to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Cape Town,

12th September, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose for your information a copy of a despatch from the Resident Commissioner, Basutoland, transmitting the Annual Report on Basutoland for the year ended 30th June last.

I have, &c.,

A. MILNER,

Governor and High Commissioner

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Resident Commissioner's Office,
Basutoland,

August, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit Your Excellency my Report upon British Basutoland for the year ended 30th June, 1900, covering reports of the Government Secretary (with statistics), Assistant Commissioners, and Medical Officers.

POLITICAL.

The report for this year resolves itself almost entirely into a history of the relations of this territory to the war between Great Britain and the Republics.

Before the actual declaration of war in October last it had become a matter of common talk by the Free State Boers who live in close proximity along 200 miles of our border. They spoke of it in a light-hearted way, beginning early to assure the Basuto chiefs that the result was inevitable and that that result would be fatal to the English. Full of confidence in themselves and the future, they started a train of intrigue designed to win the natives to their side and shake their faith in British power. As the crisis approached the natives got more and more nervous. The story of Majuba and its sequel was kept green in their mind; the thoughts of Republican ascendancy were distracting. That the Basuto nation was at heart more loyal to the English than to the Dutch could never be doubted. But history had taught its lessons from which it was fairly deduced that there lay a great danger to natives in being on the losing side. No more reasonable ground than uncertainty was therefore required for them to affect the deepest loyalty to the Queen whilst exhibiting secretly to the enemy a coquettish and friendly disposition until time should reveal the dominant race in South Africa. For many years it had appeared doubtful whether the dominance lay with the English or Dutch.

As the end is now approaching by which the position of Great Britain in South Africa is to be more clearly defined and maintained, it seems undesirable to be too critical in illustrating individual intrigue. Generally speaking, I do not believe that there were any chiefs in Basutoland who were not approached by the Boers with the object of misleading, of distorting the real question at issue, of disparaging the power of England, and of courting them to the Republican side by means of threats and seductive promises. I could hold no public meeting without scores of native spies sent by the Boers being present to make mischief; every effort on our part to check border traffic and avoid

complications was undermined by the Free Staters encouraging the natives to defy our orders; tokens were sent to the chiefs which would pass their messengers freely into Boer camps; and, finally, Republican proclamations, of which I attach a sample, with garbled stories of British reverses printed in Sesuto, were circulated by authority of President Steyn and disseminated discreetly in this territory. Both the Paramount Chief and Jonathan Molapo confided to me that they had received from Free State officials messages in the name of the President to the effect that the Basuto chiefs must quickly choose their side; delay would be disastrous; if they took the English side it would be fatal to them.

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It would be idle to doubt that the mass of perverted intelligence and intrigue held influence upon the minds of the natives, who were at the same time not altogether proof against the alluring enjoyment of seeing the European races at each other's throats. The black populations, though fortunately lacking in power of combination, are capable of taking a shrewd and comprehensive view of affairs relating to themselves, and, whilst thinking slowly, hold a good deal of unseen communion with each other. It is probable that the Basuto, who are the only unbroken tribe, were sounded by disaffected clans for a lead, which, if given, might have clouded South Africa with a black terror and tended to deflect the course of the war between the whites. In this contingency may be read a meaning into President Kruger's celebrated expression about the "staggering of humanity."

In my opinion nothing contributed more to steady the natives than the conflicting accounts of the fighting and the contradictory features that were manifest. The Boer reports overreached themselves by exaggeration and untruth. On the other hand, the early series of British reverses were conspicuous, whilst thousands of soldiers were seen and known to have been marched as prisoners to Pretoria. To counteract this again there was the patent fact, vouched for by persons of undoubted veracity, that each day brought its stream of troops to the shores of the Cape. At last the Basuto began to discredit all reports and became bewildered by the magnitude and varying conditions of the war.

The policy to be observed in Basutoland, as indicated to me by Your Excellency, was clearly enunciated and consistently adhered to. Happily for us, my urgent appeal for leave to erect a telegraph line through the territory met with instant approval. The material for its construction had barely scraped over the border before the war broke out. It was rapidly put up, and through its agency, together with the addition of those most useful instruments called Phonopores, I was able to hold hourly conversation with the District Magistrates and they with each other. We were then in a position to deal promptly with

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all momentous questions as they arose and in daily converse to grapple collectively with difficulties and problems in a manner that no amount of letter writing and horse expresses could ever have accomplished.

The High Commissioner's instructions to me were :—

That the chiefs be informed that this was a white man's war in which natives were not to take part ;

That if Basutoland were invaded by the Boers the natives were entitled to defend themselves and hold the country for the Queen ;

That the border was not to be violated by the Basuto.

These instructions were communicated by me personally to the whole nation, and were throughout obeyed in principle. Casual thieves occasionally broke away and stole cattle from deserted farms, but most of them were brought to book.

From information at our disposal, there was reason to believe that the Boers designed, particularly after their first successes, to seize and depose the Basutoland Magistrates, whose stations are all situate on the border, and dictate temporary terms to the Basuto pending final arrangements after the English in South Africa had been effectively dealt with.

As it was manifestly of vital importance to hold Maseru, the headquarters of Administration, it was determined to take measures for its defence. We had only 27 white men and 50 native police. Some small forts were constructed, armed, and provisioned. The Paramount Chief offered a body of several thousand men to mount guard. I deemed it best, however, to avoid warlike demonstration, and accepted only Lerothodi's brother Mojela, his son Api, and 60 men, holding the mass in reserve for immediate summons if required. I do not doubt that the vigorous measures taken had the effect of deterring the enemy from attack and of giving confidence to Basuto waverers, who could not fail to be impressed by the resolute attitude of those holding the Queen's authority when, encircled as they were by the river border on three sides within gunshot, they displayed no fear of the result of attack and clung tenaciously to their belief in the determination of the Queen's Government to uphold its supremacy. At one time it appeared almost certain that an attack would be made by Boers in conjunction with some disaffected chiefs, but it fell through from want of trust in each other.

On one occasion the wire hawser on which our pont plies across the river was cut adrift. The act was mischievous and aggressive and caused excitement. In the course of half an hour we had a good force on the banks of the river. It was essential to show that we were ready to resist aggressive acts, and,

for the sake of prestige, to repair the hawser, though the Boers were lying in commanding positions all round. But in order to allay excitement and avoid reprisals the natives were sent back that day. Next day the wire was adjusted without demonstration.

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As the war operations rolled against and lay along our frontier the situation became anxious. Either side might for strategical reasons cross or be squeezed over and have drawn us involuntarily into the scrimmage.

The natives were vigilant and inquisitive. Though the British were unmistakably advancing they had had many reverses, which were well advertised. The surrender of Cronje, reliefs of Kimberley and Ladysmith were regarded as Government telegraph stories. The disasters at Reddersburg and Koorn Spruit and investment of Wepener, taken in conjunction with the occupation and evacuation of Ladybrand, Thaba Nchu, and other places, were facts more or less visible to the chiefs, many of whom were in favour of raiding derelict stock, whilst others advocated sitting on the fence cautiously.

Upon my receiving information by heliograph from our besieged garrison at Wepener that the enemy contemplated a flank movement which would necessitate military use of our roads and occupation of positions in Basutoland favourable to the investment, I immediately met the Paramount Chief and arranged with him to throw a large body of Basuto upon that point of the border in order to frustrate the design if possible. In the space of 24 hours we had several thousand men on the spot. This movement had its effect in averting violation of the border and giving confidence to the besieged garrison.

During the two weeks that our nondescript force was in the field nothing was done by it in contravention of orders. The men took a keen interest in watching the effect of shell fire and skirmishing, but made no attempt to intervene. On one occasion only, Lerothodi appealed to me as to whether it was right to stand by and see the Queen's soldiers pounded in such a way. I bade him let the matter alone and await the issue, which was beyond doubt, and he said no more. During the siege operations the Basuto border guard were frequently to be seen conversing with the Boers as they lay entrenched along the river bed or moved from one position to another. In some instances the natives jeered at the Boers for want of pluck in attack, but steps were taken invariably to curb undue levity.

It is relevant now to trace the attitude and characteristics of certain chiefs in their relation to the situation.

There is little doubt that, although the Free State Executive and some individual Boers of influence were at first deluded with the idea that the Basuto would help them in the struggle, the

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feeling mostly was one of fear that it would be otherwise. For this reason it was hoped that the old-fashioned policy of causing civil war between the chiefs might be successfully carried out. As a preliminary to this it was necessary to depose the British Administration, and hence the idea of seizing the seats of magistracy and headquarters of Government. Certain chiefs, who were known to be inimical to the Paramount Chief and authors of tribal strife in former years, were got at and worked upon.

The Chief Nkwebe, who exercises a powerful influence in Quthing, the Southern District of Basutoland, received much attention from the rebel Colonial Boers of the Barkly East Division. He lent himself to them in a questionable way during the unsettling stages following upon the Stormberg disaster, and temporary occupation of that area by Republican forces. His spies received facilities from the enemy to observe with their own eyes what appeared as the overwhelming force and success of the Republics then on British soil, and no persuasion of ours or appeals to loyalty could obliterate these visions. He, however, did nothing to commit himself seriously, and when an officer was sent from Maseru with a stiffening of loyal police to patrol the Drakensburg Passes, which were within his sphere, it had the effect of detaching waverers and commanding his assistance.

Mocheko, a chief of the Baphuti clan, who had played a conspicuous part for mischief in the Moiketse disturbance of 1898, essayed to repeat his performance and bring about civil disorder by rebelling against the Paramount Chief; and, having started the game, adopted the tactics successfully pursued on a previous occasion of removing with his complications to the Herschel District of the Cape Colony. By a fortunate coincidence Major Hook was at that moment appropriately sent as Commissioner to Herschel. Through his co-operation we were enabled to stifle the unseasonable and ill-conceived design of Mocheko, who was disarmed and relegated to safe custody at Maseru. He was thus rendered powerless for further mischief during the war, and deposed himself from any future title to respect or recognition as a chief.

The young Chief Letsie, eldest son and heir of the Paramount Chief, lent a ready ear to the charms of Boer officials and kicked against the orders of Government, which were prohibitive of border traffic and improper conversation with the Queen's enemies. A flattering letter to him, one probably amongst many, from the newly-fledged Landdrost of Aliwal North, after its incorporation with the Orange Free State, was intercepted by our patrols, much to his annoyance. He resented it, and many covert threats were for a time flying about in consequence. But he succumbed eventually to influences brought to bear upon him.

Similarly the Chief Maama, and the sons of the late Chief Masupha, indulged secretly in conversation with the enemy, hoping they might regain by any means tribal influence lost by their own follies in the past. But they did not commit themselves to action.

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The Chief Joel Molapo stands out prominently as one who was prepared to sacrifice himself and go over to the enemy. It is on record that Field Cornet Rautenbach informed President Steyn that Joel was on their side. This record, taken from the Bloemfontein "Friend," of a meeting of burghers at Fouriesburg on October the 5th is so instructive that I append a copy of it to this report. Field Cornet Rautenbach lives in the Fouriesburg District on a farm divided from Joel only by the Caledon River, narrow at that point. For many years he has notoriously fomented quarrels between the Basuto chiefs in Leribe, who have suffered from the advice he gave them with sinister aims. His plan when the war began was to promote a tumult in Basutoland by raking up the embers of the old feud between the children of Molapo. With civil war raging, the Boers hoped, as formerly, to bend the conflicting elements to their own purposes and be for a while immune from the danger of invasion from a united tribe. It was commonly believed that the Free State Government had, as an earnest of their bargain with Joel, presented him with a lot of Mauser rifles. Joel, as an earnest of his covenant, was to attack a chief named Hlasoa who was friendly to Jonathan, and this was to begin the row. Joel carried out his part by attacking Hlasoa vigorously, the result being 5 men killed and villages destroyed. I was urged at the moment to move in force with the Paramount Chief to avenge Joel's action and vindicate our authority. But it was a critical moment. The Basuto were in an uncertain mood and ready to be swayed either way. I did not believe they would unitedly support the Paramount Chief; indeed some chiefs, including Lerothodi's own sons, were inclined to help Joel, believing him to be on the winning side. Later information confirmed my impression that it would have been a disastrous move and have led to the tribal confusion which had been designed. Joel was therefore left to stew over his mistakes and the defeat of the Boer scheme. Subsequently he wobbled unhappily about, just as the war barometer wobbled, with its variations of British and Republican successes and reverses. He did nothing worse, though it was in his power to do so. He supplied horses, cattle, and harvesters to the enemy; but in these respects he was not exceptional, for many chiefs did the same secretly, some to make profit and others to court the friendly offices of the Boers in case of their ultimate ascendancy. His case has yet to be dealt with when hostilities in the north-east of the Orange River Colony are ended and the district under British control. Before closing Joel's story it is necessary briefly to throw a side light on his history. He has been for the last 20 years at deadly enmity

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with his brother Jonathan. The brothers have never been found on the same side. I am of opinion also that Jonathan did his best to infuriate Joel by minor intrigues, employing the sufferer Hlason as a tool. In extenuation, too, there was the evil influence of Rauteubach who had the authority of the Free State Government to threaten coercion and promise favours.

Jonathan Molapo is a chief of great power and played an important part. At first he coquetted discreetly with the enemy and held pleasant conversation with the local leaders. Then, having ascertained for certain that Joel had favoured their cause, and that the British were strong and resolute, he angled unreservedly to loyalty and henceforth took up the burden of it. By so doing he incurred the anger and threats of the Boers to such an extent that he feared attack, under menaces of which he threw himself with a strong body of men into the camp of the Magistrate at Thlotsi Heights with determination to defend the position. He was thus a tower of strength to the Magistrate and to the Administration, for his action had the effect of swaying a large volume of native opinion, which is capable of being swayed by men and methods of firm resolve. His conduct on the whole was most praiseworthy, yet marred by the human fault of exciting animosity against Joel, and at a later date of obstructing the lawful procedure of the Paramount Chief, who was deputed by me to search in Leribe District for secreted stolen cattle.

Of the Paramount Chief I can only speak as of a man who had to face a trying ordeal and braced himself up to endure it. He was threatened and cajoled by Boer emissaries, was tempted by his own people to throw off the yoke of Government, and generally taunted by all those who saw a favourable opportunity for gaining points out of the white man's struggle. But in word and deed he never stirred from his allegiance to the Queen, deciding to stand or fall by his choice. Yielding more to guidance than to pressure he lent himself to stern and loyal duty, cheerfully accepting all orders necessary to the governing policy and religiously carrying them out. He made use of the occasion when much latitude was allowed to him to gain certain tribal advantages for the benefit of his immediate family. But they were small human errors compared with the service he rendered to the Queen by obedience and sympathy. This sympathy was manifested in many ways. As instances, it may be mentioned that several thousand labourers were required and provided rapidly for the military authorities in repairing broken railways. Though the possession of horses by the individual is a feudal condition imposed by the chiefs for national defence, no bar was practically placed upon free sale for Imperial purposes, and it is probable that not much less than ten thousand remounts went to the army.

When Wepener was besieged and its communications severed, our roads were requisitioned for carriage of Imperial supplies and munitions. There were not wanting at that time those who sedulously revived a previous canard that soldiers were being introduced to fight the Basuto. Nevertheless, a stream of military wagons and ambulances took their unmolested course, being piloted and helped by messengers appointed by the Paramount Chief with that object.

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To sum up the general attitude of the Basuto, I may venture the remark that, though loyalty *per se* is a magnificent virtue, it is usually rendered by untutored people to those who have the power to coerce and enforce it. The incidence of events in South Africa for many years had generated in the native mind a great question as to which Caesar they should render tribute. This thought was paramount throughout a considerable period of the war, and so long as the success of British arms was in doubt the natives as a mass were alternately ready to be controlled or to jib according to the turn of events. For this fluctuation they cannot be altogether blamed. For their wise comprehension in being finally on the winning side without having compromised themselves they may be praised to the full.

There were other features connected with the war which, though full of interest, must be briefly summarized.

English refugees who were terrorized or driven from the Orange Free State rather than fight against their own countrymen flocked into Basutoland. A few small grants from the Lord Mayor's fund, readily placed at our disposal by the High Commissioner, enabled us to house and nourish them to the best of our limited resources, supplementing much hospitality extended by the European residents to whose sympathy and generosity this report should bear tribute.

In order to guard the border, chiefs, headmen, and special police were called upon to stiffen our limited native police force. They responded well. A chain of mixed patrols extended along the whole frontier, from the declaration of war to the present time.

It would be unnatural to suppose that at such a juncture the criminal class would not show their mettle. It took the form of thieving from abandoned farms. Yet it is satisfactory to record that most of the thieves have been traced and the stock accounted for.

When our direct communications were abruptly severed, a line of posts and telegraphs was established by runners through the mountains via East Griqualand. For co-operation in these services we are much indebted to the Postmaster-General of the Cape and to the Colonial Magistrate at Matatiele and Mount Fletcher.

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It would be out of place here to enter into any particulars as to the great mass of intelligence supplied during the war through the agency of this territory, or to trace the enterprise of scouts, of whom large numbers were sent to Her Majesty's forces.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

It is gratifying to state that trade in liquor during the year was almost non-existent. In the early stages of the war it was freely dispensed by Free State officials as presents to chiefs who were being courted. It is hoped that the dawn of prohibition is appearing now that a British Administration in the Orange River Colony has the power of regulating licences and liquor laws.

FINANCIAL.

The financial position is satisfactory. The £1 Hut Tax was well paid. There is no public debt. All things considered, our Customs earnings, viz., £12,200, were higher than could have been expected. The difference between it and the Cape grant of £18,000 was refunded to the Cape Government.

Statistics are given in the Secretary's report.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The crops generally were good. Owing to the break in communications for many months trade suffered materially. Good stocks of merchandise were fortunately laid in prior to the outbreak of the war; but grain received in exchange by traders found no outlet, and at the present time several hundred thousand bags of wheat and mealies are awaiting export which the paucity of wagons prevents.

The great industry of the country, viz., native labour furnished to the neighbouring mines, railways, towns, and farmers, received a complete check. After the occupation of Bloemfontein by British forces, a demand was made by the Commander-in-Chief for railway labourers. Several thousand men were readily recruited, and are reported to have done excellent work.

EDUCATION.

In spite of many abnormal drawbacks the work of education went on well. There is a gradual annual rise in the number of schools, scholars, and average attendance. The results of Cape elementary examinations continue to show a marked success of boys sent from Basutoland.

The question of reorganizing the system of school grants in aid is under consideration. Meanwhile, in view of the increased Hut Tax, a 10 per cent. additional grant was by authority of the High Commissioner made to the mission societies, who pursue their labour with energy and success and appropriate the grants to the best advantage. Religious work progresses as favourably

as can be expected in native spheres where there is much counter-action. It has many enemies who at times clamour for results. What we are able to trace by comparative periods is that there is a consistent recognition of the value of labour and industry and a higher respect for law and order and domestic discipline.

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GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospital work as recorded by the Medical Officers is well maintained. No better tribute can be paid to the Medical Officers than that they were able to bear the strain of receiving a considerable number of sick and wounded despatched from the forces operating on our border, and that the little hospitals were pronounced by patients and visiting doctors to be, though very humble, models of cleanliness and order. About 200 such cases were treated under improvised arrangements and only four deaths registered.

JUDICIAL.

Statistics are furnished in the Secretary's report. The native police have performed splendid service during the year. Supplemented by raw and unequipped material, they carried out their orders most effectively through a heavy and trying period. Beyond stealing, for which there was unusual temptation, the crime lists are comparatively low.

Vital statistics, post and telegraph services, and other returns are given in the Secretary's report.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Upon the subject of national progress it is not practicable this year to make much comment. The public mind was wrung with a more or less feverish animation over the great war. Years ago such a thing may have produced madness. On this occasion there was comparative calm.

I have in separate despatches drawn Your Excellency's attention to the excellent services of the officers of the Administration throughout the crisis.

Combining judicious energy with tact and loyal devotion to duty, they have as a body discharged a great trust to Her Majesty's Government with deserving and signal success. What inspired all was the feeling and the knowledge that we enjoyed Your Excellency's complete confidence in meeting resourcefully the daily emergencies that arose.

I have, &c.,

G. Y. LAGDEN,
Resident Commissioner.

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

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PROCLAMATION.

TO THE CHIEFS AND NATION OF THE BASUTOS.

Be it known that the English Government have forced a war upon the Transvaal. The real cause of the war is that there are goldfields and diamonds in the Transvaal which certain English people covet. The Free State is helping the Transvaal in this unjust war that the English Government have brought about. As the Free State is liable to be attacked by the British Government on all sides, it has sent commandos of burghers to the neighbourhood of its several borders in order to defend this country in case of attack. The Free State has stationed such commandos in the neighbourhood of the Basutoland border.

Be it known, however, that the Free State is at peace with the Basutos and has no quarrel with them and desires to remain at peace with them. No harm will be done to Basutos who remain quiet and take no part in the assistance of the English.

Given under my hand and great seal of the Orange Free State, at Bloemfontein, on the 18th day of October, 1899.

(Signed) M. T. STEIJN,
State President.

By order,

(Signed) P. J. BLIGNAUT,
Government Secretary

A COMMANDO MEETING.

SEVENTY THOUSAND COLONISTS WAITING TO RISE.

The "Friend" gives the following sample of a commando meeting held just before the war broke out.

"The task of guarding the Free State—Basutoland border north of Ficksburg was entrusted to the burghers of the town of Bethlehem and the ward of Wittebergen.

"The whole of these, some 500 in number, mustered on the church square in Fouriesburg on the 5th October last to listen to addresses by the Dutch Minister and other leaders. Some of the remarks then and there made were so peculiar that they deserve to be more widely known.

“The revered fire brand, Mr. Heyns, made the usual impassioned harangue anent the justice of their cause—the unmitigated rascality of the enemy who were attacking them—the wicked greed, &c., &c., of the unscrupulous enemy who were simply hungering after the farms and property of the simple, pious Free State burghers—winding up with assuring his audience that their world-renowned bravery and skill, with their trusty Mausers, in conjunction with the assistance which God had promised, would surely and speedily drive their hated and despised enemy out of South Africa.

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“The newly elected Commandant, Hermanus I. Steyn, was unable to do more than make a few remarks owing to a severe cold, but any shortcomings on his part were amply made up for by Mr. H. S. Viljoen, member of the Volksraad for the Wyk Wittebergen, who wound up a most insulting and lying tirade by urging the burghers there assembled to mark every man who was not heart and soul with them against tyranny and injustice. According to this ex-British subject, neutrality was to be made impossible for anyone residing in the Free State, no matter what his nationality might be. All must fight for the glorious Afrikaner nation and language, and nothing would be too bad to do to any Englishman who refused to fight against his own country and Queen.

“Mr. Michael Rautenbach, a well known farmer living on the bank of the Caledon, just opposite Joel's place, assured the burghers that there would be no fighting there as Joel was loyal to the Free State, and stated that he himself though living right on the border and thus most exposed to danger, if any existed, did not intend leaving his farm.

“He then gave in some detail how he had on his own initiative entered into negotiations with Joel, and reported the result to the Executive Council—how the Executive Council had sent for him to Bloemfontein, and after considering the matter very carefully had sent him back with a mission to Joel—how he had carried out his instructions—and reported the successful accomplishment of his mission to the authorities. Mr. Rautenbach wound up by stating that if there would be fighting on the Basuto border, which he did not for a moment expect, their neighbour across the river (Joel) would give them timely warning, and would be found fighting alongside them.

“The only other speaker of any account was Mr. Piet Heyns. To properly appreciate the importance which the burghers attached to this gentleman's utterances it may be pointed out that he had then for many weeks past been travelling about in the district buying up cattle by the hundred on behalf of the Transvaal Government. Mr. Heyns commenced by stating that he had received instructions from the President of the Transvaal

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to hand over to that commando as a present for their own use six hundred head of fat stock. This announcement was received with cheers, and that was the last of it, for the six hundred head did not materialize. He then went on to say that if any proof was wanted to convince them that they were embarking on a war which must end in disaster to England, he could furnish them with the required proof. He (Piet Heyns) was authorized to tell them that 70,000 of their brothers in the Cape Colony and Natal were waiting the signal, already prearranged, to rise. The British Government thought that these men were unarmed, but Paul Kruger had taken good care to provide Mausers, ammunition, and supplies at various centres."

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GOVERNMENT SECRETARY, 1899-1900.

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FINANCE.

The Revenue and Expenditure of Basutoland for the year under report, as compared with previous years, is as follows:—

Year ended 30th June.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897 	45,867 11 2	45,768 7 4
1898 	46,555 7 6	44,797 10 10
1899 	46,847 16 8	46,417 12 9
1900 	69,769 16 4	59,492 7 6

The most noticeable feature in the past year's revenue is the great increase in the amount of Hut Tax collected, due of course to the augmented rate of £1 per hut which has been paid.

The Revenue has been thus composed:—

	£ s. d.
Hut Tax 	47,047 10 0
Post Office revenue 	1,525 5 1
Licences 	1,487 0 0
Judicial fines 	710 8 5
Ferry tolls 	237 11 3
Fees of court or office 	67 18 6
Miscellaneous revenue... ...	694 3 1
	51,769 16 4
Contribution from Cape Govern- ment 	18,000 0 0
Total 	£69,769 16 4

Of the above amount of Hut Tax the sum of £3,330 represents arrears of tax. The number of huts upon which tax was paid is 48,029.

**BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.**

The amount of £18,000 contributed by the Cape Government has been repaid into the Colonial Treasury in the following manner :—

	£	s.	d.
Customs duties on goods imported into Basutoland during the financial year and handed to Cape Government ...	12,223	11	6
Refund made at close of the year ...	5,776	8	6
Total ...	£18,000	0	0

The Expenditure includes the extraordinary payments of £6,756 5s. 6d. on account of Telegraph Construction, and £5,980 5s. on Defence services rendered necessary by the war.

TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

During the twelve months ended 31st March, 1900, dutiable goods were imported into Basutoland to the amount of :—

	£	s.	d.
From the Cape Colony ...	40,047	0	0
From the Orange Free State ...	44,061	11	2
From Natal ...	1,419	6	3
Total ...	£85,527	17	5

It is to be remembered that this amount of imports is as they are assessed for Customs purposes, and it includes only dutiable articles, these being valued at the bare cost to the wholesale importer at the place of purchase. Agricultural implements, grain bags, and many other duty free articles are not included in the foregoing figures, nor are manufactured articles made up in Africa of imported materials.

The state of war prevailing in the Orange Free State and the Northern Districts of the Cape Colony for many months of the year rendered it impossible to import merchandize into Basutoland, and the volume of trade was far less than it would have been under more favourable conditions. The import trade is almost entirely in British goods, with the exception of ploughs and agricultural implements which are mostly of American manufacture.

The harvest of the year was a good one, but the war and the lack of transport have closed the usual outlets for the produce of the country. Large stocks of grain are still in the hands of the traders. To compensate in some measure for this great disadvantage a considerable number of ponies have been purchased at good prices for military purposes.

The exports of produce compare as under with the returns of the two preceding years :—

Articles.	Year ended 30th June, 1898.		Year ended 30th June, 1899.		Year ended 30th June, 1900.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Wheat	Muids. 19,984	17,450 4 7	Muids. 3,832	3,074 16 0	Muids. 7,404	4,909 13 0
Mealies	99,352	52,590 14 3	13,370	9,319 18 0	20,685	11,450 7 0
Kafir Corn	14,739	8,760 6 0	4,684	4,028 2 0	1,220	705 6 0
Meal ...	1,876	2,813 11 0	244	317 1 0	159	293 8 0
Mealie Meal...	17	13 0 0	15	22 10 0	—	—
Wool	lbs. 1,992,131	24,989 15 4	lbs. 1,509,421	27,242 19 0	lbs. 1,640,813	36,081 10 8
Mohair	128,067	4,448 2 2	149,743	6,125 12 0	194,248	9,010 8 9
Cattle	No. 711	3,959 1 0	No. 2,555	14,282 15 0	No. 522	6,997 10 0
Horses	1,966	12,628 12 0	1,869	14,091 17 0	4,419	64,031 18 0
Miscellaneous	—	10,846 0 5	—	4,110 1 0	—	384 17 0
Total...	—	128,499 6 9	—	82,615 11 0	—	133,864 18 5

BASUTO-LAND,
1899-1900.

**BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.**

In spite of efforts to obtain correct figures, it is probable that a very large number of the horses exported are not included in above returns, as in addition to horses bought by the Government and by officers of the Remount Department buyers visited every part of the country, and such transactions have a tendency to escape any official computation.

140 general traders' licences have been issued and 40 licences to hawkers trading with wagons.

The following classified return shows the number of natives who have left the country with passes, and the object of such journeys :—

Object of Journey.	Number of Individuals.
Seeking employment at Johannesburg ...	178
" " Kimberley ...	68
" " Jagersfontein. ...	437
" " Coal Mines C.O.	87
For farm and domestic service	4,324
For purposes of visiting, &c.	14,116
Total	19,160

During the preceding year 37,371 labourers left Basutoland, the difference being remarkable and unfortunate, as the earnings of the people at the different centres of employment form an important item in the national economy. But since the military occupation of the Orange River Colony a demand has arisen for Basuto labourers for work on Imperial military railways, and up to the 30th June more than 3,000 labourers had been enrolled and sent forward to Bloemfontein for this service.

EDUCATION.

The expenditure on education during the year was £4,358 15s. 9d., including grants to missions for educational purposes, support of undenominational and night schools, and

maintenance of some more advanced students at training institutions. A summary of school returns shows :—

**BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.**

Number of schools in Basutoland ...	177
Number of scholars on books ...	11,134
Mean average attendance ...	7,804

Twenty-two students are either wholly or partly supported at training institutions in the Cape Colony. In the majority of cases the parents of these lads contribute substantially towards their maintenance.

POLICE AND JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The following is the strength of the Basutoland Mounted Police :—

European officers ...	12
European constables ...	9
Native officers ...	7
Native sergeants ...	7
Native corporals ...	9
Native privates ...	212
Native constables ...	3
Total ...	259

To keep up the necessary system of continuous border patrols during the war 42 special temporary native police were enrolled.

The following is a return of police patrol work :—

Number of patrols performed ...	3,396
Estimated distance travelled (miles) ...	100,773
Arrests under Liquor Law ...	29
Arrests under Pass Law ...	208
Arrests for other offences ...	232

Many of the arrests were for breaches of special local regulations as to intercourse with the inhabitants of the neighbouring hostile Republic.

355 prisoners were received into gaol during the year, and 117 remained in gaol on the 30th June, 1900.

Two floggings were inflicted, both being punishment for the crime of rape.

**BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.**

The following is a classification of criminal cases dealt with:—

Assault	6
Breaches of Customs Regulations ...	2
„ Pass Law	99
„ Liquor Law	32
Escape	3
Homicide	2
Housebreaking	2
Miscellaneous offences	38
Resisting police	14
Rape	3
Riot	2
Theft	103
Total	<u>306</u>

11 civil cases were heard.

Return of Lost Stock Reported.

Stock.	Reported.	Traced to Basuto-land.	Not traced.	Re-covered.	Not re-covered.
Horses	74	32	42	32	42
Cattle	285	207	78	205	78
Sheep	1,007	347	660	347	651

Nine sheep were found on owner's farm in East Griqualand. This return does not include many cattle discovered in Basutoland having been irregularly removed from Orange River Colony and restored to military administration.

POPULATION.

On the outbreak of the war there was a considerable influx of European and native refugees, who in many cases brought with them their stock and moveable property. Generous aid to

distressed European refugees was afforded by the Cape Town Central Committee of the Mansion House Relief Fund, the grants made being administered by the Basutoland Government officers. Since the occupation of the Orange River Colony by British forces the European refugees have been enabled to return to their homes. The rather serious outbreak of small-pox in the Berea District is the result of the neglect by the natives of the measures of vaccination and quarantine recommended by the Medical Officers and enforced elsewhere with good results by the Commissioners of Districts.

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.

A census will probably reveal a very considerable increase in the number of the native population during the past 10 years.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

Regular postal services to Aliwal North were interrupted by the war and by the rebellion in a portion of the Cape Colony. By adoption of other routes and by means of a system of express riders carrying posts through the mountains from East Griqualand, communication with the Cape Colony was kept open.

The Basutoland telegraph line was with the aid of the Cape Construction Department opened in the commencement of the year reported upon. By the courtesy of the Postmaster-General of the Cape Colony I am able to give the following postal and telegraphic statistics of work done at the Basutoland offices :—

Letters posted in Basutoland	...	123,643
Postcards	”	3,024
Newspapers	”	13,104
Book packets	”	3,861
Parcels	”	1,092
		<hr/>
Total ...	...	144,724
		<hr/>
Letters received in Basutoland	...	133,198
Postcards	”	2,613
Newspapers	”	39,026
Book packets	”	7,358
Parcels	”	3,562
Official letters, &c.	”	11,102
		<hr/>
Total ...	...	196,859
		<hr/>

**BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.**

		£	s.	d.
Money orders issued ...	...	8,146	6	2
Money orders paid ...	...	2,087	12	11
Telegraph revenue ...	...	451	15	5
Cablegrams ...	...	80	12	6
Savings Bank deposits ...	...	2,480	13	6
Savings Bank withdrawals ...	...	1,355	11	10

Reports of the following officers are attached :—

- 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 Assistant Commissioner, Qacha's Nek.

H. C. SLOLEY,

Government Secretary.

ANNUAL REPORT—LERIBE DISTRICT, 1899-1900.

BABUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900

The past year has been an eventful one in Leribe, as I suppose elsewhere. Everything and every question has been so affected by the war, now happily drawing to a close, that there is little to write about except the effect of it on our natives here. Our local politics have remained at a standstill, and many questions requiring settlement have had to wait for a more convenient season, with the result that there is a deadlock in many places and it is extremely difficult to keep things going on.

Sometime before the outbreak of hostilities there were rumours of an understanding between Joel and the Boers, and a certain Michael Rautenbach took occasion, at a public meeting at Fouriesburg, to explain the terms of the contract entered into by him on behalf of the Free State Government with Joel. The sequel showed that Mr. Rautenbach had not overrated the importance of his work. From the beginning of the war Joel has maintained an attitude of disloyalty to Her Majesty and of effusive friendliness to Her enemies, to whom his border has never been closed, and to whom he has not scrupled to afford assistance by providing them with reapers, allowing them to purchase horses, &c. He has also disregarded my summons, with the result that the Queen's authority has been in abeyance in his ward since last November. During that month he attacked his younger brother Hlasoa and drove him out of his villages, killing five of his men. Hlasoa and his people were driven from their homes and crops, and are now in a destitute condition. They, however, in their retreat, captured 40 goats belonging to Joel's people, which, I believe, they still retain or have made use of.

The quarrel between Joel and Hlasoa is an old one, and has formed the subject of frequent reports, annual and ordinary. It was fairly well patched up last year; and they would, I think, be now living in peace, if not in harmony, were it not that the attitude of Joel gave Hlasoa a probably not undesired pretext to break with him, and in this course it is quite likely that he was in some degree inspired by Jonathan.

Joel's case is still before the Resident Commissioner, and at this stage it would be improper to say more about it than record such facts as are patent to all, and which indeed are salient features in the political history of the district. But it may not be out of place to say that for years past Joel has, without much reason I am bound to say, according to European ideas, considered himself an injured man. Jealousy and ambition, vices unfortunately by no means peculiar to Joel, were probably the motives

**BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.**

which influenced him, and the desire to get the better of Jonathan, who is by birth his chief, but with whom he has always been at enmity, had probably more weight with him than any sympathy with the Boers in their quarrel with us. This enmity began with Jonathan's birth—when Joel, already a young man, but son of the second wife, saw himself suddenly thereby deprived of the position he had begun to look upon as his by right—and has lasted all their lives, growing in intensity with their growth. The officer in charge at Butha Buthe is probably correct when he says in his report, which I forward herewith, that for Jonathan to take one side in any question is almost enough of itself to make Joel take the other. The defection of Hlasoa too, who joined Joel in the rebellion of 1880 and who, up to some five years ago, was his very humble servant and recipient of his favours, must also have influenced him in placing himself on the side opposite to that on which he knew that Jonathan would be found. For although the actual rupture of their recently established relations did not take place until Joel had committed himself more or less, still the memory of their quarrel was still green and the reconciliation, never very thorough, had not had time to mature. Enough, however, has been said by Mr. Boxwell, and now by me, to show how very prone a man like Joel, who is less enlightened and amenable to reason than are most other chiefs of rank, would be to lend an ear to the voice of the tempter, and little by little, perhaps without knowing it, get committed to a policy of disloyalty to Her Majesty, while his original intention may only have been to get the better of Jonathan.

Other chiefs who sat on the fence while the issue of the war seemed to them to be doubtful are now, of course, very loyal, and perhaps it is as well in a report of this kind not to mention their names. It is, however, my duty to record the loyal attitude of Jonathan, the Chief of the district, whose unfailing support at a time when it was much needed and obedience under great provocation when Joel fell on Hlasoa deserve recognition. I must, however, say that while his attitude to Government is, and has been, satisfactory he does not always show that deference and respect for the Paramount Chief which the latter has the right to expect. The same jealousy and lust for independent chieftainship which exists between his own subordinate Joel and himself is visible here, though in an infinitely less degree, and there is not that element of personal hatred which makes the Jonathan-Joel case so difficult to handle. I think the root of the matter lies in that desire to overreach his immediate superior which seems to be an innate characteristic of every Basuto chief and headman, and is one of the drawbacks, though at times a mixed one, of our system. Where the fault, as between Lerothodi and Jonathan, precisely lies I do not pretend to say. Probably both share in it. Certainly Lerothodi, as I have said, has a right to expect more respect and obedience than Jonathan

generally shows him. But loyalty between superior and subordinate should not be all on one side, and Jonathan considers that he has a good many grievances against Lerothodi.

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.

The new Hut Tax, which caused some apprehension at first, has, with the exception of Joel's ward, been well paid.

On the whole the Leribe people behaved well and obeyed the border regulations, abstaining from looting, which it was feared they would practise in the Free State. During the last few days in May and beginning of June, however, their natural instincts seem to have got the better of them, and cattle were stolen right and left. Nearly 400 head were recovered by me, with the assistance of Jonathan, and sent to the District Commissioner at Ficksburg. Messengers from the Resident Commissioner and the Paramount Chief are now in the district searching for stolen stock.

The following are the usual returns:—

REVENUE.					£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	...	...	...	...	9,741	10	0
Licences	...	...	...	...	440	0	0
Fines	...	...	...	...	74	7	6
Fees	...	...	...	...	4	10	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	83	0	6
Total					£10,343	8	6

Tax was paid on 10,115 huts.

Arrear tax collected amounted to £656 10s.

LICENCES.

General traders' licences issued	...	...	43
Paid hawkers' licences issued	...	...	10
Free hawkers' licences issued	...	...	3

**BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.**

RETURN OF PASSES ISSUED.

For the mines, Johannesburg	...	...	65
„ Kimberley...	...	...	10
„ Jagersfontein	...	...	2
For the coal mines, Cape Colony	...	...	—
For farm and domestic service	...	...	327
For other purposes	...	...	527
Total	...	...	931

RETURN OF PATROLS.

Number of patrols	...	...	1,645
Number of men engaged	...	...	1,176
Estimated distance travelled	...	...	22,744
Number of arrests, Liquor Law	...	...	18
„ Pass Law	...	...	36
„ other offences	...	...	37

RETURN OF CASES TRIED.

Theft	...	...	32
Housebreaking	...	...	1
Homicide	...	...	1
Contravening Pass Laws	...	...	38
Contravening Liquor Laws	...	...	17
Resisting police	...	...	6
Assault	...	...	1
Civil cases	...	...	5

RETURN OF LOST STOCK.

Stock.	Reported.	Traced to Basutoland.	Not traced.	Recovered.	Not recovered.
Sheep & goats	15	4	11	4	11

None of the stock which was stolen by natives from the Orange River Colony during the war has been included. A large number of cattle, &c., has been returned to military authorities.

No floggings were administered during the year under review.

The following were the average prices of produce :—

Mealies	...	...	12s. a bag.
Wheat...	...	...	14s. „
Kafir corn	...	...	10s. „
Forage	...	...	25s. a 100 bundles.
Horses...	...	...	£12 10s. each
Cattle ...	...	...	£12 „
Sheep ...	...	...	15s. „
Goats ...	...	...	12s. 6d. „

BASUTO
LAND,
1899-1900.

GAOL RETURN.

Number of prisoners received into gaol	...	116
„ „ convicted and sentenced		107
„ „ discharged unconvicted		9
Number of prisoners in gaol on 31st June, 1900		35

J. C. MACGREGOR,

Assistant Commissioner.

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.

ANNUAL REPORT—BUTHA BUTHE DISTRICT,
1899-1900.

Owing to the war the history of the district has been much out of the common, and I regret to say not satisfactory in some respects.

Early in July, 1899, rumours were afloat that the Chief Joel Molapo would, in the event of war, side with the Boers. To what extent the rumours were true remains to be proved. That there was some truth in them is certain, for some of Joel's acts were without doubt disloyal.

A review of the history of Joel and his ward during past years may help to explain, to some degree, his frame of mind during the present war. For years there has been a bitter feud between him and his elder brother Jonathan. They have been at open war more than once. Joel distrusts every act of Jonathan, and for the latter to take one side in any question, great or small, was almost enough of itself to make Joel take the other. In an attempt to get at the root of any question concerning Joel, we have to ask "How will this affect him as regards his relations with Jonathan?"

Many disquieting reports of Joel's intentions reached me during the war. Where they actually started may never be known; but we must remember that some of them may have been set afloat in order to please Jonathan and to drive Joel still further along the path that would lead him to ruin. This much we do know, that Joel stopped short of any act of violence towards white people.

Another point to be considered is this:—For many years Joel was chief over the Makhoakhoa. In 1890 he fought against Matela, beat him, and captured many of his cattle. The result was that the Makhoakhoa were taken from Joel's charge and put under Jonathan. Joel brought this on himself, and to a great extent has himself to thank for the loss of country and authority. But he has felt himself an injured man ever since. He submitted to superior force, but he has never considered the sentence just, and how to regain his lost ground is probably ever in his thoughts.

Then, for years, Hlasoa, Joel's younger brother, has been a thorn in his side. Joel says that when Hlasoa was driven from Mathokoane and was wandering about homeless, he took him and fed him and gave him lands. Hlasoa's gratitude, in Joel's opinion, has been to side with Jonathan—to turn the door of his hut. Hlasoa was already at Tsime when I came here, and what the exact terms of his tenure were, or what the exact bounds of

his location, I cannot say. Joel asserts that Hlasoa, little by little, tried to extend his ground and authority. Certain it is that Hlasoa has always been friendly with Jonathan; and that he has ever been really loyal to Joel, as were Belo and other sub-chiefs, is very doubtful. How far Hlasoa was used as a means to annoy Joel during the past few years we do not know, but Joel has always looked upon him as an enemy, living at his door.

BANUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900

Now, all these circumstances may not in themselves be sufficient to account for Joel having a desire to favour the enemies of the Queen, but they do allow us to understand how his mind may have become warped, and how he was ready to listen to any advisers who offered to show him a way out of his troubles, and promised that once for all he might get the upper hand of his life-long enemy Jonathan. That there were such advisers I have no doubt. Absolute proof as to how far Boers, Rautenbach, the Raatz family, and others, intrigued with Joel may or may not be forthcoming. The exact promises they made to him we do not know for certain, but there is no doubt that such promises were made. Joel was told, and all South Africa was told, that the Boers would drive the British into the sea. He saw our Colonies invaded and our towns besieged. For a while he saw the Boer assertions being, as he thought, fulfilled. He could not believe that it was only the advance guard of our troops that was checked, and he did believe that in a short time the Boers would be all-powerful in South Africa. It may well be that in this belief he helped them with reapers and sold them horses. We know that he refused to obey the calls of those above him, and we know that, probably relying upon promises of Boer help if necessary, he drove away Hlasoa, whom he looked upon as a spy. Qhobelo, Joel's son, went to Hlasoa on the night of November 18th with a lot of armed men. He said Hlasoa first attacked him, but looking at the respective strength of the parties, and taking other points into consideration, this is very doubtful. Shots were fired, and three men were reported to have been killed that night and two more next day. Hlasoa fled over the mountains, taking with him a considerable number of goats belonging to Joel's people, which have not been returned. He took refuge with Jonathan and is now living in that district. His grain was seized by Joel who also brought down Lekunya's people from the Sehonghong and placed them at Tsimc. Since Qhobelo was placed by Joel near Hlasoa the friction between the latter and his brother was more acute than before. Qhobelo probably failed to respect the rights of his uncle and Hlasoa resented the least interference with them, and no doubt Joel backed up his favourite son in any dispute between him and Hlasoa.

Early in the war it was uncertain what Letsika's attitude would be, but the arrival of an officer to remain in his ward and watch the border had a good effect, and Letsika remained loyal.

**BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.**

There was as usual a good deal of trouble in his ward between the various factions, and several boundary questions await final settlement. In April a serious crime was committed at Qholaqhe. Mr. Moony's horse and that of Mofuta, the Paramount Chief's representative, were stabbed at night. Mr. Moony's has since died of the wound.

I regret to have to report the almost total failure of the Hut Tax collection in Joel's ward this year. He has only paid some £600 out of £2,000 odd that should be collected. Letsika has paid fairly well.

In May and June one or two reports reached me of stolen stock from the Orange River Colony, but the cattle were taken into Jonathan's district and were, I believe, recovered there. Within the last few days some stock was stolen and taken into Letsika's ward. Of these 24 or 25 head have been recovered, and these will be dealt with in the year 1900-1901.

There has been very little crime in this ward during the past year, and, apart from the attack on Hlasoa, none of a serious nature.

Statistics embodied in Leribe Annual Report.

W. BOXWELL,

Sub-Inspector, B.M.P.

Buthe Buthe,

30th June, 1900.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT—LERIBE, 1899-1900.

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.

The following table shows the number of attendances at the dispensary and hospital, and the vaccinations performed during the year ending 30th June, 1900. The numbers for the previous year are also given as a comparison :—

Classification.	1898-1899.	1899-1900.
New cases	2,360	3,570
Subsequent attendances	326	353
In-patients	52	84
Vaccinations	10,046	1,825
Totals	12,784	5,832

It will be observed that there is a large falling off in the totals. This is due to the small number of vaccinations performed during the year. There was no serious outbreak of small-pox in the district as in the previous year; and, the border being closed, there were few natives who received vaccination and a pass on proceeding to work in other countries.

The attendance at the dispensary was largely increased, there being considerably over 1,000 more cases than in the previous year. The in-patients at the hospital also show an increase. At times the limited room at my disposal was severely tested. In connection with the in-patient work it may be of interest to state that 20 major operations were performed and 42 minor (not including what was done in the dispensary). Chloroform was administered 39 times during the year. Most of the cases admitted into the hospital were surgical, but 18 were suffering from diseases requiring medical treatment. There were seven deaths. One each from general tuberculosis, acute nephritis, cancrum oris, scurvy, typhoid fever, compound fracture of cranium, and heart disease.

BASUTO
LAND,
1899-1900.

A severe epidemic of whooping-cough was present in this district during the greater part of the year. It began in September and continued until the end of May. There were many deaths from it, especially among the younger children.

Limited outbreaks of small-pox have occurred in four villages, but the disease has been kept under and there has been no spread.

Amongst other infectious diseases notified have been varicella and measles. The varicella was mild; the measles was concurrent with the whooping-cough and was the cause of much of the mortality.

Most of the vaccinations were done in and around the villages infected with small-pox. 1,123 persons were vaccinated with calf lymph and 902 with humanized lymph.

The health of the police and prisoners has been good during the year.

The sanitary condition of the camp is satisfactory, and beyond the urgent necessity for an ample water supply there is nothing further to note.

N. M. MACFARLANE,
Medical Officer.

ANNUAL REPORT—BEREA DISTRICT, 1899-1900.

BASUTO
LAND,
1899-1900

It would be wrong in view of what has been going on all round and in the country itself to compare the present year with other years, though, generally speaking, Berea District has been very quiet throughout.

Masupha, who, as I mentioned last June, was seriously ill, held on till the end of July and then died of complications resulting from influenza. His death has been greatly felt, not only in Berea, but all over the country. He was stubborn and strongly opposed to reform and to progress generally, but, while giving much trouble at times and occasionally causing great anxiety to the Government, yet it was known that his word could be depended on, and for this reason if for no other his death has been a great loss to the district and country.

His heir Mohlalentoa is now at school at Zonnebloem, and his mother Mamathe is appointed guardian of Masupha's estate. She is doing her work well, and, being herself a daughter of Letsie, she is far and away the best available guardian for the boy.

Before the commencement of the war there was a good deal of excitement caused and kept up by continuous reports spread by Boers as to the actions of the respective Governments; this, however, soon died out on the border being closed, and though throughout interested in the course of the war, no trace of the previous excitement remained.

Some small troubles arose among the sons of Lejaha, one man being wounded in the shoulder with a revolver. The arrest, however, of the ringleader Tsiami, son of Matsora, frightened the rest into better behaviour.

A more serious outbreak occurred over the Leshoboro-Masupha boundary line.

This line, which has frequently been alluded to before, and which had been confirmed in detail after the Moiketsi fighting, was always disputed by the sons of Masupha, and Leshoboro had neglected to take possession of the ground awarded to him. He now did so, and as a result Masupha's sons turned out armed to resist. Masupha's personal prestige was wanting, however, the people were half hearted, and the disturbance was quashed without a shot being fired. Mamathe throughout did her best on the side of peace. These were the only disturbances during the year.

At the end of September the telegraph wire was completed to this station and carried on to Leribe. The office has been open since then for telegraph and telephone work, and has been most valuable throughout the war.

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.

It seemed at one time as if the raising of the Hut Tax to £1 would meet with much opposition from the natives, but though, as I shall point out later, the tax has not been paid in full, yet the failure to do so was in no way attributable to the expected opposition.

Groceries and stores of all kinds have been very scarce for months past owing to the war; some slight improvement has lately been noticeable, but transport is so scarce that it will be months before the traders will be able to get in their regular stocks.

I regret to say there is at present a very serious outbreak of small-pox in the district. The usual alacrity displayed in imposing and keeping quarantine regulations which has been so noticeable in former outbreaks is quite absent in this one. Infected persons seem to disregard the quarantine and to wander about unstopped by those living near. Nearly the whole district is now infected. I fear the deaths must now amount to nearly 400 persons, and the disease is still going strong.

Vaccination seems to help a good deal, and it is owing to their faith in it that many natives disregard the quarantine. Very large numbers of all ages have been vaccinated during the year.

Owing to the war a large number of refugees, both white and black, have come across into this district, but the passes issued during the year may be put down as nil.

Hut Tax is disappointing and shows a considerable deficit; at the same time there have been some substantial reasons to account for it. Masupha's death, as I have said, left the district or rather his part of it paralysed. Mamathe has had jealousy and intriguing to meet, and her hands have been much weakened by it, and, secondly, small-pox has done away with all chance of getting the tax in by the end of June.

I consider that the amount of tax now shut up in quarantine would more than bring the total to £5,400, which, being an average of the last five years, may be taken to be approximately the Hut Tax of the district at 20s. per hut.

REVENUE RETURN.

	£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	5,206	10	0
Licences... ..	351	19	0
Fees of court or office	2	3	0
Miscellaneous	11	9	1
Total	£5,572	1	1

Arrear Hut Tax amounted to £525 10s.

Tax was paid on 5,727 huts.

There has been only one hawker licensed during the year. There are 22 licensed traders in the district.

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.

POLICE.

The police detachment in Berea consists of :—

Sub-inspector	...	...	...	1
European constable	...	...	...	1
Native N.C.O.'s and men	...	...	...	31
				—
Total	...	...	...	<u>33</u>

All the above are mounted and efficient, and, with the exception of five temporary men, are well armed and equipped.

The following was the patrol work carried out by the detachment during the year :—

Patrols	...	...	...	...	924
Men employed on patrols	...	...	...	...	1,885
Number of miles travelled	...	...	...	...	14,643
Arrests for contravening Liquor Laws	...	...	...	...	5
Arrests for contravening Border Regulations	...	...	...	...	82

A detachment of 12 men and a constable has been stationed on the Caledon River, and in conjunction with 40 special mounted guards provided by Manathe and Leshoboro have done capital work in watching the border.

Ladybrand District being practically without spirits on account of the war, liquor smuggling has died out, temporarily at any rate.

The number of cases heard in this Court has increased, being largely composed of border offences.

The spectacle of so much undefended stock grazing across the Caledon was too much for the honesty of a number of Basuto, and there has been a good deal of stock stolen lately from the Orange River Colony.

The following are the cases heard in this Court :—

Theft	...	...	...	...	4
Border Regulations...	...	...	...	...	23
Liquor Regulations...	...	...	...	...	3
Public violence	...	...	...	...	1
Other offences	...	...	...	...	19
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	<u>50</u>

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.

LOST AND STOLEN STOCK.

The following return shows lost stock reported, and results up to 30th June, 1900 :—

Stock.	Reported.	Traced.	Recovered.	Not traced.	Not recovered.
Horses ...	14	1	1	13	13
Cattle ...	50	44	44	6	6

I have a considerable quantity of stock in my hands at present which is unreported as being lost by the owners and is awaiting identification.

No floggings have been inflicted during the year.

There has been a good crop all round, though circumstances have rather discounted it, there being little sale for any kind of grain owing to the impossibility of getting transport for it to the market. The present campaign is responsible for the price of horses having risen to absolutely fancy figures never dreamt of before, and in a lesser degree cattle.

Money is plentiful everywhere among the natives, though this district, owing to small-pox, has had little chance in the labour market.

PRICES OF STOCK AND PRODUCE.

Wheat	...	...	20s. per bag.
Mealies	...	...	15s. „
Kafir corn	..	...	10s. „
Horses	...	...	£15 and upwards each.
Cattle	...	...	£10 to £20 each.

GAOL RETURN.

There are at present in gaol at Teyateyaneng 15 men ; 31 have been convicted and 45 have been discharged unconvicted. One man was extradited before the war.

ROADS.

The roads which are in the hands of the contractor are in very fair order.

L. WROUGHTON,

Assistant Commissioner.

Berea,
30th June, 1900.

ANNUAL REPORT—MASERU, 1899-1900.

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900

I have the honour to report that during the past year I have had no troubles to contend with in the administration of the district.

It appeared at first as if we would have some trouble in getting in the increased taxation, but the determined and unwavering attitude displayed by Lerothodi to comply with the order was no doubt the cause of the tax being so promptly paid. The people, generally speaking, can well afford to pay a £1 Hut Tax. They earn lots of money out of the country, and it is the exception for their crops to fail, for which they get very good prices from the traders in the country. The war is watched very closely by the Basuto, and the frequent reverses our people met with were hailed by some with joy, while others were very disappointed and feared their own safety. The Boers repeatedly told the Basuto that when they had driven the English into the sea they would turn their attention to them.

A few people, contrary to instructions, crossed into the Free State to assist the Boers in reaping their wheat crops, for which they were of course punished, though to the natives it did not appear that in doing this they were aiding the Queen's enemy, but that they had taken the opportunity of earning a little money in a way they have been in the habit of doing for some years past.

A chain of border patrols was established as soon as hostilities commenced, to preserve the neutrality of our border, to prevent stealing and the intriguing of the Boers. The work was very heavy, for which special police had to be engaged, and all headmen on the border were called upon to co-operate. One and all put their shoulder to the wheel and carried out their duties without a grumble. The Boers, fearing that the Basuto, their old enemies, would take the opportunity while all burghers along the border were away on commando of raiding the conquered territory, had laagers every here and there along the border, many of which contained boys and very old Boers only. Several responsible Boers, evidently instructed by their Government did their utmost to cause the Basuto to rebel and were keen that Lerothodi should co-operate with them in an attack upon Maseru. The idea being that if all Government officers were taken prisoners that the Boers would be in a position to dictate to the Basuto and do away with any chances of the raid they feared. In consequence of reports of this sort being repeatedly made to us, Maseru was placed in a state of very strong defence. Two stone forts were speedily run up and several positions made impregnable, and the male inhabitants of Maseru, numbering about 40 Europeans and 150 natives, including police, were

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.

armed and held in readiness, and we were prepared to give the Boers a warm reception. Native pickets were posted round Maseru night and day with European officers in charge. The attack on Maseru was abandoned for the lack of co-operation on the part of the Basuto.

The wire rope which is stretched across the Caledon River, on which our pont is worked, was cut by some Boers under orders of the Landdrost of Ladybrand. A communication was addressed to the Landdrost, and he was informed that acts of this sort would not be tolerated and that he would be held responsible for the consequences. The following morning a demonstration of force was made and the wire again attached to the poles planted on the Free State side for the purpose. We have had no further trouble on this question.

A very useful system of intelligence work was established, and the authorities were kept posted with what was going on in the enemy's lines. Natives were employed on this dangerous work, and did splendidly. They got in, about, and out of the Boer laagers in a bold and daring manner, and many had thrilling adventures in making their escape upon being detected.

Many British subjects, European and native, residents of the Ladybrand District took refuge in Maseru; the Europeans to avoid being commandeered and forced into active service, and the natives for the protection of their property, horses and oxen in particular, which any irresponsible Boer took upon himself the right to use and misappropriate. The Europeans were bullied and threatened upon declining to take up arms against their own flesh and blood, and were thus forced to leave their homes and families at the mercy of their oppressors.

COMMERCIAL.

Trade fell off considerably by reason of our trade routes being cut off by the Boers, thus causing the traders to run out of supplies. The following are current prices of Basutoland produce :—

Cattle	...	...	...	...	£7 to £15
Horses	...	...	...	...	£12 to £25
Sheep	...	...	...	...	15s. to £1
Goats	...	...	...	...	5s. to 10s.
Wheat	...	...	...	...	10s. to 15s. a bag.
Mealies	...	...	...	...	10s. to 13s. „
Kafir corn	...	...	...	...	10s. to 13s. „
Wool	...	...	...	...	3d. per lb.
Mohair	...	...	...	...	6d. „

A very large number of horses have been drawn from this district by the military for remount purposes. Very good prices have been paid and much money put in circulation.

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900

PUBLIC WORKS.

The roads have received continual attention, and are in good order.

POLICE.

The detachment consists of :—

- 1 Sub-Inspector.
- 2 European Constables.
- 2 Native Constables.
- 1 „ Sergeant.
- 2 „ Corporals.
- 46 „ Privates.

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

Number of patrols	...	...	...	10
Number of men engaged	...	...	...	25
Number of miles patrolled	...	...	...	4,557
Arrests for contravening Liquor Laws				Nil.
Arrests for other offences	...	...	...	9

Return showing action taken in recovering lost and stolen stock :—

Description.	Reported.	Traced to Basuto-land	Not traced to Basuto-land.	Recovered.	Not recovered.
Cattle	78	38	40	38	40
Sheep	90	90	—	90	—

NOTE.—Ten cattle and one horse not reported were recovered and handed to authorities in Ladybrand.

LICENCES.

The following licences were issued during the year :—

General traders	...	...	...	...	26
Paid hawkers	...	...	...	...	2
Free hawkers	...	...	...	...	2

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900

CRIME.

The following cases were tried in my Court :—

Theft	...	...	...	...	9
Escaping from gaol	...	...	...	...	1
Assault	...	...	...	...	1
Contravening High Commissioner's Proclamation, No. 1999	...	...	...	...	6
Contravening Pass Regulations	...	...	...	...	2
Civil cases	...	...	...	...	4

SUMMARY OF PASSES ISSUED.

Passes for Johannesburg Mines	...	72
„ Kimberley	„	56
„ Jagersfontein	„	26
„ Coal Mines, Cape Colony	...	10
„ Farm or domestic service	...	64
Total for labour	...	228
Total for other purposes	...	401
Grand total	...	629

In addition to the above, hundreds of labourers have been recruited for the Military Authorities, and have been employed on the railway line repairing the damage done by the Boers.

REVENUE.

The revenue for the year amounts to £9,341 15s. 3d., and consists of :—

	£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	8,951	10	0
Licences	262	0	0
Fines	13	10	0
Ferry tolls	32	5	3
Fees	10	11	0
Miscellaneous	71	19	0
Total	£9,341	15	3

Tax was paid on 9,729 huts.

The amount of arrear tax is £978 10s.

No floggings were administered during the year.

C. GRIFFITH,

Assistant Commissioner.

PRINCIPAL MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT,
1899-1900.

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900

ATTENDANCES.

The number of patients treated during the past year shows a slight increase on the previous year, except under the head of vaccinations. The decrease in this is due to the border having been closed during the greater part of the year. (In ordinary times all natives leaving the territory are bound to show a certificate of vaccination.)

The number of in-patients received at Mafeteng and Maseru was slightly below the average. Early in April the hospitals at these stations were closed to native patients, and all available beds reserved for sick and wounded soldiers. At Mafeteng almost every available room in addition to the hospital was utilized for this purpose, and at Maseru the Council Chamber was fitted up as a temporary hospital.

The following table shows the number of patients treated at each station (European patients not included in this table):—

Station.	New Cases.	Out-patients subsequent Attendances.	Vaccination.	In-patients.	Totals.
Leribe ...	3,570	353	1,825	84	5,832
Maseru ...	4,024	1,573	28	88	5,713
Mafeteng ...	3,760	959	540	41	5,300
Mohale's Hoek	2,061	300	380	32	2,773
Quthing ...	885	257	17	5	1,164
Berea ...	—	—	6,062	—	6,062
Total ...	14,300	3,442	8,852	250	26,844

EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

Small-pox.—In addition to a small outbreak in the Leribe District, which was easily controlled, small-pox has been very prevalent in the Beren District for upwards of nine months. The quarantine imposed on infected villages in this district has

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1899-1900.

been constantly broken, with the result that the disease has spread from one ward to another. Every effort has been made to control the spread of the disease. Vaccination has been enforced as far as possible both in the infected and surrounding areas. Trained native vaccinators have been constantly at work, and missionaries and traders have been supplied with calf lymph, and a large number of people have been vaccinated by them.

Enteric Fever.—Enteric fever has been less prevalent than in former years. It is a matter of congratulation, and speaks well for the sanitary arrangements in vogue, that in spite of the introduction of upwards of 28 cases from the Colonial Division there has not been a single case occurring outside of these, in either Maseru or Mafeteng.

Measles.—Measles was prevalent throughout the country in the late summer months, but the disease was of a mild type.

Whooping-cough.—Whooping-cough, which was prevalent concurrently with measles in the Leribe District, was slightly more fatal.

No other epidemic disease calls for notice. On the whole the year under review has been an exceptionally healthy one.

POLICE.

The health of the police throughout the territory has been uniformly good.

GAOLS.

No cases of serious illness have occurred among the prisoners.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The addition of an operating-room at Leribe, Mafeteng, and Mohale's Hoek has been much appreciated. This addition was of exceptional service at Mafeteng in conjunction with the temporary military hospital established there.

EDWARD C. LONG,

Principal Medical Officer.

ANNUAL REPORT.—MAFETENG DISTRICT.

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.

The war between Her Majesty's Government and the Boer Republics engrossed the attention of the Basuto, and no inter-tribal matter of political importance occurred in Mafeteng District during the past year.

The border was closed in accordance with the High Commissioner's Proclamation and strictly patrolled by native police under the direction of European officers.

During the early period of the war Boer commandos were laagered in the Orange Free State close to the Basutoland border and armed parties of Boers constantly moved to and fro. Considerable intrigue was carried on by influential Boers with district chiefs; Basuto were told that they could enter the Free State without passes; free trade in spirituous liquor was allowed and narratives of Boer successes were printed in Sesuto and circulated amongst the natives.

This was all done with the object of inducing the Basuto to be disloyal to Her Majesty's Government, but the Basuto stood the test. There were certainly one or two chiefs and a few people who wavered in their loyalty and sympathized with the Boers and received from time to time secret communications from them; but this did not affect our position much as the Paramount Chief's influence in support of Government measures was strong in the district, and one excellent sign of good faith shown by the chiefs was that they voluntarily collected last year's tax at the increased rate of £1 a hut and brought the money to the District Office. For a considerable time the only visible strength to the Basuto was the Boer power on their border, and it was a trying period for everybody.

After the first occupation of Wepener by the Colonial Division matters improved for a time as the Boer commandos retired northwards; the story of their return and the subsequent siege of Wepener is now a matter of history. All these events affected the Mafeteng District considerably and kept the natives in a state of unrest.

In April the district officers were on the Basutoland border near Wepener with some police and a considerable number of armed Basuto for the purpose of resisting the Boers had they attempted to cross into Basutoland under arms, but they did not do so, and there was no violation of territory from either side. After the relief of the besieged garrison at Jammerberg Drift the Basuto on border duty were dismissed to their homes.

About one hundred wounded and sick officers and men of the Imperial and Colonial forces were brought to Mafeteng for

**BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.**

medical and surgical treatment, and they were accommodated in the local hospital and also in the mission churches, the latter being most kindly lent by the clergy of the French and English missions.

Under the care of an efficient medical staff the majority of these patients sufficiently recovered to allow of their removal to Aliwal North.

I regret to say that three men died here. Only three patients still remain in Mafeteng Hospital.

Some Boer stock was found in this district in the possession of natives; some had been sent over for safety by the Boers under arms; others brought in by Free State natives who stole the stock on their masters' farms, and others were looted by Basuto living in Mafeteng District. All this stock was collected and after due enquiry either sent to the District Commissioner of Wepener or sold and the proceeds paid to Imperial account. The border of this district is still strictly patrolled by police with the object of suppressing stock thefts and maintaining law and order, and matters in the adjacent district of the Orange River Colony are at present peaceable.

Main roads and by roads in the district were maintained in order, and public buildings received some necessary attention.

Mission work is carried on energetically by the clergy of the various mission societies. I have furnished a separate report on 23 Government aided schools in this district.

The strength of the police detachment at this Magistracy is :—

Sub-inspector	...	...	...	...	1
European constables	...	...	...	...	2
Native officer	...	...	...	...	1
Native sergeant	...	...	...	...	1
„ corporal	...	...	...	...	1
„ privates	...	...	...	...	31
„ constable	...	...	...	...	1

One sub-inspector was specially attached for duty, and eight special police were enrolled.

The police have performed excellent service during the year, as the following statistics will show :—

Number of patrols	...	...	...	578
Number of men employed	...	...	...	897
Number of miles patrolled	...	...	...	20,171
Number of arrests	...	...	...	38

The civil and criminal cases tried in the Assistant Commissioner's Court were as follows :—

BASUTO
LAND,
1899-1900.

Civil cases ...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Theft ...	...	...	...	...	10
Liquor Regulations ...	...	...	...	...	7
Other crimes ...	...	...	...	...	11
Homicide ...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Number of prisoners received into gaol during year	44
Number of prisoners discharged unconvicted ...	18
Number of prisoners convicted and sentenced ...	26
Number of prisoners in gaol on 30th June, 1900 ...	7

No floggings were inflicted.

I append a return showing result of action taken in tracing lost and stolen stock :—

Description.	Reported.	Traced to Basuto-land.	Not traced.	Re-covered.	Not recovered.
Horses ...	1	1	—	1	—
Cattle ...	18	18	—	18	—
Sheep ...	92	92	—	92	—

The undermentioned Trading Licences were issued :—

General traders ...	...	...	...	23
Paid hawkers ...	...	...	...	1
Free hawkers ...	...	...	...	12

Generally speaking, the crops were good throughout the district, especially the wheat crop, which was abnormal, but locusts did damage in some localities. Traders carried on business under some difficulty, being obliged to purchase quantities of grain which they were unable to export, the border being closed, and when roads were reopened it was found that transport wagons were scarce.

A large number of Basuto ponies were purchased for military remounts.

The rainfall at Mafeteng for twelve months ended 30th June, 1900, was 44.19 inches.

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.

The following were the ruling prices of local produce and stock :—

	£	s.	d.
Wheat, per bag	0	13	6
Mealies „	0	12	6
Kafir corn „	0	14	0
Barley „	0	10	0
Oats „	0	10	0
Slaughter cattle, each	12	0	0
Horses „	10	0	0
Sheep „	0	10	0
Goats „	0	8	0
Wool, per lb.	0	0	5
Mohair „	0	0	9

I attach a return of revenue collected :—

	£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	7,534	10	0
Licences	231	0	0
Fines	86	4	5
Fees	8	7	0
Miscellaneous	95	16	1
Total	£7,955	17	6

Hut Tax was paid on 7,051 huts. Arrear tax collected amounts to £463 10s.

Owing to the war there was little intercourse with neighbouring States, but while the roads were open the under-mentioned number of persons obtained passes to leave the territory :—

Men for the mines, Johannesburg ...	21
„ „ „ „ Kimberley ...	1
„ „ „ „ Jagersfontein ...	363
„ „ coal mines, Cape Colony ...	Nil
„ „ farm and domestic service ...	894
„ „ other purposes	1,308

After the British troops occupied Bloemfontein a large number of natives were sent to work on the railways, and these are not included in the above.

T. P. KENNAN,

Assistant Commissioner.

Assistant Commissioner's Office, Mafeteng,

7th July, 1900.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT—MAFETENG
DISTRICT, 1899-1900.

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.

During the past twelve months there have been 3,760 out-patient attendances at the Government dispensary. Of this number 959 came back for second and subsequent attendance. The proportion existing between first and repeated attendance, the latter being as 1 in 4, is due to the fact that a large proportion of the cases are of a mild nature, easily relieved, also in many cases the natives will not persevere in treatment until cured.

The nature of the cases varies from examples of the most serious of medical and surgical diseases down to the most trivial. The large proportion approaches the trivial, such as slight colds and disordered stomachs. I have always thought, and still think, that if cooking were taught at the schools in the country much preventable disease would be obviated.

Vaccination certificates to the number 540 were issued in the twelve months under review. This number, largely under that of previous years, is small on account of the war which by closing the border kept the Basuto at home and stopped the outgoing labour stream.

There has been no outbreak of small-pox in this district during the year. One case came through from another district, but there was no spreading:

Enteric fever has been represented by a few cases, but considering its great prevalence now and for some time past in some parts of South Africa, it is a matter of congratulation that there has been no widespread outbreak. At Sepula's I saw five cases of this disease, all in one family; their water supply was from a spring and well just alongside of the main road from Wepener, and it had evidently been contaminated by some typhoid patients travelling who possibly polluted the water by merely dipping in their infected pails.

Whooping-cough had gone right through the district and camp, Europeans and natives alike suffering. It was, however, not attended by any high mortality, most cases being mild.

Measles is now epidemic in the district and camp, so far with a very low death rate.

I have seen two cases of leprosy during the twelve months.

Dysentery and diarrhoea have not been so prevalent as in the previous twelve months. It is possible that having had rain in each of the months of the year has had something to do with that.

**BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.**

Hospital in-patients have been 41 in the twelve months, of whom 38 were surgical and three medical cases. This is below the number which it would have been but for the fact that from the middle of April I reserved our accommodation for the sick and wounded of the Jammerberg Garrison and Relief Column.

In connection with these I wish to say how great a boon the new operating room was to the military patients and surgeons. The large number of wounded entailed a good deal of surgical work, and to do this in a well-lit, well-adapted room was a great advantage to operators and patients.

That the hygienic condition and sanitary arrangements of the camp are good is evidenced by the fact that although I had under my care 20 cases of enteric fever amongst the military patients in no case was the disease contracted by any attendant or other patient, nor by any outsider. Of the 20 cases so far only one has died. One case of enteric is still left who may or may not recover. It is a severe and protracted by complications case.

The health of the native police force during the past twelve months has been good. Such diseases as have occurred amongst them and their families have been mild.

D. M. TOMORY,

Medical Officer.

Mafeteng,

9th July, 1900.

ANNUAL REPORT.—MOHALE'S HOEK, 1899-1900.

BASUTO
LAND,
1899-1900.

The topic of the past year has principally and very naturally been the outbreak and progress of the war now engaged in between Her Majesty's Government and the two Boer Republics. A keen interest has been maintained and events critically watched.

Public opinion varied as to the attitude likely to be taken up by the Basuto, but as time went on and their unwavering loyalty became apparent much of the uneasiness at first entertained gradually subsided and gave place to greater confidence.

In July Mocheko and many of his followers manifested a decided disinclination to submit to the authority of the young Chief Griffith Lerothodi, whose influence was fast becoming established throughout the rest of the district.

Trivial cases were constantly being brought to this office which should, according to native custom, have gone to the chief. I explained this, but my advice was not taken. In August telegraphic communication with the Cape Colony was opened. This gave general satisfaction throughout the district, and has subsequently proved of infinite value in keeping open outside communication otherwise practically cut off.

In spite of my efforts to prevent it, the conduct of Mocheko and Semenekane became more and more defiant and insubordinate.

During September gun and ammunition smuggling was very prevalent.

During this month I succeeded in obtaining conviction against a Free State border farmer, who was fined £50. This sentence was not at all well received by the majority of the burghers.

Semenekane's conduct had now become so openly defiant that I thought fit to send the headquarter messenger "Lepolisa" to warn him that if he continued in his contumacious bearing towards his chief he would most certainly incur the displeasure not only of the Paramount Chief, but also of the Resident Commissioner, who would not leave his conduct unpunished. This warning was, needless to say, unheeded, and in October, owing to Mocheko's refusal to obey a summons to Matsieng, the Paramount Chief sent his messengers to seize his cattle in order to enforce his obedience. On approaching Semenekane's village the messengers were fired upon by Semenekane in person. The Chief Seiso was sent by Lerothodi to arrest him, but he and Mocheko with a number of their adherents had fled with their arms and stock to the Herschel District. They were disarmed by order of the Magistrate, and, at my request, their stock was sent back to Basutoland.

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.

Mocheko and Semenekane were subsequently arrested and are now at Maseru in custody.

In October, war having been declared by the Boer Republics against Her Majesty's Government, a border guard of native police and headmen was placed along the border of this district and the Orange Free State, with a view to prevent intercourse between the Boers and Basuto, or trespass from either side. This guard was and still is under the command of Sub-Inspector Mansel, and keeps in touch with a smaller guard on the Mafeteng border. At this time the Chief Malebanye reported to me that Commandant Olivier had sent friendly messages to him asking his sympathy and stating that the Boers had no quarrel with the Basuto, and desired to keep on friendly terms with them. I impressed upon Malebanye the absolute necessity of his keeping strictly aloof from Olivier and from communication with him or any Boers, explaining to him that the Boers had themselves declared war and would be entirely responsible for the downfall of the two Republics which was bound to follow their rash and unjustifiable action.

In November unrest was apparent owing to the laager placed by the Boers within sight of our border. This was soon allayed by the successful efforts of the border guard and my own personal assurance.

The pont hawser over the Cornet Spruit on the Free State side was cut this month. I wrote to Commandant Olivier by order of Sir Godfrey Lagden, informing him of what had happened and that I considered it a direct act of aggression; that unless the matter was satisfactorily explained I would consider it understood that he would be prepared for any retaliation I might think fit. In reply Commandant Olivier informed me that no instructions had been given by him or his Government and that they were in no way responsible for the act.

All the stock that had been taken from the Baphuti were by order of the Resident Commissioner restored to the owners by Lerothodi, who also sent some of his own stock to compensate for any property destroyed.

Tsehla Khorlenye, one of the head Baphuti chiefs, was arrested. He was charged with holding a seditious meeting at his village likely to cause a disturbance of the public peace. He was bound over in the sum of £50 to keep the peace for six months.

It was found this month that natives were sneaking over the border to assist the Boers to reap their wheat, which was fast becoming spoiled for want of labour. They were induced by the exceptionally high rate of wages offered. Extra guards were placed and the chiefs were warned that such persons would be dealt with for contravention of the High Commissioner's Proclamation, No. 19 of 1899, for assisting the Queen's enemies.

In December postal and telegraphic communication between Basutoland and Aliwal North was interrupted, the wires being cut by Olivier who had occupied Aliwal North.

**BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.**

In January about 3,000 sheep and 135 head of cattle captured from Boers who had entered Basutoland was sent here, also a Boer named Naude. He was sent on to Maseru while the stock was kept here until April, when I handed it over to the Cape police at Palmietfontein. Naude had been sent down a few days before.

At this time I had several men arrested who were suspected of being in the secret employ of the Boers.

In February I purchased 160 horses for the Imperial Government, and a very large number has since been purchased in this district for Imperial remounts.

There was great rejoicing throughout the district on the news of the relief of Kimberley being received.

In March I received several copies of Lord Roberts' Proclamation of 15th February, which I caused to be distributed in the Free State by men I had employed on intelligence work. Some copies were distributed in the Rouxville and Smithfield Districts.

In this month 120 odd Free Staters surrendered their rifles to me on the border; these rifles were all destroyed; also a large quantity of ammunition that had been handed in.

In April I arrested a Dutchman who had come with a pass from Matatiele to buy cattle. Though warned by me, this man crossed the border and was charged with breach of border regulations and fined. He was then put across the border to Palmietfontein.

I was able to send up to Maseru a good deal of information gained in the Free State (O. R. Colony) through my intelligence men. Two of these men had instructions to join the column under General Brabant proceeding to the relief of the garrison besieged at Wepener. They were able to be of great use to the column and returned with notes from officers acknowledging their good services.

Several convoys of stores and ammunition for the Imperial troops passed through *en route* for Mafeteng and Wepener.

In May Olivier was reported by my scouts to be in Elandsberg with a few adherents, and several smaller lots of Boers were reported to be in hiding in different mountains in the Rouxville District. These parties gradually dispersed, some following the commando to Thaba 'Nchu, others making off home and glad to get there.

**BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.**

A native was arrested this month charged with the most diabolical assault on a Boer woman near the border. He was tried at this office and was found guilty and is now undergoing sentence.

In June a large number of arrests have been made of natives who have either stolen or brought stock into Basutoland from the Orange River Colony for secretion for Boers. The unearthing of these offenders reflects the greatest credit on the police, who have been most zealous and have displayed considerable tact in following up the different cases. They have been ably assisted by messengers of the Paramount Chief. A number of these messengers are now in the district and fresh cases are being daily discovered.

The population of the district has greatly increased during the past few years, and the mountainous parts that a few years ago were used only in summer as grazing for cattle are now peopled and largely under cultivation.

The past has been a most favourable year for all kinds of stock. Cattle, I should think, have nearly doubled in parts, not so much owing to natural increase as to introduction from outside.

It has been a most favourable season for cereals of all descriptions usually cultivated in Basutoland.

A fair amount of progress is shown in education under the two systems at work in the district, viz., the Paris Evangelical Society and the Church of England Mission. (*Vide* School Report.)

Trade being shut off from Basutoland for so many months from Colonial ports proved a considerable drawback to business. Notwithstanding this, the extra trade to refugees and others and the great demand and high prices for all kinds of stock proved a great boon to traders and brought much money into the country.

For the general health of the district, *vide* Medical Officer's Report.

The criminal record for the past year is heavier than usual owing to the prevalence of stock thefts during the past few months from the Orange River Colony. In the recovery of this the police have worked most satisfactorily and chiefs have also rendered loyal service.

Roads have been much tried during the past few months owing to the unusual amount of transport that has passed over them, all other roads being closed. They are now in good repair.

The following is schedule of various returns for the year :—

BASUTO
LAND,
1899-1900.

PATROL RETURN.

Number of patrols	...	...	...	56
Number of men	...	...	...	225
Estimated distance travelled	...	...	...	19,470 miles
Arrests for contravening Liquor Laws				2
" " Pass Laws			...	41
Arrests for other offences	...	...	...	147

A large number of the arrests are for theft and secretion of stock brought from Orange River Colony.

LOST STOCK RETURN.

Description.	Number reported.	Traced to Basutoland.	Not traced to Basutoland.	Recovered in Basutoland.
Horses	16	1	15	1
Cattle	71	57	14	55*
Sheep	401	152	249	152

* The two not recovered were found to have been killed by thieves.

GAOL RETURN.

Number of prisoners convicted	...	...	...	12
" " discharged unconvicted			...	15
" " in gaol on 30th June, 1900			...	26
" " removed to gaol in other districts or territories.				6

There are 19 prisoners in gaol who have been only recently committed and are awaiting trial. A large proportion of those discharged unconvicted are suspected spies from the Orange Free State.

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900

REVENUE RETURN.

	£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	7,324	10	0
General traders' licences ...	160	0	0
Dam licences	3	0	0
Judicial fines	67	1	6
Ferry tolls	-1	10	0
Fees of court or office ...	6	15	0
Miscellaneous	53	5	9
Total	7,616	3	3

Number of huts on which tax was paid ... 7,481

Amount of arrear Hut Tax ... £258 10s. 0d.

The following is a return of criminal cases tried in my Court:—

Theft	9
Housebreaking	1
Gaol breaking	2
Contravening H.C.'s Proc., No. 19 of 1899 ...	4
" Customs Regulations	1
" Pass "	13
" Liquor "	1
" Border "	6
Rape	1
Culpable homicide	1
Resisting police	1
Other offences	2
Total	42

There was only one civil case tried during the year.

The following is the only case of flogging during the year:—
Moiketsi, convicted of crime of rape and sentenced to 70 lashes.
Thirty lashes have been administered under medical supervision.

PASSES.

The following passes have been issued during the year:—

For the mines, Kimberley	1
" " Johannesburg	20
" " Jagersfontein	42
" " Cape Colony	4
For farm and domestic service	169
For other purposes	1,168
Total passes issued	1,404

CURRENT PRICE OF STOCK, &c.

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.

Wheat, per bag	...	...	...	...	14s.
Mealies	„	...	...	...	9s.
Kafir corn	„	...	...	...	9s.
Oxen	each	...	...	...	£12
Mixed cattle	„	...	...	...	£8
Horses	„	...	...	...	£16
Sheep (slaughter)	„	...	...	...	£1
Sheep (mixed)	„	...	...	...	10s.
Goats (slaughter)	„	...	...	...	£1
Goats (mixed)	„	...	...	...	10s.
Turkeys	„	...	...	...	3s. 6d.
Fowls	„	...	...	...	1s.

POLICE

The following is the strength of the police detachment :—

Sub-inspector	...	...	...	...	1
European constable	...	...	...	...	1
Native officer	...	...	...	...	1
Native sergeant	...	...	...	...	1
Native corporal	...	...	...	...	1
Lance-corporals	...	...	...	...	2
Native privates	...	...	...	...	21

All the above are mounted and equipped.

The following licences were issued during the year :—

General traders' licences	...	...	...	...	16
Hawkers	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Dam	...	...	...	...	2

The following two cases of hardship experienced by natives in the Orange Free State (O.R.C.) came to my notice during the year.

In November, 1899, a man named "Feland" complained of having his stock seized by the Boer commando near Burghersdorp. He was deprived of them without any compensation.

In March, 1900, a man named "Joss," who came from the Orange Free State to Basuto, was found to have been most shamefully treated by his master and also by the Field Cornet. He fled, leaving his pay but taking a horse, the property of his master Mentz. The matter was reported at the time, but under the circumstances of the war nothing could be done and the man was allowed to keep the horse conditionally.

J. W. BOWKER,
Assistant Commissioner,

Assistant Commissioner's Office,
Mohale's Hoek,

30th June, 1900.

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.—MOHALE'S
HOEK DISTRICT, 1899-1900.

During the past year there has been a falling off in the number of attendances at the dispensary as compared with that of the previous twelve months.

The following table will show this more plainly than a statement in words :—

Classification.	1898-1899.	1899-1900.
New patients (out)	2,132	2,061
Subsequent attendances	293	300
In-patients	39	32
Vaccinations	2,850	380
Free vaccinations	536	Nil
Total	5,850	2,773

The number of vaccinations has fallen off on account of no passes having been issued for the late Boer Republics, and this is cause of practically total short fall.

Of the in-patients 22 were discharged cured, 4 were not improved, 3 refused operation, 2 were slightly improved, and 1 died.

Two major operations were performed and 16 minor. Chloroform was administered 18 times without mishap. The new ward and operating room which have been built during the past year have proved very useful.

W. R. NATTLE,
Medical Officer.

Mohale's Hoek,
July 10th, 1900.

ANNUAL REPORT.—QUTHING DISTRICT,
1899-1900.BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.

GENERAL.

Few events of general interest have occurred here during the year. The people have been quiet and orderly, with comparatively few exceptions, in spite of excitement caused by the war with the Boer Republics and the rebellion in neighbouring districts of the Cape Colony.

In October, 1899, a number of women and children from the Mohale's Hoek District took refuge in Quthing in consequence of their homes being looted by followers of Griffith Lerothodi. Some alarm was felt in this district at the time owing to certain of the men so engaged asserting that when they were finished there they were coming over to Quthing on a similar errand. Occurring as it did at the time of the war with the Boers, more importance was probably attached to this incident than it deserved; but it, unfortunately, had a very unsettling effect, more especially on the alien tribes of Baphuti and Batembu living among the Basuto.

An officer was specially sent from headquarters to investigate these matters at the end of October, 1899.

Some English farmers from Barkly East District brought their stock across the mountains for safety in November, 1899, and remained in Quthing for several months. There was also about the same time an influx of European refugees from Herschel.

In December, 1899, a number of Moiletsi's followers took advantage of the unsettled state of the Barkly East District to commit extensive thefts of stock on the Boer farms. When called to account these persons pleaded that they were spoiling the Queen's enemies. Most of the stolen stock was recovered, and the delinquents were punished by fine or imprisonment.

During the earlier months of the war some anxiety was caused by the vacillating conduct of the Basuto chief of the district, Nkuebe Letsie, who, although outwardly loyal, was disposed to listen to Boer emissaries and to doubt our ultimate success in the war.

This led at times to a certain amount of friction, which was to be regretted, as in some matters he behaved well, supplying men for patrolling the Barkly East Border during several months, and in January last sending some hundreds of his men to make a demonstration in the same quarter, when a Boer attack on this district was expected.

**BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.**

There is, however, no doubt that the stock of the brothers Naude, which were captured on the Basutoland side of the line in January last, were there by permission of Nkuebe, as he was much annoyed at the arrest of the younger Naude, and the subsequent seizure of the stock.

The closing of the ordinary postal route to the Cape Colony at the beginning of November, 1899, and the destruction of telegraphic communication, rendered it necessary to organise a service of express riders, in the first instance, to convey mails and telegrams between Palmietfontein and Moshesh's Ford, and later, as the Boer operations were extended, fresh routes had to be found across the Drakensberg to East Griqualand. Daily telegraphic intercourse was thus kept up between Maseru and the Cape Colony, and the mails were conveyed across the mountains on pack horses. Notwithstanding occasional delays caused by severe weather, flooded rivers, &c., the native carriers on the whole performed the duties very well. Fortunately, the necessities for this service only lasted through the summer months, when there was no snow to block the passes through the mountains.

Cordial relations have been maintained with the neighbouring districts of the Cape Colony and East Griqualand, except in the case of Barkly East District during the rebellion. The authorities in Griqualand East and Herschel have rendered every possible assistance in facilitating transit of mails, &c., and in police work.

Owing probably to its repression in other quarters by the military authorities, illicit trade in liquor is said to be on the increase in East Griqualand, and some of the Basuto chiefs are reported to be getting supplies thence. A report on this subject has recently been sent to the Chief Magistrate at Kokstad.

AGRICULTURE.

The maize and Kaffir corn crops are heavier this season than they have been for several years past. Locusts appeared in the summer, coming as usual from the west, but after a few applications of fungus they vanished. They appeared during their brief visit to attack the grass rather than the crops; and live stock has consequently suffered in some places from deficient pasture.

Sheep and goats do well in the mountains, and wool and mohair of good quality could be produced with a little trouble. Unfortunately, xanthium spinosum is on the increase, as are various other species of burrs; and nothing apparently will induce the natives to take proper steps for the destruction of these plants, in spite of the injury they cause to the wool.

POLICE.

The patrol work during the past year has been unusually heavy, owing to the necessity of keeping men stationed along the border during several months to check thieving, and to watch Boer movements. These duties have been satisfactorily performed by the Quthing police detachment.

**BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.**

MEDICAL.

Dr. A. S. Gardiner was appointed Medical Officer for this district in October, 1899. His report is attached.

EDUCATION.

Reports on Government aided schools were sent in on the 16th inst.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Telegraphic communication with the Cape Colony was established in September, 1899.

A new gaol was completed during the year, and additions have been built to the dispensary and post office.

The road contractor has recently been relieved of the charge of the roads in Quthing, which are now being repaired under the immediate control of the Government.

RETURN OF REVENUE COLLECTION.

				£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	...	...	...	5,393	10	0
Licences	...	...	...	143	0	0
Fines	...	...	...	296	1	0
Ferry tolls	...	...	...	203	16	0
Fees of court or office...	...	...	...	7	5	0
Miscellaneous receipts...	...	...	...	35	13	6
Total	...	...	...	£6,079	5	6

The amount of arrear Hut Tax paid was £385 10s.

The number of huts on which tax was paid was 5,008.

RETURN OF PATROLS PERFORMED.

Number of patrols	...	...	...	53
Number of men employed	...	...	...	90
Number of miles covered	...	...	...	14,719
Arrests for contravening Pass Laws				7
Arrests for contravening Liquor Laws				Nil
Arrests for other offences	...	...	...	32

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.

FLOGGINGS INFLICTED.

Number.	On whom inflicted.	Number of Lashes.	Crime.
1	Sesinye	15	Rape.

The following cases were tried in my Court during the year :—

Civil cases	1
Theft	35
Breach of the peace	3
Rape	2
Contravening Customs Regulations	1
Contravening Pass Laws	2
Wantonly destroying Government property	2
Resisting police	3
Assault with intent	1
Receiving stolen property	3
Assault	3
Attempted abduction	1
Contravening Special Laws with regard to Orange River Colony.	3

PRISON RETURN.

Number of prisoners received into gaol during year	58
Number of prisoners convicted and sentenced ...	58
Number of prisoners discharged unconvicted ...	Nil
Number of prisoners in gaol on 30th June, 1900 ...	8

CURRENT PRICE OF STOCK AND PRODUCE.

Horses	each	£10 to £25.
Oxen	„	£10 to £12 10s.
Cows, &c.	„	£5 to £8.
Sheep	„	10s. to 20s.
Goats	„	10s. to 15s.
Wool	per lb.	4½d.
Mohair	„	10d.
Wheat... ..	per bag	18s.
Mealies	„	10s.
Kaffir corn	„	10s.
Oat hay	per 100 bundles	25s.

POLICE.

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.

The strength of the police detachment is as follows :—

Sub-Inspector	...	...	...	...	1
European constable	...	...	...	...	1
Native sergeant	...	...	...	...	1
„ corporal	...	...	...	...	1
„ privates	...	...	...	...	22
Special police	...	...	...	...	4

LICENCES.

The following licences were issued :—

General traders	...	...	...	...	14
Paid hawkers	...	...	...	...	4

LOST AND STOLEN STOCK.

Description.	Reported.	Traced to Basuto-land.	Not traced.	Recovered	Not recovered.
Horses	35	23	12	23	12
Cattle	57	45	12	45	12
Sheep	333	—	333	—	333

RETURN OF PASSES ISSUED.

For the mines, Kimberley	...	...	Nil
„ Indwe	...	...	1
„ Jagersfontein	...	...	2
„ Johannesburg	...	...	Nil
For domestic service	...	...	1,200
For farm service	...	...	1,245

The following is a summary of complaints which reached me from natives resident in the Orange Free State during the year ended 30th June, 1890 :—

1. "Mataha."—Killed on road party, near Lundean's Nek. £15 compensation paid to relatives by Cape Colonial Government.

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.

2. "Simon Mathias."—Shot by policeman near Burghersdorp. No compensation due to relatives.
3. "Johanna Makhele."—Robbed of £8 by the Boers, near Bloemfontein. No action taken owing to war.
4. "Kleinbooi."—Wages detained by his master in Orange Free State. No action taken owing to war.
5. "January."—Wages detained by his master in Orange Free State. No action taken owing to war. Case reported to Resident Commissioner.

S. BARRETT,

Assistant Commissioner.

Quthing,

30th June, 1900.

**MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT—QUTHING
DISTRICT, 1899-1900.**

**BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.**

I arrived at this station on October 15th, 1899, and commenced my duties on the following day.

The following list gives the attendances at the dispensary for treatment and vaccination certificates during the period between October 16th, 1899, and June 30th, 1900 :—

	1899-1900.
New cases	885
Subsequent attendances	257
Hospital in-patients	5
Vaccinations	17
Total	1,164

By far the greater proportion of cases presenting themselves for treatment were those suffering from syphilis and dyspepsia. As regards the various kinds of syphilis, the greater number were in the secondary and tertiary stages, hardly any in the primary stage. Hereditary syphilis accounted for a good many cases. There is great difficulty in persuading the native that one bottle of medicine will not cure him entirely of the disease ; the consequence is that one sees now and again cases of syphilis of the tertiary stage in a most deplorable state.

The position of the hospital, isolated as it is on the top of a steep hill and far away from any large villages, prevents a great many persons from attending who would otherwise apply for relief.

The hospital has had a large airy room attached to it and this materially increases the convenience in seeing the patients.

There has been a great difficulty at times to meet the requirements of some of the patients owing to the impossibility of obtaining the yearly supply of drugs. This was due to the fact of the roads down country being blocked for wagon traffic.

The health of the district has on the whole been good. We have had no epidemic of typhoid or diphtheria either amongst the native or white population.

The only epidemics were slight ones of mumps in January and influenza during March, 1900. There were no fatal cases.

The health of the police detachment has been very good. A new site has been selected for the erection of a camp. This is very desirable as the old camp is far from sanitary.

The prisoners have also enjoyed good health, there having been no serious cases of illness among them.

**ALEX. S. GARDINER,
Medical Officer.**

**BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.**

**ANNUAL REPORT—QACHA'S NEK DISTRICT,
1899-1900.**

The past twelve months have been very peaceful in this district, the only cause for excitement among the inhabitants being the constant booming of siege guns in Natal during last December and early this year.

On the 29th November I received information from the Magistrate of Matatiele that a Boer commando was at Lehana's Pass threatening his district, and that the farmers and others were sending their stock to Basutoland for safety.

I called the principal chiefs together and informed them of the circumstances, and that it might become necessary to call on them for men to assist my police in guarding the border. They all expressed their readiness to help, but a Colonial force was promptly assembled near Mount Fletcher to prevent any encroachments, and I was not compelled to take any action.

Early in June Chief Sekake cut a lot of thatching grass belonging to Chief Mpiti. The boundary between these persons was definitely pointed out by Setha on behalf of the Paramount Chief in 1894, but notwithstanding this it is a constant source of trouble.

Liquor smuggling is increasing, the number of arrests shown on the return of patrols not representing the extent to which this illicit traffic is carried on, as it is comparatively easy to evade the police patrols with such a long border.

There are three Government aided schools in this district, all of which have been inspected and reports on them furnished.

The crops here were considerably handicapped by the drought last spring, but a better harvest has been reaped this season than last year.

No cases of ill-treatment of Basutoland natives in neighbouring territories have been reported at this office.

The increased Hut Tax has been satisfactorily paid. The revenue collected is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	2,895	10	0
Licences	25	0	0
Fines	52	5	0
Fees	0	10	0
Miscellaneous	14	8	5
Total	<u>£2,987</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>5</u>

Amount of arrear tax collected was £42.

Number of huts on which tax was paid was 2,918.

There are two licensed general traders in this district.

Five paid hawkers' licences have been issued.

BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.

LOST STOCK RETURN.

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Not traced.	Re-covered.	Not re-covered.
Horses	8	6	2	6	2
Cattle	11	5	6	5	6
Sheep	76	9	67	9	58

Nine sheep have been found on owners' farms in East Griqualand, and it is supposed that four were eaten by tigers.

CASES TRIED.

The following cases were tried in this Court:—

Theft	...	...	...	...	4
Resisting police	...	...	...	...	4
Contravening Liquor Laws	...	...	...	...	4
Contravening Pass Laws	...	...	...	...	2

PRICES OF STOCK AND PRODUCE.

Wheat	...	...	...	15s. per bag.
Mealies	...	...	10s. to 15s.	„
Kaffir corn	...	...	...	15s. „
Horses	...	...	...	£5 to £15
Cattle	...	...	...	£5 to £15
Sheep	...	...	...	10s. to 20s.
Goats	...	...	...	10s. to 15s.
Wool	...	..	...	5d. per lb.
Mohair	...	...	...	11d. „
Forage (per 100 bundles)	...	...	...	15s. to 20s.

**BASUTO-
LAND,
1899-1900.**

RETURN OF PASSES.

For the mines, Johannesburg	...	Nil.
" Kimberley...	...	"
" Jagersfontein	...	2
" Cape Colony	...	22
For farm and domestic service	...	425
For visiting and other purposes	...	10,712

RETURN OF PATROLS.

Number of patrols	...	...	...	130
Number of men	...	...	...	174
Estimated distance travelled (miles)				4,469
Arrests for contravening Liquor Laws				4
" " Pass Laws				4
" other offences	...	...		7

POLICE.

The native police consists of:—

Corporal	...	...	...	...	1
Privates	...	...	...	...	13

FLOGGINGS.

There were no floggings inflicted during the year.

GAOL RETURN.

Number of prisoners received into gaol	...	...	...	...	17
Number of prisoners convicted and sentenced	...	...	...	...	9
Number of prisoners discharged unconvicted	...	...	...	...	8
Number of prisoners in gaol on 30th June	...	...	...	...	2

E. D'U. BLYTH,
Acting Assistant Commissioner.

Qacha's Nek,
30th June, 1900.