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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 380.

BASUTOLAND.

REPORT FOR 1901-1902.

(For Report for 1900-1901, see No. 348.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
January, 1903.



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No. 380.

BASUTOLAND.

(For Report for 1900-1901, *see* No. 343.)

HIGH COMMISSIONER VISCOUNT MILNER to
MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

High Commissioner's Office,
Johannesburg,

October 28th, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of a despatch from the Resident Commissioner, transmitting the Annual Reports upon Basutoland for the year ended 30th June, 1902.

I shall be glad if you will supply me with printed copies in due course.

I have, &c.,

MILNER,

High Commissioner.

FROM THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, MASERU,
TO HIGH COMMISSIONER, JOHANNESBURG.

Resident Commissioner's Office,
Basutoland,

30th September, 1902.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to Your Excellency my Report upon Basutoland for the year ended 30th June, 1902, together with the Annual Reports of the Government Secretary, the Assistant Commissioners, the Medical Officers, and the Veterinary Officer.

Basutoland is financially in a very prosperous condition. From the returns of revenue and expenditure, with comparative returns of preceding years given in Mr. Wroughton's report, it will be seen that the revenue from all sources during the past year has amounted to £104,284, while the expenditure has been £64,810. The balance to credit of the Administration has been, therefore, increased by £39,474, and now amounts to £75,340.

It has not been possible, in the recent condition of affairs in South Africa, to employ the surplus in public works of utility and other measures for the improvement of the country, but with the restoration of peace and renewed facilities for transport I hope before long to be able to submit some proposals for expenditure.

Two points of special interest in connection with the revenue have to be noticed, namely, the large amounts realised by the collection of hut-tax and by Customs' earnings.

Natural increase of the native population accounts to a certain extent for the increasing payment of hut-tax, in addition to which the abundance of cash in circulation has caused a large payment of arrear tax; this has been particularly the case among the people of Joel Molapo, who had, during the period of Joel's misbehaviour, neglected to complete the payment of their taxes. A number of native immigrants and refugees from the Orange River Colony, have also temporarily been settled in Basutoland, and have contributed to the revenue, but to what precise extent cannot be ascertained.

The revenue from Customs has exceeded expectations. The presence of many European refugees occasioned the import of an unusual quantity of dutiable goods, and the peace and security prevailing in Basutoland attracted trade. The high wages earned by Basuto labourers have also contributed to the volume of trade, by increasing the purchasing power of the people.

The trade in imported goods is almost entirely in articles of British manufacture—the principal exceptions being American agricultural implements and Belgian rugs.

There does not appear to be much prospect of further expansion of trade, either with regard to imports or exports. The trade depends upon the sale of native produce, and the wages earned by young men who go out to work and who prefer to bring back their earnings to spend in their own country. With respect to the agricultural industry, it is probable that the limit of production has been reached, and it is unlikely that higher prices for grain and stock will be obtained in the future than in the past. The quality of the produce, particularly with reference to horses, mohair, and wool, may be improved, and efforts in this direction are among the most interesting of future administrative plans.

Nor is it reasonable to expect that native labourers will be able to add to the wealth of the country by larger future earnings. The demand for labourers is great, but the wages offered are reduced. The labourer, however, if denied the opportunity for spending his earnings in drink, and if afforded facilities for remitting his money to his home, ought to continue to be a good customer to the Basutoland trader.

During the year, the Witwatersrand Labour Association established agencies in Basutoland, and made an attempt to organise a system of recruiting native labourers for the Johannesburg mines. The rate of pay offered failed, however, to attract the Basuto, who, at the same time, were being recruited by the various military departments, which were offering able-bodied labourers quite exceptionally high wages. The Association has for the present discontinued its operations in Basutoland, but I hope that when the Basuto natives have recovered from the unsettlement of the war, and the abnormally high wages they have been earning, a supply of labourers at reasonable rates will be procurable in Basutoland.

The country has, in common with other parts of South Africa, been visited by rinderpest. The disease has, during the present outbreak, appeared in a less acute and destructive form than in the year 1897, but, nevertheless, the losses have been heavy. Inoculation has been carried on with aid of Government in every part of the country, and the majority of the cattle have been

immunised. Rinderpest still exists in several localities, and probably some time will elapse before Basutoland may be considered free from the disease. The losses from pleuropneumonia have, perhaps, been even heavier than from rinderpest, and indeed, the necessary introduction of herds of cattle and horses for military purposes has been accompanied by the appearance of every variety of equine and bovine disease in South Africa. This is an unpleasant legacy of the war, and has occasioned much loss. The Basuto in most parts of the country have reaped good average crops, and have received good prices for their produce, and for the horses and cattle they have sold.

The great obstacle to the trade of the country has been, and is, the difficulty of obtaining regular transport to and from Aliwal North and Bloemfontein. Transport by ox and mule wagon has been at times almost unobtainable, and the restrictions on traffic, owing to the existence of rinderpest, have added to the difficulties of the situation. In parts of the country the cost of transport of goods from the coast has reached the rate of 40*s.* per 100 lbs., and the expense of living has been proportionately high. The ordinary cost of transporting a bag of grain (200 lbs.) from the border to the nearest railhead has been 10*s.* to 12*s.*, or, in other words, as great as would be the cost of carrying it 2,500 miles by railway. With the approach of the railway through Thaba 'Nchu, matters in this respect may be expected to improve, but the future prosperity of the country is dependent upon the extension of railways to the border, in place of the present costly, slow, and uncertain means of conveyance.

Such a change would be of equal advantage both to the producer and consumer of Basutoland grain.

The work of education has been steadily carried on by the mission societies, and returns furnished show that there are at present 197 schools, and 13,021 scholars receiving instruction. An inspection of a certain number of these schools by Canon Woodroffe showed a satisfactory state of efficiency and discipline.

There is no doubt that the time has arrived for the appointment of a trained education officer and inspector. It would be altogether fallacious to form an opinion of the state of education in the country from the mere number of scholars on the books. Inspection frequently reveals the fact that a very large proportion (sometimes amounting to 50 per cent.) of the children in the school registers are "below standard," that is, they have not qualified even under the first standard of the Cape Education Department. The average of regular attendance is also sometimes lower than could be wished, as is only to be expected among the children of peasants, whose parents require their services from time to time for herding, harvesting, and other agricultural work.

The work of secondary education is carried on in the Normal Colleges or training institutions. These higher schools undertake the very necessary duty of providing a supply of trained native teachers for the elementary schools, and are conducted with zeal and success by the directors of the missions. A number of young men are annually trained, many of whom subsequently follow careers of simple usefulness, as teachers of the children of their fellow countrymen. I propose to recommend an increase in education grants, which will enable the missions to offer additional encouragement and inducement to these native teachers, in the shape of some addition to their pay, which is at present not sufficient to attract many of the fully certificated men. I would not recommend the indiscriminate higher education of young natives, and would rather support some additional efforts in the direction of industrial training, or towards some increase in the numbers and efficiency of the elementary schools, which do not aim at more than the third (or at most the fourth) standard of the Cape Department.

The industrial school of the Paris Evangelical Mission Society receives a special grant, and has 39 scholars, of whom 22 are undergoing instruction in stone-masonry, 15 in carpentry, and 2 in smith's work. The work of the institution has, like every other form of business, been under great difficulties as to transport of material.

The medical officers have continued to do useful work at the dispensaries and Government hospitals. The fact that more than 15,000 natives have presented themselves for medical attendance indicates a confidence in our methods and treatment which is very satisfactory. There is reason to believe that the influence of the native doctors is being reduced in a corresponding degree.

The Paramount Chief and other chiefs have at times placed themselves in the hands of our medical officers.

The hospital at Mafeteng received during the year between 200 and 300 sick and wounded officers and soldiers from the columns operating on the border.

This considerably taxed the energy of our medical officer and the local resources as to accommodation and medical comforts, and I trust that the Military Authorities are satisfied with the work which has been done.

The amount of military work passing through Basutoland telegraph offices exceeded the powers of the telegraphists, and it was necessary to obtain from the Director of Military Telegraphs the services of several military operators. An extension of phonograph communication by wire to Butha Buthe Station has been carried out, and I propose during the coming year to extend the system to Peka Police Station.

Statistics of postal and telegraph work are embodied in the Government Secretary's report.

In August, 1901, Lerothodi and other chiefs visited Cape Town with me, and had the honour of being present at the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales.

The postponed Coronation festivities were celebrated on 9th August with general rejoicings.

The past year has not been marked by the occurrence of many events of general interest with regard to the internal political condition of Basutoland. The Officers of the Administration have been, necessarily, occupied in dealing with the condition of affairs on the border arising from the continuance of the war. A very great deal of additional work, directly and indirectly connected with the military operations, has had to be done, and there has been little time or opportunity for attention to any but the most pressing questions of internal management. Every officer has been employed in the collection of military intelligence and in supervision of special arrangements for the preservation of order on our borders. The columns operating in the neighbourhood of Basutoland have drawn a considerable portion of their supplies from this territory, and have been furnished with horses, transport and slaughter cattle, native wagon drivers and leaders, and other native labourers to almost the full extent of the resources of the country. European and native refugees in large numbers have been forced over our border in the process of clearing the country on the other side, and the control of this addition to the population has called for the exercise of incessant activity and watchfulness. There have been many reports to the effect that the Boers in arms have been able to obtain supplies of clothing and other necessaries from Basutoland, through the medium of paid native emissaries, and as our own agents have in many instances intercepted individuals engaged in such traffic, it cannot be said that the rumours were totally without foundation; but such smuggling could only have been carried on to a very limited extent owing to the energetic preventive measures that were adopted. To deal effectually with this state of affairs it has been necessary in some instances to act in a somewhat arbitrary manner, and to enforce special regulations as to trade, which, no doubt, have occasioned inconvenience and loss to many law-abiding people.

There is only one instance on record of violation of the Basutoland border by armed Boers. In the extreme north of the Leribe District an attempt was made, by night, to loot horses from the stable of a European refugee, living close to the line. The marauders were fired on by police and others, but succeeded in escaping with two captured horses. It has been necessary to deal strictly with natives who, unable to resist the particular temptations offered by the situation, have crossed into the Orange River Colony, and have looted stock and goods from Boer camps

and farms. Any failure to check such a practice would have occasioned most deplorable disorder, and would have tended to the demoralisation of the Basuto, who have, as a rule, governed themselves with propriety in this respect.

In both the Northern and Southern extremities of Basutoland, bodies of armed Basuto have been called out, and placed on the borders, to oppose the anticipated movements of Boer Commandoes through those portions of the country. No attempt, however, at such movement was made by the enemy. The Chiefs responded, dutifully, to the call made upon them for the supply of men for this purpose.

During the war about 2,000 European refugees, mostly of Dutch extraction, have been afforded an asylum in Basutoland. Since the termination of hostilities almost all these people have returned to their homes in the neighbouring Colony, and it is only fair to place upon record that, during their stay, they behaved as a rule, in a remarkably quiet and orderly manner, and bore their hardships patiently. With few exceptions these people supported themselves.

The greatest difficulty in connection with the administration of Basutoland is in the adjustment of the inter-tribal quarrels, arising from disputes as to Chieftainship and land. There is no doubt that in the not very distant future, the land question in Basutoland, where the extent of arable land is limited, and has to serve for the needs of a constantly increasing population will present a somewhat serious economic difficulty. But in view of the ever increasing demand for labour in South Africa, and the prospect of employment for an almost indefinite number of natives in mines and other industries, the pressure of the population upon the land may be contemplated without any alarm.

* The immediate difficulty is in the delimitation of the land rights of the different Chiefs by whom the land is allotted to the people, and in this exists a danger to the internal peace of the country. In other respects the Chiefs can, as a rule, be depended upon to exercise the authority they possess with wisdom and moderation, but in the matter of land rights they are jealous and uncompromising, and the adjustment of their disputes occupies much time and thought, which might be more profitably employed in other directions. The most troublesome land questions, at present, are in Leribe and Quthing Districts. In the Leribe District, amicable and reasonable settlement is rendered difficult by the jealousy existing between the Paramount Chief and Jonathan Molapo, the Chief of the District. Any arrangement which is satisfactory to one does not please the other, and the intrigues carried on by two such influential Chiefs are the main factors in perpetuating the unrest among the Leribe people.

The breach of the peace committed by Joel Molapo in 1899, and his attitude during the war, may be traced to the inter-tribal quarrels I have referred to, rather than to any strong feeling of attachment to the Boers. The trial of Joel has formed the subject of a special report, and it is sufficient to mention here that he practically pleaded guilty to charges of disloyal conduct and contempt of Court, and made only a feeble defence in the matter of his attack on his brother Hlasoa. I sentenced Joel to imprisonment for one year, and to a fine of 500 cattle, in lieu of which fine the sum of £2,000 has been accepted.

The imposition of collective punishment in the shape of fines has generally been taken advantage of by the chiefs, and I regret to say that Lerothodi used this opportunity to raise money by an appeal to his own followers for unnecessary contributions to "help Joel." The custom of mutual help, when in such difficulties, is quite in accordance with Basuto ideas. It is not regarded by the people as an injustice, and when not abused there is nothing particularly objectionable in it; but in this instance I have considered it right to call Lerothodi's attention to the impropriety of his conduct, with the result that he has handed to me the amount of £500 to be added to a sum of money which I hold in trust for the establishment of an industrial school.

The case of Joel involved a land question, as it was necessary to insist on the return of Hlasoa to the location from which he has been driven, and this, therefore, formed a portion of my judgment.

I proceeded with the representatives of the Paramount Chief to the spot to see the thing done. Hlasoa has re-occupied his fields and villages, but the want of unanimity between Lerothodi and Jonathan continues to cause uneasiness in Leribe District.

The trial of Mocheko has also taken place during the year. Mocheko's offence amounted, in a few words, to rebellion against the authority of the Paramount Chief, and resistance to his messengers. We have deprived Lerothodi of the power of taking extreme measures to vindicate his authority, and therefore it is a plain duty to support him in a constitutional and reasonable manner. Mocheko pleaded that his grandfather, Moroosi, had been a friend of Moshesh, but in no way his vassal, and that, therefore, he, Mocheko, was equally independent of the authority of Lerothodi. Historical evidence is against this, and it was clearly an inadmissible contention, and, in the interests of peace, Mocheko has been deprived of his control over the Baphuthi, in the Mohales Hoek District.

In the Quthing District there is always much friction between the native settlers, who were there before 1882, and the followers

of Nkwebe, who were placed there in that year, and who was subsequently formally recognized in 1884. At that time the district was but thinly peopled, and the headmen there had far more land than was necessary for their few followers. The population of the district has since been more than quadrupled by immigration from other portions of the country, and the process of locating the new comers is regarded as oppressive by the original petty chiefs. There is no doubt that, in some cases, the course adopted by Nkwebe has been somewhat unjust and vexatious, but the complainants could easily improve their positions by ceasing to question the rights of Nkwebe in the district.

I have indicated rather than described, all the numerous and incessant quarrels between the chiefs and petty chiefs throughout the country. It is much to their credit that their disputes so seldom culminate in brawls and bloodshed. They are always ready to talk cases, and by much discussion expend the energy that might find a more mischievous channel. Resort to the argument of physical force is, as a rule, the act of irresponsible and hot-headed youths.

In respect of the general social condition of the Basuto, it is undoubtedly the case that they have been materially prosperous. In matters of clothing, housing, and food, their standard of comfort is probably higher than it has ever been. Want and poverty have been practically unknown in the country.

In their moral condition it is not possible to record a similar improvement. They know more than they did twenty or even ten years ago, they have been brought into contact with the seamy side of civilisation in the larger towns, and have learned little that has tended to improve them. Cases of illegitimate birth and infanticide among the women appear to be on the increase.

The control of the liquor traffic under martial law in neighbouring territories has made it difficult for the Basuto to obtain brandy, but, nevertheless, there has been a certain amount of smuggling from East Griqualand and the north-eastern districts of the Cape Colony. I have observed, with great satisfaction, that a measure is about to be introduced into the Cape Parliament for the total prohibition of the sale of drink to natives.

The health of the Paramount Chief Lerothodi has been such as to cause considerable anxiety. He has a difficult part to play, but as a rule has loyally supported me in the necessary measures of government. He, in fact, has to control his people through a sort of aristocracy of minor chiefs, whose own influence depends on their connection by birth with the family of Moshesh. At times, when swayed by interested advisers who are able to play upon the feelings of jealousy which he entertains towards certain

other chiefs, Lerothodi lends himself to intrigues which accentuate the many existing differences between the sections of the tribe. But he is capable of taking a larger and more worthy view of his position and its duties, and, according to his lights, will often act for the good of his people in opposition to his own inclinations. Among the more influential chiefs whose conduct is generally satisfactory and whose counsel in national matters is valuable are Jonathan, Theko, Seiso, Moyela, and others.

During the year Lerothodi has again brought forward a request for the establishment of a National Council, as to which I have submitted proposals to your Excellency.

The administrative staff has undergone changes consequent upon the transfer of several experienced officers to the Native Affairs Department of the Transvaal. It is my duty to call attention to the general good services of the Government Secretary, the Assistant Commissioners, the police officers, the medical officers, and other members of the Service who have aided in the work of the year.

I have, &c.,

H. C. SLOLEY,

Resident Commissioner.

His Excellency

The Right Honourable

Viscount Milner, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.,

High Commissioner, South Africa.

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT
SECRETARY, 1901-1902.

Government Secretary's Office,
Maseru,
30th September, 1902.

SIR,

IN transmitting the usual District Annual Reports for the year ending 30th June, 1902, I have the honour to submit the following summary of statistical information, gathered from these, and other sources.

FINANCIAL.

The Revenue of the country for the year under report was:—

	£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	60,755	10	0
Post Office	3,489	17	2
Licences	5,233	2	9
Fees	156	6	4
Miscellaneous receipts... ..	1,551	6	8
	71,186	2	11
Customs	33,097	18	5
Total	£104,284	1	4

The Expenditure during the same period amounted to £64,809 18s. 1d.

Beneath will be seen a table showing comparative Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years:—

Year ending.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
30th June, 1898	46,555 7 6	44,797 10 10
30th June, 1899	46,847 16 8	46,417 12 9
30th June, 1900	69,769 16 4	59,492 7 6
30th June, 1901	74,890 19 1	55,485 14 5
30th June, 1902	104,284 1 4	64,809 18 1

Hut-Tax during the year was paid on 56,916 huts, while £5,138 10s. 0d. was "arrear" Tax. Chief Joel Molapo, when intriguing with the Boers, did not pay his tax, but, on discovering his mistake during the past year, he paid up both arrear and current tax. This, conjoined to the general prosperity of the tribe, will largely account for the heavy increase under the head of "Hut-Tax."

During the past twelve months the usual contribution of £18,000 per annum from the Cape Government was discontinued for the first time, and in lieu of it Basutoland received the actual amount earned by it under the Customs Union, viz., £33,097. This amount, of course, is quite abnormal, and is caused by the peculiar circumstances of the year.

TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

Exports of produce :—

Articles.	Year ended 30th June, 1901.		Year ended 30th June, 1902.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Muids.	£ s. d.	Muids.	£ s. d.
Wheat	24,907	14,845 9 0	35,628	19,242 4 0
Mealies	49,916	29,104 14 0	85,445	46,621 9 6
Kaffir corn ...	8,949	2,502 6 0	8,494	6,751 16 0
Meal	702	867 2 0	8,484	4,156 5 0
Mealie meal ...	385	308 1 0	1,299	887 2 0
	Lbs.		Lbs.	
Wool	1,551,657	25,570 17 0	3,729,173	46,794 5 8
Mohair	195,355	7,655 3 0	406,853	10,691 10 8
	No.		No.	
Horses	15,684	262,991 15 9	656	9,049 15 0
Cattle	1,312	16,842 0 0	1,574	20,453 10 0
Miscellaneous ...	—	959 7 10	—	2,146 5 9
Total ...	—	361,646 15 7	—	166,894 3 7

It will be seen from the above return that, with the exception of "horses," the value of every description of produce exported shows a very considerable increase on last year.

I may mention that horses are not an important item of export in ordinary years, and the collapse referred to above simply means that "remounts" have ceased buying, and that this particular "produce" has returned to its normal figures.

As regards "imports" the total value of these amounts to £230,680.

I find on looking into the details that the principal values of "imports" may be put down as under :—

	British.	Foreign.	Total.
	£	£	£
Apparel, cloths, &c.	13,350	—	13,350
Cotton manufactures	47,110	15,000	62,110
Woollen "	57,590	—	57,590
Haberdashery	22,070	—	22,070
Provisions, oilman's stores, &c. ...	13,820	8,000	27,820
Other goods	45,740	2,000	47,740
	£205,680	25,000	230,680

I must, however, point out that with the material at my command I have not been able to obtain any exact proportions between British and foreign goods, and these figures must only be looked upon as approximate.

There are 125 licensed trading stations in the country, and 144 hawkers' licences were issued.

Passes were issued to 42,549 natives as under :—

Pass Return.

Object of Journey.	Number of Individuals.
To work at the Kimberley, Jagersfontein, and Cape coal mines.	2,427
Farm and domestic labour	3,920
Employed by Army	8,847
Other purposes	27,355
Total	42,549

No deductions can be drawn from these figures, as they are merely the result of the disorganised circumstances of the year.

EDUCATION.

In education, as in other things, an advance is shown. I give below comparative statements for 1900-1901 and 1901-1902 :—

Educational Return.

	1900-1901.	1901-1902.
Schools	188	197
Scholars	11,356	13,021
Mean average attendance	7,841.6	9,057
Expenditure	£4,748 15s. 4d.	£5,212 13s. 10d.

POLICE AND JUDICIAL.

The strength of the Police Force is :—

European officers	...	...	...	12
European constables	...	...	...	8
Native officers	...	...	...	4
Native sergeants	...	...	...	6
Native corporals	...	...	...	10
Native privates	...	...	...	217
Native constables	...	...	...	3

They are all mounted, armed, and generally efficient.

The force did the following patrol work in the 12 months :—

PATROL RETURN.

Number of patrols	...	...	...	2,247
" men on patrol	...	...	...	5,191
Estimated distance (in miles) patrolled	...	...	...	90,505
Arrests under Liquor Laws	...	...	...	32
" " Pass Law	...	...	...	875
Other offences	...	...	...	226

The following cases were heard in the Assistant Commissioners' Courts :—

CASES RETURN.

Culpable homicide	...	...	...	11
Theft	...	...	...	94
Pass Regulations	...	...	...	652
Trading Regulations	...	...	...	32
Resisting police	...	...	...	8
Assault	...	...	...	21
Other crimes	...	...	...	220

GAOL RETURN.

Prisoners received into gaol	...	...	...	434
" convicted	...	...	...	361
" discharged unconvicted	...	...	...	81
" in gaol 30th June, 1902	...	...	...	82

The following lost stock was reported from outside the territory :—

Lost Stock Return.

Stock.	Reported.	Traced to Basuto-land.	Not traced.	Re-covered.	Not re-covered.
Horses	95	84	61	25	70
Cattle	53	36	17	28	25
Sheep	1,871	81	1,790	76	1,795

POPULATION.

This may be taken as having slightly increased since the estimate of last year, which showed 262,561 natives and 647 whites. Nearly all the white refugees, and many of the refugee natives, have left Basutoland for their homes in the Orange River Colony, and have taken their cattle and stock with them.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

I have to thank the Postmaster-General, Cape Town, for very kindly furnishing me with the following figures for Basutoland during the year under report :—

Correspondence.

Letters posted in Basutoland	...	...	...	254,761
„ received in Basutoland	...	...	...	190,814

Money Orders.

		£	s.	d.
6,545 Money Orders were issued with total value of	...	22,505	10	7
1,363 Money Orders were paid with total value of	...	6,781	11	2

Savings Bank.

243 Deposits with total value of	...	3,646	17	0
52 Withdrawals with total value of	...	1,641	15	6

Telegraph.

The revenue from this source, collected in the territory, amounted to	...	1,626	11	0
---	-----	-------	----	---

In addition, however, to this, "paid" work was a very large quantity indeed of military and Government work from which no revenue was derived, but which will probably not have again to be dealt with in the present times of peace.

I have, &c.,

L. WROUGHTON,
Government Secretary.

ANNUAL REPORT—LERIBE DISTRICT, 1901-1902.

As in the two former years, the recent war has more or less monopolised all our energies and attention, and there is little to record that is not in some way connected with it. During the latter part of 1901 reports were frequent of supplies finding their way from Basutoland to the enemy's commando by means of native smugglers. Very stringent measures were adopted involving great hardship on the inhabitants and traders in the north of this district, and they seem to have had the desired effect.

In March last, at request of the military authorities, a force was mobilised for the defence of my northern border, owing to a report that a Boer force under General De Wet intended to break through Basutoland about that point, and make for Natal or Cape Colony. About five hundred men took the field at a day's notice under Sub-inspectors Mansel and Jenner, and remained out till the end of hostilities. The proposed invasion did not take place, possibly it was never intended—possibly this measure prevented it, but the force on the border was at any rate a great help in preventing irregularities and policing the border.

The attitude of the Chief Joel has all along made the policing of his border very difficult. At first he was defiant to us, and very friendly to the enemy. He has changed with the fortunes of the war, but up to the end he could never be depended upon to guard his border. He is now about to be tried for disloyalty, so it would not be proper to say more about him at present or attempt to anticipate the finding of the court.

In November last a disturbance occurred between the Chief Motsueni, and some of the Chief Jonathan's people about gardens, which led to fighting. The fighting was promptly stopped, and those who took part in it, punished, but the cause of the quarrel remains. The presence of Motsueni is one of the difficulties of this district. He is of higher rank than Jonathan, and, therefore, refuses to respect him. He is always crying for a position suitable to his rank, which owing to his personal character it is impossible to give him. It will, I think, be necessary now that we have time to devote ourselves to our own affairs, to take this matter in hand, and see if some solution of the difficulty cannot be arrived at.

Throughout the year, as in previous years, there have been brawls between the young chief Mitchell and his uncle chief Seshophe. Last April guns were used and two men wounded; Seshophe's son and four men were sentenced to imprisonment,

and others fined by the Resident Commissioner. A settlement of the border between these chiefs was arrived at, which we have every reason to hope may be final.

During the year the attitude of the chief Jonathan and other chiefs, except Joel, has been satisfactory.

Rinderpest is still prevalent in the district, but not in a very virulent form. Lung sickness and other cattle diseases are also present. Horses, too, are suffering in various ways, but chiefly from a kind of mange—a disease quite new to us in Basutoland. It yields to treatment if taken in time, but if it is neglected the animal generally dies. These diseases are to be expected in view of the crowding together of captured stock from all parts of the country, and may be expected to disappear in the quieter times now before us.

The natives, generally, have done very well by the war. The enormous amount of very congenial labour at high wages has brought money into the country, and the remounts have disposed of an enormous quantity of cattle, four and five head, in value £28 or £35, being paid for ponies.

The following is a return of revenue. The figures include those furnished by the officer in charge of Butha Buthe. The hut tax shows a large increase due to:—

- (a) Natural increase.
- (b) Joel's tax and arrears for last year, which were paid during the present year.
- (c) Large influx of native refugees from the Orange River Colony.

The following are the usual annual returns:—

				REVENUE.		
				£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	...	...	...	16,869	10	0
Judicial fines	...	...	...	974	3	6
Licences	...	...	...	446	0	0
Fees	...	...	...	34	16	0
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	45	5	6
Total ...				£18,369	15	0

Amount of arrear tax paid was £3,208 10s. 0d.

Number of huts on which tax was paid was 14,376.

				LICENCES.		
General traders	...	...	...	...	42	
Hawkers licences	...	...	...	...	26	
"	"	(free)	...	...	Nil	

PASSES.

For military and Imperial services	...	3,876
„ other purposes	... ..	5,949

RETURN OF PATROLS.

Number of patrols	... ..	580
„ men employed	... ..	1,739
„ miles patrolled	... ..	29,560

NUMBER OF ARRESTS.

Contravening Liquor Regulations	... ..	1
„ Pass	... ..	489
Other offences	... ..	147

The following is a return of cases tried in the Assistant Commissioner's Court:—

Theft	... ..	37
Assault	... ..	14
Forgery	... ..	1
Culpable homicide	... ..	3
Concealment of birth	... ..	1
Sodomy	... ..	1
Rape	... ..	2
Attempted rape	... ..	1
Breach of the peace	... ..	8
Resisting the police	... ..	7
Contravening Liquor Regulations	... ..	1
„ Trade	... ..	3
Burglary	... ..	1
Other offences in connection with border regulations	... ..	252
Contempt of court	... ..	2
Civil actions	... ..	13

RETURN OF LOST OR STOLEN STOCK.

Description.	Traced.	Not traced.	Recovered.	Not recovered.
Horses	16	2	7	11
Cattle	10	1	2	9
Sheep and goats	61	—	56	5
Total	87	3	65	25

GAOL RETURN.

Number of prisoners received into gaol	...	...	...	211
Convicted and sentenced	...	...	...	195
Discharged unconvicted	...	...	...	14
In gaol on 30th June, 1902	...	...	...	24

No floggings were inflicted during the year.

PRICES OF STOCK AND PRODUCE.

Horses...	...	...	£20 to £25 (scarce).
Cattle ...	...	...	— ”
Sheep ...	...	...	20s. each.
Goats ...	...	...	10s. ”
Wool ...	...	...	3½d. per lb.
Mohair	...	...	9d. ”
Mealies	...	...	9s. 6d. per muid.
Wheat...	...	...	8s. 6d. ”
Kaffir corn	...	...	10s. ”
Oat hay	...	...	20s. to 40s. per 100.

The strength of the police detachment in this district is :—

Sub-inspectors	...	...	...	...	3
European constable	...	...	...	...	1
Native officer	...	...	...	...	1
„ sergeant	...	...	...	...	1
„ corporals	...	...	...	...	3
1st class privates	...	...	...	...	10
2nd „	...	...	...	...	42

In addition to the above I have had until 30th June, 1902 :—

Special constable	...	...	...	...	1
„ police	...	...	...	...	28

I attach the report of the officer in charge of the Buthe Buthe Ward, and that of the Medical Officer, Leribe.

J. C. MACGREGOR,

Assistant Commissioner.

Leribe,

8th July, 1902.

ANNUAL REPORT.—MAFETENG DISTRICT, 1901-1902.

The political conditions of Mafeteng District during the past twelve months differed very little from those of the previous year. Military operations continued on and near the Basutoland border, and several fights and skirmishes took place between the various columns and Boers. Columns in clearing adjacent districts in the Orange River Colony sent hundreds of Boer families to Mafeteng. The majority of these people were destitute women and children, and we furnished such persons with shelter and food, forwarding the destitute to refugee camps when transport was available.

Those who remained were a self-supporting community, and they dispersed through the district and lived where they could find shelter for themselves and grazing for their stock. Some 200 families of this latter class were registered at the Assistant Commissioner's office. The heads were principally commercial men and farmers, and they all held military permits and protection certificates for their stock. Since peace was declared most of these people have returned to their homes in the Orange River Colony. It is worthy of note that these refugees lived for a considerable period in scattered communities in Basuto villages, and that they had no complaints of bad treatment by the natives, neither had the natives any serious grievances against them. The refugees were law abiding, and conformed to all Government regulations and restrictions while they were here.

Columns operating near the border drew considerable food supplies from shops in this district, and military convoys passed frequently to and fro.

During the summer months the accommodation in the special military hospital at this station was inadequate owing to the great number of sick and wounded officers and men from the various columns, so No. 16 Field Hospital came here, and the patients, mostly suffering from enteric, received every attention.

Several parties of military prisoners released by the Boers on the border, were received, cared for and forwarded to their depôts, also some men who effected their own escape.

On requisition of commanding officers, columns were supplied with all necessary native labour and guides.

Intelligence work was carried on systematically by district officers whose staff of native scouts, operating from the border, worked in the Orange River Colony and watched Boer movements. Army signallers were stationed on prominent hills in the district and by this means communication was often kept open between columns and the Mafeteng telegraph office.

The Basutoland border was carefully patrolled and watched by Basuto police and Intelligence agents and every endeavour was made to check individuals of the vast native population from looting in the Orange River Colony or holding communication with Boers in the field. The military have from time to time alleged that Boers drew considerable supplies from Basutoland. Considering our strict border system and the fact that every native headman acts as a Government agent or policeman, it is not possible that any large quantity of supplies could have gone over the border to the enemy without the matter coming to the knowledge of the district officers. Natives who were in communication with the Boers and who did supply them with a few pairs of boots, some clothing and groceries to the value of about £10 were detected, arrested, and punished.

Stock grazing near the border of the Orange River Colony during these unsettled times was a temptation which some Basuto could not resist and several have been prosecuted and convicted for theft and nearly all the stolen stock was recovered and returned to owners living on protected farms in Ladybrand District, Orange River Colony.

With these few exceptions the attitude of the Chiefs and people has been most loyal and exemplary, and I have received ready and willing assistance from the Chiefs in dealing with district matters.

The successful termination of the war is hailed with feelings of satisfaction and relief by all classes of Europeans and natives in this district.

Preparations were made to celebrate the coronation of His Majesty the King in a fitting manner. The great gathering of people assembled at this magistracy, to participate in the coronation festivities, received the news relative to His Majesty's present illness with expressions of regret and loyalty, and then they dispersed to their homes.

In May, 1901, diseased cattle from the Orange River Colony introduced rinderpest into this district, and it became necessary to inoculate cattle. Inoculators were employed by Government, bile stations established, and inoculation was carried on according to Dr. Koch's method. The disease was not so virulent as that which affected cattle in 1897, but still it was severe, and cattle owners sustained heavy loss. Upwards of 40,000 cattle were inoculated in Mafeteng district.

During the summer months swarms of locusts did some damage to crops.

The main roads were generally in a fair state of repair, but sometimes in rainy weather they were out to pieces by the abnormal waggon traffic to and from the Cape Colony.

The water supply at this station is insufficient for the requirements of the inhabitants. A diamond drill is at work in the village, and it is hoped that by this means a good water supply will be secured.

Education and religious work is carried on energetically by the clergy of the various missions. I have furnished a report on 19 Government-aided schools inspected recently in the district.

POLICE.

The strength of the police detachment in this district is :—

Sub-inspector	...	...	...	...	1
European constable	...	...	...	...	1
Native officer	...	...	...	...	1
„ sergeant	...	...	...	...	1
„ corporal	...	...	...	...	1
„ privates	...	...	...	...	32
„ constable	...	...	...	...	1

Eight special police were discharged on 30th June, 1902.

The police detachment rendered excellent, and in many instances special, services.

They are a smart body of men, well mounted, equipped, and disciplined. They supply their own horses.

RETURN OF PATROLS.

Number of patrols	...	...	...	570
Number of men employed	...	...	...	801
Number of miles patrolled	...	...	...	9,565
Number of arrests	...	...	...	44

RETURN OF LOST OR STOLEN STOCK.

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Not traced.	Re-covered.	Not recovered.
Horses	9	7	2	7	2
Cattle	26	26	—	26	—
Sheep	—	—	—	—	—

CASES TRIED.

The following is a return of cases tried in the Assistant Commissioner's Court :—

Civil actions	...	...	...	...	—
Theft	...	...	...	...	21
Liquor	...	...	...	...	—
Homicide	...	...	...	...	4
Other crimes	...	...	...	...	14

GAOL RETURN.

Number of prisoners received into gaol	...	...	33
"	"	discharged unconvicted	...
"	"	convicted and sentenced	33
"	"	in gaol on 30th June, 1902	19

No floggings were inflicted.

COMMERCIAL.

Traders have been much hampered in their business owing to ordinary trade routes being closed during the war, and this caused them to be overstocked with wheat which they could not sell.

Goods were principally imported from Aliwal North *via* Herschel district, Cape Colony, and from Bloemfontein, Orange River Colony.

These were the only routes open, and rinderpest regulations in Cape Colony increased the difficulties of transport, and the rate of carriage was very high. Notwithstanding these difficulties business has been brisk, as the natives are well supplied with money, the fruits of their labour in various branches of Imperial service, and the sale of ponies, stock, and produce at the present good prices. Considerable supplies were purchased from local traders by the military.

The harvest was good, and large crops of wheat, mealies, kaffir corn and oat hay have been reaped.

Agricultural development was stimulated by an Agricultural Show held at this magistracy, which was supported by a Government grant and local subscriptions. The Show was quite a success, and well appreciated by the Basuto, and it is intended to hold one annually.

PRICES OF STOCK AND PRODUCE.

Wheat, per sack	...	...	12s. 6d.
Mealies	...	...	12s.
Kaffir corn	...	...	15s.
Barley	...	...	12s.
Oats	...	...	12s.
Oat hay, per 100 bundles	...	...	25s.
Slaughter cattle, each	...	...	15l.
Basuto ponies	"	...	12l. to 15l.
Sheep	"	...	12s. 6d.
Goats	"	...	10s.
Wool, per lb.	...	...	3d.
Mohair	...	...	6d.

LICENCES.

General traders	...	...	...	...	24
Paid hawkers	...	...	...	..	6
Free „	...	...	...	...	1

REVENUE.

				£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	...	...	...	8,912	0	0
Licences	...	...	...	246	0	0
Fines	...	...	...	123	10	0
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	85	19	4
Fees	...	...	...	15	8	6
Total	...	...	...	<u>£9,282</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>10</u>

Amount of arrear tax paid was £167.

Number of huts on which tax was paid was 8,745.

Tax was very well paid by the people, and the chiefs assisted greatly in the collection. One new shop licence was granted during the year.

SUMMARY OF PASSES ISSUED.

Passes for the mines, Johannesburg	...	—
„ „ „ „ Kimberley	...	27
„ „ „ „ Jagersfontein	...	—
„ „ „ coal mines, Cape Colony	...	—
„ „ farm and domestic service	...	—
„ „ other purposes	... ..	3,368

In addition to the above, large gangs of natives were sent to Imperial railway, and other branches of military service.

T. P. KENNAN,

Assistant Commissioner.

Mafeteng,

30th June, 1902.

ANNUAL REPORT—MASERU DISTRICT, 1901-1902.

Little or nothing of political interest has occurred in this district during the past year, peace has been maintained, and the inhabitants have carried on their usual pursuits without interruption.

The excitement caused by the war subsided, and the restoration of peace has anxiously been looked for.

A great number of natives who were living in the Orange River Colony were turned out and took refuge in this district, bringing with them many cattle, and considerably increasing the overstocked condition of the ward, and causing a high rate of mortality among all stock through poverty.

Rinderpest has slowly smouldered on, mainly due to cattle in many parts being attacked two or three times over, but also due to the fact that owners here and there refused to have their cattle inoculated, which of course were subsequently attacked.

The hut tax was promptly paid, and shows a considerable increase, which to an extent is due to tax having been paid by the native refugees.

The crops are good and the return promises well.

The increased traffic on the roads, and the abnormal rainfall, put them into a deplorable state, and it has been a strain to keep them passable.

The supply of remounts for the army greatly decreased, the district having been drained during the past two years.

A branch of the Standard Bank was opened here last July, and has proved a great boon to the community.

The following are the usual annual returns :—

LICENCES.				
General Licences	...	...	...	28
Hawkers	...	...	...	6

COMMERCIAL.

Trade has been good. The following are current prices of Basutoland produce :—

Cattle	...	...	...	...	£10 to £18
Horses	...	...	...	...	£10 to £30
Sheep	...	...	...	...	10s. to 28s.
Goats	...	...	...	...	10s. to 25s.
Wheat	...	...	...	...	10s. to 12s. per bag.
Mealies	...	...	...	...	12s. to 13s. „
Kaffir corn	...	...	...	...	15s. to 20s. „
Meal	...	...	...	...	1½d. to 4d. per lb.
Mohair	...	...	...	...	6d. to 10d. „

POLICE.

The strength of the police detachment in this district is :—

Sub-inspector	...	...	...	...	1
European constables	...	...	...	..	3
Native constables	...	...	...	...	2
„ sergeant	...	...	...	...	1
„ corporals	...	...	...	...	2
„ privates	...	...	...	..	57

RETURN OF PATROLS.

Number of patrols	...	...	...	...	253
„ men employed	...	...	...	...	540
„ miles patrolled	...	...	...	...	4,125
Arrests for contravening Pass Laws	...	...	...	...	10
„ other offences	...	...	...	...	12

RETURN OF LOST OR STOLEN STOCK.

No stock was reported as lost from the neighbouring territory during the year.

The following is a return of cases tried in the Assistant Commissioner's Court :—

Theft	...	...	...	...	3
Contravening Pass Regulations	...	...	...	...	4
„ Police Offences Act	...	...	...	...	2
Culpable homicide	...	...	...	...	2
Concealment of birth	...	...	...	...	1
Assault	...	...	...	...	1
Civil cases	...	...	...	...	10

RETURN OF PASSES.

For Kimberley	...	...	...	1,254
„ domestic service	...	...	...	146
„ military purposes	...	...	...	300
„ other	„	...	...	2,946

REVENUE.

				£	s.	d.
Hut tax	...	...	...	10,453	10	0
Licences	...	...	...	324	0	0
Fines	...	...	...	33	2	6
Ferry tolls	...	...	...	884	3	0
Fees	...	...	...	11	4	0
Miscellaneous receipts	...	...	...	129	16	6
				<hr/>		
				£11,835	16	0
				<hr/>		

Amount of arrear tax paid was £650 10s.

Number of huts on which tax was paid was 9,987.

GAOL RETURN.

Number of prisoners received into gaol...	...	35
„ „ convicted and sentenced	...	14
„ „ discharged unconvicted	...	29
„ „ in gaol on 30th June, 1902	...	15

No floggings were inflicted during year.

C. GRIFFITH,
Assistant Commissioner.

**ANNUAL REPORT.—MOHALE'S HOEK DISTRICT,
1901-1902.**

Since the last annual report upon this district, matters have undergone but little change, the late war has occupied public attention to such an extent that the usual tribal squabbles and minor matters did not receive the customary attention. Owing to suspicions raised by the military that the Boers were being supplied with food from Basutoland, all traders and Chiefs in the district were warned against this danger, also each refugee was required to keep a book in which all purchases had to be entered by traders, who were further warned not to supply more than limited quantities of actual necessities; personally, I did not in the least suspect or believe that the enemy got food from this district. A few of them who lived practically along the border and had native friends in Basutoland, may have occasionally obtained articles such as coffee and sugar to a very limited extent, as owing to the vigilance of the border guard no large quantities could have been smuggled through.

To further prevent the possibility of Boers being supplied by their friends in Basutoland, all refugees were ordered five miles back, and additional guards were placed on the border to strengthen the patrols.

The wheat also that had been put into Basutoland for safety was ordered to be removed from the vicinity of the border.

In August rinderpest again made its appearance in Basutoland; it did not attack cattle in this district until December. Inoculation was at once vigorously proceeded with, five Government inoculators being employed for the purpose.

In September Mocheko sent in a list of complaints that he had hatched by aid of his followers against Griffith-Lerothodi, the lawful chief of the ward. A trusty messenger "Lepolisa" was sent to investigate these complaints and report, when it was found that the complaints were mostly imaginary, and that Mocheko was instigating his people to defy Griffith. The latter was advised to be patient with the Baphuti, and promised that the whole matter would be attended to and adjusted in due time. It is creditable to Griffith that he acted upon this advice in the face of frequent insults.

During the month I had to undergo an operation which necessitated the appointment of Sub-Inspector Cooke as acting Assistant Commissioner for the District. I did not resume duty until the end of November. Mr. Cooke kept matters well in hand, and nothing of very great importance transpired.

A good many Boers were at this time roaming aimlessly about Zaastron and district. They were kept closely watched by a system of scouting organized for the purpose, and their every movement watched and reported to head quarters at Maseru.

In December five Boers surrendered to the border guard at Morifi, and were subsequently sent to Jammersburg Drift and handed over to the military.

In January the district sustained a serious loss in the death of Chief Mohapi Letsie; he occupied the position of native officer and was a most trustworthy man and very reliable; he will be hard to replace.

Nkau, a son of Lerothodi has been nominated as Mohape's successor, but his appointment has yet to be confirmed by the Resident Commissioner.

Owing to the greater portion of Basutoland transport having to pass through this district, and the great detour *via* Seaka and Alwyn's Kop, it was decided to repair Pathlala Drift, which had been allowed to lapse for want of use. £130 was allowed for this purpose; the road has not been as useful as was anticipated, owing to the outbreak of rinderpest which stopped all ports, but Telle Drift. Travellers on horseback and carts have found the short cut useful.

In February the Baphuti Chief Motsuanakaba died. His death is much to be regretted as he had very sensibly acknowledged the chieftainship of Griffith, thereby greatly facilitating the collection of hut tax and other political matters in that part of the district. His death was caused by small-pox, and he has been succeeded by his son Moso.

All villages round Motsuanakaba's place were vaccinated by a qualified man from this office and the area quarantined, by which means the disease was stamped out.

In April Mocheke was tried at Maseru by the Resident Commissioner, a large and representative gathering being present, including the Paramount Chief, and most of the principal chiefs of the country. Mocheke's persistent misconduct and consequent danger to the peace of the country was so clearly shown, that the court ruled that he be deposed, and not allowed to return to the district (Mohales Hoek). A pass was given him by the Resident Commissioner to proceed to the Colony as an ordinary individual.

In May six Baphuti headmen, who had ignored the summons of Lerothodi and Griffith, were called to this office to stand their trial for contempt of court. The case was ordered for the 12th June, at which period, however, the district was visited by the severest fall of snow that can be remembered. The case had to be postponed, the Baphuti not been able to attend by reason of the depth of snow in the mountains.

Much damage has been done owing to the severity of the weather during the snow week, a large loss in stock has been the result. The thermometer registered 23 degrees of frost on the night of June 11th.

On the 30th June and 1st July the Baphuti headmen were tried in my court. They were found guilty of contempt of court and sentenced to terms of imprisonment from three to six months. I did not consider that fines would meet the case, as they would have been paid by the people, and the desired effect thus frustrated.

On the 25th June a fairly successful Agricultural Show was held, horses and cattle being creditably represented. The snow storm rendered the exhibition much smaller than would otherwise have been the case. On the whole, and considering the time of year, I was satisfied, and am convinced that these shows rank amongst the best of our efforts for improvement.

The Coronation festivities were well over before the news of the lamented illness of H.M. the King reached this office.

The health of the district is good. In the absence of the Medical Officer I am unable to attach the usual report.

As will be seen by the following returns the revenue of the district is considerably in excess of last year, due to the heavy increase of the hut tax.

The following are the usual annual returns :—

				REVENUE.		
				£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	...	...	...	9,384	0	0
Licences	...	...	...	151	0	0
Fines	...	...	...	143	7	6
Fees	...	...	...	9	14	0
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	228	16	9
Total				£9,916	18	3

Amount of arrear tax paid was £422.

Number of huts on which tax was paid was 9,264.

The strength of the police detachment in this district is :—

Sub-inspector	...	...	...	...	1
European constable	...	...	...	...	1
Native sergeant	...	...	...	...	1
" corporal	...	...	...	...	1
" privates	...	...	...	...	24
Special police (disbanded)					

The police are well mounted and equipped.

RETURN OF PATROLS.

Number of patrols	38
„ men employed	141
„ miles patrolled	17,363
Arrests for contravening pass regulations	82
Arrests for contravening liquor regulations	4
Miscellaneous	21

LICENCES.

General traders	15
Paid hawkers	1

RETURN OF LOST OR STOLEN STOCK.

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Not traced.	Recovered.	Not recovered.
Horses	1	—	1	—	1
Cattle	7	—	7	—	7
Sheep, &c. ..	6	6	—	6	—

RETURN OF PASSES.

Kimberley	1,059
Johannesburg	77
Jagersfontein	—
Cape Colony	—
Farm and domestic service	1,932
Other purposes	3,632

The following is a return of cases tried in the Assistant Commissioner's Court:—

Murder	1
Liquor Law	2
Theft	9
Pass and Border Regulations	54
Forgery	1
Miscellaneous	24
Civil cases	—

No floggings were inflicted.

GAOL RETURN.

Number of prisoners received into gaol	...	65
" " sentenced	... ..	55
" " discharged unconvicted		29
" " removed to other gaols		6
" " in gaol on 30th June, 1902		5

PRICES OF STOCK AND PRODUCE.

Horses ..	... ..	£12 to £50
Cattle ...	... ..	£8 to £16
Sheep, &c.	... ..	10s. to 20s.
Mealies ...	... ..	12s. per bag.
Kaffir corn	... ..	12s. "
Wheat ...	... ..	15s. "

In consequence of the high prices obtained for stock of all kinds, and the ready sale for all produce, there is plenty of money in the district.

Trade has been good, but much hampered, caused by the difficulty in transport, all of which, or nearly so, has had to pass through this district. The Orange River Colony border being closed, the roads have suffered in proportion. They are now being put in order and are much improved.

Sickness among cattle has been abnormal. This is not surprising when one considers the quantity captured from all parts of the Orange River Colony and Transvaal that has been sent into, and passed through, this district.

J. W. BOWKER,
Assistant Commissioner.

Mohale's Hoek,
30th June, 1902.

ANNUAL REPORT—BUTHA BUTHE DISTRICT,
1901-1902.

I took charge of the Ward on the 4th of October, 1901. The most important matter which occupied my attention was the alleged disloyalty of Chief Joel Molapo.

When I arrived at Butha Buthe Joel was just proceeding to the Paramount Chief Lerothodi, on the summons of the latter. From thence he went to Maseru, where he had an interview with the Resident Commissioner.

There is no doubt that the result of these interviews was a complete change of policy on the part of Joel.

On his return home he visited me, and promised to obey all my orders and to assist me, to the best of his ability, in dealing with his ward, and I am bound to say that in all ordinary district matters, such as collecting hut tax, arresting criminals, &c., he has since I have been here, behaved well. He has also made a great parade of arresting persons who contravened the Border regulations by crossing from his ward to the Orange River Colony, but these were generally very minor cases, such as women and children pilfering fuel or fruit from the other side.

It was well known, however, that a number of Joel's people were assisting the enemy as servants, and in many cases as armed combatants. There was reason to believe that all or some of these men were in the habit of passing backwards and forwards between the Boer Commandoes and their homes in Joel's ward for the purpose of visiting their families and friends. I constantly advised Joel to have such persons arrested, but in no instance did he do so on his own initiative.

Joel has lately shown signs of great anxiety as to how he will be dealt with on account of his disloyalty, and I am of opinion that he would gladly have handed up these rebels, but that he was afraid to do so on account of having seriously compromised himself with them during the earlier stages of the war.

Numerous reports, from time to time, were received from the Military Intelligence Department to the effect that the enemy were obtaining considerable supplies from Joel's ward. Generally speaking these reports appeared to have been based on the vaguest rumours. Very special measures were, however, taken to prevent anything of the kind occurring. No goods were allowed to be removed further north than Hlotse Heights, and no person in this ward was allowed to purchase without a written permit from my office. These restrictions caused great loss to the traders and much inconvenience to the general public. They were, however, borne with conspicuous loyalty by nearly every one concerned.

When I first came to Rutha Buthe I had considerable trouble with Chief Letsika. He completely failed to realise his responsibilities to Government, especially in the matter of sending in persons who were required as witnesses or to answer criminal charges. After warning him several times, without effect, I found it necessary to make a special report of his misconduct. As a result he was tried by the Assistant Commissioner, Leribe, representatives of the Paramount Chief being present, and fined fifty pounds. Since then I have had no cause of complaint against him.

Numbers of natives from this ward found lucrative employment, as non-combatants, with His Majesty's troops during the war. Also large quantities of horses were sold by the natives in this ward for Imperial remount purposes. These facts have resulted in bringing a deal of money into the ward. Further, last season was a capital one for crops, and it may be safely said the population is in an exceptionally prosperous condition.

Natives who have served in the campaign as non-combatants have returned to their homes with glowing stories of the courage and tenacity of His Majesty's troops, and the might of the Empire has been impressed on their minds in a very practical manner.

Since I have been here there have been several drunken brawls and disturbances between natives. They were, however, generally of minor importance, and require no special report.

The statistics of the ward have been embodied in the report of the Assistant Commissioner, Leribe.

W. MANSEL,
Sub-inspector, B.M.P.,
Officer in Charge.

ANNUAL REPORT.—QUTHING DISTRICT,
1901-1902.

Among the incidents of the year in this district the most prominent appears to have been the armed demonstration which it was found necessary to make in the direction of the Barkly East border, to prevent the rebel Boers in that quarter from making use of the Drakensberg Passes in that corner of Basutoland, as a route through which to invade East Griqualand.

For some time rumours of such intention on their part had been current; and in September, 1901, in consequence of representations from the officer commanding the forces in East Griqualand, a small force of native scouts was stationed to watch the passes between Rhodes and Ongeluk's Nek; this force being increased in November, 1901, to about 500 men, in charge of an officer and some native chiefs. This force was disbanded in February and March, 1902, after having rendered useful service during a rather critical time.

The oppression of the original population of the district by the Basuto, referred to in my last year's Report, has continued intermittently during the period under review; several instances having been, from time to time, reported to headquarters. Two chiefs, viz., Moeletsi, of the Baphuti tribe, and Stock Tyali, of the Ba Tembu tribe, have applied for permission to remove from Basutoland in consequence of their dissatisfaction at the manner in which their rights are interfered with. As Quthing district was originally occupied by these tribes, and the Basuto are comparatively new comers, it is unfortunate that the latter cannot settle in the country without driving the others to leave it. Moreover, the departure of these clans, if permitted, involves the problem for His Majesty's Government of finding locations for them elsewhere.

Relations with bordering territories continue generally of a satisfactory nature. It is, however, to be wished that more stringent measures might be adopted in those territories, for prevention of the sale of intoxicating liquors to Basutoland natives.

Lung sickness was prevalent among cattle during the winter months; and this was followed in September, 1901, by an outbreak of rinderpest. This was stamped out by means of timely inoculation; and no cases have been reported since the beginning of April. The total loss from this disease in the district was not over 200 head; and this satisfactory result appears to be largely due to the skilful manipulation of the inoculators, Messrs. Lautré

and Swanepoel; who both had great experience in the work under the Government of the late Orange Free State during the outbreak of rinderpest in 1897.

Many of the horses purchased from the Remount Department in 1901 have since died; some from strangles and influenza; and many from a virulent form of mange which appears to be highly infectious.

An Agricultural Show was held here in May, which passed off well. The show of horses in various classes was creditable, considering how the country has been drained of these animals for military purposes. A pleasing feature of the show was a group of yearling colts and foals, sired by the stud-horse at Moyeni camp, all showing good quality and substance, and mostly in excellent condition; showing that the natives are at last beginning to pay more attention to breeding, and to caring for their young stock.

A new pont for the Orange River was constructed in the course of the year, and is working satisfactorily.

The public roads are at present in a deplorable condition owing to a heavy fall of snow on the 11th inst. Difficulty has been experienced throughout the year in keeping them in more than a barely passable state.

The waterworks at Moyeni camp have maintained their supply during the year.

A commencement has recently been made, on lines suggested by Mr. Willcocks in his Report on Irrigation in South Africa, to experiment with some of the local sluits, dongas, or gullies, with a view to causing them to gradually silt up by means of barriers and obstructions, placed at intervals across their course. Sufficient time has not elapsed to thoroughly test this work; but there is no doubt from what has been done here in former years by planting American aloes and poplars, in similar situations, that the growth of such gullies can be checked.

The following are the usual annual returns:—

REVENUE.				£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	...	...	...	5,442	0	0
Licences	...	...	...	151	1	0
Fines	...	...	...	303	7	6
Ferry tolls	...	...	...	420	2	9
Fees of court or office...	...	...	...	3	0	0
Miscellaneous receipts...	...	...	...	148	19	0
Total	...	...	...	£6,467	10	3

Amount of arrear tax paid was £84.

Number of huts on which tax was paid was 5,390.

LICENCES.

General traders' licences ...	...	...	14
Paid hawkers' „	...	...	22
Free „	...	...	2

PASSES.

Passes for farm and domestic service	787
„ other purposes ...	1,758

POLICE.

The strength of the police detachment in this district is :—

Sub-inspector ...	...	...	1
European constable ...	...	...	1
Native sergeant ...	...	...	1
„ corporal ...	...	...	1
„ privates ..	..	...	23
Special police ...	..	...	9

RETURN OF PATROLS.

Number of patrols ...	...	65
Number of men employed ...	...	214
Number of miles patrolled ...	...	11,270
Arrests for contravening Pass Regulations.		61
Arrests for contravening Liquor Regulations.		16
Arrests for other offences ...	...	5

CASES TRIED.

The following is a return of cases tried in the Assistant Commissioner's Court :—

Assault and seizure of property ...	...	1
Forgery and personation ...	...	1
Illegal impounding of stock ...	...	2
Contravening C. 5, paragraph 88, Act 27, 1882.		1
Theft ...	...	9
Concealment of birth ...	...	2

Contravening Pass Regulations	61
Contravening Section VII.... ..	8
Evading arrest	4
Escaping from custody	1
Breach of prison discipline	2
Damaging Government property	2
Breach of the peace and assault	2
Contravening Trading Regulations	5
Contravening Section XIX., Basutoland Regulations.	2
Contravening Customs Regulations	1
Conspiring to evade Pass and Vaccination Regulations.	4
Assault with intent to commit rape	1
Rape	4
Concealing evidence	1
Contravening Liquor Regulations	1
Assaulting police	1

GAOL RETURN.

Number of prisoners received into gaol	43
" " " convicted and sentenced	43
" " " discharged unconvicted	—
" " " in gaol on 30th June, 1902	12
Flogging inflicted during year :—	
Ndaberi	25 lashes.

PRICES OF STOCK AND PRODUCE.

Horses	£10 to £20.
Oxen	£10 to £15.
Cows	£5 to £10.
Sheep	10s. to 20s.
Goats	10s. to 15s.
Wool	3d. per lb.
Mohair	6d. „
Wheat... ..	16s. per bag.
Mealies	14s. „
Kaffir corn	20s. „

RETURN OF LOST OR STOLEN STOCK.

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Not traced.	Recovered.	Not recovered.
Horses	10	4	6	4	6
Cattle	7	—	7	—	7
Sheep	1,781	—	1,781	—	1,781
Donkeys	50	—	50	—	50

NOMINAL LIST OF TRADERS.

J. Hallifax	...	...	Morosi's Mountain.
J. C. Stewart	...	...	Madibe.
C. E. Wright	...	...	Qomogomong.
C. E. Wright	...	...	Moyeni.
F. S. Casey	...	...	Tapisi.
T. & E. Dodd	...	...	Dilli Dilli.
A. E. Kyffin	...	...	Fort Hartley.
A. E. Kyffin	...	...	Quthing Camp.
T. Gallon	...	...	Alwyn's Kop.
T. Gallon	...	...	Masitisi.
T. Gallon	...	...	Sebapala.
T. Gallon	...	...	Songondo.
G. Hallifax	...	...	Moyeni.
G. Hallifax	...	...	Mosetlas.

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS.

Nil.

S. BARRETT,

Assistant Commissioner.

Quthing,

30th June, 1902.

ANNUAL REPORT—BEREA DISTRICT, 1901-1902.

I took over charge of the district on December 19th, 1901. During the year there has been no serious disturbance in the district. There have been the usual quarrels about land and boundaries, some of which have, I hope, been settled, and one or two are still awaiting settlement. There has been little serious crime during the year.

I am glad to say that, during the short time I have been in charge of the district, Mamathe has given satisfaction in the way in which she carried out her duties as chief.

The hut tax was paid well and quickly, and amounted to some £500 more than in any previous year.

The following are the usual annual returns :—

REVENUE.				£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	...	...	...	6,545	0	0
Licences...	...	...	...	224	0	0
Fines	...	...	...	105	10	0
Fees	...	...	...	5	1	6
Total				£6,879	11	6

Amount of arrear tax paid was £510.

Number of huts on which tax was paid was 6,059.

LICENCES.			
Paid hawkers' licences	...	...	2
Mill licence	...	...	1

PASSES.			
Passes for farm and domestic service	...	...	63
„ other purposes	...	...	910

POLICE.

The strength of the police detachment in this district is :—

European constable	...	...	1
Native sergeant	...	...	1
„ corporal	...	...	1
„ privates	...	...	26
Special police (discharged)			

RETURN OF PATROLS.

Number of patrols	761
„ men employed	1,522
„ miles patrolled	12,059
Arrests for contravening pass regulations	19
Arrests for contravening liquor regulations... ..	1

CASES TRIED.

The following is a return of cases tried in the Assistant Commissioner's Court :—

Theft	12
Contravening liquor regulations ...	1
„ pass „ ...	13
Culpable homicide	1
Assault	1
Other offences	1
Civil cases	4

GAOL RETURN.

Number of prisoners received into gaol	24
„ „ convicted and sentenced	20
Number of prisoners discharged unconvicted	4
Number of prisoners in gaol on 30th June, 1902	3

No floggings were inflicted.

PRICES OF STOCK AND PRODUCE.

Horses	£15 to £20
Oxen	£14 to £15
Cows	£12 to £13
Sheep	20s. to 30s.
Goats	10s. to 15s.
Fine grease wool	2½d. per lb.
Coarse „	1½d. „
Mohair	6d. „
Wheat	13s. to 15s.
Mealies	10s. to 12s.
Kaffir corn	10s. to 12s.

RETURN OF LOST OR STOLEN STOCK.

No stock were reported lost at this office.

NOMINAL LIST OF TRADERS.

J. Bradshaw ...	...	...	Mohatlane.
" ...	...	...	Matekas.
Johnson & Co.	...	...	Marthinus.
G. L. Stevens	...	...	Teyateyaneng.
"	...	...	Makoali.
"	...	...	Nt'lamas.
"	...	...	Sebalabala.
"	...	...	Cana.
"	...	...	Phofoolos.
C. Stevens ...	...	...	Teyateyaneng.
J. S. Yeats ...	...	...	Senekals.
Maitin Bros. ...	...	...	Berea Hills.
" ...	...	...	Hangers Drift.
" ...	...	...	Teyateyaneng.
W. R. Dawson	...	...	Mapoteng (1)
" ...	...	...	" (2)
" ...	...	...	Hamoletsane.
" ...	...	...	Makates.
J. M. Bodkin	...	...	Sefeking.
D. and D. H. Fraser	...	...	Mabekenyane.
"	...	...	Fakos.
"	...	...	Khamolane,

W. BOXWELL,

Acting Assistant Commissioner.

Berea,

8th July, 1902.

ANNUAL REPORT—QACHA'S NEK DISTRICT,
1901-1902.

The District has been peaceful for the past year. A good deal of excitement arose when it was freely reported that Boer Commandoes were approaching our Border, but owing to the vigilance displayed by the numerous flying columns they were driven back.

It has been necessary to call on some of the Chiefs to station men temporarily at the principal passes leading into Natal. My orders were promptly and satisfactorily performed.

There have been a fair number of stock thefts committed by natives of East Griqualand. Whenever traced, the Magistrates have rendered me the necessary assistance.

The Cape Government have not reopened their border to cattle from this country, although lung sickness has died out many months ago, and rinderpest has not broken out anywhere; this subject was referred to in the last report.

On the 7th October Leteba Sepere, a Baphuthi Chief, residing on the Orange River, below Thlakanelos, died. He has been succeeded by his son Maoala.

Small-pox appeared during the month of February at Mohlapisos, and afterwards in Sekakis ward. There were in all fifteen cases, but fortunately no deaths occurred. Quarantine was strictly enforced, and all the inhabitants of infected and surrounding villages were vaccinated directly lymph could be procured.

The crops were almost a complete failure again with the exception of wheat, although more rain fell this season, it was in all instances followed by incessant heat, which shrivelled up the standing corn.

We were again visited by a few small swarms of locusts, but very little damage was done.

An Agricultural Show was held here early in May, and proved a success, considering it was the first ever held in the district.

Owing to the immense distances, exhibits were not as plentiful as could have been desired.

On the 11th instant an unprecedented fall of snow fell (averaging from three to six feet), followed by continuous severe frosts; large numbers of stock, chiefly sheep and goats perished; the survivors suffered terribly.

Reports on the three Government aided schools in this district were sent in last month.

It seems a great pity that the Chiefs and people cannot be made to observe the "close season" for antelopes; a few years hence all game will have become exterminated, if some stringent measures are not adopted.

Frequently labourers for the army and mines have been called for, but none have availed themselves of the opportunities offered.

The following are the usual annual returns :—

REVENUE.				£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	...	...	...	3,149	10	0
Licences	...	...	...	63	0	0
Fines	...	...	...	42	7	6
Fees	...	...	...	0	5	0
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	44	17	0
Total				£3,299	19	6

Amount of arrear tax paid was £96 10s.

Number of huts on which tax was paid was 3,095.

LICENCES.			
General traders	...	...	2
Paid hawkers	...	...	41

The strength of the police detachment in this district is :—

Sub-inspector	...	...	1
Native corporal	...	...	1
„ privates	...	...	14

RETURN OF PATROLS.

Number of patrols	...	...	180
„ Men employed	...	...	234
„ Miles patrolled	...	...	6,563
Arrests for contravening Pass Regulations.			2
Arrests for contravening Liquor Regulations.			—
Arrests for other offences	...	...	9

PASS RETURN.

Johannesburg mines	...	...	—
Kimberley	„	...	7
Jagersfontein	„	...	3
Cape Colony	„	...	—
Farm and domestic service	...	...	992
Other purposes	...	...	8,792

The following is a return of the cases tried in the Assistant Commissioner's Court :—

Concealment of birth	...	...	1
Theft	...	...	5
Resisting police	...	...	1
Assault	...	...	1
Contravening Pass Regulations	...	...	2
Contravening Border Regulations	...	...	1
Contravening Trade Regulations	...	...	2

GAOL RETURN.

Number of prisoners received into gaol	...	...	...	...	23
Convicted and sentenced	...	...	...	...	11
Discharged unconvicted	...	...	...	...	5
In gaol on 30th June, 1902	...	...	...	...	4

Two prisoners were sent for trial to Maseru.
 One prisoner was sent for trial to Mafeteng.
 No floggings were inflicted during the year.

RETURN OF LOST OR STOLEN STOCK.

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Not traced.	Re-covered.	Not re-covered.
Horses	7	7	—	7	—
Cattle	2	—	2	—	2
Sheep	13	8	5	8	5
Goats	10	6	4	6	4

PRICES OF STOCK AND PRODUCE.

Horses	...	...	...	£7 to £30
Cattle	...	...	...	£7 to £16
Sheep	...	...	...	10s. to 20s.
Goats	...	...	...	10s. to 20s.
Wool	...	..	...	4½d. per lb.
Mohair	...	...	...	7d. „
Wheat	...	...	...	20s to 25s. per bag.
Mealies	...	...	...	20s. per bag.
Ka.™™ corn	...	...	...	20s. „

E. D'U. BLYTH,

Acting Assistant Commissioner.

Qacha's Nek,
 30th June, 1902.

**PRINCIPAL MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT,
1901-1902.**

During the year under review the attendances at the various hospitals and dispensaries have been well maintained.

The following table shows the number of cases treated at the different stations :—

Station.	Out patients.		In-patients.	Vaccinations.
	New Cases.	Other Cases.		
Leribe	3,981	—	62	—
Maseru	6,173	844	92	—
Mafeteng	2,735	600	23	1,097
Quthing	1,303	290	—	5,546
	14,192	1,734	177	6,643

The vaccinations performed during the year show a considerable decrease. This is partly due to the freedom of the territory from small-pox and partly owing to the fact that vaccination of those obtaining passes to leave the country was not enforced as was the case before the war. A return to the original practice is eminently desirable. It ensures the vaccination of all those who leave the territory, and the re-vaccination of many of the same class. Except in the presence of an epidemic of small-pox the Basuto will not voluntarily submit to vaccination.

The territory has been, with the exception of Quthing district free of small-pox during the year.

No other epidemic disease calls for special mention. The general health of the people has been exceptionally good. The water supply at some stations is occupying and ought to occupy a good deal of attention. Leribe, Butha Buthe, and Mafeteng stations are the worst off, while the present supply at Maseru is inadequate for the increasing needs of the community when a long spell of dry weather obtains.

The health of the police and prisoners has been excellent. The provision which is being made for increased hospital accommodation at Maseru will meet a long felt want, and the erection of a hospital adequately equipped and under the superintendence of a European matron, will greatly increase both the amount and usefulness of the already extensive work which is done at this and other stations.

The medical and surgical work of the past year will, as usual, be treated of in a separate report.

EDWARD C. LONG,
Principal Medical Officer.

Maseru,
30th June, 1902.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.
QUTHING DISTRICT, FOR THE YEAR ENDED
1901-1902.

The following figures will show the number of out-patients treated during the year :—

—	1900-1901.	1901-1902.
Out-patients	1,258	1,303
Subsequent attendances	217	290
Vaccinations performed	5,546	4,824
Total	7,021	6,417

Fourteen patients were accommodated in the dispensary. Of these three were medical and the remainder surgical. There were no deaths.

During April, small-pox broke out in Mafura's ward and caused several deaths. On March 19th a man from Mafura's presented himself at the dispensary and was found to be suffering from small-pox. He was isolated and the disease spread no further.

There have been several cases of typhoid fever in this district but none on, or originating on, the Government reserve.

The health of the police detachment and families and of the prisoners has been good.

ALEX. S. GARDINER,
Medical Officer.

**MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT—
LERIBE DISTRICT, 1901-1902.**

The following figures will show what amount of work has been done at the hospital and dispensary in comparison with last year.

—	1902.	1901
Attendances at dispensary	3,081	3,491
Patients treated in hospital	62	64
Deaths in hospital	4	3

There is a considerable increase in the number of attendances especially in April, which I am compelled to put down to native curiosity—desire to see a new comer, as latterly the falling off has been such as to bring the numbers down to about the usual. I can, of course, only report on the last three months, that is while I have been working here.

There have been no epidemics and the number of cases of infectious diseases remarkably few, two cases of whooping cough and one of chicken-pox having come under my notice.

The return of the natives from military employment would probably be the cause of introduction of a good number of enteric cases, but up to the present such has not been the case.

The prisoners have suffered from trivial complaints only, the decrease in sickness being due, no doubt, to the better accommodation provided for them,

The proportion of cases of venereal diseases seems remarkably high, especially the neglected cases, the number of eye cases is high as also a form of dyspepsia due to beer-drinking, the rest do not call for comment. Except, as would be expected, serious lung cases are remarkably few in number.

The number of operations performed under chloroform was 13. There were four deaths, one each from debility, erysipelas, poisoning and pneumonia. The majority of cases were surgical, only 20 out of the 62 being medical.

The greatest drawbacks to the satisfactory treatment of disease amongst the inhabitants are first that, either through carelessness or ignorance the case hardly ever comes under observation till it is beyond doing much for, except in the way of palliation, and secondly that the treatment is not carried out long enough to secure permanent results.

R. KINGDON ELLIS,

Acting Medical Officer,

Leribe,
1st July, 1902.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT—
MAFETENG DISTRICT, FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 1901-1902.

During last year there were 2,735 new cases attended to at this dispensary, and subsequent attendances of same numbered 600, making a total of 3,335 attendances.

The in-patients numbered 23, and were all surgical cases. One case only being of a serious nature, viz., a case of suppurating hydatid cyst of the abdomen. There were no deaths.

Vaccination certificates to the number of 1,097 were issued to natives leaving the country in search of employment.

The general health of the community was good, with the exception of a severe outbreak of typhoid fever in the early summer months. This was not confined to the camp alone, but was more or less distributed throughout the district. Whooping cough continued over from the preceding year, but the type was less severe, and fewer complications followed. Influenza visited us in August and September, but was mild in nature. No small-pox cases were brought to my notice.

Health of police and prisoners good, with the exception of three cases of enteric fever amongst the latter. The younger members of the policemen's families suffered from enteric and whooping cough, but there were few deaths in the camp.

I advised, and the Assistant Commissioner is carrying out certain necessary measures to protect the fountain water supplies in the village from contamination with typhoid and other disease germs. This, when done, will, I think, protect the inhabitants to a great extent in the future.

An increased water supply is much needed, and it is to be hoped that the boring which is being done may lead to the finding of a good supply.

In addition to the usual district work I took over in August, 1901, from Dr. Tomory, the late Medical Officer, the special military hospital which had been established here in February, 1901. There were eight patients still remaining in hospital out of 53 who had been admitted since February 1st, 1901. From this time to December 28th, 1901, when the hospital was taken over by the 16th Field Hospital, as the work had so much increased, I admitted 8 officers, 230 non-commissioned officers and men, 8 natives, 5 Boer prisoners, and 1 poor Dutch refugee. The monthly average being over 50 admissions during the time I was in charge.

Dr. Becker was allowed one assistant from the middle of December until the field hospital took over.

Of the total number of cases admitted, 169 were enteric fever and 17 gun-shot wounds, the remainder being cases of dysentery, debility, rheumatism, veldt sores, bronchitis, hernia, and local and general injuries.

Up to the time of handing over the hospital there were seven deaths, all of which were caused by enteric fever; two of the victims being natives, one a poor Dutch refugee, and the remainder soldiers.

All gun-shot wounds did well, two cases only requiring amputation, one soldier having his leg amputated through the knee joint, and a Boer prisoner having his thigh amputated through the upper third.

If the special military hospital had not been established here I am quite sure that numbers of the poor fellows who suffered from enteric, and recovered here, would not have done so had they been sent from the Basutoland border to the nearest stationary hospital in the Orange River Colony, which would have been at least three times as far from the border as this place is. Even the short journey (comparatively) from the border here was enough to induce great weakness and prostration in many fever cases.

The work was extremely exacting, as besides attending to the sick I had to supply all necessaries, by local purchase, both for the sick and the staff, and I must thank the small, hard-worked, and indefatigable staff for the happy results obtained.

The Assistant Commissioner put every available Government building at the disposal of the sick, the gaoler's house being used for officers until it would hold no more, and then they were accommodated in tents.

Sub-Inspector Murray rendered invaluable service, although little able to spare the time.

To the Rev. Spencer Weigall and the Rev. Emile Vollet much thanks is due for placing the English and French churches and school-rooms at my disposal for the sick and wounded.

W. B. NATTLE,

Medical Officer.

Mafeteng,

July 1st. 1902.

ANNUAL REPORT OF VETERINARY OFFICER.

Maseru,

28th July, 1902.

SIR,

HAVING been informed that the temporary arrangement concerning my services will come to a conclusion on the 31st inst., I have the honour to submit herewith a report on those contagious and infectious diseases in animals which I have found most prevalent in Basutoland, and which, therefore, are of special interest to the Government.

(1.) On my arrival in Maseru, now a little more than 12 months ago, I soon convinced myself that Rinderpest, the disease for which I was more especially appointed, had already established a firm hold in the districts of Maseru and Mafeteng, and that inoculation with bile had been started in earnest under the direction of Messrs. Griffith and Kennan, the energetic Assistant Commissioners of the districts mentioned. I was furthermore told that the disease had, some six weeks previously, suddenly put in its appearance on the farm Mequatleng, in the Orange River Colony, and that it had rapidly spread *viâ* Don Don into Basutoland.

It would naturally be most interesting to ascertain how the dreadful disease was brought to Mequatleng, but I am afraid this mystery will never be solved. I have often heard the opinion expressed that Boers might have imported it, with malice prepense, from German West Africa, but as I am acquainted with the extreme difficulty of keeping Rinderpest material virulent, even for a short period, I venture to say this could not be achieved. My colleague, Dr. Theiler, has repeatedly forwarded fresh parts taken from Rinderpest beasts to Pretoria, and although there was no delay in transmission from Maseru, it was only after several such attempts that Dr. Turner succeeded in infecting the cattle kept in the experimental station for the purpose of serum production.

The outbreak of Rinderpest at Mequatleng shows that the disease had not been stamped out in this part of South Africa, and makes it more than probable that the cinders of infection have all along been kept burning in the adjoining native territories, far from magistracies, and the abode of white people.

When taking over my duties in Basutoland, I did not think it advisable to try and stamp out the disease, as no doubt would have been done in Europe, where well organized veterinary and police departments are in existence. No infectious or contagious disease has ever speedily been eradicated without stringent and often irksome regulations being enforced, and I was, from my experiences during the year 1896, in Khama's country, convinced

that such a course was not feasible in a vast native territory swarming with cattle, and a population hostile to European methods. I, therefore, decided to direct my attention simply to giving the people in the country every assistance to have their cattle inoculated, whenever they were anxious to do so. The work of appointing and instructing inoculators was, therefore, continued, and every care taken for the use of all suitable biles, whether in herds already infected with disease, or still free from it. In this manner I hoped to immunize, in a short space of time, large numbers of animals, and at the same time to give the inoculators a chance of properly filling out their time.

The bile method was selected for general use in Basutoland for the following good reasons, viz. :—

- (a) The natives were acquainted with it, and had confidence in it, having seen good results during the epidemic of 1897.
- (b) The method is simple and could, therefore, be carried out without difficulty by the class of men obtainable for the work, even by the natives themselves.
- (c) The material for the inoculation could be procured without any expense to the Government, as it was to be expected that the natives would fail to report outbreaks of rinderpest without delay, and only ask for help after the disease had spread considerably, thus rendering it more or less easy to obtain a quantity of bile.

So far about 250,000 head of cattle have been inoculated during the last 12 months in Basutoland, and had serum, instead of bile, been used for this purpose it would have meant an additional £5,000 to this Government, whilst the immunity conferred in this way would by no means have been stronger, but in the majority of cases even considerably weaker.

It is, of course, unfortunate that the bile-immunity varies so much in different herds, depending upon its colour, whether green or brown, and its age, for the vaccine should not be kept bottled up in the house or hut even for a few days. If fresh, sweet-smelling bile is used, as was done during the first epidemic in compliance with Professor Dr. Koch's instructions, an immunity is established which is of very considerable duration, and which often lasts for a whole lifetime. Brown galls, however, are also of great use, if only the people would remember that cattle inoculated with this material should be re-inoculated as soon as there is an opportunity to do so. But the natives, who fancy to bestow a special favour upon an inoculator by allowing him to take some gall from a dead beast and inject the living cattle in a hot, dusty kraal, cannot easily be made to understand and to follow this necessary course.

In justice to the public, I am, however, bound to confess that the theory, as well as the practice, of the process of rendering cattle immune, must of necessity appear more or less intricate to an untrained mind, and it is not to be wondered at when the people, black or even white, feel at a complete loss as to what to do when Rinderpest puts in an appearance for the first or second time.

As the Government, be it said to its credit, spared neither expense nor trouble to gain by means of these bile inoculations, the upper hand of Rinderpest, and had for instance in the districts of Maseru, Mafeteng, and Teyateyaneng alone, over 100,000 head of cattle inoculated by the end of the past year 1901, a distinct check was given to the disease, so that for months afterwards no reports reached me, or the Assistant Commissioners of the above mentioned districts with reference to outbreaks and the spreading of the pest. But I regret to say that owing to the fact that numbers of natives refused to have their cattle injected, or made use of old and weak bile without a second inoculation, in order to strengthen the immunity, and due furthermore to the frequent treks of cattle for agricultural, commercial, or marriage purposes, the disease has quite lately shown a distinct recrudescence.

This, however, need not alarm anyone, for the outbreaks are often of a comparatively mild nature and show not much tendency to spread, as in former days, from village to village, but I would all the same point out to Your Honour the necessity of being vigilant and not relaxing the efforts made in the past. Cattle are the pride and the wealth of the Basuto nation, and my advice to use every drop of suitable bile for the inoculation, and reinoculation of the cattle in the country, should remain the battlecry against Rinderpest, until the disease has altogether disappeared. The diseased herd should be injected again as soon as possible, and an effort should be made to use all superfluous bile on those animals, which belonging to the adjoining villages may any day come in contact with the disease. If these are still immunised, well, then the injection can do them no harm, whilst in case of the immunity being defective, only a speedy inoculation will prevent more or less severe losses. The natives are careless, indolent, and often insolent, and to obtain their co-operation, without which success is out of the question, an unusual amount of patience and tact is required.

There has in some districts being a desire to use glycerinated bile instead of pure, and I wish, therefore, to add a few remarks with reference to this subject. Glycerine is added for the purpose of conserving bile, and also with a view of weakening its virulency, which as every experienced inoculator knows, is in exceptional cases so great that its injection is followed by disastrous results. Unfortunately the action of glycerine on pure Rinderpest bile is so detrimental, that it renders the same more or less useless as

a vaccine, and makes it imperative to reinoculate as soon as possible with the best pure bile which can be obtained. Although I do not deny that under favourable circumstances this method can be put to profitable use in individual cases, I maintain that it is not suitable for a country like Basutoland, where it is essential to produce a strong immunity with as few inoculations as possible.

With reference to the injection of blood serum, I may state that this method has great advantages. Blood serum containing no virulent material never endangers the health and life of any animal, but even cures numbers of those which have contracted the disease, provided that acute Gastro-Enteritis has not yet set in. Unfortunately the immunity is of very short duration, and the price almost prohibitive where vast numbers of animals have to be injected. A quantity of 250 ccm., which barely suffices to immunize for a few months half a dozen animals, costs from £1 to £1 10s., and £200 were spent by Government for the purpose of purchasing a small quantity from the Agricultural Department in Cape Town. Although this serum was four or five years old, having been prepared in Kimberley during the first epidemic, it stopped any outbreak of Rinderpest in a herd with remarkable certainty.

I have no hesitation in saying that this method seems to me to be the ideal one in all those cases and countries where inoculation can be successfully assisted by means of rigorous laws and regulations concerning the doings of cattle owners, which will prevent the reintroduction and recrudescence of disease in those parts which have just been freed by employing the serum method. When the conditions of South Africa have changed, when the trek ox has made room for the engine, and when the general public has grown more friendly disposed towards irksome regulations, then has also the time arrived for the Government to exchange the virulent Rinderpest bile with the purely antitoxic blood serum. If a few private individuals are anxious to do so already on their own account, there can of course be no objection to it.

The method of simultaneously injecting blood serum and virulent blood requires not only the constant tapping of blood, but also a careful microscopical examination of the blood before its use, as various diseases are known to have been communicated in this manner, for instance anthrax, redwater, and various forms of fallziekte. This method, it is true, leaves frequently a considerable degree of immunity, but cannot be satisfactorily carried out by the ordinary inoculator, whether black or white.

(2.) Of other diseases in cattle which almost daily have come to my notice, I must, as second in importance, mention contagious pleuro-pneumonia, generally called lung disease or "sterefe." As a natural result of the introduction of thousands of lung sick cattle by the remounts, which, before my arrival, had taken place without objection from the authorities, this awful disease had

spread rapidly into every part and almost every herd in Basutoland, threatening to carry off large numbers of animals. The rapid spread was mainly due to the brisk trade in these cattle which had been driven together in the late republics, carelessly inoculated against lung disease, and then handed over to the natives in troops of three or four in exchange for suitable riding horses. Of course the Basutos soon noticed the dangerous character of this disease, and, anxious to prevent its spread in their herds, clamoured for inoculation. I think it was rather fortunate for Basutoland that Boer refugees were scattered throughout the length and breadth of the country, who being more or less acquainted with this disease, were able to tender advice to their black neighbours in the village. As practical men they assisted me much by urging the natives on to have their cattle inoculated, and by demonstrating to them the simplicity of the operation as well as its efficacy, though often no other instrument was obtainable than a thick packing needle or a small pocket knife. No doubt they have repaid in this way part of the debt which they owed to Basutoland for the genuine hospitality shown to them and their worldly possessions in the time of need.

I cannot now fully enter into the details of this operation, which is best carried out by means of a hypodermic syringe, with the help of which the small quantity of yellow water, taken from the pleural cavity or from the parenchyma of the lungs, is injected into the brush of the tail. Suffice it to state that the immunity produced, provided the tail has shown a distinct local or general swelling about a fortnight after the inoculation is, as a rule, sufficient to protect the animal against pleuro-pneumonia for the rest of its life. We have, thus, in lung disease, a simple gauge of the strength of the immunity, which is more than can be said in rinderpest, for the local swelling visible one day after the injection of bile is, in this respect, unfortunately, not the slightest criterion, though by many people in the country believed to be such.

I have also come across a good many cases of anthrax in cattle, and at least the white population of Basutoland would do well in making itself acquainted with the process of inoculation, which is known in Europe as Pasteur's method, and which has been tested on hundreds of thousands of animals. Two vaccines are used, of which number II., the stronger one, is injected about a fortnight after the first one. It is possible to immunize a whole span of bullocks for two years for the small sum of about eight shillings, and no risk whatsoever is attached to the operation, which is performed with a small syringe specially constructed for this work. I am fully aware that no law will deter the natives from dissecting and eating the flesh of anthrax-carasses in the midst of a main road, and no more suitable plan for the prevention of the disease can therefore be recommended than inoculation.

(3.) Though the diseases in cattle absorbed nearly all my time, I was nevertheless interested in the diseases amongst horses in this country whenever the opportunity presented itself. Before the war, horses and mules in Basutoland enjoyed what I might call a general immunity from disease, and they fully equalled in health and strength those bred in other parts of South Africa. I regret, however, to think that owing to the introduction of many diseases, this pleasing state of affairs has assumed quite a different aspect. Indeed, the outlook for horse owners and horse breeders can no longer be considered good, as owing to the action of the remounts on the one hand, and the carelessness and indifference of the natives on the other hand, the diseases to be mentioned by me have firmly established themselves in the land.

Surely the most serious disease attacking horses, mules, and donkeys is glanders, farcy, and enquiries made in different parts of the country indicate that very considerable numbers of animals have succumbed to it during the past two years. The natives who have not before come in contact with this disease, fancied that death was simply due to brandzichte, with which most of the animals were at the same time more or less infected, or were, like many white people, satisfied with calling the disease "nieuwe ziekte," which in South African parlance means that contagious though comparatively harmless malady "strangles." I have always been taught to consider the distribution or sale of animals, which were known or expected to be suffering from dangerous plagues, not only a great wrong, but a distinct crime, and when the people of this country in their want of knowledge and judgment have secured those cheap, but nasty, confiscated animals, and have thus light-heartedly introduced disease into an important and flourishing industry, the blame does not rest with them.

As there is no disease more loathsome and more dangerous, even to men, than this curse of the equine races, it would be well if the Government would keep an eye on it, and to enforce, whenever possible, the clauses of the Act dealing with diseases in stock.

Owing to its protracted and disguised course, which often makes a speedy diagnosis impossible, the disease is not easily dealt with, but as Basutoland is surrounded by countries, who will in future become more and more anxious to prevent the introduction, and spread of infectious disease within its borders, particular notice should be taken of the appearance of such pests, and an earnest effort be made to disseminate information and punish offenders.

The so-called Brandzichte or Scab, is a most unpleasant disease, and spreads very easily from diseased horses or mules to sound ones. It is met with, I may almost say, in every village of the country, and has since its importation done an immense amount of damage. Thousands of horses have died from its emaciating

effects, and travelling through the country one sees everywhere animals which cannot be described otherwise than as skeletons, with a skin almost wholly devoid of hair, and full of wrinkles and scabs. Truly, it is a pitiable sight to watch these poor creatures rub the itching tegument of their body against rocks or trees, or even against the prominent parts of their not less unfortunate comrades.

In European countries this disease would be battled against as vigorously as is done in the case of other pests, but I am afraid all that can be done in Basutoland is to give advice, and to assist with drugs. It is unfortunate that the natives cling to the idea that the disease must be cured by the internal administration of drugs, and then neglect to direct their immediate attention to the affected parts themselves. It is by no means a matter of difficulty to cure such animals, provided the owner is in possession of a reliable disinfectant, and begins the work with thoroughness and energy. It is only a pity that these qualities are not every day met with in this free country.

I believe that a great deal of good could be done by supplying to the people at cost price a cheap and yet effective medicine for their scabby animals, and I do not think that a liniment consisting of tar, soft soap, and spirits of wine could be surpassed in this respect, though many other drugs may be employed with the same beneficial result. It is almost needless to say that the diseased skin should be well washed from time to time, to allow the drug to come in direct contact with the agent producing this scourge. Another disease which I have frequently seen in Basutoland, and which no doubt has been imported during the war from Europe, is contagious pleuro pneumonia, commonly called pink eye. It has spread into all the districts of the country, but the mortality is luckily not great. Though the respirations may remain short and accelerated for months, or even for lifetime in some cases, recovery is mostly complete, leaving behind an immunity which is strong enough to prevent a subsequent second attack. The disease runs a typical course and the administration of medicines, though no doubt often of considerable value, is not an absolute necessity. Fresh air, without draught, and easily digested food, such as green stuff and bran, with plenty of salt, are in conjunction with good bedding, and a warm blanket, in my opinion of more importance. If the disease breaks out in a stable, the affected animal should at once be removed to prevent the disease, which is of a very catching nature, from spreading to other animals. These are not all the diseases, which have of late been introduced into this country but they are the most important ones, and will continue to be of general interest for many years to come.

(4.) I am aware that the Government has purchased several valuable stallions for the purpose of improving the Basutoland pony, and I have been told that they will arrive shortly in the