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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

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No. 408.

BASUTOLAND.

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REPORT FOR 1902-3.

(For Report for 1901-2, see No. 380.)

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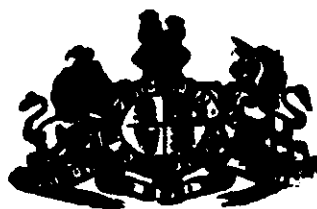
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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

December, 1903.

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1903.

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## COLONIAL REPORTS.

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

### ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
388	Weihaiwei ... ..	1902
389	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
390	British Honduras ... ..	"
391	Gambia ... ..	"
392	St. Helena ... ..	"
393	Hong Kong ... ..	"
394	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"
395	Seychelles ... ..	"
396	Ceylon ... ..	"
397	Gold Coast ... ..	"
398	Barbados ... ..	1902-1903
399	Fiji ... ..	1902
400	Lagos ... ..	"
401	British Solomon Islands ... ..	1902-1903
402	Cocos-Keeling Islands ... ..	1903
403	St Vincent ... ..	1902-1903
404	Grenada ... ..	1902
405	Southern Nigeria ... ..	"
406	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
407	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	1902-1903

### MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
15	Canada ... ..	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ... ..	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ... ..	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong ... ..	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ... ..	Medical Reports.
20	Weihaiwei ... ..	General Report.
21	Dominica ... ..	Report on Caribs.
22	Seychelles ... ..	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica ... ..	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada ... ..	Land Settlement in Carriacou.

No. 408.

**BASUTOLAND.**

(For Report for 1901-2, see No. 380.)

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HIGH COMMISSIONER SIR A. LAWLEY to  
MR. LYTTELTON.

High Commissioner's Office,  
Johannesburg,

October 12th, 1903.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of a despatch from the Resident Commissioner, Maseru, transmitting the Annual Reports on Basutoland for the year ended 30th June, 1903.

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

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR LAWLEY,

*High Commissioner.*

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

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**Resident Commissioner's Office,  
Maseru,**

**30th September, 1903.**

**SIR,**

I HAVE the honour to transmit to Your Excellency my Report upon Basutoland for the year ended 30th June, 1903, together with the Annual Reports of the Government Secretary, the Assistant Commissioners, and the Medical Officers.

I have, &c.,

**H. C. SLOLEY,**  
*Resident Commissioner.*

**His Excellency,**  
**Sir A. Lawley, K.C.M.G.,**  
**High Commissioner,**  
**South Africa.**

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**COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.**

**CONTENTS.**

---

	<b>PAGE.</b>
Resident Commissioner's Annual Report ... ..	7
Government Secretary's " " ... ..	14
Assistant Commissioner, Leribe, Annual Report (enclosing Annual Report, Buta Buthe Ward) ... ..	20
Assistant Commissioner, Berea, Annual Report ... ..	28
"    "    Maseru, " " ... ..	31
"    "    Mafetong, " " ... ..	34
"    "    Mohaies Hoek, Annual Report ... ..	40
"    "    Quthing, " " ... ..	44
"    "    Qacha's Nek, " " ... ..	48
Principal Medical Officer, Annual Report ... ..	51
Medical Officer, Leribe, " " ... ..	53
"    "    Mafetong " " ... ..	55
"    "    Quthing, " " ... ..	57

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ANNUAL REPORT—BASUTOLAND. FOR THE  
YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1903.

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The past year has been a period of continued financial prosperity. The figures given in the Report of the Government Secretary show that the revenue from all sources exceeded the expenditure by £25,128; the balance to credit of the Basutoland Government has, therefore, been increased by that sum, and now amounts to £100,508.

This balance is in the hands of the Standard Bank of South Africa, £46,000 being placed on fixed deposit account bearing interest at 3 per cent.

With the approval of His Excellency the High Commissioner, it is proposed to lend the balance, or so much of it as may be required (probably £90,000), at a low rate of interest, to the Central South African Railway Committee for the purpose of construction of a branch from the eastern extension of the Orange River Colony railways to Maseru in Basutoland. A survey of the contemplated branch has been completed, and I hope that the Construction Department of the Central South African Railways may shortly be able to commence the work. I am very hopeful as to the effect of the railway, as a civilizing and enlightening influence, upon the Basuto, and as a factor in the material prosperity of the country.

Basutoland has, by Proclamation, been included in the South African Customs Union, and will benefit by the new arrangement under which only 5 per cent. of duties collected are retained by the coast colonies. The new tariff itself will not materially affect the Customs Revenue.

The amount of trade during the year has exceeded expectations, and is little less than during the preceding year. The cause of this continued commercial activity is probably the amount of money which has been in the hands of the natives as the result of war payments and prices. One feature of the year has been the embarrassing number of applications for trading licences in this country. It is not desirable, except in cases of clearly-shown public necessity, to multiply the number of trading stations, each of which is a possible point of friction between the natives and the European residents, and, with very few exceptions, I have declined to sanction the issue of new licences.

The Basuto have gone out to work in a manner which testifies to their industrious character, and which may be regarded as a very fair contribution to the labour supply of South Africa. The return of passes given in Mr. Wroughton's Report shows that 132,588 left the country during the year in search of work.

There are at present no less than 19 industries represented by agents in Basutoland who are employed in recruiting labourers. The minimum wage necessary to attract natives is £2 10s. a month with food, and, in many cases, higher wages are offered. It is noticeable that comparatively few of the Basuto labourers choose to go to the Johannesburg goldfields, but appear to be able to find nearer and more attractive employment.

The year has been from an agricultural point of view an unfortunate one. The wheat crop alone was of average quantity, the drought in the summer and the early frosts having caused the failure of the greater portion of the mealie and Kaffir corn. I fear that before another crop can be reaped there will be scarcity of food in several parts of the country, and the natives will have to buy grain for their own consumption.

Experiments have been made at most Government stations in the direction of checking the process of denudation of the country, and the formation of the unsightly ravines or dongas, which threaten to seriously diminish the available area of arable and pasture land.

The increase of stock, and the multiplication of roads and footpaths, has resulted in the removal of the grassy protective covering of the surface, and the land is year by year more exposed to the process of erosion by the action of rain water. The experiments have been conducted in accordance with suggestions made by Sir William Willcocks, who visited Basutoland in the course of his South African tour. It is too early to speak positively as to the effects of the steps taken, nor can the results, however successful, make much impression on the numberless and vast dongas that everywhere disfigure the country. I hope, though without much confidence, that what is being done may serve as an object lesson to the Basuto, and that they may with such means as are at their command, endeavour to deal with some of these dongas themselves. It is one of the drawbacks of the system of tribal tenure of land, that there is little incentive to individuals to expend means or labour in such measures of public utility.

Tree planting has been carried on, where possible, in the neighbourhood of the Government stations, and a useful impetus should be given to the horse breeding industry by the importation of seven Arab stallions of high class which have been distributed throughout the country, and the services of which are freely given to the Basuto breeders.

During the year Agricultural Shows have been held at all stations at which special Government prizes have been given for exhibits of horses, stock and produce. It is gratifying to observe that an increasing and more intelligent interest appears to be taken in these shows, and missionaries and traders co-operate in endeavouring to render them attractive and useful.



Sporadic cases of rinderpest have been reported during the year, and have been dealt with by inoculation with serum from the Pretoria laboratory. I am happy to report that no case of rinderpest is at present known to exist in Basutoland.

The following is a list of the Proclamations issued during the year :—

- (1.) No. 8 of 1902.—Proclaiming His Majesty's forces in Basutoland to continue to be temporarily subject to the Army Act.
- (2.) No. 7 of 1903.—Proclaiming the "Official Gazette" of the High Commissioner for South Africa to be the Government Gazette of the Territory of Basutoland.
- (3.) No. 8 of 1903.—Making provision for the prevention of rabies within the Territory of Basutoland.
- (4.) No. 9 of 1903.—Concerning the amount of hut tax payable in Basutoland.

The only one of the above legislative Proclamations that requires any special comment is that referring to the increased rate of hut tax. The increased rate of £1 per hut has actually been paid since 1899, but no formal Proclamation legalising the change had been made. The Proclamation has retrospective effect, and legalises the collections that have for four years been made at the increased rate.

The financial position of Basutoland has permitted increased grants to be made towards the educational work of the Mission Societies. The sum of £6,660 was thus distributed in grants, and returns show that 14,171 scholars were on the school books with an average attendance of 10,024.

By the courtesy of the Superintendent-General of Education of the Cape Colony, I have been able to obtain the temporary services of Mr. Davidson of the Cape Education Department, for the purpose of an inspection of the schools, and I shall, in due time, forward his report on the results of the inspection. Speaking generally on the subject, I may say that there appears to be a great and increasing desire among the natives for instruction, and a determination on the part of a certain number to have what may be called "higher education," that is, to pursue their studies beyond the scope of the ordinary elementary schools.

While I fully recognise that there does not appear to be in South Africa at present any useful career for more than a very limited number of young natives with any degree of higher education, on the literary side, it would be a mistake to overlook the probability that, if they cannot find nearer home some outlet for their aspirations in this direction, they will seek for it elsewhere. I believe a certain number of young natives from the

Colony have already proceeded to America for educational purposes. Under these circumstances, it appears to be well to afford opportunities to a certain proportion of the youths for continuing their studies under wise direction and discipline, and this object is, I believe, obtained satisfactorily in the higher schools of the Basutoland Missions.

The Government Hospitals and Dispensaries have done good and useful work for the natives, the returns showing that 321 in-patients and 19,033 out-patients have been relieved. The hospital buildings and equipment have, hitherto, been of a somewhat primitive description, and the medical officers have achieved very satisfactory results under circumstances of some difficulty. I am happy to be able to report that a very substantial improvement in this respect will be effected before the close of the current year. A new hospital is in course of erection at Maseru, completely equipped and furnished, and provided with 30 beds for native patients. A small, but efficient, nursing staff will be engaged, and the medical officer at Maseru will be in a position to carry on his useful work with the advantage of trained assistance. I trust it may be possible in time to build and equip improved hospitals at other stations.

The criminal returns show few cases of serious crime among the Basuto. A few cattle thefts, on a somewhat large scale, took place in the earlier part of the year, but the delinquents were suitably punished, and the stolen stock returned to the owners in the Orange River Colony. The cases of culpable homicide dealt with are, without exception, the fatal results of drunken brawls at beer drinks, and only one case of premeditated murder has been discovered. In this instance, the murderer was arrested in Basutoland, and handed over to the authorities of the Orange River Colony (where the crime occurred) and was tried and executed.

In another case, a body was found under circumstances which left no room for doubt that the victim had been murdered and robbed, but no clue to the perpetrators of the crime could be discovered. Both the above murders were committed on the persons of labourers returning to their homes with their wages. Under ordinary circumstances deliberate murder is almost unknown among the Basuto.

The population may be estimated at 263,000, and the general state of the public health is fully dealt with in the reports of the Medical Officers. The lepers throughout the country have been registered, and notes made as to the history of every known case. A special report on the subject has been prepared by the Principal Medical Officer. I am unable at present to recommend any practicable measure for the treatment of lepers beyond the local isolation of the worst cases, which is generally carried out by the natives themselves.

Telegraph communication has been extended to Peka station ; and the line throughout Basutoland has been doubled and strengthened. The telephonic communication between stations is a great convenience.

I propose, during the coming year, to recommend an increase of expenditure on the main roads throughout Basutoland. The work hitherto done has kept all roads in a passable condition, but some improvement is desirable. Basutoland abounds in good sandstone, suitable for building material, but there is a scarcity of hard stone for road metal. The important magistracy and village of Hlotse Heights in Leribe has for years suffered the disadvantage of a most inadequate water supply, and I propose to place on the Estimates for the coming year a sum for the provision of a simple water system for this place.

The year has happily been uneventful as regards the internal political situation in Basutoland, and, with reference to some of the intertribal dissensions, I have been able to make certain arrangements, which I trust will tend towards the future peace and good order of the country. The release of Joel Molapo from prison in April was very naturally followed by a renewal of the friction between himself and his half-brother Hlasoa, in regard to their land dispute at Tsimi. Joel has been inclined to press his claim to the control of Hlasoa and his land, and Hlasoa has asserted his intention of maintaining his complete independence. Mr. Macgregor, the Assistant Commissioner of the district, has dealt judiciously with the question, and has recently held a meeting with the parties to the dispute, at which a fair prospect of a satisfactory compromise of the question was arrived at.

A dispute of long standing as to a boundary between the sons of the late Chief Ramanella, was dealt with by me, and there is reason to hope that the matter is finally settled.

In March I proceeded to the Quthing District, and, at a meeting of 10 days' duration, investigated a number of complaints against the local Chief Nkwebe Letsie. The Paramount Chief Lerothodi was with me, and had a representative following of Chiefs and Councillors. The public feeling strongly condemned the harsh and aggressive conduct of Nkwebe, and I gave judgment accordingly in the direction of preserving the rights and privileges of the petty Chiefs, who were the complainants. The death of Nkwebe, which took place early in July, has since considerably altered the situation in Quthing.

The conclusion of the war was followed by a crop of rumours as to the intentions of His Majesty's Government towards the Basuto. The native mind was considerably exercised by reports as to approaching disarmament and other political changes. This uneasiness appeared to be dispelled after a meeting between His Excellency the High Commissioner and the leading Chiefs, which took place at Ladybrand, in the Orange River Colony, in

December, 1902. The fact that such a meeting took place, and that no startling announcement as to change of policy was made, had evidently the effect of reassuring the Chiefs and people. Rumours such as I have alluded to are fostered by the wild talk of foolish or designing persons on the border, and by newspaper paragraphs which are read by natives, who are prone to unduly over-estimate the importance of such reports.

In February, 1903, I accompanied a party of Chiefs and Councillors, who were given an opportunity of proceeding to Bloemfontein to convey the national greeting of the Basuto to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The first meeting of the Basutoland National Council took place in July, 1903, and the report and proceedings of the meeting have been fully dealt with by me in despatches. But it is right to place on record in this report that the meeting was characterized by sincere attempts to abolish defects in the system of native self-government. A variety of topics were usefully discussed, as a rule with good sense and moderation, although, of course, with the usual prolixity of native orators.

The most remarkable feature of the Session was the spontaneous resolution in favour of the consideration and regulation of certain native laws and customs. Eighteen resolutions were adopted, the majority tending towards checking and controlling the arbitrary and rapacious decisions of courts of native Chiefs. It was evident that the meeting strongly desired to reform the native system in the direction of obtaining greater security of property and of land tenure, and this indication of public feeling in these matters should have a good effect. Free expression of opinion at public meetings is the rule among the Basuto, but at this very representative and important gathering, there was an unusual amount of plain speaking of the nature of criticism of the Chiefs.

On the whole, although it might be misleading to predict with complete confidence the permanent utility of this National Council, the first meeting may be regarded as a most encouraging experiment.

From time to time the ill-health of the Paramount Chief Lerothodi, has prevented him from taking as active a part in national affairs as I could have wished. This is, without doubt, to a great extent, due to his disregard of medical advice as to necessary temperance and carefulness in diet. It is right to say that he has on occasion pluckily come forward to attend to public business when under considerable physical suffering.

The Basuto generally have during the year enjoyed peace and prosperity. The Chiefs, although by no means faultless, have, as a rule, exercised their very considerable power with moderation, and, although they exhibit no disposition to submit to

effacement in the slightest degree, they are prudent enough to defer to the admonition of Government Officers, and to expressions of public opinion. The cases of exaction and injustice which are complained of are the exceptions to the rule. Reports of cruelty, accusations of witchcraft, and wholesale confiscation of property, which were frequent twenty years ago, are rarely brought to my notice.

The process of any change in the tribal character or habits must necessarily be a slow one, and the best that may be hoped for the Basuto is that they may, however gradually, become more industrious and enlightened, and may be preserved from the deterioration which appears to attend the contact of natives with modern civilization.

I beg to place on record the good services of the officers of the Administration. The senior officers are a body of public servants whose character commands the confidence of the Basuto Chiefs and people, and who possess the advantage of many years' experience in the service of His Majesty's Government in South Africa.

I have, &c.,

H. C. SLOLEY,

*Resident Commissioner.*

Maseru,

30th August, 1903.

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**ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT  
SECRETARY, 1902-1903.**

Government Secretary's Office,  
Maseru,

15th July, 1903.

SIR,

In submitting for your information the usual Reports from the Assistant Commissioners, Basutoland, for the year ending 30th June, 1903, I have the honour to attach the following summary of statistical information, gathered from these and other sources.

On the whole the year may be described as a very satisfactory one.

**FINANCIAL.**

The Revenue of the country for the year just ended was:—

			£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	...	...	62,387	0	0
Post Office	...	...	2,953	16	10
Licences	...	...	4,451	1	6
Fees	...	...	155	18	10
Miscellaneous receipts...	...	...	3,515	14	6
			73,463	11	8
Customs	...	...	27,935	12	6
<b>Total</b>	...	...	£101,399	4	2

The Expenditure for the same period amounted to £76,271 12s. 11d.

I also append a Return showing comparative Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years:—

Year ending.			Revenue.			Expenditure.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
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
30th June, 1903	...	...	101,399	4	2	76,271	12	11

Hut Tax was paid on 60,356 huts, while arrear Hut Tax collected amounted to £3,089, as against £5,138 in 1901-1902, the excess in that year being largely owing to Chief Joel Molapo having brought his tax up to date as mentioned in my last year's report.

TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

The Territory has earned £27,935 by Customs under the Union, which, when compared with last year (£33,097), shows a considerable shortage. This, however, is natural, and was fully expected. The amount earned may, I think, be considered most satisfactory, considering the circumstances of the year.

Below is a comparative table showing Exports and Imports for the last two years :—

EXPORTS.

Articles	Year ended 30th June, 1902.			Year ended 30th June, 1903.		
	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.	
	Muids.	£	s. d.	Muids.	£	s. d.
Wheat ... ..	35,623	19,342	4 0	116,375	81,847	0 9
Mealies ... ..	85,445	46,621	9 6	60,794	55,014	14 6
Kaffir corn ... ..	8,494	6,751	16 0	25,856	22,888	7 0
Meal ... ..	3,434	4,156	5 0	6,251	7,574	10 6
Mealie meal ... ..	1,299	887	2 0	132	101	0 0
	Lbs.			Lbs.		
Wool ... ..	3,729,173	46,794	5 8	2,859,671	45,140	4 7
Mohair ... ..	406,853	10,891	10 8	396,710	11,454	11 10
	No.			No.		
Horses ... ..	656	9,049	15 0	81	1,227	10 0
Cattle ... ..	1,574	20,453	10 0	1,241	17,571	11 0
Miscellaneous ... ..	—	2,146	5 9	—	16,107	13 6
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>166,894</b>	<b>3 7</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>258,927</b>	<b>3 8</b>

IMPORTS.

	1901-1902.	1902-1903.
	£	£
Apparel, slops, &c. ... ..	13,850	11,635
Cotton manufactures ... ..	62,110	43,642
Woollen " ... ..	57,590	57,974
Haberdashery ... ..	22,070	30,178
Provisions, oilman's stores, &c. ... ..	27,820	10,640
Other goods ... ..	47,740	36,950
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>£230,680</b>	<b>191,019</b>

There are no figures at my disposal to enable me to separate British and Foreign imports exactly, but it is thought by those competent to judge that the relative proportion would be about 87½ per cent. British imports as against 12½ per cent. Foreign.

There has been a very marked increase in exports this year. This is chiefly due to the large export of wheat, which has not been so high since 1896.

#### LICENCES.

General trader	...	...	...	...	156
Hawker (paid)	...	...	...	...	423
" (free)	...	...	...	...	232
Mill licences	...	...	...	...	2

#### PASSES.

A large number of passes were issued this year (132,588) of which between 60,000 and 70,000 were for work of one kind or another. A very small proportion (under 8,000) went to Johannesburg, and I think that only a small proportion of these were for the actual mines themselves.



*Passes.*

—	Leribe.	Berea.	Maseru.	Mafeteng.	M. Hoek.	Quthing.	Qacha's Nek.	Totals.
Johannesburg ... ..	1,731	706	4,968	207	199	17	7	7,835
Kimberley ... ..	701	—	1,339	36	442	9	6	2,533
Natal Mines ... ..	1,164	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,164
Railways ... ..	3,820	584	1,168	431	51	—	—	6,054
Farm and Domestic ...	13,797	425	2,464	7,632	6,591	1,873	1,260	34,042
Other purposes ... ..	21,816	12,365	10,526	12,791	4,762	5,448	10,494	78,202
Cape Coal Mines ... ..	—	—	106	25	153	47	21	352
Jagersfontein ... ..	—	—	123	1,666	233	—	8	2,030
Military ... ..	—	306	—	64	6	—	—	376
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>43,029</b>	<b>14,386</b>	<b>20,694</b>	<b>22,852</b>	<b>12,437</b>	<b>7,394</b>	<b>11,796</b>	<b>132,588</b>

During the year the sum of £2,780 was remitted from native labourers in Johannesburg to their relatives in Basutoland through the Transvaal Native Affairs Department and myself.

Remittances to the Leribe District alone amounted to more than half the whole sum mentioned.

#### EDUCATION.

The figures in this Return still show an upward tendency.

	1901-1902.	1902-1903.
Schools ... ..	197	206
Scholars ... ..	18,021	14,171
Mean average attendance ... ..	9,057	10,024
Expenditure ... ..	£5,212 18s. 10d.	£6,660 17s. 7d.

#### POLICE AND JUDICIAL.

The following are the Police and Judicial Returns :

European officers ... ..	12
" constables ... ..	4
Native officers ... ..	5
" sergeants ... ..	6
" corporals ... ..	10
" privates ... ..	230
" constables ... ..	3

#### PATROL RETURN.

Number of patrols ... ..	1,777
" men on patrol ... ..	3,186
Estimated distance (in miles) patrolled	45,545
Arrests under Liquor Laws ... ..	19
" " Pass Laws ... ..	152
Other offences ... ..	151

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

#### CASES RETURN.

Culpable homicide ... ..	15
Theft ... ..	64
Pass Regulations ... ..	279
Trading Regulations ... ..	31
Resisting police ... ..	3
Assault ... ..	6
Other crimes ... ..	84
Civil actions ... ..	25

GAOL RETURN.

Prisoners received into gaol	...	...	452
" convicted	...	...	366
" discharged unconvicted	...	...	74
" in gaol 30th June, 1903	...	...	86
Floggings inflicted	...	...	Nil.

LOST STOCK RETURN.

Stock.	Reported.	Traced.	Not traced.	Re-covered.	Not re-covered.
Horses ... ..	96	24	72	23	73
Cattle ... ..	216	140	76	140	76
Sheep ... ..	803	307	496	307	496

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

I am indebted to the courtesy of the Postmaster-General, Cape Town, for the following Postal and Telegraphic statistics.

*Correspondence.*

Letters posted in Basutoland	...	...	262,509
" received in Basutoland	...	...	268,788

*Money Orders.*

Issued	...	5,407	...	Value	£	s.	d.
Paid	...	1,558	...	"	5,851	6	11

*Savings Bank.*

283 Deposits with total value of	...	...	3,217	11	5
83 Withdrawals with total value of	...	...	2,726	3	10

*Telegraphs.*

The Revenue from this source collected in the Territory amounted to £1,310 2s. 3d.

POPULATION.

Whites	...	...	...	580
Natives	...	...	...	262,000

I have, &c.,

L. WROUGHTON,  
Government Secretary.

## ANNUAL REPORT—LERIBE DISTRICT, 1902-1903.

When my last Annual Report was written, the Chief Joel was about to be tried for disloyal conduct during the late war. He was found guilty and sentenced to one year's imprisonment. The political situation in his ward was, however, not greatly altered. Hlasoa was replaced in his holding at Tsime, from whence it will be remembered Joel had driven him in 1899. He was not replaced under Joel, who was his former overlord, neither was he definitely taken from him, and the policy indicated to me, which I have persistently followed with very fair results, has been to urge all parties to bury the past. Hlasoa was told, although he was not put back under Joel, to treat him with respect and consideration, by attending his "Matsima," and observing the little amenities which native custom exacts from the junior to his seniors. Joel was told that though Hlasoa, and what is more important his holding, had not been so far taken from him, he must act with great caution and carefully abstain from all action which might be in the least likely to cause irritation. Jonathan did not accept this policy with a good grace. It was, perhaps, hardly to be expected that he would, in view of Joel's habitual insubordination towards himself. But while he has done little to forward it, I am bound to say that I have not become aware of his having done anything to thwart it.

There was naturally much friction at first on the part of Joel's sons, and latterly, on Joel's release from prison, which took place on April 17th. Both parties seem at present to have accepted the situation, and I do not hear of any serious complaints from either. But before anything like a satisfactory situation is evolved, certain long-standing grievances of Hlasoa will have to be removed, and I am not without the hope that this may be accomplished in the further pursuance of the present policy.

The Chief Motsuene's position is still unsatisfactory. There is constant friction between him and Jonathan, which, owing to Motsuene's rank and the attitude of the Paramount Chief Lerothodi, the latter finds it difficult to deal with. Possibly if he were to approach Lerothodi with goodwill, and a *bonâ fide* desire to arrive at an understanding with him, something might be accomplished, but I regret to say he does not do this.

The settlement last year of the dispute between the sons of Lesaoana seems to have been very satisfactory. There has been no further trouble, and I have on several occasions noticed Peete and Seshope working together in a manner which would have appeared impossible a few years ago.

I regret that I cannot record any improvement at Makhoakhoene; Letsika is still in dispute with his brothers, but perhaps

the most pressing question at this time is one about which there ought to be no question at all, and that is the position of Thakabanna, Letsika's eldest son, whom he now desires to disinherit. Jonathan favours Thakabanna, and I believe the matter is now before the Paramount Chief, who, so far as I know, has not yet expressed himself definitely upon it, though he, in common with everyone else, has, up to now, recognised Thakabanna as Letsika's heir.

How far Letsika will be able to carry out his intention remains to be seen, but native custom has before now proved fairly rigid in these matters, and instances are not wanting in which it has been too strong for certain Chiefs desirous, for personal reasons, of disinheriting their natural heirs in place of some more favoured junior. It is, I think, to be hoped that it will prove so in this case, and that a disturbing precedent will not be created.

The situation at Ramapepe's is still as it was left by Sir Godfrey Lagden in 1900, when Raboka and his clan were placed directly under the Assistant Commissioner, pending the placing of Jonathan's son Tau, which was then under discussion. This is quite an anomaly under our system, and it was never intended to last as long as it has. But Jonathan, though from time to time I have represented it to him, has not taken any steps for the placing of his son, and does not seem in the least inclined to do so. The arrangement suits him very well, as Raboka is his staunch adherent, and may be relied on to further his interests, which he can do in many little ways without giving me cause to intervene. On the other hand Khetisa, whose interests are antagonistic to Jonathan's, is very dissatisfied. Raboka is no friend of his, and his influence, which used to be paramount in the ward, is diminishing perceptibly. He is, therefore, very anxious for the present arrangement to end, but whether it can ever end in a manner likely to give him satisfaction, and restore his lost influence, is very doubtful.

Notwithstanding all these elements of discord, I am glad to say that the general conduct of the Chiefs has been satisfactory. The more important of them seem to have acquired a more just idea of their responsibilities, and the possibility of their resorting to arms to adjust their differences, as so frequently happened in former years, is becoming more and more remote.

The epidemic of rinderpest, reported last year, has died out, and for some six months the district has been clear.

There have, on the other hand, been several outbreaks of small-pox, imported in most instances. These have been successfully dealt with as they occurred by strict quarantine and vaccination, and the disease has not spread to any great extent.

There has been a partial failure of the crops this year owing to the late rains and early frosts, and I fear there will be considerable scarcity before the next crops can be reaped.

The water supply of this station, which has always been inadequate, has now become a question of the most urgent importance, owing to the weakening of the spring, upon which we have hitherto depended. A scheme is now under consideration for bringing a supply from Sebotoane Mountain, a distance of about four miles.

The following are the usual annual returns :—

				REVENUE.		
				£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	...	...	...	15,914	10	0
Judicial fines	...	...	...	410	17	6
Licences	...	...	...	578	0	0
Fees	...	...	...	9	19	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	78	5	0
Total ...				<u>£16,991 11 10</u>		

Hut tax was paid on 15,217 huts.

Amount of arrear tax paid was £1,231 0s. 0d.

#### LICENCES.

General traders' licences	...	...	...	46
Hawkers' licences (paid)	...	...	...	100
"    "    " (free)	...	...	...	210

The following cases were tried in the Assistant Commissioner's Court :—

Theft	...	...	...	...	9
Treason	...	...	...	...	1
Homicide	...	...	...	...	8
Assault	...	...	...	...	4
Intimidation	...	...	...	...	1
Breach of the peace	...	...	...	...	4
Contempt of Court	...	...	...	...	2
Resisting the Police	...	...	...	...	1
Fraud	...	...	...	...	1
Contravening Pass Regulations	...	...	...	...	169
"    Customs Regulations	...	...	...	...	4
"    Trading	...	...	...	...	6
Civil Actions	...	...	...	...	5

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

Inspector ... ..	1
Sub-inspectors ... ..	2
Native officer ... ..	1
Chief constable ... ..	1
Native sergeants... ..	1
„ corporals... ..	3
„ Lance corporals... ..	1
„ privates ... ..	52

GAOL RETURN.

Number of prisoners received into gaol ... ..	155
„ „ convicted and sentenced ... ..	146
„ „ discharged unconvicted ... ..	3
„ „ in gaol on 30th June, 1903... ..	20
Floggings inflicted... ..	Nil.

PRICES OF STOCK AND PRODUCE.

Ponies ... ..	£25 to £30.
Cattle ... ..	£15 to £20.
Sheep ... ..	30s.
Mealies, per muid ... ..	25s.
Wheat ... ..	30s.
Kaffir corn ... ..	35s.
Oat hay, per 100 bundles ... ..	25s. to 30s.
Wool, per lb. ... ..	3d.
Mohair, per lb. ... ..	9d.

PATROLS.

Number of patrols ... ..	400
„ men employed ... ..	605
„ miles covered ... ..	9,334

## LOST OR STOLEN STOCK.

				Traced.	Not traced.	Recovered.	Not recovered.
Horses	...	...	...	3	7	2	8
Cattle	...	...	...	34	15	35	14
Sheep	...	...	...	21	14	80	5

## PASSES ISSUED.

Johannesburg Mines	...	...	...	1,731
Kimberley	„	...	...	701
Natal	„	...	...	1,164
Railway construction	...	...	...	3,820
Agricultural work	...	...	...	13,797
Other purposes	...	...	...	21,816

## ARRESTS.

The following arrests were made : —

Contravening Liquor Regulations	...	1
„ Pass	„	209
Other offences	...	105

J. C. MACGREGOR,

*Assistant Commissioner.*

Leribe,

30th June, 1903.



**ANNUAL REPORT—BUTHA BUTHE DISTRICT,  
1902-1903.**

Several matters of an important political nature, which had necessarily to remain in abeyance during the late South African war, came to the front soon after peace was declared.

Chief Joel Molapo was summoned to Maseru to answer charges of persistent disloyalty, and of having during the year 1899 caused arms to be taken up against his younger brother Hlasoa, which resulted in the death of several persons, and the forcible expulsion of Hlasoa and his followers from his tenement of Tsime.

These charges were easily proved, and Joel was sentenced by the Resident Commissioner to be imprisoned for one year, and to pay a fine of five hundred head of cattle. It was further settled that Hlasoa and his followers should be replaced at their home at Tsime.

On the 25th July the Resident Commissioner, the Assistant Commissioner of Leribe, representatives of the Paramount Chief, other influential representatives of the Basuto nation, and I, proceeded to Tsime, and Hlasoa was formally repatriated there. Hlasoa, at Tsime, had formerly been under the chieftainship of Joel, and in replacing him there it was not said that Tsime should be definitely removed from Joel's control, but that Joel, or rather, in his absence in gaol, his representatives, should not interfere there, or do anything calculated to cause irritation.

After Hlasoa's expulsion from Tsime, Joel had settled a number of his own immediate followers there, and the Resident Commissioner in repatriating him ordered these persons to remove.

As might have been expected, Joel's younger sons, notably Qhobela, who lives close to Tsime, soon endeavoured, by every cunning means in their power, to obtain a footing there and to otherwise annoy Hlasoa. Scarcely a week passed without Hlasoa bringing some well founded complaint to me to this effect. I was caused a deal of anxiety, and in view of the different interests at stake the matter required very careful handling. Qhobela at length, finding that the Government was firm in its policy, desisted in his designs, and for about six months before Joel's release from gaol Hlasoa had nothing to complain about. Joel was released from gaol in April, and shortly after his return home complaints from Hlasoa commenced to reach me. He complained that people from Joel, who did not live there, were ploughing fields at Tsime, that some of the houses in one of his villages had been destroyed by

persons removing the thatched roofs, and generally that he was being persecuted. Upon enquiry I found that these complaints were well founded, and submitted a special report of the matter to the Assistant Commissioner, Leribe.

I had no doubt that Joel had instigated these acts with a view to ascertaining how far he could interfere at Tsime with impunity. As a result of my report, which was transmitted to the Resident Commissioner, representatives of the Paramount Chief were sent to Joel, and he was plainly told that he would be held responsible if anything of the kind recurred.

Since then no further attempt at interference with Tsime from outside has been reported to me.

For geographical and political reasons Tsime should be under Joel's chieftainship, but it would be obviously impossible to allow this until the bad feeling caused by the late trouble has died out.

It is the policy and constant endeavour of the Government to promote goodwill between Joel and Hlasoa.

I desire to place on record the valuable assistance I received from Mopedi, the eldest son of Joel, who represented the latter while in gaol.

His position was a difficult one and demanded considerable tact. There are the usual family disputes in the Makhuakhus ward. One of prominent importance is between Letsika, the head of the clan, and his eldest son Thakabanna.

Letsika's jealousy of Thakabanna may almost be described as a mania. In addition to curtailing his power as far as possible, he has recently been endeavouring to prove that Tumaue, a very younger son, is in reality his heir. I think Letsika will find it difficult to establish this, but as I have recently rendered a special report on this subject I will not now go into it in detail.

It is always a matter of delicacy to interfere in disputes between a father and son, and unless absolute injustice is proved against the former it is generally advisable, as far as possible, to support his authority and to maintain obedience and filial duty.

When peace was declared a number of farms in the Orange River Colony were unoccupied by their owners, and I feared that individual natives might be tempted to cross over from this ward for the purpose of stealing unprotected stock. I consequently instructed Joel and Letsika to call their people together, and to warn them of the very serious consequences which would ensue to persons who should steal from the Orange River Colony. I do not know whether or not these meetings caused the following satisfactory results, but the fact remains that,

considering the enormous native population close to the border, comparatively few such thefts have taken place during the year under review.

The exact figures are as follows :—

Number of stolen cattle traced into Butha	
Buthe ward ... ..	34
Number of stolen sheep traced into Butha	
Buthe ward ... ..	1
Number of stolen goats traced into Butha	
Buthe ward ... ..	31

All these animals were recovered by us and returned to the owners, with the exception of one tow which died a natural death in Basutoland, and one goat which was killed by the thief. All the thieves implicated in the thefts were arrested and punished.

I hope, and have reason to believe, that farmers in the Orange River Colony living near the border now realise that they are practically secure from this particular kind of depredation.

The amount of current hut-tax collected during the year is satisfactory, although slightly less than last year, which was an abnormal one, owing to the great influx of native refugees during the war.

As evidenced by the export and import returns, the trade of the ward is in a healthy condition.

Natives in this ward, as compared with others in Basutoland, do not appear anxious to avail themselves of the benefits of education. In proportion to the population of the ward an extremely small number of pupils was presented for examination at the different schools recently inspected by me.

It is rather a remarkable fact that, in a ward with an estimated native population of eighteen thousand persons, only one Christian marriage was solemnised during the year.

I have forwarded the usual statistics to be embodied in the Annual Report of the Assistant Commissioner, Leribe.

W. MANSEL,

*Inspector, B.M.P.,*

*Officer in Charge.*

## ANNUAL REPORT—BEREA DISTRICT, 1902-1903.

The Report for the past year is very much the same as that for the year before. There has been no serious disturbance, but several of the usual minor disputes cropped up from time to time. Some of these appear to be now settled, such as that of Patso and his ground; the line between Makoali and Marthinus; and the quarrels between Peete and Lebese. Moeketse still causes a good deal of trouble, and has lately been to the Paramount Chief to reopen his grievances.

In April an agricultural show was held here, and may, under the circumstances, be considered to have been a great success.

The horses, cattle, sheep and goats shown were very good, especially the cattle. Very little grain, naturally, was brought in, but the little exhibited was exceptionally fine.

The crops are, I fear, to a great extent a failure this year, and many of the villages will suffer from a scarcity of grain. But I do not think that there will be anything in the nature of a famine.

The hut tax was again paid up well and quickly, the amount being more than £400 in excess of any other year.

There has been very little serious crime in the district during the year.

The following are the usual annual returns :—

				REVENUE.		
				£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	...	...	...	6,979	0	0
Licences...	...	...	..	288	0	0
Fines	...	...	...	7	9	0
Fees	...	...	...	4	11	0
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	10	0	0
Total				£7,289	0	0

Number of huts upon which tax was paid, 6,700.

Amount of arrear tax paid, £417.

LICENCES.

General traders' licences	...	..	24
Hawkers' licences (paid)	...	...	24
" " (free)	...	...	6
Mill licence	...	...	1

CASES TRIED.

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

Contravening pass regulations...	...	25
Theft	... ..	7
Culpable homicide	... ..	1
Assault	... ..	1
Civil cases	... ..	2
Other offences	... ..	3

POLICE.

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

Sub-Inspector	... ..	1
Native sergeant	... ..	1
" corporal	... ..	1
" privates	... ..	27

PRICES OF STOCK AND PRODUCE.

Horses	... ..	£15 to £20
Oxen	... ..	£15 to £18
Cows	... ..	£12 to £15
Ewes	... ..	20s.
Wethers	... ..	30s.
Goats	... ..	15s. to 20s.
Mealies	... ..	25s. per bag.
Wheat	... ..	20s. „
Kaffir corn	... ..	30s. „
Wool	... ..	5d.
Mohair	... ..	8d.
Forage	... ..	7s. per 100 lbs.
Oats	... ..	12s. per bag.
Hides	... ..	4d. per lb.

## GAOL RETURN.

Number of prisoners received in gaol...	32
"    "    convicted ...	18
Number of prisoners discharged unconvicted ...	14
Number of prisoners in gaol on 30th June, 1903 ...	7
Floggings inflicted ...	Nil.

## PATROLS.

Number of patrols ...	435
"    men employed ...	913
"    miles patrolled ...	7,524
"    arrests for contravening pass regulations ...	25

## PASSES ISSUED.

Mines...	706
Railways ...	584
Remounts ...	306
Agricultural ...	425
Other purposes ...	12,365

## LOST OR STOLEN STOCK.

—	Reported.	Traced.	Not traced.	Recovered.	Not recovered.
Horses ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sheep ...	—	—	—	—	—
Goats ...	—	—	—	—	—

W. BOXWELL,

*Assistant Commissioner.*

Berea,

30th June, 1903.

ANNUAL REPORT—MASERU DISTRICT, 1902-1903.

Nothing of political interest has occurred in this District during the past year, with the exception of the trial of Chief Joel for high treason. This Chief was tried by the Resident Commissioner and sentenced on the 17th July, 1902, to pay a fine of 500 head of cattle, and to be imprisoned for one year. Joel's conduct during imprisonment was exemplary, and after being imprisoned in the local gaol for nine months, the remainder of his sentence was remitted and he was released on 18th April, 1903.

The hut tax was paid up promptly, and shows an increase on last year's collection of £396.

Fair crops of wheat and oats were reaped in this district, and the wheat prospect for the ensuing season looks very promising.

The mealie and Kaffir corn crops, however, were almost a total failure, mainly due to the very early frosts in March, which destroyed a great deal of the standing crops.

The summer rains were very late and not up to the average. Rinderpest was stamped out in the early spring, and there has been very little sickness among cattle since then.

Pasturage, owing to the prolonged drought, is bad, and stock has consequently suffered a good deal from hunger.

The following are the usual annual returns :—

REVENUE.			
			£   s.   d.
Hut Tax	... ..	...	10,849 10 0
Licences	... ..	...	384 2 9
Fines	... ..	...	119 0 0
Ferry Tolls	... ..	...	108 15 0
Fees of Court	... ..	...	15 10 6
Miscellaneous	... ..	...	173 10 9
Total			£11,650 18 0

Hut tax was paid on 10,442 huts.

Amount of arrear tax paid was £407 10s.





**POLICE.**

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

Sub-inspector	...	...	...	...	1
European constable	...	...	...	...	1
Native	„	...	...	...	2
„	sergeant	...	...	...	1
„	corporals	...	...	...	2
„	privates...	...	...	...	56

**PRICES OF STOCK AND PRODUCE.**

Cattle	...	...	...	...	£17 each.
Horses	...	...	...	...	£25 „
Sheep	...	...	...	...	25s. „
Goats	...	...	...	...	20s. „
Wheat	...	...	...	...	25s. per muid.
Mealies	...	...	...	...	25s. „ „
Kaffir corn	...	...	...	...	35s. „ „
Wool	...	...	...	...	4d. per lb.
Mohair	...	...	...	...	6d. „ „

**J. P. MURRAY,**

*Acting-Assistant Commissioner.*

Maseru,

30th June, 1903.

ANNUAL REPORT.—MAFETENG DISTRICT,  
1902-1903.

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In reviewing the events of the past twelve months, it is satisfactory to find that no matter of a political nature has in any way affected the peace and good order of this district. An old boundary dispute between Chiefs Mojela and Azariel has again been brought forward. This affects the division of rights in a fertile valley, where the people of both chiefs have cultivated lands. Owing to dense population and scarcity of arable land in this particular neighbourhood, the final settlement of their respective claims is a matter of vital importance to the persons interested, who have thus far shown great forbearance and a desire to have their boundary defined by a competent authority. The ground has been visited by the Resident Commissioner, and I have also been there with messengers of the Paramount Chief; we have collected evidence bearing on the matter, and the parties now await the Resident Commissioner's decision.

The Chief Leduma Poshuli, cousin to the present Paramount Chief, after a long illness, died in January. He has been succeeded by his eldest son, Ntja.

After the conclusion of the late war the rumour was current that His Majesty's Government intended altering the system of administration in this Territory, and many natives who were dissatisfied with judgments they had obtained in the Chief's Courts applied for permission to bring their cases to this district Court on appeal. They were told that no such change was contemplated. A few glaring cases of miscarriage of justice were investigated and put right, but other applicants were advised to take their cases on appeal to the higher native courts in the usual manner.

Chief Letsie, eldest son of the Paramount Chief, resides near this Magistracy in a new village which has been built on Dikhoele Nek. His health is not good and he is naturally indolent and disinclined to take an active part in matters of public interest, which may necessitate travelling in Basutoland or beyond. He has never been out of Basutoland and holds narrow views on most subjects; he has declined all invitations offered by the Government from time to time, to visit and pay homage to illustrious persons in neighbouring colonies, which his father and other Basuto Chiefs have gladly accepted.

The Chiefs continue to render me necessary assistance in district matters, and, almost without exception, their attitude and demeanour denote loyalty to His Majesty's Government.

The people are greatly interested in the formation of the National Council, which will assemble at Maseru for the first

time this month, and there is much conjecture respecting the action of the Council in national affairs.

The people have recovered from unsettled conditions, consequent on the late war, and although they have a yearning for the old "war prices" (which is perhaps only natural) still they are sensible enough to accept the present rate of wages offered to labourers, and they have freely gone to work in the neighbouring Colonies. Agents representing various mines, and Public Works Departments, have been constantly in Mafeteng collecting labour, and they have been singularly successful where the contract period is not more than three or four months. The Basuto are agriculturists, and greatly depend on crops for food; the men attend the ploughing and sowing and the women look after the growing crops; both join in harvesting. In consequence of this custom, the men do not like to be absent from their homes for long, and this is the reason why they have not gone in greater numbers to Transvaal mines. The period of service, six months, is too long for them. They can get the same rate of wages under easier conditions in the Cape and Orange River Colonies. Farm and domestic service in adjacent Colonies has drawn labour largely from this district, including numbers of native families who are wearied by the exactions of the Basuto Chiefs.

Some useful district works have been carried out during the last year in connection with the storage of water. On the Mafeteng Reserve a dam wall has been built below Cemetery vley, and a similar wall was constructed on Diphering vley, and yet another across a donga, that was draining water out of Tsakhole vley. Some fencing has been erected and preparations are in progress for tree planting at this Magistracy, and at Tsakhole, during next spring. Experiments in donga stopping have been tried by building stone walls across sluits in order by this means to prevent further denudation of soil.

A stable was built for the Government stud horse. It is a convenient building, standing in a good paddock.

The Medical Officer's quarters were repaired and some additions made.

A new cottage for the Deputy Post Master and Telegraphist is in course of construction, the old quarters being condemned. Some special work was done to improve the old road between Mafeteng and Diphering. The district roads were maintained in a fair state of repair suitable for ordinary waggon traffic, but there still remains a good deal that could be done to them in order to insure comfort in travelling.

The water supply for domestic purposes at this station is inadequate for the requirements of the population, and during dry seasons much inconvenience is experienced, as it is difficult to procure good water, and the natives, especially children, drink

impure water, and this causes enteric. I regret to say that an attempt to find water by boring at this Magistracy failed. A proposal to bring spring water into the village by means of a pipe service has been submitted to the Resident Commissioner and is under consideration.

Religious instruction and educational work proceeds with satisfactory results in all parts of the district, under direction of clergy of the English Church, the Paris Evangelical Mission Society, and the Roman Catholic Mission. There is also a small Mission of the Seventh Day Adventists, and of the Ethiopian Church.

I have furnished a separate report on 25 Government-aided schools I inspected during the year.

After extensive inoculation of cattle last year, Rinderpest gradually disappeared, and the district has been free from the disease ever since. A disease known as "Soab" was introduced into this territory during the late war by cast military horses, and rapidly spread, and infected thousands of horses, and in consequence of this native owners sustained heavy loss. A "wash" was given by the Government Veterinary Surgeon, and used for police horses with good results, and the prescription for the same was commended to the public.

There was a good average wheat crop last year, but very few fields of mealie and kaffir corn matured, owing to severe drought and early frost. The melon and pumpkin crop failed from the same causes. Some poor families may require assistance before next season's crops are harvested, but it does not appear likely that any wide-spread want or hunger will be felt, as most of the people have money, and other means of buying food. I suggest that Government should make an arrangement, at an early date, to enable people to buy mealie and kaffir corn seed, and also pumpkin seed, at reasonable prices.

One of the Arab stallions lately bought by Government is at this station, and will be used for stud purposes with a view to improving the breed of Basutoland ponies.

The following are the usual annual returns :—

				REVENUE.		
				£	s.	d.
Hut tax	...	...	...	9,478	0	0
Licences	...	...	...	326	0	0
Fines	...	...	...	73	15	0
Fees	...	...	...	14	5	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	475	3	0
				<hr/>		
				£10,367	3	6
				<hr/>		

Number of huts upon which tax was paid was 92,435.  
Amount of arrear tax paid was £235.

Hut tax was very well paid and the total amount is more than usual, which is due to payments having been made by native refugees who have now left the district.

LICENCES.

General traders' licences	...	...	24
Hawkers' licences (paid)	...	...	86
„ „ (free)	...	...	2

POLICE.

The district detachment is efficient and consists of :—

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

The District Headquarters are at Mafeteng, and a few men are stationed on the frontier at each of the ports of entry from the Orange River Colony, viz., Sephapo's Gate, Van Rooyan's Gate, Tsupane Gate, and at Chief Mojela's on the Caledon River.

PATROLS.

Number of patrols	...	...	...	301
„ men employed	...	...	...	750
„ miles patrolled	...	...	...	7,059
„ arrests	...	...	...	28
„ „ for contravening Pass Regulations...	..	..	..	3
„ „ for contravening Liquor Regulations...	...	...	...	13

CASES TRIED.

Civil actions	...	...	...	...	—
Theft	...	...	...	...	6
Liquor	...	...	...	...	3
Other crimes	...	...	...	...	15

There has been very little serious crime in the district.

A Mosuto named Thokoa, who murdered another native named Jautji in Ladybrand district, was arrested in this district, and handed over to the Government of the Orange River Colony for trial.

## RETURN OF LOST STOCK.

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Not traced.	Re-covered.	Not recovered.
Horses ...	36	3	33	3	33
Cattie ...	59	43	16	43	16
Sheep ...	287	116	171	96	171

## PASSES ISSUED.

Johannesburg Mines ...	...	...	...	207
Kimberley „ ...	...	...	...	36
Jagersfontein „ ...	...	...	...	1,666
Cape Colony. Coal mines ...	...	...	...	25
Vereeniging. „ „ ...	...	...	...	49
Agricultural labour ...	...	...	...	7,159
Domestic service ...	...	...	...	473
Railways ...	...	...	...	431
Government departments ...	...	...	...	64
Other purposes ...	...	...	...	12,791
				<u>22,901</u>

## PRICES OF STOCK AND PRODUCE.

Wheat ...	...	...	...	20s.
Mealies ...	...	...	...	24s.
Kaffir corn ...	...	...	...	40s.
Barley ...	...	...	...	15s.
Oats ...	...	...	...	15s.
Oat Hay, per 100 bundles ...	...	...	...	30s.
Slaughter cattle ...	...	...	...	£12 to £15
Basuto ponies ...	...	...	...	£10 to £20
Sheep ...	...	...	...	12s. 6d.
Goats ...	...	...	...	10s. 6d.
Wool, per lb. ...	...	...	...	3d.
Mohair „ ...	...	...	...	6d.

## GAOL RETURN.

Number of prisoners received into gaol...	...	11
"          "    discharged unconvicted	...	—
"          "    convicted and sentenced	...	11
"          "    in gaol on 30th June, 1903		10

No floggings were inflicted.

## COMMERCIAL.

Trade was prosperous and storekeepers did good business in ordinary retail trade and with horses and cattle.

Hawkers' Licences were granted to numbers of burghers of the Orange River Colony who came into this district to trade with the natives.

An Agricultural Show was held in May which was well patronised by Europeans and natives. The exhibits were numerous and good, and the show was a success. Prizes were awarded to successful competitors from money granted by Government augmented by local subscriptions.

## SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS.

Mokone, an ex-native constable of the Cape Police, complained of injuries sustained through act of soldiers at Springfontein, Orange River Colony, during the late war, which resulted in the loss of his hand. The Cape Colonial Government awarded Mokone £150 compensation, and he also received £23 8s. 10d. balance of pay due from the Cape Police.

T. P. KENNAN,

*Assistant Commissioner*

Mafeteng,

30th June, 1903.

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## ANNUAL REPORT.—MOHALES HOEK DISTRICT, 1902-1903.

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Since the last annual report little of importance has taken place in this District.

In Griffith's ward there has been constant friction between him and the followers of Mocheko. This was to be expected, for ties of clanship cannot be broken down in a moment. Time must be given for people to get over the distrust that always follows a change. Some of Mocheko's immediate followers resented the deposition of their chief and refused to work willingly with Griffith. It was felt some allowance should be made to them owing to their personal feelings in the matter, and great forbearance was shown to them by Griffith. However, as the political work of the District was being impeded, and as they repeatedly ignored the advice of this office, it was determined to bring matters to a head. Therefore, at the pitso held here in March, the ringleaders were brought before the Resident Commissioner and sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour for contempt of court. Since then matters have quieted down, and the only matters at issue have been referred by the Paramount Chief to a commission, consisting of representatives of this office, of himself, and Chief Griffith. This will go into all the questions arising from lands, and see that no injustice is done to the present holders. In the Bataung ward, on the conclusion of the year several stock thefts from the Orange River Colony were committed. However, the whole gang of thieves were captured and the stock recovered. In March a quarrel took place between the two Bataung Chiefs, Alfred Mcletsanis and Mahlehle Monyahe, which resulted in one man receiving a wound from a revolver shot. The affair was fortunately at once stopped and the ringleaders arrested. On being brought to trial they were all found guilty and sentenced to heavy fines, with the exception of the one who fired the shot. He was sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for one year.

The health of the district has been very satisfactory. Small-pox appeared in a very mild form at the beginning of the year, but by strict quarantining of infected villages and vaccination, the epidemic has been suppressed.

An investigation into the state of leprosy in this district was commenced. I am unable to furnish a complete report on the matter, but the number of cases so far discovered leads me to think that it is not very prevalent in this district.

In the absence of the Medical Officer I am unable to attach the usual report.



For the convenience of the people, a pack-post was started from Mafeteng to here, and has been found a great convenience.

It will be seen from the following returns, the revenue is slightly in excess of last year, due to the increase of hut tax.

The following are the usual annual returns :—

				REVENUE.		
				£	s.	d
Hut Tax	...	...	...	9,592	10	0
Licences	...	...	...	178	10	0
Fines	...	...	...	173	12	6
Fees	...	...	...	10	2	0
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	284	6	3
Total	...	...	...	£10,239	0	9

Number of huts on which tax was paid was 9,341.

Amount of arrear tax paid was £294 10s.

				LICENCES.		
General traders' licences	...	...	...	...	...	17
Hawkers' licences (paid)	...	...	...	...	...	5
" " (free)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dam licence	...	...	...	...	...	1

RETURN OF LOST STOCK.

Description.	Reported	Traced.	Not traced.	Recovered.	Not recovered.
Horses ... ..	15	7	8	7	8
Cattle ... ..	93	62	31	62	31
Sheep ... ..	224	128	96	128	96

				POLICE.		
Sub-inspector	...	...	...	...	...	1
European constable	...	...	...	...	...	1
Native officer	...	...	...	...	...	1
" sergeant	...	...	...	...	...	1
" corporal	...	...	...	...	...	1
" privates	...	...	...	...	...	24

The police are well mounted and equipped.

## PATROLS.

Number of patrols	...	...	...	153
„ men employed	...	...	...	200
„ miles patrolled	...	...	...	7,816
Arrests for contravening pass regulations	...	...	...	27
Arrests for contravening liquor regulations	...	...	...	2
Arrests for contravening miscellaneous offences	...	...	...	4

## PASSES ISSUED.

Kimberley mines	...	...	...	412
Johannesburg „	...	...	...	199
Jagersfontein „	...	...	...	233
Cape Colony „	...	...	...	153
Railways...	...	...	...	51
Government work	...	...	...	6
Farm and domestic	...	...	...	6,591
Other purposes	...	...	...	4,762

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

Culpable homicide	...	...	...	3
Liquor Law	...	...	...	2
Theft	...	...	...	30
Infanticide	...	...	...	1
Pass regulations	...	...	...	32
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	8
Contempt of Court	...	...	...	8
Civil cases	...	...	...	3

No floggings were inflicted.

## GAOL RETURN.

Number of prisoners received into gaol	...	69
„ „ sentenced	...	60
„ „ discharged unconvicted	...	2
„ „ removed to other gaols	...	9
„ „ in gaol on 30th June, 1903	...	12

## PRICES OF PRODUCE AND STOCK.

Horses ..	...	...	...	£10 to £30
Cattle ...	...	...	...	£7 to £15
Sheep ...	...	...	...	10s. to 30s.
Mealies ...	...	...	...	20s. per bag.
Kaffir corn	...	...	...	30s. "
Wheat ...	...	...	...	22s. 6d. "

Education is being carried on by the different missionaries in the district, but progress is very slow, this being chiefly due to the true spirit of education being conspicuous by its absence among pupils and teachers.

The roads have been maintained in good order during the year.

J. W. BOWKER,

*Assistant Commissioner*

Mohales Hoek,  
30th June, 1903.

### ANNUAL REPORT.—QUTHING DISTRICT, 1902-1903.

So far as this district is concerned, the chief event of general interest during the past year, was the trial of Chief Nkwebe Letsie, principal chief of the district, before the Resident Commissioner's Court, assembled at Mofales Hoek in March last, on various charges of oppression, spoliation, and depriving minor chiefs of their rights.

The Paramount Chief, attended by councillors from all parts of the country, was present and took part in the proceedings, which extended over ten days.

The complaints which led to this trial had been accumulating for several years: and in most instances the court held that complainants had proved their cases, and that Nkwebe's conduct towards them was unjustifiable.

It is hoped that the results of this trial may be beneficial to both chiefs and people, as showing that public opinion in the country is opposed to tyrannical acts on the part of the chiefs, and that constitutional means exist for the repression of extortion, when it passes certain limits.

The oppression by the Basuto of alien clans living in the district, referred to in previous Annual Reports, appears for the present to have received a decided check.

The extraordinary fall of snow which took place in the winter of 1902, covering the ground in the lower parts of the district to a depth of two feet, which depth was much exceeded in the mountain area, caused heavy losses in live stock, besides some loss of life among the herd boys and others, who were buried alive in the remote cattle-posts. No such storm appears to have occurred here within the memory of man, and in the resulting frosts, when the thermometer went down to 9° Fahrenheit for several successive nights, most of the indigenous trees and shrubs were killed, and the Government plantations suffered severely.

Tree planting has been carried on to some extent during the year, principally in connection with experiments for checking the growth of slits and gullies. Most of the Australian trees with the exception of *Eucalyptus Pauciflora*, have shown themselves unable to stand severe cold, and various species of pine, cypress, poplar, and willow, appear to be better suited to this climate.

A separate report on horse breeding was sent in, in November, 1902, and there is not much to add on this subject at present. It is to be regretted, in view of the expense to which the Government has gone in importing Arab stallions, that the Basuto cannot be induced to take better care of their mares when in foal. Upwards of twenty mares visited the stud-horse "Kohat."

during October and November, 1901, and from them it appears that only two living foals were dropped. The remainder of these mares either slipped their foals, or died from exposure, during the winter of 1902. Had their owners taken the trouble to shelter and feed them, much of this loss might have been avoided.

Rinderpest appeared again intermittently in one or two localities in the district, after it was supposed to be stamped out, but there has been nothing like a general spread of the disease, and the mortality has been slight. Latterly it has only been present among the cattle of one village near the Sebapala River. Inoculation, principally by means of serum, has been carried on whenever an outbreak has occurred, and generally with good temporary results. The immunity conferred by serum inoculation, does not appear to be so permanent as that resulting from the use of bile. The great advantage with serum, however, is that a supply can be kept on hand for immediate use, whereas, in the case of bile, it is necessary to wait until some cattle have died of the disease before material for inoculation is available and meanwhile other cattle are being infected.

The main roads are in passable order, but they require better engineering for reduction of gradients, widening of cuttings, &c. The waterworks at Moyeni camp have maintained their supply throughout the year. The pipes require renewing in places. New public offices, which were much needed, are just being completed.

The following are the usual annual returns :—

REVENUE.				£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	...	...	...	6,254	10	0
Licences	...	...	...	130	0	0
Fines	...	...	...	162	5	0
Ferry tolls	...	...	...	210	2	9
Fees of court	...	...	...	7	15	0
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	95	12	0
Total				£6,860	4	9

Number of huts on which tax was paid was 6,154.

Amount of arrear tax paid £386 10s.

LICENCES.			
General traders' licences	...	...	14
Hawkers' licences (paid)	...	...	10
"    "    (free)	...	...	

## LOST OR STOLEN STOCK.

—	Reported.	Traced.	Not traced.	Recovered.	Not recovered.
Horses ... ..	23	5	18	5	18
Sheep ... ..	137	23	114	23	114
Goats ... ..	23	23	—	23	—

## PASSES ISSUED.

Farm or domestic service ... ..	1,873
Johannesburg Mines ... ..	17
Kimberley ... ..	9
Indwe Mines ... ..	47
Other purposes ... ..	6,448

## CASES TRIED.

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

Civil actions ... ..	5
Theft ... ..	3
Contravening Pass Regulations ... ..	39
„ Trading Regulations ... ..	5
„ Liquor „ ... ..	4
Obstructing Police ... ..	2
Extortion by illegal threat ... ..	1
Culpable homicide ... ..	1
Assault ... ..	1
Resisting arrest... ..	3
Attempting to escape ... ..	3
Rape ... ..	3
Conspiring to defeat the ends of justice	1
Causing death through negligence ...	1

## PATROLS.

Number of patrols ... ..	35
Number of men employed ... ..	78
Number of miles travelled ... ..	2,489
Number of arrests for contravening Pass Regulations.	31
Number of arrests for contravening Liquor Regulations.	1
Number of arrests for other offences	6

GAOL RETURN.

Number of prisoners received into gaol	...	...	68
Number of prisoners convicted and sentenced	...	...	67
Number of prisoners discharged unconvicted	...	...	13
Number of prisoners in gaol on 30th June, 1903	...	...	14
Floggings inflicted	...	...	Nil.

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

Sub-inspector	...	...	...	1
Native sergeant	...	...	...	1
„ corporal	...	...	..	1
„ privates	..	..	..	23

PRICES OF STOCK AND PRODUCE.

Horses	...	...	..	£20 to £25.
Oxen	...	...	...	£15 to £18.
Cows	...	...	...	£15 to £18.
Sheep	...	...	...	£1 to £1 5s.
Goats	...	...	...	12s. to 15s.
Wool	...	...	...	3d. per lb.
Mohair	...	...	...	6d. „
Wheat...	...	...	...	£1 per bag.
Mealies	...	...	...	£1 „
Kaffir corn	...	...	...	15s. to £1 10s.

PASSES ISSUED.

Johannesburg Mines	...	...	...	17
Kimberley Mines	...	...	...	9
Indwe Mines	...	...	...	47
Farm or Domestic Service	...	...	...	1,873
Other purposes	...	...	...	5,448

S. BARRETT,

*Assistant Commissioner.*

Quthing,

30th June, 1903.

**ANNUAL REPORT—QACHA'S NEK DISTRICT,  
1902-1903.**

The past year has been very peaceful in the district, and consequently there is nothing of any importance to record. According to instructions I inspected nearly all the lepers (about 50) and reports of each individual case are registered for future reference. Some are in a deplorable condition, and it would be advisable to erect an asylum for them if all opposition could be removed.

The more enlightened of the chiefs and the people see that it is the only measure to adopt in certain localities, particularly at Radithlares, where, under Chief Tsehahla, the disease is increasing rapidly.

Small-pox has been prevalent, but not in a very virulent form. Two deaths were reported. The infected areas were quarantined, and vaccination carried on.

An Agricultural Show was held on May 25th, and proved a great success; but hardly any cereals were exhibited owing to the failure of the crops caused by the early frosts during March.

Through the able manner in which all the chiefs carried out my instructions, it is gratifying to mention that rinderpest has not appeared, although it has run its course through all the other districts.

The following are the usual annual returns:—

				REVENUE.		
				£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	...	...	...	3,319	0	0
Licences	...	...	...	117	0	0
Fines	...	...	...	61	15	0
Fees	...	...	...	1	0	0
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	70	19	0
Total				£3,569	14	0

Number of huts on which tax was paid, 3,259.

Amount of arrear tax paid was £117 10s.

LICENCES.

General traders	...	...	...	3
Hawkers' Licences (paid)	...	...	...	87

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

Sub-inspector	...	...	...	1
Native corporal	...	...	...	1
„ privates	...	...	...	15



PATROLS.

Number of patrols ... ..	224
„ men employed ... ..	301
„ miles patrolled ... ..	6,576
Arrests for contravening Pass Regulations.	1
Arrests for contravening Liquor Regulations.	1
Arrests for other offences ... ..	8

The following is a return of CASES TRIED in the Assistant Commissioner's Court :—

Concealment of birth ... ..	2
Theft ... ..	1
Culpable homicide ... ..	1
Escaping from custody ... ..	1
Contravening Pass Regulations ...	1
Contravening Border Regulations ...	1
Contravening Trade Regulations ...	3
Contravening Section VII....	1
Civil cases ... ..	2
Other crimes ... ..	2

PASSES ISSUED.

Johannesburg mines ... ..	7
Kimberley „ ... ..	6
Jagersfontein „ ... ..	8
Cape Colony „ ... ..	21
Farm and domestic service ... ..	1,260
Other purposes ... ..	10,494

GAOL RETURN.

Number of prisoners received into gaol	21
Convicted and sentenced ... ..	15
Discharged unconvicted ... ..	5
In gaol on 30th June, 1903 ... ..	4
Floggings inflicted ... ..	Nil

## RETURN OF LOST OR STOLEN STOCK.

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Not traced.	Re-covered.	Not recovered.
Horses ... ..	12	6	6	6	6
Cattle ... ..	15	—	15	—	15
Sheep ... ..	97	—	97	7	90

## PRICES OF STOCK AND PRODUCE.

Horses	... ..	£8 to £25.
Cattle	... ..	£8 to £15.
Sheep	... ..	12s. 6d. to 25s.
Goats	... ..	12s. 6d. to 25s.
Wool	... ..	3d. to 5d. per lb.
Mohair	... ..	7d. to 8d. „
Wheat	... ..	20s to 25s. per bag.
Mealies	... ..	20s. to 30s. „
Kaffir corn	... ..	20s. to 30s. „
Forage	... ..	20s. to 30s. per 100 bundles.

E. D'U. BLYTH,

*Assistant Commissioner.*

Qacha's Nek,

30th June, 1903.

**PRINCIPAL MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT,  
1902-1903.**

The subjoined table shows the number of cases treated at the Government Dispensaries and Hospitals during the year. The return also shows the number of vaccinations performed. Nearly all have been done with calf lymph, supplied by the Bacteriological Institute.

Station.	Out-patients.		In-patients.	Vaccinations.
	New Cases.	Subsequent attendances.		
Leribe ... ..	3,935	452	62	2,228
Maseru ... ..	6,741	1,906	176	4,846
Mafeteng ... ..	4,726	1,030	64	7,849
Mohale's Hoek ... ..	1,171	274	19	7,862
Quthing ... ..	2,460	304	—	12,442
	19,033	3,966	321	35,227

These figures show a steady increase over those of previous years.

There has been a good deal of small-pox in some districts, and chicken-pox has also been very prevalent. It has been found better to enforce quarantine, and push vaccination, wherever either disease has occurred. The mortality in the former disease has been low, and in the latter practically nil.

Small-pox has in some instances been traced to infection brought from the Orange River Colony.

To prevent as far as possible infection being carried from Basutoland to neighbouring Territories, a certificate of vaccination is now required from each native seeking to obtain a pass.

The subject of leprosy has been investigated during the past year. Every known case of leprosy has been carefully recorded, and a register of such cases is kept at each station. Steps have been taken to ensure the periodical inspection of lepers. The results of the investigation are embodied in a separate report.

The health of the police has been uniformly good.

The sanitary condition of the prisons is excellent, and with the exception of a case of malignant disease at Quthing, there have been no cases of serious illness among any of the prisoners.

The increasing need for hospital accommodation, to which frequent attention has been drawn, will be partially met before the end of the next year by the opening of a new hospital at Maseru.

The hospital will contain 27 beds, and is being built and equipped according to the most approved modern methods. Similar institutions at other Stations would meet a greatly felt want.

An efficient water supply is now a very urgent question at most stations. A gradually decreasing rainfall, and an increasing demand for water, has rendered the supply, which was formerly sufficient, now totally inadequate for the needs of the inhabitants.

EDW. C. LONG,

Maseru,

*Principal Medical Officer.*

30th June, 1903.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT—  
LERIBE DISTRICT, 1902-1903.

The subjoined table shows the attendance at the dispensary during the year ending June 30th, 1903, the number of in-patients treated in the hospital, and the number of vaccinations performed in the district. The figures show a considerable increase over those of last year.

The work performed in the hospital has been the same as in former years. The accommodation is very limited and primitive, and only severe surgical or medical cases are taken in. Equipment for four more beds has been added, and with more accommodation the work could be considerably increased.

1902-1903.	Number.
Out-patients - Dispensary ... ..	3,935
Subsequent attendances ... ..	452
In-patients—Hospital ... ..	62
Vaccinations ... ..	2,228
Total ... ..	6,677

The general health of the district has been distinctly above the average during the year. I was absent on leave during the earlier months, but from the register it would seem that chest complaints were very prevalent during the winter.

During the summer months there was a marked absence of ophthalmia, and summer diarrhoea was much less prevalent this year than in any former one in my experience. This, I have no doubt, was due to the dry summer.

Small-pox broke out in the district in January, and since that time there have been four infected areas. The disease has been of a mild type, and by strict quarantine the disease has been localized. The following figures show the extent of the epidemic :—

Number of persons infected ... ..	645
„ deaths ... ..	24
„ persons still sick ... ..	30

Vaccination in and around the areas has been vigorously pushed. The number of persons vaccinated has been 2,228. Whooping-cough is epidemic in the district at the present time,

but only amongst children of two years and under. A severe epidemic of this disease passed over the district about three years ago, and it has never died out; and the present epidemic appears to be a recrudescence of the former one.

The health of the police has been good, and that of the prisoners distinctly above the average, which can be attributed to their better housing in the new gaol.

A water supply is urgently required for the camp, and there seems to be every prospect that before another year this fault will have been remedied.

The sanitary condition of the camp is good and calls for no comment.

A register of all lepers in the district is being compiled, and a more careful supervision over them is being exercised, which should go a good way to ameliorating the lot of these unfortunate people.

N. M. MACFARLANE,  
*Medical Officer.*

Leribe,  
30th June, 1903.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT—  
MAFETENG DISTRICT, 1902-1903.

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The number of out-patients seen at the Government hospital during the year was 5,756, a total made up of 4,726 seen for the first time, and 1,030 seen on subsequent occasions.

The number of vaccination certificates issued was 7,650.

The general health has been good, and with one exception there has been no disease of an epidemic nature.

There has been a marked decrease in the number of enteric cases, especially during the later months.

The police and prisoners have only attended the hospital for minor ailments, and whenever the gaol has been visited I have found it in a clean and sanitary condition.

Fifty-five lepers have come up to the hospital, and had their cases recorded on the forms provided. The list is not quite complete, as there are still a few whose condition does not permit of their being moved, and who will have to be visited before the required description can be obtained. A statement as to the increase or decrease in the number of lepers must be merely an opinion and of little or no value, owing to the great difficulty in obtaining complete and accurate returns.

About the beginning of the year a number of cases of sickness said to be small-pox, were reported from a number of villages in the district, especially in the south.

In consequence, I personally visited the villages Pakana, Dikhoele, Ntsonyana's, Thamae, Seiso, Tayane (twice), Sekoati, Pelesana, Motlaupa's, Phepeng, and Seihleko.

In my report of May 21st, I stated my reasons for considering this disease to be chicken-pox and not small-pox, and further experience has not caused me to alter my opinion.

I have not been able to accurately trace the source of the infection, but it seems probable that it was introduced into this district from the southern part of Basutoland.

The disease is not a serious one, and in no case, after my careful enquiry, have I been able to find a death which could be ascribed to it.

No case of true small-pox has come under my notice.

The large increase in the number of vaccination certificates issued is largely due to the number of natives leaving the country for work, no one being granted a pass till he can produce a certificate of having been recently vaccinated. The above mentioned epidemic has caused the chiefs and headmen to apply for vaccination, and in addition to those coming to the hospital, 1,199 have been vaccinated at their homes. 310 of Mafeteng and the immediate neighbourhood, have been done at the hospital. This number is not included in the 7,650, as certificates were not asked for.

R. KINGDON-ELLIS,  
*Medical Officer.*

Mafeteng,

30th June, 1903.

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**MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT—  
QUTHING DISTRICT, 1902-1903.**

The following figures show the amount of work done at the dispensary and the number of vaccinations performed during the past year :—

—	1901-1902.	1902-1903.
Out-patients ... ..	1,308	2,460
Subsequent attendances ... ..	390	804
Vaccinations performed ... ..	4,824	12,442
Total ... ..	6,417	15,206

Twenty-four operations needing anaesthetics were performed, and chloroform was administered nineteen times. Among the patients so operated on, twenty-one were discharged cured, one died, and two were sent away unrelieved.

I hope that at no very distant date it will be found possible to erect a small hospital here. I am convinced that much good could be done by these means, as cases are frequently brought long distances requiring hospital treatment, and I have been compelled to advise them to apply to the nearest hospital, owing to the lack of means at my disposal for effectively treating them here.

The health of the police detachment, and of the white population, has been good. The only infectious diseases which visited the former were whooping-cough, and chicken-pox in a very mild form. One prisoner died from malignant disease of the liver. During practically the whole of the past year the district has been visited by an unprecedentedly severe form of chicken-pox. I estimate that about 60 per cent. of the entire population have been attacked, though the deaths attributable to the disease only numbered about twelve all told. At first the natives thought the disease was small-pox, and consequently a larger number of vaccinations were performed this year than during either of the preceding years I have been stationed here. Reports have from time to time been received that natives coming from the Quthing district have conveyed small-pox infection into the Colony. Personally I have only come across

six cases of undoubted small-pox this year, each of them having been the only unvaccinated person in their village. Quarantine was strictly observed and no deaths occurred. Furthermore, all natives proceeding out of this district are carefully inspected as to vaccination marks, and any showing faint marks are revaccinated. Pulmonary tuberculosis appears to be on the increase, most of the cases I have seen belonging to the more civilised portion of the community.

ALEX. S. GARDNER,

*Medical Officer.*

Quthing,

30th June, 1903.

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