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COLONIAL REPORTS-ANNUAL.

No. 947.

BASUTOLAND.

REPORT FOR 1916-17.

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(For Report for 1915-16 see No. 911.)

presented to Parliament by Command of Bis Majesty. January, 1918.



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No. 947.

BASUTOLAND.

(For Report for 1915-16 see No. 911.)

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BASUTOLAND ANNUAL REPORT 1916-17.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue of Basutoland for the financial year ended 31st March, 1917, amounted to £177,821 and the ordinary expenditure to £164,402, an excess of revenue over expenditure of £13,419. In addition to this the sum of £7,036 was spent on new works and charged to the b d "Capital Expenditure."

The following table represents the revenue collected during the past three years :---

		Revenue.		11 - 11 - 11 - 11 - 11 - 11 - 11 - 11
		1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.
		£	£	£
Native Tax	••	97,436	105,144	102,746
Customs	• •	34,898	46,971	51,392
Post Office	••	5,409	5,833	5,291
Licences		3,821	3,174	6,867
Fees of Court or Office		593	625	616
Judicial Fines		2,611	7,877	3,873
Fees for Services rendered		2,576	2,432	2,470
Interest		3,410	2,660	2,835
Miscellaneous Receipts	• •	857	1,533	1,731
Total	••	£151,611	£176,249	£177,821

From the above figures it will be seen that the revenue for the past year shows an increase on the previous year of £1,572, for which receipts under the heads of "Customs" and "Licences" are mainly responsible.

Notwithstanding a voluntary contribution by the Basuto nation to Imperial War Funds of nearly £50,000, the tax collection was up to expectations, while receipts under the head of "Customs" show an increase when compared with the previous year of £4,421. The revenue derived from Customs, however, depends almost entirely on the Customs collections in the Union of South Africa, Basutoland receiving a definite proportion. The increase under the head "Licences" was due to the increased charges for traders' and hawkers' licences, the former having been increased from £10 to £25 per annum and the latter from £1 to £2 per month.

(C431) Wt.47019/1099, 1,000 & 90, 1.18, B.&F. Ltd. Gp. 11/2.

Expenditure.

The following is a statement showing the expenditure during the last three years :---

	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916 - 17
	£	£	· · · · ·
Establishments	15,886	17,525	17,569
Police	22,923	22,364	23,633
Post Office	5,127	5,788	5,936
Allowances to Chiefs, etc	11,271	12,150	8,823
Office Contingencies	2,130		
Administration of Justice	4,727	4,806	4,949
Public Works Recurrent	24,060	21,272	28,914
Medical	13,516	13,096	13,270
Education	18,544	17,632	18,543
Audit	507	375	568
Miscellaneous.	1,204	*2,614	*1.617
Agriculture	5,967	5,570	5,786
Prevention of East Coast			,
fever	9,940	8,003	6,733
National Council	2,013	1,449	1,696
Pensions	3,995	3,580	4,449
Leper Settlement	15,093	14,636	15,504
Capital Expenditure from			,
surplus Balances	9,152	2,514	7,036
Total	£170,084	£156,237	£171,438

* Office Contingencies included in these figures.

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From the foregoing statement it will be seen that after eliminating Capital Expenditure the Ordinary Expenditure for the past year amounted to £164,402 as against £153,723 for the previous year. Enhanced prices are mostly responsible for much of the increase. Under Public Works Recurrent an excess of £7,642 on the previous year was incurred. Of this amount the sum of £3,500 was expended on putting into repair the roads, many of which, owing to the reduction in the amount spent on roads during the year 1915-16, were badly in need of repair.

During the year the sum of £10,000 was invested in War Loans.

Tny balance of assets in excess of liabilities on the 31st March, 1917, amounted to £135,518 4s. 3d.

TRADE.

بالم المدينا المهور ومراه مربوها بالا

The difficulty in obtaining supplies from Europe, mentioned in last year's report, has been accentuated during the season 1916-17. The Imperial Government has found it necessary to prohibit the exportation of a great number of groceries, and other commodities, usually obtained from overseas, so that it would appear that South Africa must depend to a greater extent upon its own resources and be content to do without many of the luxuries it has hitherto looked upon as necessaries. The

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prohibition also applies to a very considerable extent to cotton and woollen manufactures, the Army having taken complete control of the output of rugs and blankets of every description. It follows that suppliers of these articles have been compelled to cancel existing contracts. This also applies in a large measure to boots and clothing.

The total value of merchandise imported into this territory during the period under review amounted to £666,979. It would appear to be improbable that these figures can be maintained during the present year, especially when it is remembered that America's entry into the War will materially reduce our imports from that country. A considerable percertage of the above amount, however, consists of South African grown and manufactured goods, such as boots, jams, sugar, and many other articles in daily use. The latest official figures previously available were for the year ending 31st December, 1909. The total Basutoland imports for that year were of the value of £254,000 of which one-fifth was of South African origin. Assuming that the proportion as between imports from overseas and goods of South African origin has been about the same—and there is no means of proving, or disproving, this assumption without calling for separate returns the figures for 1916 would stand approximately as follows :---

 From Overseas
 ...
 £533,000

 From Union of South Africa
 133,000

These figures show a very considerable increase during the past seven years.

The following table gives the quantity and value of exports of produce for the calendar year 1916 :---

			Quantity.	Value.
Horses	•	• •	662	£ 7,469
Cattle	•	••	$13,\!135$	79,085
Kaffir corn	•	• •	76,300 bags	46,397
Maize and maize me	eal	••	181,248 "	90,835
Wheat and wheat r	eal	• •	70,503 "	99,302
Mohair		••	2,894,184 lbs.	156,555
Wool		• •	11,375,035 "	331,077
Hides		•••	268,108 ,,	10,996
Skins	•	•••	813,663 "	18,325
			Total	£840,041

Exports have increased since 1909 from £353,000 to £840,000. Wool and mohair represent the major portion of the increase, approximately £280,000. Cattle come next, with an increase of £70,000. Then wheat, £49,000; kaffir corn, £40,000, and lastly maize, with £16,000.

Reverting once more to the wool and mohair industry, it may be remembered that in the 1915–16 report, a doubt was expressed as to whether any further increase on the figures then quoted could be anticipated. As a matter of fact, the increase in weight is very small indeed, but the great appreciation in value accounts for the considerable higher amount recorded under this head. It follows that there will be a gradual return to pre-war values when hostilities cease. It is still a question whether the quantity produced during the last two years will be increased—or even maintained—unless flock owners improve their methods very considerably.

The crop prospects for the present season are most encouraging. Reports furnished to the Chamber of Commerce indicate that in all districts. excepting Mohale's Hoek, Quthing, and Qacha's Nek, there will be plenty of food for local needs, and a large surplus for export. In the two first mentioned, it is not expected that there will be any kaffir corn for export, but that there will be a surplus of maize. In the Qacha's Nek district, it is thought that there will not be sufficient for local consumption.

The partial resumption of work at some of the diamond mines has increased the demand for native labour, with the resultant improvement in spending power from that source.

VETERINARY.

Except for anthrax and one outbreak of glanders, the territory has been free from any infectious diseases, and although the spring rains were abnormally late, there was no serious loss of stock owing to shortage of food, and the summer rains during the year have been more abundant than the territory has experienced for a considerable number of years.

i am glad to report that no outbreaks of East Coast Fever have occurred in the territory. The position on our eastern border has not grown any worse, but it is still very essential for us to protect ourselves against the introduction of cattle from infected areas. During the year 132 blood slides were examined microscopically.

Twelve outbreaks of anthrax occurred, and in dealing with them, 3,789 animals were inoculated. By far the worst outbreak occurred at Chief Mathealira's, where at one time the disease began to assume serious proportions, people, cattle, horses, sheep, and goats falling victims to the disease, and although on several previous occasions prompt inoculation had been urged it was only when this serious mortality commenced that owners began to take the advice seriously. In dealing with this outbreak 2,700 animals were inoculated. As far as one can judge, the inoculation has had a most beneficial result in this outbreak, but with the large amount of infected matter that was carelessly exposed to the air and the well-known longevity of anthrax spores one must expect to see a recrudescence of the disease when the immunity conferred by inoculation wears off. Prompt immunisation of the contact animals is the only treatment in a native area.

Although the summer months were quite wet, no cases of horsesickness or blue tongue occurred.

Strangles, as usual, has been very prevalent, and during the droughty spring a rather acute type occurred causing considerable debility and sickness amongst numbers of young horses. The treatment by inoculation of large doses of dead streptococci is realising expectations and is of great value in saving the lives of acutely infected animals.

Several cases of equine biliary fever have been treated with success, although some cases came under notice in an advanced stage of the disease. Very large numbers of equines have been treated for worm infections and there is little doubt that Basutoland is widely infected with the common equine intestinal parasites.

Horses having died mysteriously at Quthing, the Principal Veterinary Surgeon visited the place and found an animal acutely infected with glanders. No glanders having come under observation for at least five years it was difficult to trace where the infection came from. The infected animal was destroyed and all contact animals on the Quthing Reserve (80) were tested with Mallein and three of these reacted and the diagnosis was confirmed on post-mortem examination. Some of the contact animals were re-tested, but no more gave a positive reaction and the outbreak has been successfully stamped out.

Quarter evil has not been very prevalent this year, and 504 doses of vaccin have been supplied.

In view of the large number of cattle being exported through Qacha's Nek and the want of facilities for dipping them it was considered advisable and necessary to erect a cattle-dipping tank and this has been satisfactorily done and should shortly pay for itself. During the year 10,293 cattle were exported at Qacha's Nek and of these 6,279 were Basutoland animals. There is little doubt this port of exit has proved of great economic value to traders and cattle owners in Basutoland.

During the year 133,144 sheep have been dipped, 1,588 more than last year. There are 39 dipping tanks in the territory, two of these have been erected during the year and two more are now in process of erection. As usual, the dipping tank at Hells Poort did the best work, no less than 20,848 sheep being dipped at this station. The Reit Vlei tank has also done good work, 14,421 animals passing through the dip.

9,422 sheep were dipped for export at Qacha's Nek, which indicates a considerable advantage to sheep-owners and traders in that district.

STUD DEPARTMENT.

There is a very appreciable increase in the number of the foals sired by Government stallions. This year 209 live foals were born, as against 120 last year, and this is the best result that has been shown since the stud work was commenced. This improvement is partly due to better climatic conditions and partly to a distinct improvement in the methods carried out at the different centres. It is regretted that two Government stallions died, viz., Mornion and Royal Rosebud. Both these horses were seventeen years old and have done excellent service to the country. It was found necessary to dispose of the thoroughbred horse Bowdon.

During the year a jack donkey was purchased with the view of trying to breed some good hardy mules suitable for pack work in the territory. No mule-breeding has been done by the Basuto and it was not certain if they would be able to realise what a paying business mule-breeding is if successfully done, but from the experience of last season it is thought that the natives will readily bring their mares for this purpose. Eighteen mares were covered during the lat' r part of the season by the donkey. The South African thoroughbred Rhanleigh was also purchased and it is hoped he will prove a valuable asset to the stud. During the past season 458 mares were covered.

Agricultural Shows were held at all districts except Mohale's Hoek, and here it was not considered advisable owing to a local outbreak of anthrax.

The Shows were quite a success and are no doubt an important factor in inducing the natives to improve their stock and grow better grain. Some of the grain exhibits were excellent. There were some very good exhibits of young stock by the Government stallions and in many classes the Government-sired animals won most of the prizes.

EDUCATION.

The average attendance of pupils shows a considerable increase and the setback experienced during the school year ending December 1915 has been made good.

A gratifying feature of the new admissions is that they consist mainly of children who are quite young and therefore of a suitable age for instruction. Year by year children are being enrolled in the day schools at an earlier age and one sees fewer pupils entering at an age when their school life should be ending instead of beginning. As a result of this the age of leaving will gradually be lowered and the industrial and higher schools will benefit in their turn, for such schools depend for their success upon receiving as candidates pupils who have passed the standards of the elementary schools at a reasonably early age.

The total average attendance in schools and institutions during year ending 31st December, 1916, was 19,496, as compared with 17,643 and 17,167 in 1914 and 1915 respectively.

Tables I and II show the enrolment of pupils in elementary schools and institutions.

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	AHLING	
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Enrolment of Pupils in Elementary Schools.

	Number of Pupils on Roll, December, 1915.				r of Pupils sember, 1	upils on Roll, er, 1916.	
Mission.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girle.	Total.	
Paris Evangelical Mission Society Church of	6,837	11,045	17,882	7,762	12,3 15	20,077	
Eugland Roman Catholic	909 430	1,581 1,008	2,49 0 2,038	1,137 697	1,876 2,143	3,013 2,840	
-	8,176	14.234	22,410	9,596	16,334	25,930	

BASUTOLAND, 1916-17.

TABLE II.

Enrolment of	Pupils in	Institutions.
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Institu- tion.	Church or other controlling agency.		er of Pu December		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
Morija	Paris Evangelical Mission Society.	156		156	Normal and Higher School
Thabana Morena	**		60	60	Normal and Industrial.
Leloaleng	**	70	I	70	Industrial.
Masite	Church of England	19	-	19	Normal and Industrial.
Maseru			34	34	Industrial.
Roma	Roman Catholic .	133	249	382	Normal, Indus trial, and Agri- cultural.
	Totals	378	343	721	

Thus, roughly one-sixteenth of the native population is on the school roll; in other words, receiving by means of the widely spread system of schools a substantial return for taxes contributed.

TABLE III.

	Year en	ding Dec 1915.	ember,	Year e	nding Dec 1916.	æmber,
Mission.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Paris Evangelical Mission Society Church of	5,001	8, 069	13,070	5,851	8,790	14,641
England Roman Catholie	648 350	$\begin{array}{c} 1,114\\ 1,314\end{array}$	1,762 1,664	8 2 2 502	1,3 3 5 1,602	2,157 2,104
	5,999	10,497	16,495	7,175	11,727	18,902

Average Attendance of Pupils in Elementary Schools.

The following table shows the enrolment of pupils in schools for children of European descent :--

	Numb of P	upils on Roll, Dece	mber, 1916.
Name of School.	Boys.	Girls.	Total
Maseru	23	21	44
Mafeteng	11	$\overline{15}$	26
Leribe	- 6	12	18
Teyateyaneng	6	4	10
Morija	8	7	15
	54	59	113

TABLE IV.

These schools provide elementary education only and pupils as a rule leave Basutoland to complete their education elsewhere.

POST OFFICE.

The net postal, telegraph, and telephone revenue collections amounted to £5,862 14s. Od.

The number and value of deposits and withdrawals in and from the Post Office Savings Bank for the last two years are shown in the following table :---

	Deposits.	With Irawals.
1915-16.	1,173 value £5,984.	357 value £5,337.
1916-17.	1,172 "£7,080.	382 ,, £ 5,073.

The following comparative table shows the number and amount of money orders and postal orders issued and paid during — last two years :—

	Issued.	Paid.
1915–1 6 .	27,944 value £30,217	. 18,962 value £21,083.
1916–17.	32,807 ,, £32,914	. 24,816 ,, £28,300.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The principal works carried out during the year are as follows :----Teyateyaneng Water Scheme.---A six-inch borehole has been sunk which is capable of yielding 200 gallons per hour and a well built over another supply with a capacity of 10,000 gallons of spring water. Quthing Water Scheme.---An extension, which has effected a considerable improvement.

Quthing Water Scheme.--An extension, which has effected a considerable improvement, has been made to the existing water supply at Quthing. Maintenance of Roads.—There has been a considerable improvement in the condition of the main roads throughout the territory, but the traders' roads have not been improved so much as could have been desired. The system at present is, that the traders pay half the cost of repairing, but sufficient money is not being spent to make any substantial improvement. An attempt is, however, being made to encourage the traders to spend more money on their branch roads.

A New Water Scheme has been completed in Maseru for pumping up water from the River Caledon to a reservoir distant 4,000 feet from and 300 feet above the level of the bed of the river. The reservoir holds 200,000 gallons of water and is situated near the European Cemetery, at the highest level in Maseru. The plant consists of a suction gas engine with producer and a Tangye's triple ram pump, capable of delivering 10,000 gallons per hour. The distribution pipes have been laid from the reservoir throughout Maseru to supply all gardens with water for irrigation purposes. A charge is made for the water and the scheme so far has proved a success.

GAOLS.

There are seven gaols and two lock-ups in Basutoland, and during the year under review 1,547 prisoners passed through them as compared with 1,717 during the year 1915–16.

CRIME AND POLICE.

The Police Force of the territory on the 31st March, 1917, consisted of sixteen European officers, seven European constables, three native officers and 484 native non-commissioned officers and men.

Of the European officers, five are away on War leave, and are serving in the Imperial Army in various parts.

The above figures include 191 native special police who are employed as border guards in the Quthing and Qacha's Nek districts as a precautionary measure against the introduction of East Coast Fever into the territory from East Griqualand and Natal. They are not uniformed, with the exception of an arm badge, but, like the regular force, are mounted. It has been found impossible to reduce the number during the year under review, but the outlook as regards East Coast Fever has grown no worse.

The number of convictions for liquor smuggling in 1916–17 was 238, as compared with 150 in 1915–16.

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

There was a slight increase in the total number of cases during the year. The people are becoming more accustomed to the highe fee charged, and we may look forward to a progressive increase in the number from year to year. The following table shows the number of patients treated at the Government hospitals and dispensaries for the last two years :---

	In-patients.		Out-patients.
1915-16.	Ī,841	••	23 ,575
1916-17.	1,999	• •	26,214

No epidemics of any moment have occurred. During the early part of the year there was an outbreak of plague in the Orange Free State, the nearest cases being about forty miles from our border, near enough to cause grave anxiety lest the disease should be introduced into Basutoland. The strictest possible precautions were taken to prevent this. The movement of natives between the two territories was restricted as far as possible, and a detention camp organised near the Masera railway station in which all sick natives returning home were quarantined.

O really suspicious case of pneumonic plague occurred but a bacteriological analysis kindly carried out by the Union Health Authorities negatived the existence of the disease.

Enteric fever was less prevalent than in recent years and this improvement may be ascribed to the extensive use of anti-typhoid inoculation. The scrum is obtained from the South African Institute of Medical Research, and out of some 5,400 inoculations there have been only two cases of severe reaction.

Bacillary dysentery was again very prevalent and a few cases of liver abscess were noted. There has been no apparent increase in the incidence of tuberculosis.

LEPER SETTLEMENT.

On the 1st April, 1916, there were 178 male and 167 female inmat's. During the year, 72 new cases were admitted; 15 patients were discharged as possibly arrested cases; there were 60 deaths, 10 births, 47 desertions and 64 deserters returned to the settlement. On the 31st March, 1917, there were 181 male and 182 female inmates.

These figures as compared with last year show a decided improvement in the working of the asylum. Deserters are being returned more readily, yet there are still cases where certain chiefs are very lax. The behaviour of the inmates has undoubtedly improved and they are becoming more reconciled to the place.

The water supply is as it was last year, but it is hoped to improve the supply as soon as it is possible.

The want of a children's home is becoming very much felt as it is desirable to keep them separate from the adults.

Although shorthanded, through some of the members of the staff being on war leave, the good work of the staff continues and a much better feeling exists between them and the innates. The returns show an increase over last year of new admissions, a very large falling off in descritions, an increase in "apparently arrested" cases discharged, and a considerable decrease in deaths.

GENERAL.

His Excellency the High Commissioner, accompanied by Viscountess Buxton and Staff paid an official visit to Basatoland during the month of August, 1916. They were met on arrival at Maseru by His Honour the Resident Commissioner, the senior officers of the Administration, and representatives of the European community of the territory. The Paramount Chief had called all the principal chiefs of the tribe with their people to meet Lord Buxton at Maseru in order to pay the respects of the nation to His Excellency on this, his first official visit to the country. Chiefs and people assembled at a pitso, where compliplimentary addresses were presented by the Paramount Chief on behalf of the tribe, to which His Excellency replied. It is estimated that 15,000 natives were present. In the afternoon His Excellency formally opened the eleventh session of the Basutoland Council.

The following day His Excellency had several interviews with the Paramount and other principal Chiefs, including the Chief Jonathan. Chief Jonathan was admonished for the disturbances which had occurred in the Leribe district, and His Excellency finally adjusted the compensation to be paid by him to his brother Joel, for losses caused the latter. The sum was fixed at £8,000, which was subsequently paid and handed to the people of Chief Joel who had suffered losses during the disturbances.

His Excellency and party left Maseru on the 24th August.

On the reassembling of the Council on the 25th August, and until its close, on the 2nd September, questions chiefly affecting the domestic affairs of the tribe were discussed.

As a result of a discussion in the Council on the question of the best manner in which to show the loyalty of the tribe to His Majesty's Government, it was decided to raise a fund by contributions from the people and to tender this as a gift from the Basuto nation to His Majesty for war purposes. A sum of £40,000 was raised and transmitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for transmission to the King. His Majesty was graciously pleased to accept the gift, and directed that the money be used to purchase twenty aeroplanes, half for the Royal Naval Air Service and half for the Royal Flying Corps. The Paramount Chief was asked to suggest names of chiefs and towns for inscriptions connecting the aeroplanes with Basutoland. A further sum amounting to some £10,000 is still in the hands of the Government and a further contribution is anticipated.

The recruitment of native labourers for work overseas was initiated by the Union Government and the Basuto were invited to volunteer. It was explained that they would be required for general labour behind the fighting lines in France. The response to the call was at first disappointing, as only about 250 were enlisted. Recruiting still continues, however, and I am glad to say that an improvement has recently become noticeable.

The effects of the great world war are but little felt in the territory, except in the difficulty in obtaining merchandise and the enhanced price of everything. The restrictions on export from the United Kingdom and the shortage of cargo space for such commodities as are obtainable, together with increased freight, insurance and possibly larger profits, on account of a smaller turnover, have had their effect on local prices, which have risen to an abnormal extent.

COLONIAL REPORTS-ANNUAL.

A large number of Europeans have left Basutoland to take part in the War. Of an estimated white population of 366 of military age in the territory, 160 have already joined, that is 44 per cent.

During the month of May certain administrative changes were made in the personnel of the Administration. Mr. Barry May, Deputy Resident Commissioner and Treasurer, was transferred to the Bechuanaland Protectorate as Deputy Resident Commissioner. Mr. Macgregor, an old Basutoland official, was re-transferred from Bechuanaland, where he held the appointment of Government Secretary, to Basutoland as Deputy Resident Commissioner. Mr. T. A. Williams was promoted from the post of Accountant to that of Financial Secretary. This appointment was rendered necessary by the transfer of Mr. Barry May.

CHAS. E. BOYES,

Government Secretary,

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The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :--

	ANN	UAL	•			
Colony, &c.	-					Year.
Barbados	4 .	• •		••	••	1915-1916
Leeward Islands Uganda British Honduras	• •	• •	• •	••		**
Uganda	• •	• •	• •	••	••	
British Honduras	••	••		• •	••	1915
Mauritius			• •		• •	
Northern Territorie				• •	• •	
St. Lucia	• •	• •	••	••	••	1915-191
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Cayman Islands		••	• •	• •	••	1915-19
Seychelles	• •	••	••	• •		1916
Trinidad and Toba	20	• •	• •	••	• •	
Gibraltar	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	**
1) DH	• •	••	••	••	• •	1916-19
St. Helena		••	••	••	• •	1916
	• •	• •	• •		••	**
Malta		••	• •	••	• •	1916-19
Gambia	• •	• •	••	• •	• •	1916
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81	Southern Nigeria	••	••	• •	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
82	Imperial Institute			••	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	• •	••	••	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indics	••	••	••	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria			••	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria		• •		Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	••	• •	• •	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	• •		••	Oilar 3ds, Oila, &co.
89	Southern Nigeria		• •	• •	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	••	••	• •	Roads and Land Settlement.

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