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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1016.

BASUTOLAND.

REPORT FOR 1918-19.

(For Report for 1917-18 see No. 997.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
December, 1919.



LONDON:
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BASUTOLAND.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1918-1919.*

FINANCIAL.

During the year ended the 31st March, 1919, the revenue for Basutoland amounted to £191,428, an excess on the previous year of £16,400.

Ordinary expenditure incurred during the year amounted to £174,628. In addition, the sum of £3,253 was expended from surplus balances on permanent work. The revenue for the year exceeded the total expenditure by £10,547.

Native tax yielded £106,124, an increase of £1,980 over 1917-18, and Customs, £59,707, an increase of £13,468.

The amount received from the Union Government as Basutoland's share of Customs Duties under Article II of the Customs Agreement was £58,462 19s. 8*d.* A further sum of £1,244 0s. 2*d.* under this head of revenue was collected in Basutoland in duty on importations of spirits and beer manufactured in the Union.

The total expenditure of £180,881 shows an increase of £7,583 on that of the previous year.

This increase was mainly due to the enhanced cost of clothing and equipment and also to the war allowance to Government employees authorised during the year.

The balance of Assets in excess of Liabilities on the 31st March, 1919, amounted to £131,599 10s. 9*d.* Of this amount £20,000 was invested in Treasury Bills, £72,500 on loan to the Swaziland Administration, and £11,000 on deposit with the Crown Agents.

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914-15, No. 858: [Cd. 7622-19].

TRADE.

The following is a return of the exports from the Territory during the calendar year 1918, the figures for 1917 being also given for comparison :—

	1917.		1918.	
	No.	£.	No.	£.
Horses	330	3,456	518	5,913
Cattle	11,150	88,694	12,750	114,704
Sheep	1,374	979	651	594
	Muids.		Muids.	
Kaffir corn ..	21,443	15,535	4,165	3,984
Maize and maize meal	101,166	57,954	44,312	27,399
Wheat and wheat meal	67,792	105,552	127,107	199,169
*Oats and barley	—	—	1,256	515
*Beans and peas	—	—	6,186	7,142
	lbs.		lbs.	
Mohair	1,739,565	126,752	1,847,421	163,337
Wool	8,782,305	388,753	9,322,768	466,374
Hides	122,327	5,699	168,223	7,002
Skins	562,677	16,045	312,805	11,339
Miscellaneous ..	—	2,612	—	140
Total value of Exports	—	£812,031	—	£1,007,612
Total value of Imports	—	£901,332	—	£882,339

* Shown under Miscellaneous last year.

It will be seen by a study of the above figures that the total exports from the Territory during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1918, establishes a record, amounting to no less than £1,007,612, as compared with £812,031 in 1917, and £810,011 in 1916.

The total value of the imports during the same period was £882,339, showing a balance of trade in favour of the Territory of £125,273.

One of the most encouraging features in the export returns is the considerable increase in the quantity and value of wheat and wheat meal, totalling approximately £200,000, and being some £90,000 in excess of 1917. It is unfortunate, however, that the blight known as "smut" has again made its appearance, after the country has had a practical immunity from this fungus for the last six years; but as steps are now being taken to impress upon the people the necessity of dipping their seed before planting, it is hoped that the same beneficial result will follow as were so successful in 1915 and the following seasons.

The maize crop was one of the smallest recorded, owing to unseasonable rains and to the ravages of the Borer Worm, or Grub. There was, however, no actual scarcity of food, Kaffir corn being fairly plentiful; but the quantity of maize available for export was very small indeed.

Wool and mohair, together, account for £629,700, or nearly two-thirds of the total value of our exports. It should be observed, however, that the increased value is not due to the quantity produced, which is considerably below the figures of 1915-16, but to the extraordinary appreciation in the prices paid for these staples. It is questionable whether Basutoland under existing conditions can support a larger number of sheep and goats than it does at present.

The bad practice of shearing in the autumn, before our severe and inclement winters, as well as losses through other causes, take a heavy toll on the flocks. This is evidenced by the large number of skins exported.

The remaining articles exported do not call for comment, as they are about normal, but there is one exception, viz., beans and peas, which are beginning to show quite respectable figures, and deserve, and should receive, every encouragement.

Turning briefly to the question of imported merchandise it is to be regretted, in the interests of the consumer, that up to the present time prices show little or no reduction. In fact, some articles are even dearer than before the Armistice with Germany. Shortage of shipping and labour unrest and strikes in almost all countries, to which must be added the enormous demand for materials of every description in the large areas so lately devastated by war, are factors responsible for this state of affairs.

It should not be forgotten, however, that before prices can become easier in the overseas markets, prices of the raw materials must come down. For example, wool, which has been selling in South Africa at from 1s. to 2s. per pound (according to length and quality) may eventually have to be sold at pre-War values, or at less than half the above prices. The same remarks apply to mohair, maize, and indeed to almost every article in daily use. In short, if our agricultural and pastoral people have had to pay very high prices for their requirements they have, on the other hand, benefitted very considerably by the greatly increased values they have been paid for their products.

VETERINARY.

Except for the prevalence of anthrax the Territory has been very free from any serious outbreaks of contagious disease.

The most serious outbreak of anthrax occurred in the Peka District, and in view of the large outbreak that occurred there two years ago, this was easily understood.

Owing to the co-operation of the late Chief Mathealira, all contact cattle were inoculated, numbering 1,650, with excellent results, but in view of the past history of this locality, we must expect further outbreaks to occur in this area.

During the year 2,028 animals have been inoculated for anthrax.

The outlook of East Coast fever has improved and the Administration has been able to carry out extensive economies during the year by reducing the number of native guards. As long as there are centres of infection on our Eastern border it will be wise to protect the Territory.

During the year there have been several instances of natives bringing in stolen cattle from East Griqualand and also cases of cattle straying from this area, cases which go to indicate the importance of having the Eastern border supervised.

During the year 124 blood slides have been examined.

These slides have been taken for the most part from animals on the Eastern border as an East Coast fever precaution, or from suspected anthrax animals.

There have been no outbreaks of glanders and only one animal has been subjected to the mallein test.

Strangles has been, as usual, fairly prevalent but for the most part of a benign type. The use of large doses of dead streptococci has continued to be of great value in treating severe cases.

Biliary fever has been very prevalent, and all cases except one, which was in a moribund condition when treatment commenced, have yielded to treatment. Trypan blue has revolutionised the treatment of this disease.

The Territory has been remarkably free from quarter evil this year and only 518 doses of vaccine have been issued.

During the year 6,270 head of cattle have been dipped and exported through Qachas Nek to East Griqualand. 2,949 of these were Basuto-owned cattle, and as most of these animals were purchased for beef this export must be of great advantage to native owners.

During the summer a disease simulating foot and mouth disease occurred amongst a number of cattle. The disease manifested itself by an acute necrosis of the buccal membrane and the tongue, often to such an extent as to prevent the unfortunate animal from eating, and in a few days this was followed by acute laminitis. This disease fortunately occurred only in isolated cases and it did not appear to be infectious, as one often saw a cow with the disease suckling a calf and the calf successfully resisting all attempts to infect it. There was some mortality from this disease and in all cases it was associated with great debility the mouth lesions taking a long time to recover.

During the year an infectious vaginitis of cattle occurred producing a serious condition of sterility. This disease, so far as the Principal Veterinary Surgeon knows, is localised and it is hoped it will remain so, as a disease of this type widespread would cause a serious economic loss to the Territory.

Despite the fact that there has been no Supervisor of Dipping Tanks, it is gratifying to report that 174,424 sheep and goats have been dipped during the year -49,670 more than last year.

With the cessation of hostilities it is hoped before long to have a European Officer again supervising all the dipping tanks in the Territory.

STUD.

It was most unfortunate that at the outset of the stud season this year, and the most promising season yet seen in Basutoland, the influenza epidemic should suddenly invade Maseru and District causing the loss of six weeks of the best part of the season.

During the season 338 mares were covered by Government stallions, and 178 live foals were born, the result of the previous season's work. This result on the whole was somewhat disappointing.

The thoroughbred horse Cloverley, owing to senile decay (21 years old) was humanely destroyed.

During the year the thoroughbred horses "Gunshoe" and "St. Andrew" were purchased, and it is hoped they will prove a success in the country.

The mules produced by the Catalonian Jack are turning out well and should prove of considerable value to the Territory both for pack and draught purposes.

The introduction of the Highland pony, judging from the foals, is likely to prove successful, but it is a little early to form a definite opinion on this point.

Agricultural Shows were held at different centres during the year.

EDUCATION.

The average daily attendance of pupils in schools and institutions is now over 21,000, while the total number of pupils on the roll exceeds 28,000.

The total average attendance in schools and institutions during the year ending 31st December, 1918, was 21,160, as compared with 19,496 and 20,760 in 1916 and 1917 respectively.

It will be seen that the increase for 1918 was only 400. Owing to the influenza epidemic the schools were closed for the fourth quarter, which quarter generally shows a higher average attendance than the other quarters.

The following Grants were made to Missions for Schools and Institutions :—

Paris Evangelical Missionary Society ..	£13,300
Church of England Mission	2,000
Roman Catholic Mission	2,400
	£17,700

Elementary Schools according to Size and Denomination.

Missions.	Over 200	150 200	100 150	70 100	60 70	45 60	25 45	20 25	Under 20	Total.
Paris Evangelical Missionary Society	2	9	20	52	30	52	61	21	14	261
Church of England	—	—	5	5	4	7	17	4	9	51
Roman Catholic ..	2	5	5	5	2	4	5	2	2	32
	4	14	30	62	36	63	83	27	25	344

From this table it will be seen that there are now 344 schools in the Territory receiving Government Grants; this is an increase of 37 schools in one year. Most of these new schools are situated in the mountainous part of the country.

It may be well to mention here that acting on the recommendation passed by the Board of Advice at its last meeting a system of registration for new schools has been adopted. According to this system a school is registered as soon as it is started. About 50 new schools have already been provisionally registered this year and these will be placed on the official list as soon as the necessary conditions as regards attendance, buildings, etc., are fulfilled.

Enrolment of Pupils in Elementary Schools.

Missions.	Number of Pupils on Roll, December, 1917.			Number of Pupils on Roll, December, 1918.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Paris Evangelical Missionary Society.	7,877	12,892	20,769	8,356	13,369	21,725
Church of England	1,067	1,837	2,904	1,217	2,107	3,324
Roman Catholic	754	2,387	3,141	836	2,571	3,407
	9,698	17,116	26,814	10,409	18,047	28,456

This shows an increase of 1,642 pupils on the roll. The attendance has not been so good during the year, the increase in the average attendance being only 400. This may be due to epidemics or bad weather. In the mountains the attendance fluctuates very much according to the weather.

Enrolment of Pupils in Institutions.

Institution.	Mission.	No. of Pupils on Roll December, 1917.			No. of Pupils on Roll December, 1918.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Moriija ..	Paris Evangelical Missionary Society	150	—	150	163	—	163
Thabana Morena	"	—	63	63	—	52	52
Leloaleng	"	24	—	24	23	—	23
Masite ..	Church of England	15	—	15	20	—	20
Maseru ..	"	—	18	18	—	26	26
Roma ..	Roman Catholic	150	258	408	137	245	382
		239	339	678	343	323	666

Average Attendance of Pupils in Elementary Schools.

Mission.	Year ending December, 1917.			Year ending December, 1918.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Paris Evangelical Missionary Society.	6,207	9,312	15,519	6,041	9,551	15,592
Church of England.	833	1,329	2,162	840	1,426	2,266
Roman Catholic	585	1,840	2,425	640	2,036	2,676
	7,625	12,481	20,106	7,521	13,013	20,534

The exact total, if decimal figures are reckoned, is 20,539 and the average attendance of pupils in Institutions is 621. This makes the total of 21,160 as stated above.

EUROPEAN SCHOOLS.

	No. of pupils on roll	
	December, 1917.	March, 1919.
Maseru	44	43
Mafeteng	23	24
Morija	20	20
Leribe	13	13
Teyateyaneng ..	10	15
Mohales Hoek ..	11	17
	121	132

THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC.

Owing to this epidemic all schools have been closed from the beginning of October to the end of January. Many head-teachers and assistants have died and it has been difficult for the Missions concerned to fill their places adequately. The school work has consequently suffered very considerably, although the numbers of pupils attending school do not as yet seem to have been retarded noticeably. Children of tender age do not seem to have been attacked fatally except where such could obtain no attention. The older boys and girls suffered more and many died. The chief mortality, however, occurred amongst the young men and women (married or single) from 20 to 40 years of age; hence the losses among the teachers. It may be interesting to note here the statistics given by the Paris Evangelical Missionary Society in the Leselinyana of June 13th, 1919, with regard to the losses caused by the epidemic amongst the Church members of this Society. Out of a roll of twenty-eight thousand three hundred and forty-seven, nine hundred and twenty-two died. This gives a percentage of three and a quarter (3¼). This loss will, of course, be bound to affect the attendance of the schools in the future, so that it is possible that even with the large number of new schools, the average attendance may not increase in the same proportion.

POST OFFICE.

The net postal, telegraph, and telephone revenue amounted to £5,823 3s. 11d.

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:—

	<i>Deposits.</i>	<i>Withdrawals.</i>
1917-18	1,467 value £9,347	360 value £6,645
1918-19	1,691 „ £8,766	532 „ £6,193

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

	<i>Issued.</i>	<i>Paid.</i>
1917-18	32,810 value £31,767	22,961 value £30,098
1918-19	31,105 „ £33,206	21,450 „ £26,148

PUBLIC WORKS.

Maintenance of Roads. Improvements continue to be made in the main roads throughout the Territory. A good deal of permanent work in the way of heavy metalling, new culverts, and diversions to ease certain heavy grades has been put in during the year.

The byroads have been improved, but it is not possible to keep them up to the standard necessary for easy transport.

GAOLS.

There are seven gaols and two lock-ups in the Territory, and during the year 1,184 prisoners passed through them as compared with 1,333 during the year 1917-1918.

CRIME AND POLICE.

The Police Force of the Territory on 31st March, 1919, consisted of 15 European officers, 7 European constables, 3 native officers and 459 non-commissioned officers and men.

Of the above, six European officers and one European constable are still away on war leave, but are expected to return to duty at an early date.

The above figures include 152 native special police who are employed as border guards in the Quthing and Qachas Nek Districts as a precautionary measure against the introduction of East Coast fever into Basutoland from East Griqualand and Natal. These police are mounted, but with the exception of an arm badge are not uniformed. It is intended to effect a large reduction in their numbers in the coming year.

The number of convictions for contravention of the liquor laws in 1918-1919 was 146, as compared with 141 in 1917-1918.

Convictions for offences against property have decreased to 169, as compared with 173 for the previous year.

MEDICAL.

Typhus fever, which had been prevalent in the Quthing and Qachas Nek Districts from August to December, 1917, had been entirely stamped out by May 11th, 1918. During this period there were 241 people affected, with 111 deaths. No further cases occurred during the year.

The so-called "Spanish Influenza" epidemic was rife in this Territory during the months of October and November. In the absence of any registration of births and deaths, no accurate statistics in regard to mortality from the disease are available. Apart from the direct observation of the Medical Staff, information obtained by the District officials, from the native chiefs and from local statistics supplied by missionaries and traders, goes to show that the deaths in the Territory may be safely estimated at 15,000. Probably 75 per cent. of the total population was affected.

Apart from the above epidemics, the general health of the population, including that of the police and convicts, has been good.

There has once again been a notable decrease in the incidence of enteric fever.

Dispensary and Hospital work has been maintained at a high standard, in spite of the absence of some of the staff on war leave. The number of patients treated was as follows:—

In-patients, 1,984. Out-patients—new cases—23,078. Subsequent attendances, 9,191.

LEPER SETTLEMENT.

During the year ended 31st March, 1919, 62 new cases were admitted; 4 patients were discharged as possibly arrested cases. There were 72 deaths, 9 births, 64 deserters, and 44 returned deserters.

On the 31st March, 1919, there were 168 male and 181 female inmates, or a total of 349, while on the 1st April, 1918, there were 189 male and 194 female inmates, or a total of 383 inmates.

The high death-rate for the year under review was due to the Spanish influenza epidemic, which also caused the greater number of the desertions. The staff had a very trying time during the influenza epidemic, but worked well and without complaint. With the exception of four men, the whole of the native staff was incapacitated. The situation during the epidemic was explained to the inmates of the Settlement and they were placed on their honour to see that the regulations were carried out. It is pleasant to be able to record that, apart from desertions, the patients gave no trouble whatever during this anxious time. They even put themselves out to assist in every way.

During the year, with the exception of desertions, there have been very few offences committed by the inmates.

The new reservoir mentioned in the Annual Report for 1917–1918 has now been completed, but as the work was not finally finished until the close of the rainy season it has not yet proved of much use.

GENERAL.

The thirteenth session of the Basutoland Council was opened on 31st August, 1918, and closed on September 17th, 1918. The following are the principal subjects discussed:—

- (1) Hut tax. Methods for the better collection of:
- (2) Buying and selling of grain by traders. Question whether it should be made compulsory to buy and sell by weight;
- (3) Lepers. Question of facilitating the settlement of complaints of lepers which crop up from time to time in respect to their families living away from the Settlement under tribal conditions;
- (4) Suppression of native beer-shops. By an overwhelming majority the Council decided in favour of suppression, and good headway has been made in this direction.

The news of the Armistice with Germany was received with general rejoicing throughout the Territory. Pitsos were held by the Government officers in all the Districts and the terms of the Armistice explained and the nature of the victory attained was emphasised.

The Spanish influenza scourge is dealt with under the head "Medical." It is regretted that the mortality from the disease was heavy, both amongst the European and native inhabitants of the Territory.

The following principal chiefs died during the year —

1, Leshoboro Majara ; 2, Joseph Molapo ; 3, Ts'epo Nkoebe ;
4, Mathealira Molapo ; 5, Joel Molapo.

The last-named chief was the brother of Jonathan, the most important chief in northern Basutoland, and between these brothers there had been a lifelong feud which had been a source of anxiety to the Government. It was the cause of frequent inter-tribal fighting. With Joel's death, there is strong reason to hope that the family feud will come to an end and that there will consequently be peace in the districts previously affected.

J. F. MURRAY,
Government Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

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:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c	Year.
985	Mauritius	1917
986	Cyprus	1917-1918
987	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
988	East Africa Protectorate.. .. .	1916-1917
989	Barbados	1917-1918
990	Sierra Leone	1917
991	Straits Settlements.	"
992	Leeward Islands	1917-1918
993	Uganda	"
994	British Honduras	1917
995	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1917-1918
996	Nyasaland	"
997	Basutoland	"
998	Gold Coast.. .. .	1917
999	Weihaiwei	1918
1000	Zanzibar	"
1001	Hong Kong	"
1002	Somaliland.. .. .	1917-1918
1003	Cayman Islands	"
1004	Malta	1918-1919
1005	Seychelles	1918
1006	Fiji	"
1007	Ceylon	"
1008	Nigeria	1917
1009	Turks and Caicos Islands	1918
1010	St. Helena	"
1011	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
1012	Ashanti	"
1013	East Africa Protectorate.. .. .	1917-1918
1014	British Guiana	1918
1015	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1918-1919

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.