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COLONIAL REPORTS--ANNUAL.

No. 1045.

BASUTOLAND.

REPORT FOR 1919-20.

(For Report for 1918-19 see No. 1016.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1920.



LONDON:
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No. 1045.

BASUTOLAND.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1919-1920.*

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year ended 31st March, 1920, amounted to £199,885, an increase of £8,459 on the preceding year's revenue.

Native tax yielded £107,291, an increase of £1,168 on the preceding year, and Customs £63,281, an increase of £3,574.

The sum received from the Union Government as Basutoland's share of Customs Duties under Article III of the Customs Agreement amounted to £61,662 5s. 4d.; a further sum of £1,620 8s. 1d. was collected in Basutoland in respect of excise on imports of spirits and beer manufactured in the Union.

The ordinary expenditure incurred during the year amounted to £192,861. In addition the sum of £9,580 was expended from accumulated balances on permanent work. The total expenditure for the year exceeded the revenue by £2,556.

Compared with the preceding year ordinary expenditure shows an increase of £18,191, for which the increased cost of clothing, rations, etc., is mainly responsible.

The balance of Assets in excess of Liabilities on the 31st March, 1920, amounted to £128,999 13s. 4d.; of this sum £72,500 was on loan to the Swaziland Administration, £20,000 invested in Treasury Bills, and £8,000 on deposit with the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

TRADE.

The following is a return of the exports from the Territory during the calendar year 1919, the figures for 1918 being also given for comparison:—

	1918.		1919.	
	No.	£	No.	£
Horses, mules, etc.	518	5,913	207	2,687
Cattle	12,750	114,704	11,636	98,965
Sheep and goats..	651	594	240	291
	Muids.		Muids.	
Kaffir corn ..	4,165	3,984	32,333	32,843
Maize and maize meal	44,312	27,399	52,134	44,911
Wheat and wheat meal	127,107	199,169	256,154	357,278
Oats, barley and rye	1,256	515	3,477	1,794
Beans and peas..	6,186	7,142	7,275	7,779
	lbs.		lbs.	
Hair, Angora ..	1,847,421	163,337	2,245,749	213,039
Wool	9,322,768	466,374	10,083,556	593,742
Hides	168,223	7,002	196,251	11,684
Skins, sheep ..	312,805	11,339	384,778	14,354
Miscellaneous ..	—	140	—	752
Total value of Exports ..	—	£1,007,612	—	£1,380,119

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914-15, No. 858: [Cd. 7622-49].

IMPORTS FOR 1918-1919.				
	1918.		1919.	
	No.	£	No.	£
Merchandise, general, from all sources	--		--	1,069,393
Live Stock--				
Horses, mules, etc.			637	6,025
Cattle			2,032	12,045
Sheep and goats..			1,096	1,039
Grain --				
Wheat and wheat meal			M. aids, 2,013	4,351
Maize and maize meal			25,424	26,004
Kafir corn			11,282	11,635
Other produce ..			--	6,545
		*£882,339		£1,137,037

*No classification.

The Trade returns for the calendar year 1919 are more than usually interesting, showing record figures in regard to both imports and exports. The former amount to £1,137,037, of which £1,069,393 represents general merchandise, while the grand total indicates an increase over the year 1918 of £251,698.

Exports amount to £1,380,119, an increase of £372,507 as compared with the year 1918; the principal items which contribute to this sum being:--Wool £593,742, wheat £357,278, and mohair £213,039, these three articles totalling £1,164,059, leaving only £216,060 for all the other exports.

It is encouraging to note that wool has increased in weight by 760,788 lbs., and in value by £127,368. Mohair in like manner by 398,328 lbs. in weight and £19,702 in value.

Wheat, as in 1918, shows another substantial advance in quantity as well as in value, the increase being 129,017 bags, and £158,109 respectively. As few complaints have been heard about smut it is to be presumed that dipping the seed before sowing has had the desired effect, and it is to be hoped that this simple preventive will be continued every season.

Maize is disappointing. Exports amounted to only 52,134 bags; but as 25,424 bags were reimported for food in certain districts, the actual surplus was only some 27,000 bags. The spring rains coming late and frost occurring early in some areas will easily account for the serious falling-off in the maize production.

Kafir corn exported amounted to 32,333 bags, showing an increase of 28,168 bags over 1918, but as some 11,282 bags were reimported owing to scarcity, chiefly in the Southern and Qacha's Nek districts, the available surplus was not as large as would appear at first sight.

Referring back for a moment to that most important of all cereals--wheat--the figures and comparisons recorded above absolutely disprove the theory which is sometimes propounded that the wheat lands in Basutoland are "worked out." The quantity harvested in 1919 was far and away the largest on record, proving beyond question that, given seasonable rains, this land will, and can, give generous returns.

Then as regards wool, the opinion was expressed in last year's report that it was questionable whether the country could continue to support such a large number of sheep and goats. The increased production during the period now under review does not appear to confirm this opinion, there having been an increase—taking wool and mohair together—of 1,159,116 lbs. At the same time the practice of shearing in the autumn is not only cruel, but wasteful, and it is to be hoped that with increased facilities for dipping, this reprehensible practice will eventually be reduced to a minimum.

Live stock shows a falling-off in value of about £20,000. Oats and barley an increase of about £1,200.

Beans and peas—a slight advance, but not to the extent one might have wished.

Hides and skins together, have increased in weight by nearly 100,000 lbs, which may or may not be advantageous, according to the point of view. The increase in value is nearly £8,000.

Taking the returns as a whole, the position is most satisfactory, showing, as it does, a balance of trade in favour of the Territory of £243,000. This sum does not, however, include the very considerable amount annually coming into the country from the mines, as well as from agricultural and domestic labour, of which unfortunately there appear to be no available statistics.

Merchandise.—It is greatly to be regretted that prices generally, and of the actual necessities of life in particular, show no inclination to come down to a lower level. Of course there is a section of the native population, more especially the flock-owners and agriculturists, who have received extreme prices for their produce, and have no cause to complain, as they cannot expect to “have it both ways”: but there is a much larger section of both Europeans and natives who can ill afford to pay the present high prices. Basutoland has no control of any of the world's markets in regard to either raw material, manufacture, freights, railway rates, or labour, and is obliged to pay the price demanded for all its requirements.

EDUCATION.

The average daily attendance of pupils in schools and institutions is now over 22,500, while the total number of pupils on the roll exceeds 30,000.

The total average attendance in schools and institutions during the year ended 31st December, 1919, was 22,556, as compared with 20,760 and 21,160 in 1917 and 1918 respectively.

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

Paris Evangelical Missionary Society	..	£14,430
Church of England Mission	.. ..	2,122
Roman Catholic Mission	.. ..	2,758
		<hr/>
		£19,310
		<hr/>

Elementary Schools according to Size and Denomination.

Missions.	Over	150	100	70	60	45	25	20	Under	Total
	200	200	150	100	70	60	45	25	20	
Paris Evangelical Missionary Society	1	8	27	48	23	47	84	16	23	277
Church of England	-	2	1	4	7	8	19	6	8	55
Roman Catholic	2	3	9	5	3	10	15	8	3	58
	3	13	37	57	33	65	118	30	34	390

From this table it will be seen that there are now 390 schools receiving grants, being an increase of 46 on last year's total. Most of the new schools are situated in the mountainous parts of the country.

Enrolment of Pupils in Elementary Schools.

Missions.	Number of Pupils on Roll, September, 1918.			Number of Pupils on Roll, December, 1919.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
	Paris Evangelical Missionary Society	8,536	13,369	21,725	7,841	14,376	22,217
Church of England	1,217	2,167	3,324	1,194	2,292	3,486
Roman Catholic	836	2,571	3,407	1,047	3,472	4,519
	10,409	18,947	28,456	10,682	20,140	30,222

Enrolment of Pupils in Institutions.

Institution.	Mission.	No. of Pupils on Roll September, 1918.			No. of Pupils on Roll December, 1919.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
		Moriija	Paris Evangelical Missionary Society	133	---	133	174
Thabana Morena	"	---	52	52	---	84	84
Leloaleng	"	23	---	23	19	---	42
Masite	Church of England	20	---	20	20	---	40
Maseru	"	---	26	26	---	28	28
Roma	Roman Catholic	137	245	382	132	256	388
		313	323	666	345	368	713

Average Attendance of Pupils in Elementary Schools.

Mission.	Year ending September, 1918.			Year ending December, 1919.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Paris Evangelical Missionary Society Church of England.	6,041	9,551	15,592	5,787	10,121	15,911
Roman Catholic	840	1,426	2,266	860	1,638	2,498
	640	2,036	2,676	805	2,661	3,466
	7,521	13,013	20,534	7,452	14,420	21,872

EUROPEAN SCHOOLS.

No. of Pupils in Schools at the end of December, 1919.

Maseru	..	..	..	45
Mafeteng	..	..	..	25
Morija	..	..	..	11
Leribe	..	..	..	11
Teyateyaneng	..	..	..	13
Mohale's Hoek	..	..	..	12
Quthing	..	..	..	13
				—
				133
				—

VETERINARY.

Anthrax has been fairly prevalent, as anticipated, the worst outbreaks occurring in the Peka district. Altogether 3,713 animals have been inoculated with anthrax vaccin. Similar difficulties have been experienced in getting the proper prophylactic measures carried out as in the past, and until these are more intelligently developed further outbreaks of the disease must be expected.

The *East Coast Fever* outlook has improved very considerably on our East Griqualand border and it is hoped in the near future to carry out further economies in dealing with this disease.

Strangles has been prevalent but fortunately for the most part of a mild form: 72 animals were inoculated with curative vaccin.

Biliary Fever was unusually prevalent in the early summer months, the disease showing itself in a very acute form. Forty-two animals were successfully inoculated for this disease.

It has been a particularly good season for quarter-evil and only 374 doses of vaccin have been issued. 223 slides have been microscopically examined in dealing with East Coast fever and anthrax.

During the year, 8,019 cattle were dipped and exported via Qacha's Nek, and of these 3,561 were Basuto-owned cattle sold for slaughter.

Sheep Scab has been very prevalent, coinciding with the adverse droughty conditions that prevailed during the spring and early summer.

Statistics show that 211,196 sheep and goats were dipped during the year, an increase of 36,772 on the previous year.

Agricultural Shows were held at Qacha's Nek, Maseru, and Mafeteng only. Drought conditions prohibited shows being held at other centres.

The show held at Maseru was a good one, and there was a very gratifying exhibition of young stock by Government stallions.

During the year, 5,518 professional visits and attendances were made by the Principal Veterinary Surgeon, thereby indicating that the year has been a busy one for him and the veterinary staff.

Stud. The last stud season has been one of the worst on record owing to an exceedingly droughty spring and early summer, resulting in many of the native mares remaining in poor condition until the season was nearly over.

During the year, 126 foals were born from 312 mares covered the previous season. Stallions stood at all the centres except Mohale's Hoek and Qacha's Nek.

POST OFFICE.

The net postal, telegraph, and telephone revenue amounted to £6,676 12s. 2*d.*, as compared with £5,823 3s. 11*d.* for the year 1918-1919.

The expenditure amounted to £7,975 17s. 1*d.*, as compared with £6,984 1s. 4*d.* for the year 1918-1919.

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>
1918-19	1,691 value £3,766	532 value £6,193
1919-20	1,696 „ 10,813	592 „ £9,281

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>
1918-19	31,105 value £33,206	21,150 value £26,148
1919-20	32,505 „ £38,310	28,724 „ £38,498

During the year, the Post Office at Qacha's Nek was raised to the status of a full Money Order, Savings Bank and Telegraph Office, and Postal Agencies were opened at Sethlaba and Mokhotlong.

PUBLIC WORKS

The erection of a Nurses' Home attached to the Maseru Hospital and of a small building for the European School at Mohale's Hoek was completed during the year. A large room was added on to the European School at Maseru, and a stone house was built for the Government Storekeeper at Maseru by the local native Industrial School. A part from these buildings no public work of a special character was undertaken.

GAOLS.

There are seven gaols and four lock ups in the Territory, and during the year, 1,525 prisoners passed through them, as compared with 1,181 during the year 1918-19.

CRIME AND POLICE.

The Police Force of the Territory on March 31st, 1920, consisted of 13 European officers, 1 chief constable, 7 European constables, 3 native officers and 291 non-commissioned officers and men.

In addition there are 61 native special police who are employed as border guard in the Quthing and Qacha's 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. Last year the special police numbered 152, and the large reduction has been rendered possible by the less dangerous position obtaining in respect to East Coast fever. Should conditions continue to improve, it is probable that a further large reduction will be effected next year.

The number of convictions for contravention of the liquor laws in 1919-20 was 151, as compared with 146 for the previous year.

Convictions for offences against property numbered 171, as compared with 169 in 1918-19.

MEDICAL.

Typhus Fever. The anticipated recrudescence of this disease occurred early in January, 1919, in the same neighbourhood that the disease first appeared in 1918, viz., the Quthing District along the Orange River. There were no cases in the Qacha's Nek District. The epidemic was of a much milder type. There were 243 cases with only 50 deaths, compared with 211 cases and 111 deaths in 1918.

The mildness of the epidemic renders it more difficult to deal with, as it is often weeks before outbreaks are reported, generally in some remote mountain village. In spite of vigorous efforts made to stamp out the disease, it is feared that it will be found endemic in the Quthing District as it has become in some of the native territories of the Union.

It is still the Tembu who are the chief sufferers, due, as has been explained before, to the dirty habits and surroundings of this clan, as opposed to the Basuto, who are naturally a clean race.

Tuberculosis is neither increasing nor decreasing, the number of cases being about the same from year to year.

Syphilis. This is becoming an increasingly serious problem and danger to the nation. 4,216 cases were treated, but these must form but a small percentage of the total number of cases in the Territory. The type of disease is altering slightly. Formerly primary sores were but seldom observed, now they are common, and present the usual classical symptoms.

Leprosy. There are still a good number of lepers at large.

Influenza. There was no recrudescence of the severe type of influenza which devastated the country in 1918, but a fair number of cases of the usual mild form of the disease were observed. This type may be regarded as endemic.

Enteric Fever. There were only 87 cases recorded, and from information received there were very few cases anywhere in the Territory. A dry summer and autumn is always followed by a low incidence of enteric. Where it had been possible to provide preventive inoculation, as on the Government reserve, cases were practically unknown.

Dysentery. This was unusually prevalent, mostly of the bacillary type, though a few cases of amoebic dysentery were observed.

Small-pox. There were no cases, but chicken-pox was prevalent in some areas.

Dispensary and Hospital work. 41,178 patients were treated during the year, viz. :—

a. In patients, 1,913. Out-patients—new cases, 29,071, subsequent attendances, 10,161.

LEPER SETTLEMENT.

During the year ended 31st March, 1920, there were 62 new cases admitted, 12 deaths, 17 births, 26 deserters, and 51 returned deserters. On the 31st March, 1920, there were 193 male and 204 female inmates, a total of 397, as compared with 168 male and 181 female inmates (total 349) on April 1st, 1919.

From the above it will be seen that there have been very few deaths and desertions as compared with previous years.

With the assistance of the Paramount Chief, some of the old leper complaints have been successfully settled.

The water question is very trying during certain periods of the year. Even with the addition of reservoir mentioned in last year's report it has been found impossible to keep up the required supply.

GENERAL.

His Excellency, the High Commissioner, paid an official visit to the Territory on May 23rd and 24th, 1919. His Excellency, who was accompanied by Viscountess Buxton and staff, held a national "pitso" (or meeting) of the Basuto, at which the Paramount Chief, all the principal chiefs, and some thousands of natives attended. His Excellency delivered an important address to the assembled natives which was afterwards printed in English and Sesuto and circulated throughout the Territory. The visit was the second one which His Excellency had paid, and, though brief, gave much satisfaction to Europeans and natives alike.

The Fourteenth Session of the Basutoland Council was held from May 12th to May 30th, 1919. The following are the principal subjects which were discussed :—

(1) Illicit introduction and sale of brandy. The majority of the Council favoured severe punishment for infringements of the law.

(2) Native Tax. Methods for the better collection of ;

(3) New native laws.

(4) Sale of grain by weight. Legislation has been introduced.

(5) Native beer. Prohibition of sale of ;

(6) Union Pass Laws.

(7) Visit of Paramount Chief to England.

(8) Proclamation of March 12th as a public holiday, to commemorate the day on which the late Chief Moshesh placed himself and his nation under the protection of Her late Majesty, Queen Victoria. A Proclamation has been issued, and the day is now to be known as "Moshoeshoe's Day."

The Paramount Chief and twelve other Chiefs, accompanied by a Roman Catholic priest, with two interpreters, left for England at the end of September. The party was in charge of Mr. F. L. Poord, Assistant Commissioner at Maseru, and was preceded by the Resident Commissioner, Lieutenant-Colonel E. C. P. Garraway, C.M.G. The Chiefs were graciously received by His Majesty the King at Buckingham Palace on November 7th, and during the audience the Paramount Chief presented addresses of loyalty and congratulation from himself and the Basutoland Council. The reply which His Majesty was pleased to give was subsequently illuminated on vellum and framed and presented to the Paramount Chief. The Chiefs also had an interview with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and apart from these official functions had a very comprehensive and interesting programme prepared for them. Among other places they visited Manchester, Bradford, Sheffield, and Birmingham, and were given flights in aeroplanes. The party left England on their return journey on November 14th.

One notable feature of the visit was that it was the first occasion on which a Paramount Chief of Basutoland had visited England. It is hoped that the visit will have had an improving effect on the minds of the chiefs and enable them more thoroughly to understand and appreciate the responsibilities entrusted to them.

The Resident Commissioner was present at the audience which the Chiefs had with the King and at the interview with Lord Milner. Thereafter, Colonel Garraway proceeded on leave of absence, and did not return to Basutoland until after the close of the year under review. During his absence Mr. C. Poyes, C.B.E., acted as Resident Commissioner, and Mr. T. P. Kennan as Deputy Resident Commissioner.

The following figures give the number of passes issued to natives to leave the Territory during the year :—

Labour, 45,740. Visiting and Miscellaneous, 70,673. Total, 116,413.

J. P. 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:—

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
1011	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1918
1012	Ashanti	" "
1013	East Africa Protectorate	1917-1918
1014	British Guiana	1918
1015	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1918-1919
1016	Basutoiland	" "
1017	Falkland Islands	1918
1018	Trinidad	" "
1019	Bermuda	" "
1020	Swaziland	1917-1918
1021	Somaliland	1918-1919
1022	Gibraltar	1918
1023	Grenada	1918-1919
1024	Jamaica	" "
1025	Cyprus	" "
1026	British Honduras	1918
1027	British Solomon Islands	1918-1919
1028	Straits Settlements	1918
1029	Gold Coast	" "
1030	Nigeria	" "
1031	Leeward Islands	1918-1919
1032	Sierra Leone	1918
1033	Bahamas	1918-1919
1034	Gambia	1918
1035	Barbados	1918-1919
1036	Mauritius	1918
1037	St. Vincent	1918-1919
1038	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	" "
1039	St. Helena	1919
1040	Weihaiwei	" "
1041	Nyasaland	1918-1919
1042	Turks and Caicos Islands	1919
1043	Grenada	" "
1044	Bermuda	" "

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
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
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies General	Fishes of the Colonies.