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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1085.

BASUTOLAND.

REPORT FOR 1920-21.

(For Report for 1919-20 see No. 1045.)



LONDON :

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No. 1085.

BASUTOLAND.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1920-1921.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year ended 31st March, 1921, amounted to £226,323, an increase of £26,438 on the preceding year's revenue. The increase was mainly accounted for by customs receipts, which showed an excess of £23,572 on the preceding year's figures.

The ordinary expenditure incurred during the year amounted to £241,530. From accumulated surplus balances a further sum of £11,423 was expended on works of a permanent nature. The total expenditure amounted to £252,953 and exceeded the revenue by £26,630.

Compared with the preceding year the ordinary expenditure shows an increase of £48,669. The additional war allowance authorised to officials of this Administration during the year and the enhanced cost of uniforms and equipment, drugs, rations, etc., are responsible for the increased expenditure.

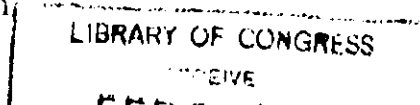
The following figures denote the total revenue and expenditure during the past three years:—

			<i>Revenue.</i>		
1918-19.			1919-20.		1920-21.
£191,426	..		£199,886	..	£226,323
			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
£180,923	..		£202,441	..	£252,953

The balance of assets in excess of liabilities on 31st March, 1921, amounted to £102,370 3s. 1d., of which sum £72,500 was on loan to the Swaziland Administration.

TRADE.

The following is a return of the exports and imports from and into the Territory during the calendar year 1920, the figures for 1919 being also given.



Imports.

	1919.		1920.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
Merchandise	—	£ 1,069,393	—	£ 1,091,840
Livestock :—				
Horses, Mules, etc... ..	637	6,025	476	3,608
Cattle	2,032	12,045	447	2,429
Sheep and Goats	1,096	1,039	190	174
Grain :—	Muids.		Muids.	
Wheat and Wheat-meal	2,013	4,351	1,624	4,996
Maize and Maize-meal	25,424	26,004	41,526	54,445
Kaffir Corn	11,282	11,635	15,339	23,089
Other Produce	—	6,545	—	406
Government Imports.. .. .	—	1,137,037	—	1,180,987
		*		38,401
TOTAL IMPORTS		1,137,037		1,219,388

* No figures for 1919.

Exports.

	1919.		1920.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
Horses, Mules, etc.	207	£ 2,687	270	£ 2,784
Cattle	11,636	98,965	12,290	106,284
Sheep and Goats	240	291	2,155	2,622
Kaffir Corn	Muids.		Muids.	
32,333	32,843	19,119	26,553	
Maize and Maize-meal	52,134	44,911	28,754	21,352
Wheat and Wheat-meal	256,154	357,278	88,695	218,386
Oats, Barley and Rye	3,477	1,794	110	108
Beans and Peas	7,275	7,779	3,098	4,763
Hair, Angora	Lbs.		Lbs.	
2,245,749	213,039	2,259,741	112,358	
Wool	10,083,556	593,742	10,030,954	418,785
Hides	196,251	11,684	210,960	9,690
Skins, Sheep	384,778	14,354	375,489	11,903
Miscellaneous		752		1,450
Total Value of Exports		1,380,119		937,038

It could hardly have been expected that the trade returns for the year ending 31st December, 1920, would reach the figures of the preceding year, and it is not encouraging to find that the balance of trade against the territory, for the period now under

review, amounted to no less than £282,350, as compared with a balance in favour of the territory for 1919 of £243,000.

Only two reasons can be suggested in explanation of this unfortunate reverse in the financial position. First, the heavy decline in the value of our exports, amounting to £443,081, the chief items contributing to the shortfall being :—

Wheat.—£138,892, showing a decrease in quantity of 65 per cent., and in value of 38·8 per cent.

Angora Hair.—£100,681, with an increase in weight of ·6 per cent., but a decrease in value of 47·2 per cent ; and

Wool.—£174,957, with only a decrease in weight of ·5 per cent., but a falling off in value of 29·4 per cent.

It may be as well to state here that the reason why Angora hair shows such a much heavier percentage of loss than wool is because sheep are shorn twice a year, and probably the autumn clip was disposed of before the drop in price ; whereas goats are shorn only once a year, in the spring, and the bulk of the clip had to bear the full effect of the fall in value.

The remaining articles exported do not appear to call for special comment, being slightly more or less in value as compared with the previous year ; but it may be asked why such articles of native food as Kaffir corn and maize were exported to the value of £48,000, when it was necessary to import food of the same nature to the value of £78,000. The answer is that transport from one district to another is not only costly, but generally unprocurable when most required, and it follows that it would cost more to convey grain from the northern districts, where the crops are usually more abundant than in the south, than to bring in their requirements from farmers in the Union of South Africa living on the southern boundary.

The second reason for the reverse in the financial position will probably be found in the fact that imports, instead of decreasing, more than two years after the war in Europe had ceased, actually exceeded the figures for 1919 by over £72,000.

Labour.—It has never been possible to get a correct estimate of the value of the native labour asset, but it must not be forgotten that, owing to the closing down of the diamond mines, a very considerable number of native labourers have returned to their homes, so that a large amount of money which formerly came into the country from that source will be lost for the time being, thereby further reducing the purchasing power of the population.

The prospect for the immediate future is, therefore, taking all the above facts into consideration, by no means encouraging, and it would be foolish to look for any improvement in trade prospects for some considerable time. It must not be forgotten, however, that South Africa in general, and Basutoland in par-

ticular, have always shown extraordinary powers of recuperation. The country has passed through many previous depressions, and, with patience and courage, will recover from its present difficulties.

EDUCATION.

The average daily attendance of pupils in schools and institutions is now over 23,400, while the total number of pupils on the roll exceeds 32,500.

The total average attendance in schools and institutions during 1920 was 23,479, as compared with 21,160 and 22,556 in 1918 and 1919 respectively.

The following grants were made to Missions for schools and other educational institutions :—

Paris Evangelical Mission Society ..	£14,369
Church of England Mission	2,339
Roman Catholic Mission	3,524
	£20,232

This total compares with £19,300 for 1919.

Elementary Schools according to Size and Denomination.

Mission.	Over	150 - 100		70 -	60 -	45 -	25 -	20	Under	Total.
	200	200	150	100	70	60	45	25	20	
Paris Evangelical Mis- sionary Society ..	1	6	33	48	31	52	89	18	22	300
Church of England ..	---	1	2	8	7	6	19	9	6	58
Roman Catholic ..	---	6	7	8	3	9	14	10	2	59
	1	13	42	64	41	67	122	37	30	417

From this table it will be seen that there are now more than 400 schools receiving grants. In another year it is possible that the number will reach 500 or more. For the financial year 1920-21 there will be 464 schools on the official list (grant-earning), and there are more than 50 others already notified as qualifying for grants.

From these figures it is sufficiently clear that Basutoland is now, from a numerical point of view, fairly well supplied with schools, but the problem of improving the character of the education given in these schools is a very perplexing one under the present financial conditions.

There are three directions in which improvement is desirable, but, unfortunately, to proceed in any one of these directions would involve considerable expenditure.

First, it is desirable to fill up vacancies with a better type of teacher than is being obtained at present. But the only way to attract better candidates for a post is to offer higher remuneration. Even in the recent advances in the rate of pay a teacher's salary does not compare favourably with the pay to be obtained elsewhere. As salaries constitute about 90 per cent. of the expenditure, even a small increase to the individual would mean a large total increase in the grant.

Secondly, it is desirable to provide schools with better furniture and equipment, but to provide four or five hundred schools merely with what is usually regarded as essential school equipment would demand a large outlay.

In the third place, greater efficiency could be secured if further Government supervision were exercised; but to increase the present department till it bore some relation to the magnitude of the work before it would also entail considerably increased expenditure.

Under these circumstances it is clear that educational progress is strictly limited by financial considerations, and until funds are available for the three essentials outlined above no radical alteration in the present system can be effected.

There is, however, one comparatively inexpensive way in which the scope of the schools may be widened, and that is by using them as centres for spreading information on matters which have a larger field of utility than the ordinary school subjects. A step in this direction was taken at the beginning of 1921, when the free distribution was approved of copies of the magazine of the South African (Native and Coloured) Health Society among some 500 head teachers. It is hoped that this policy of propaganda may be extended in other equally useful directions.

Enrolment of Pupils in Elementary Schools.

Mission.	No. of Pupils on Roll, December, 1919.			No. of Pupils on Roll, December, 1920.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Paris Evangelical Missionary Society	7,841	14,376	22,217	7,974	15,441	23,415
Church of England	1,194	2,292	3,486	1,195	2,443	3,638
Roman Catholic	1,047	3,472	4,519	1,088	3,753	4,841
	10,082	20,140	30,222	10,257	21,637	31,894

This shows an increase of 1,672.

Enrolment of Pupils in Institutions.

Institutions.	Mission.	No. of Pupils on Roll, Dec., 1919.			No. of Pupils on Roll, Dec., 1920.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Moriya ..	Paris Evangelical Mission Society	174	—	174	155	—	155
Th. Morena	"	—	84	84	—	74	74
Leloaeng ..	"	19	—	19	31	—	31
Masite ..	Church of England	20	—	20	23	—	23
Maseru ..	"	—	28	28	—	28	28
Roma ..	Roman Catholic ..	132	256	388	120	259	379
		345	368	713	329	361	690

Average Attendance of Pupils in Elementary Schools.

Mission.	Year ending Dec., 1919.			Year ending Dec., 1920.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Paris Evangelical Mission Society	5,787	10,124	15,911	5,798	10,677	16,475
Church of England	860	1,638	2,498	839	1,713	2,552
Roman Catholic	805	2,661	3,466	879	2,943	3,822
	7,452	14,423	21,875	7,516	15,333	22,849

European Schools.

No. of Pupils on Roll December, 1920.	
Maseru	44
Moriya	7
Mafeteng	16
Mohales Hoek	23
Teyateyaneng	12
Leribe	12

These schools do not go beyond the elementary stage, and most pupils continue their studies at schools outside the territory.

VETERINARY.

During the past year anthrax has been more prevalent than usual, and altogether 6,852 animals have been inoculated with very good results. The instructions respecting the burial of anthrax cases are still disregarded to a considerable extent, and unless this is carried out more efficiently we can confidently look forward to no abatement of outbreaks. Legislation giving

greater control to Government officers and providing penalties for the infraction of orders is now under serious consideration, and it is hoped that it will be issued early in 1921.

Owing to the favourable outlook of east coast fever on our eastern border, all east coast fever guards have been discharged, and this border has now reverted to ordinary police control. The stock inspector who was in charge of this work has been seconded to the Bechuanaland Protectorate Administration.

The territory has been remarkably free from quarter evil, and only 330 doses of vaccine have been issued.

Equine Strangles has, as usual, been prevalent, but for the most part of a mild type, and acute cases have for the most part responded to inoculations.

Biliary fever in equines has been very prevalent at Maseru, and 43 animals have been successfully inoculated and treated against this debilitating disease.

During the year 188 slides have been examined microscopically, and most of these have been suspected cases of anthrax.

The export of cattle at Qacha's Nek has considerably decreased, owing to the slump in slaughter stock; 1,843 head were exported, as against 8,089 during the year ended 31st March, 1920.

At the Maseru tank 202 cattle and 58 horses were dipped, chiefly for mange and lice.

Stud.—The drought conditions of the previous year persisted and very seriously interfered with horse-breeding endeavours, as without a good supply of green food it is difficult to stint mares, and newly-born foals are bound to be adversely affected owing to the shortage of mothers' milk.

During the past season 172 live foals were born to Government sires, and of these 83 were born in the Maseru district. The stallions "Tory" and "Shushu" were sold on account of old age, and the thoroughbred horses "Elf King" and "Physician" were purchased in their place.

Drought interfered with the holding of agricultural shows, and shows took place only at Leribe, Mafeteng, and Maseru. Despite the adverse conditions of the season, the Maseru show was considered the best one ever held at that centre.

AGRICULTURE.

The Agricultural Officer, Mr. L. F. Wachter, returned from war leave in January. He had been absent since June, 1915, and while he was away the development of the agricultural and tree planting activities of the Government was practically suspended, though tree nurseries were maintained and a certain amount of planting done.

During 1920 the money available on the estimates did not admit of any fresh work being started in tree planting and donga prevention, and the Agricultural Officer was mainly concerned in getting existing donga work repaired, planting new trees to replace dead ones, and in getting the tree nurseries into good working order.

Tree nurseries are maintained at each of the seven Government camps and also at the sub-district station of Butha Buthe. There were approximately 136,000 young trees on hand at the end of 1920 in the nurseries, and some 48,000 were issued to whites and natives during the year.

Articles on mealie growing, ploughing, donga prevention, wheat growing, and on the eradication of noxious weeds have been written in Sesuto and published in the native newspapers, and there are fair signs of a greater interest being taken by the natives than previously.

During the latter half of the year the Agricultural Officer took over the management of all farming operations at the Leper Settlement, about four miles from Maseru.

MOVEMENT OF INHABITANTS.

The following figures give the number of passes issued to natives to leave the territory during the year, as compared with the figures for the year ended 31st March, 1920 :—

	Labour.	Visiting and Miscellaneous.	Total.
1919-20	45,740	70,673	116,413
1920	58,305	103,999	162,304

GAOLS AND CRIME.

There are seven gaols and four lock-ups in the territory, and during the year 1,541 prisoners passed through them, as compared with 1,525 during the year 1919-20.

The number of convictions for contravention of the liquor laws in 1919-20 was 125, as compared with 151 for the previous year.

Convictions for offences against property numbered 195 as compared with 171 in 1919-20.

POST OFFICE.

The net postal, telegraph and telephone revenue amounted to £7,859 16s. 8d., as compared with £6,676 12s. 2d. for the year 1919-20.

The expenditure amounted to £9,625 10s. 8d., as compared with £7,975 17s. 1d. for 1919-20.

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.	Withdrawals.
1919-20 ..	1,696 value £10,843	592 value £9,281
1920-21 ..	1,337 „ 8,778	566 „ 9,950

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

	Issued.	Paid.
1919-20 ..	32,505 value £38,310	28,724 value £38,498.
1920-21 ..	28,371 „ £32,551	24,834 „ £36,002.

MEDICAL.

EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

Typhus Fever may now be regarded as endemic in the territory. During 1920 cases were recognised as far north as Teyat-yaneng. Contrary to the usual experience in this disease cases were more numerous in the early summer than in the winter months. There were 547 cases and 94 deaths.

The problem of dealing with typhus in a native territory like Basutoland, where a large proportion of the inhabitants are domiciled in remote mountain villages, is beset with difficulties. First and foremost is the factor of the wide prevalence of the body louse which is regarded by the people as a natural parasite, and they fail to understand why a parasite which has always been with them should be a source of disease.

The overcrowding which obtains in most huts, the habit of visiting neighbouring villages and congregating for beer drinks and local court cases are also potent factors in the spread of the disease.

It has often been possible to trace outbreaks to travellers who have visited infected centres which are nominally in quarantine. There is a certain resistance to restrictive measures coupled with indifference on the part of those who are not immediately concerned. Their cry is for medicine.

Propaganda in regard to the danger of lice has had little or no effect. The people either will not or cannot understand the important role played by these parasites. Yet the eradication of the disease depends on the delousing of the population. It is estimated that at least four-fifths of the population (equal to 400,000 souls scattered over an area of 11,700 square miles) are lousy.

Small Pox.— No cases were recorded during the year.

Enteric Fever.—Three hundred and sixty cases were reported, 182 cases admitted into hospitals, with 31 deaths. It is considered that many of these cases were really cases of typhus and mistaken for typhoid. As all clothing of fever cases admitted into hospitals is carefully disinfected, in no instance was there a spread of the infection.

Six thousand and sixty seven people were inoculated against typhoid, but early in July, owing to the presence of typhus in areas where typhoid co-existed in isolated cases, the inoculations were discontinued as it was felt that the gathering of numbers of people from villages possibly infected with typhus might lead to further spread of that disease.

Whooping Cough was fairly common, especially in the winter months, but no deaths were recorded.

Tuberculosis was less in evidence than in previous years.

Leprosy.—One hundred and eleven cases presented themselves at the outpatient departments and were sent to the leper asylum. No other epidemic diseases call for special notice.

LEPER SETTLEMENT.

There is no outstanding feature during the year, which has been a quiet and uneventful one. The majority of the patients are reconciled to their lot, and are contented and happy. More ground has been broken up for them, and most of the able-bodied men have been given gardens to cultivate. A certain number of the women have also got lands. The great difficulty at present is to find suitable labour for many of the women patients who are unable to do hard manual work.

The general health has been good on the whole. The Medical Officer has been using sodium morrhuate on a considerable number of cases, and he reports that, although it is not a specific, it improves the body-weight and well-being of the patients, and thereby tends to keep the disease in check.

The institution is handicapped for the want of a fully equipped laboratory, which it is hoped to remedy in the coming year.

The water supply is still very inadequate, and causes great inconvenience during the last four months in each year, and at a time when a plentiful supply is absolutely necessary.

On 31st December, 1919, there were 372 patients in this institution—178 males and 194 females. On 31st December, 1920, the number was 414—176 males and 238 females—an increase of 42.

Six men and three women were discharged as arrested cases.

There were 14 births.

GENERAL.

The appointment of His Royal Highness, Prince Arthur of Connaught, as High Commissioner in succession to Earl Buxton was a sincere pleasure to the Basuto. His Royal Highness assumed duty on 20th November, 1920.

The Fifteenth Session of the Basutoland Council was held from 3rd July to 22nd July, 1920. The following are the principal subjects which were discussed :—

1. Burweed eradication. The Agricultural Officer delivered an address as to the need for eradicating this and other noxious weeds. The Paramount Chief spoke strongly of the duty of chiefs to see that this work was not neglected, and said he would appoint inspectors later to go round the districts and report what was being done.
2. Proposed increase of 10s. in the native tax, which is at present £1 for each wife. The Government subsequently reduced the increase to 5s. This led to lengthy discussion, in which numerous suggestions were submitted by the natives for increasing the revenue in other directions. The increase was eventually accepted.
3. Visit of the Paramount Chief to England in 1919. Further discussion took place on this subject, principally from the aspect of the possibility of incorporation in the Union of South Africa.
4. Proposed proclamation bringing Basutoland into line with other countries as regards the protection of girls under 16 and mentally deficient women. The Council were against the proposed law, on the ground generally that it would lead to confusion with the existing native law.
5. Establishment of a " Council of Commons." This was a suggestion submitted for a council on an elective basis, as opposed to the existing nominated Council. The majority of the council were against the motion.

The Council passed a resolution expressing sorrow at the departure of Lord Buxton and pleasure at the appointment of His Royal Highness, Prince Arthur of Connaught.

During the Council the Resident Commissioner presented the Medal for Meritorious Service to Chief Lerotholi Mojela. The medal was gained as the result of meritorious service with the Native Labour Contingent in France during the late European War.

The death took place on 12th July, 1920, of Charles Edward Boyes, C.B.E., Deputy Resident Commissioner. Mr. Boyes had

been in the service since 1888, and his death was a great loss to the Administration and the territory generally. Mr. J. P. Murray, Government Secretary, was promoted to the vacant office of Deputy Resident Commissioner, and Mr. R. M. Bosworth Smith, Assistant Commissioner, to that of Government Secretary.

The death of another old Basutoland official, Thomas Ponsonby King Kennan, took place on 18th September, 1920. Mr. Kennan joined the service in 1884, and retired on pension as Assistant Commissioner in 1905. He rejoined the Administration in 1916 as Assistant Commissioner at Quthing, thereby enabling the Government to release an officer for War Service. Mr. Kennan acted for a period of some months in 1919-20 as Deputy Resident Commissioner and again retired on pension on 1st September, 1920. His unrivalled experience of native affairs always proved of the greatest assistance to the Government.

With the exception of the Leribe District, native affairs throughout the territory have been conducted on the usual peaceful lines. In the Leribe district Chief Jonathan still continued to fail to preserve order among his various sons and other relatives. In April the Chief expressed a wish to be allowed to abdicate in favour of his brother Motsone. He made the request on account of his great age and increasing infirmity; but when called to a national pitso before the Paramount Chief, for the purpose of settling his position, he withdrew the request, and there has consequently been no change. During the year numerous faction fights took place in Jonathan's ward, most of which arose as a result of the Chief's indolence in settling disputes; guns and other weapons were used, and 8 natives were killed and some 10 wounded, while numerous huts were destroyed. The Government took strong steps to bring Jonathan to a proper sense of his responsibilities, and the position became appreciably better towards the latter part of the year.

Mokhotlong, the most isolated white police post in the territory, situated in the North of the Qacha's Nek District, has been created a sub-district for revenue purposes, similar to those at Butha Buthe and Peka in Leribe District. The staff consists of a white police officer, 13 native police, and one native assistant interpreter. During the year under review over £4,000 revenue was collected, and apart from increased facility for the collection of revenue, the establishment of the sub-district is a boon to the natives in that area, who previously would have to undertake a journey of four days on horseback in a very mountainous region to pay their taxes, etc., at the Government office in Qacha's Nek.

R. B. SMITH,

Government Secretary,

Basutoland.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., 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, etc.	Year.
1050	Gibraltar	1919-1920
1051	Somaliland	"
1052	Zanzibar	1919
1053	Gambia	"
1054	Uganda	1918-1919
1055	Malta	1919-1920
1056	Swaziland	"
1057	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
1058	Ashanti	1919
1059	Bahamas	1919-1920
1060	British Solomon Islands	"
1061	Seychelles	"
1062	Mauritius	"
1063	St. Vincent	April-December 1919
1064	Nigeria	1919
1065	Sierra Leone	"
1066	Gold Coast	"
1067	Jamaica	1919-1920
1068	British Guiana	1919
1069	Trinidad and Tobago	"
1070	British Honduras	"
1071	Hong Kong	"
1072	Barbados	1919-1920
1073	East Africa Protectorate	1918-1919
1074	Leeward Islands	1919-1920
1075	Nyasaland	"
1076	Falkland Islands	1919
1077	Bermuda	1920
1078	Grenada	"
1079	Uganda	1919-1920
1080	Fiji	1920
1081	Gibraltar	"
1082	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1919
1083	Bechuanaland	1920-1921
1084	St. Helena	1920

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.	Subject.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil seeds, Oils, etc.
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.