



This document was created by the
Digital Content Creation Unit
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2010

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1176.

BASUTOLAND.

REPORT FOR 1922-23.

(For Report for 1921-22 see No. 1131.)



LONDON:
PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased through any Bookseller or directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE
at the following addresses: Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and
28 Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1; York Street, Manchester;
1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; or 120 George Street,
Edinburgh.

1923.

Price 9d. net.

No. 1176.

BASUTOLAND.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1922-23.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

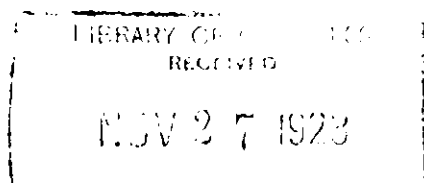
Basutoland, which is a native territory in South Africa, is bounded on the west by the Orange Free State, on the north by the Orange Free State and Natal, on the east by Natal and East Griqualand, on the south by the Cape Province. Its area is 11,716 square miles. It lies between $28^{\circ} 35'$ and $30^{\circ} 40'$ south latitude, and between 27° and $29^{\circ} 30'$ east longitude.

The altitude varies from 5,000 ft. to 11,000 ft. above sea level, and the climate is, on the whole, healthy. The Maluti mountains in former years were used entirely as cattle posts, but owing to the increase in population the Basuto have found it necessary to migrate there and build villages and cultivate the land, so that to-day the more or less inaccessible mountain area is gradually becoming as thickly populated as the low-lying country to the west. In favourable seasons the territory produces wheat, mealies and Kaffir corn, also cattle, horses and sheep; the export of wool for this year amounting to nearly 13 million pounds.

In 1818 the first Paramount Chief of Basutoland, Moshesh, gathered together the remnants of various tribes who had been scattered about South Africa during the wars waged by Moselekatze, and from there was founded what to-day has become the Basuto nation, consisting of upwards of 540,000 souls.

A series of wars took place between the Basuto and the inhabitants of the Orange Free State from 1856 onwards, and it was not until 1868, when Moshesh was hard pressed by the Boers, that he appealed to the British Government for help and for the recognition of his people as British subjects. This was carried into effect in March, 1868. In 1871 the territory was annexed to the Cape Colony, and, after various disturbances, the Government of the Cape, in April, 1880, extended the provisions of the Cape Peace Preservation Act of 1878 to Basutoland, amongst which was the clause for the general disarmament of the Basuto. The Basuto refused to accept the terms, and, after a war lasting nearly a year, an agreement was arrived at by which the Act was repealed and certain fines inflicted on the tribe.

Although outwardly peace was restored, there still remained several chiefs who would in no way accept the terms, and it was



eventually decided by the Government of the Cape Colony to hand over the administration to the Imperial Government. This took effect on the 13th March, 1884. Since this date the territory has been governed by a Resident Commissioner under the direction of the High Commissioner for South Africa.

In 1903, a native National Council of 100 members was formed for the purpose of discussing internal matters, and with a view to acting in a measure as an advisory body to the Resident Commissioner.

GENERAL EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

The 17th Session of the National Council was held from 26th August to 16th September, 1922. The following were the more important matters dealt with:—

- (1) *The administration of justice in the Native Courts and the procedure for appeals to the European Courts.*—In his message to the Council His Royal Highness the High Commissioner referred to the serious complaints which had been made as to the manner in which the Native Courts performed their work, and stated that he had come to the conclusion that these complaints were not without justification. His Royal Highness urged upon the Council the gravity of the position and the need for immediate reform. After prolonged debate, the Council agreed to certain amendments to the “Melao” (Native Laws) which were designed to do away with the principal grievance against the Courts, i.e., that of delay. The High Commissioner subsequently decided that these suggestions for improved working might be given a trial.

As regards the question of appeals from Native Courts, the debate arose from the objections of a section of the Council to the present system whereby appeals from lower Native Courts go first to the Paramount Chief's Court, then to a Court consisting of the Paramount Chief and an Assistant Commissioner. The discussion on the subject was prolonged, and various substitutes for the existing methods were submitted; but the Council ultimately decided that matters should be left as they were, and considered that, if the penalties laid down for improper delays in the trial of cases were enforced, the dissatisfaction which existed would disappear.

- (2) *The granting of Concessions.*—This question was also raised in the High Commissioner's message. His Royal Highness dealt at length with the danger which might arise from the granting of concessions by foolish or wicked chiefs, and stated that he had in mind the issue of a Proclamation to provide that no document signed by a Basuto Chief which purported to make a concession or grant in respect of any land or any tribal

property or rights of the Basuto Nation should be recognised unless and until it had been sanctioned by His Majesty's Secretary of State. The Council spent two days discussing the question, and it appeared that the great majority were in favour of such a law. The Proclamation was subsequently issued—No. 65 of 1922.

- (3) *Advances to native labourers for the Witwatersrand Mines, and the question of deferred payments of wages and advances.*—The Council was in favour of making the deferred payment system compulsory, both as to wages and as to advances; but it was indicated that the Government could not agree to take such a step, and that the remedy lay, to a great extent, in their own hands, as a voluntary system of deferred payments was in existence, and the only need was for the people concerned to be made to realise its great advantages.
- (4) *Native Laws of Trespass.*—The Paramount Chief submitted a revised law, having for its principal object the tightening up of the present native practice in regard to pounds. The Council agreed.
- (5) *Medical attendance; the number of Medical Officers available; the value of the Leper Settlement; and the dangers of Anthrax.*—These subjects were also debated, and the Councillors were eager to put forward the need for bigger efforts. The Council was addressed on these matters by the Superintendent of the Leper Settlement and the Principal Veterinary Surgeon. After the Council closed, a committee of Members visited the Leper Settlement.
- (6) *The Progressive Association.*—Three days were spent discussing this organisation, which has been in existence for many years. It is a body of Basuto whose general policy is a tendency towards more democratic institutions in their own native government. They want more control placed over the Chiefs, and desire to see some elective element in the National Council, which at present consists of the Paramount Chief, ninety-four members nominated by the Paramount Chief, subject to the Resident Commissioner's approval, and five members appointed by the Resident Commissioner. The activities of the Association had not previously been generally noticeable, but they had recently attracted the attention of the Chiefs, because of their strong attacks in respect to the system of justice practised by the former. As a result of the discussion, an agreement was reached that the Association should not hold meetings in villages or elsewhere without first obtaining the permission of the Chief concerned, but this restriction was not to apply to the six centres of activity already allotted to the Association by the Paramount Chief.

The death took place on 2nd December, 1922, of Edward Hamilton Cole, Assistant Commissioner at Mafeteng. The deceased, who was only 44 years of age, had been in the Service since 1902.

Doctor E. C. Long, C.M.G., Principal Medical Officer, went on retirement on 31st December, 1922, after over 32 years' service in the Territory. He was succeeded by Doctor N. M. Macfarlane, Deputy Principal Medical Officer and Superintendent of the Leper Settlement.

Another loss was sustained in the death of Interpreter Bernard Matete on 16th September, 1922. Bernard Matete was a sub-chief and a Member of the National Council, and had been in the Government Service for over 34 years.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year ended 31st March, 1923, amounting to £212,538, was £14,762 less than the Estimate. This was mainly due to Native Tax being £15,766 below the Estimate. The crops for the two previous seasons in most instances proved poor, while grain purchased as food was expensive. There was also practically no price obtainable for stock, and, during the latter portion of the year, but little recruiting for native labour for the gold mines, with the result that many natives had not the wherewithal to pay tax.

Compared with the preceding year, the amount received as Basutoland's share of Customs Duties under Article III of the Customs Agreement showed an increase of £7,601, the amount being £60,470.

The following information is furnished by the Collector of Income Tax;—

The collection for the year was made up as follows:—

Current Tax	...	...	...	...	...	£2,754
Super Tax	...	...	...	...	...	676
Arrear normal Tax	...	...	...	...	...	325
						<hr/>
						£3,755
						<hr/>

The total income of persons assessed was £93,571.

The percentage of tax actually assessed was:—

General Traders...	...	...	...	59	per cent.
Civil Servants	...	...	...	12·43	„
Employed persons other than Civil Servants	...	...	...	14·23	„
Others—including Banks, <i>et cetera</i>	...	...	...	43·74	„
Non-residents	...	...	...	23·7	„
					or
Europeans	...	...	...	98·48	„
Non-Europeans (Asiatics)	...	...	...	1·52	„
					<hr/>

Of the European portion of the population, 12·16 per cent. paid income tax.

The total expenditure for the year amounted to £224,547, and was £2,177 less than the Estimate. The expenditure exceeded the revenue by £12,009.

The balance of Assets in excess of Liabilities on the 31st March, 1923, was £57,105 16s. 6d.

CENSUS.

The results of the Census taken on the 31st May, 1921, were issued in Blue Book form, but it may be of interest to record some of the important figures in this Report. The native population showed 495,937; an increase of some 94,000 over the 1911 figures. This is exclusive of 47,141 absentees. Females were in the majority by over 50,000. The number of persons to the square mile was 48·30; as against 33·78 in 1904, and 38·97 in 1911. There were 359,117 natives enumerated as heathens, 66,883 French Protestant, 38,895 Roman Catholic, 18,839 Church of England, 6,181 African Methodist Episcopal, and 1,428 Wesleyan Methodist, with a small balance divided between other sects. Europeans numbered 1,603; as against 895 in 1904, and 1,396 in 1911. Maseru, the capital and largest town, had a population of 1,890 natives and 399 Europeans.

The main livestock figures were:—

Cattle	...	...	...	...	...	574,415
Horses	...	...	...	...	...	152,325
Sheep	...	...	...	...	...	1,854,426
Goats	...	...	...	...	...	894,257

There were 29,645 ploughs, and 2,589 Scotch carts and wagons.

TRADE.

The following is a return of the exports from, and the imports into, the territory during the calendar year 1922; the figures for 1921 being also given:—

IMPORTS.

	1921.		1922.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
Merchandise	—	£ 468,148	—	£ 623,755
Livestock:—				
Horses, Mules, etc. ..	66	488	50	235
Cattle	66	222	432	1,032
Sheep and Goats	230	202	453	309
Grain:—				
Wheat and Wheat-meal ..	1,284	1,932	1,485	2,644
Maize and Maize-meal ..	51,949	33,104	36,584	25,176
Kaffir Corn	12,509	10,360	13,126	10,677
Other Produce	—	494	—	597
Government Imports ..	—	518,950	—	664,425
	—	37,503	—	37,700
Total Imports	—	556,453	—	702,125

EXPORTS.

	1921.		1922.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
Horses, Mules, etc. ..	449	£ 3,005	364	£ 1,937
Cattle	9,370	44,573	2,342	8,022
Sheep and Goats ..	6,357	3,657	2,999	1,373
Grain:—	<i>Muids.</i>		<i>Muids.</i>	
Wheat and Wheat-meal	110,383	152,762	128,204	138,995
Maize and Maize-meal	43,478	16,992	20,316	11,188
Kaffir Corn	17,146	8,563	13,984	11,319
Oats	} 62	43	591	452
Barley			183	106
Rye			—	—
Beans and Peas	1,623	1,800	3,149	3,669
	<i>lb.</i>		<i>lb.</i>	
Hair, Angora	2,330,006	63,756	2,326,367	104,833
Wool	12,826,772	211,981	12,829,330	377,333
Hides	60,215	899	127,705	2,348
Skins, Sheep	86,435	732	82,542	1,171
Miscellaneous	—	1,685	—	6,584
Total Exports	—	510,448	—	669,330

At the close of 1921, the balance of trade against the Territory amounted to £46,000 odd. At the end of 1922 there was an adverse balance of £33,000. If, however, the labour asset is taken into account, and estimating that asset at the very reasonable sum of £150,000 for the period under review, it is manifest that what may be termed cash imports are considerably in excess of the value of the exports.

Wheat, wool and mohair still continue to contribute by far the larger share of the exports, being equal to some 92 per cent. of the total.

The export of livestock, which used to be regarded as a first-class asset, has fallen in value from £111,690 in 1920, £51,235 in 1921, to £11,332 in 1922. These figures are difficult to explain except on the supposition that the very low prices ruling for all kinds of stock in outside markets did not tempt owners to dispose of their cattle. It should be noted, however, that the weight of hides exported in 1922 was more than double that of the preceding period, indicating that some 8,000 horned cattle either died or were slaughtered during the year.

As regards wool, which is still the largest item of export, it will be observed that the weight exported in 1922 was approximately the same as in 1921, but that there was a very appreciable advance in value from £211,981 to £377,333, or 82 per cent., and from 3·96 pence per pound in 1921 to 7·058 pence per pound in 1922. In calculating the value of wool, it must not be forgotten that a proportion of the total weight consists of what is known as "Coarse and coloured," which is worth considerably less than fine Merino, the actual value of which may be estimated at a few points higher than the figures given above.

The mohair exported in 1922 amounted to 3,300 lb. more than in 1921, and the value was £41,077 more, or 64·4 per cent. The prices realised were as follows:—

In 1921	...	...	...	...	6·5 pence per pound.
1922	...	...	...	...	10·8 „ „ „

Maize and its products reveal a falling-off of 18·4 per cent. in quantity and 34 per cent. in value.

Kaffir corn also shows a decline of 18·4 per cent. in quantity, but an advance of 24·33 per cent. in value.

It may be as well to remark at this stage that, although 34,000 bags of native food supplies were exported, no less than 39,710 bags were imported or reimported: but this curious anomaly is probably to be explained by the fact that the rainfall in the northern districts (whence the supplies are exported) is more plentiful than in the south (where the supplies are usually imported), and also to the difficulties of transporting the surplus from one part of the country to other parts where a scarcity exists. Whatever the explanation, the position was that there was not sufficient by some 5,000 bags of maize and Kaffir corn for the requirements of the native population.

Imports.—The value of merchandise brought into the territory during 1922 amounted to £623,755, compared with £468,148 in 1921, or approximately one-third more.

As far as can be ascertained from data available for the purpose, the classification of imports would be as follows:—

<i>From overseas.</i>	£
Wool, Rugs and Shawls	420,350
Wool and Cotton Blankets	
Piece goods of all descriptions	
Boots and Shoes... ..	5,600
Grain Bags and Wool Packs	20,500
Hardware, Rough Goods... ..	76,335
Groceries, etc.	
<i>From Union of South Africa.</i>	
Boots and Shoes	8,100
Hardware and Rough Goods	92,800
Groceries (including Sugar, Coal, etc.)	

It will doubtless be illuminating to those who have taken an interest in the trade of Basutoland to learn that the imports in 1922 were three times the value of the imports of 1902, and that the exports for the same period (20 years) have increased from £166,894 to £669,333, or four times the value.

There are the undermentioned items in the list of exports which appear to call for more than a passing notice:—

(1) Wheat has varied considerably with the seasons, for instance:—

The lowest production was in 1906—8,852 bags, value £6,538.

The highest production was in 1922—128,204 bags, value £158,995.

The highest value was reached in 1920 with 88,695 bags, value £218,386.

(2) On the other hand, wool and mohair have steadily advanced, as the following table will indicate:—

Wool.

	lb.	Value.
In 1902, weight exported ...	3,729,173 ...	£ 46,794
In 1922, ,, ,, ...	12,829,330 ...	377,333
Increase in bulk was 217 per cent.		
Increase in value was 700 ,, ,,		

Mohair.

	lb.	Value.
In 1902, weight exported ...	406,853 ...	£ 10,691
In 1922, ,, ,, ...	2,326,367 ...	104,833
Increase in bulk was 470 per cent.		
Increase in value was 880 ,, ,,		

EDUCATION.

The average daily attendance of pupils in schools and institutions was 23,424, while the total number of pupils on the roll exceeded 35,000. The 1921 figures were 22,586 and 32,000.

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

	£
Paris Evangelical Mission Society	21,528
Roman Catholic Mission	5,330
Church of England	3,315
Total	£30,173

The grants are the same as those made in 1921.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ACCORDING TO SIZE AND DENOMINATION.

Mission.	Over 200	150 200	100 150	70 100	60 70	45 60	25 45	20 25	Under 20	Total.
Paris Evangelical Mission Society	1	3	26	44	31	46	102	38	46	337
Roman Catholic	—	5	6	11	8	15	32	11	10	98
Church of England	—	—	2	7	5	10	19	7	10	60
Total	1	8	34	62	44	71	153	56	66	495

In 1921 there were 451 elementary schools.

There are now many small mountain schools whose average attendance is less than 15, and the question will probably arise whether such schools should be allowed to remain on the official list.

ENROLMENT OF PUPILS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Mission.	Number of Pupils on Roll, 31st December, 1921.			Number of Pupils on Roll, 31st December, 1922.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Paris Evangelical Mission Society ..	7,587	15,222	22,809	7,874	16,459	24,333
Roman Catholic Church of England ..	1,260	4,062	5,322	1,501	5,262	6,763
	1,082	2,298	3,380	1,113	2,524	3,637
Total ..	9,929	21,582	31,511	10,488	24,245	34,733

This shows an increase of 3,222, which is much above the usual annual increase.

ENROLMENT OF PUPILS IN INSTITUTIONS.

Institution.	Mission.	Number of Pupils on Roll, December, 1921.			Number of Pupils on Roll, December, 1922.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Morija ..	Paris Evangelical Mission Society ..	119	—	119	116	—	116
Th. Morena	"	—	38	38	—	22	22
Leloaleng.	"	32	—	32	40	—	40
Roma ..	Roman Catholic Church of England ..	88	226	314	96	258	354
Masite ..	"	12	—	12	11	—	11
Maseru ..	"	—	19	19	—	33	33
Total ..	..	251	283	534	263	313	576

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE OF PUPILS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Mission.	Year ending December, 1921.			Year ending December, 1922.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Paris Evangelical Mission Society ..	5,317	10,324	15,641	5,342	10,465	15,807
Roman Catholic ..	933	3,087	4,020	1,044	3,606	4,650
Church of England ..	775	1,640	2,415	793	1,695	2,488
Total ..	7,025	15,051	22,076	7,179	15,766	22,945

EUROPEAN SCHOOLS.

In December, 1922, there were 113 pupils in the six schools for European children, being a decrease of 8 pupils as compared with last year's figures.

GENERAL.

All the Institutions, except Thabana Morena, are adopting the New Syllabus of the Cape Province. This syllabus is very different from the old one, and it still remains to be seen whether it will be useful and effective for Basutoland.

Thabana Morena has initiated a new course of kindergarden teaching for those girls who wish to take up teaching. This new course has made an admirable start with seven pupils in the preparatory year and six in the kindergarden section. The course is a two-year one, and it is proposed to grant certificates to those girls who pass through it satisfactorily.

VETERINARY.

This has been the worst year known for anthrax, no less than 58 outbreaks occurring in the Territory, associated with a very considerable mortality, and it is the outcome of years of neglect in dealing in a proper manner with anthrax carcasses. The issue of the Anthrax Proclamation has, however, meant that considerable progress has been made in dealing with carcasses, but this matter requires constant supervision. Owing to delays in getting all contacts properly inoculated in the serious outbreaks, due to the owners' difficulty in raising the necessary money to pay for the vaccine, it was decided to give free inoculation, and this has been attended with good results. Natives were trained as inoculators at the different magisterial centres, and all outbreaks have been promptly dealt with by inoculation, 61,803 bovines being inoculated during the year.

In addition to instructing native inoculators, short lectures were given to all police units and they were instructed in the art of making proper blood smears.

In investigating serious outbreaks of anthrax, the susceptibility of bovines to the disease, as compared with horses, sheep and goats, is most noticeable. Occasionally an equine contracts the disease in these well-known centres of infection, but sheep and goats appear to be very refractory to infection under natural conditions.

Fortunately, all outbreaks of anthrax have occurred in the lowlands of Basutoland, and the worst districts have been Maseru, Mafeteng and Berea.

Owing to the infection known to exist at "outspans," compulsory inoculation of all ox transport was enforced, and this has been responsible for the prevention of much disease. In effecting this inoculation of transport animals, the Administration was much indebted to the loyal co-operation and assistance of many of the traders.

Equine mange has assumed serious proportions during the year, and in the northern mountain areas has been responsible for a considerable mortality. Dressing centres at Maseru, Teyateyaneng, Leribe, Butha Buthe and Qacha's Nek have been established and 1,430 cases have been treated, and it is hoped that, now the native owners have realised the seriousness of this disease, it will soon be finally eradicated. During the year a Proclamation was issued giving power to enforce quarantine and suitable treatment.

Strangles has, as usual, been prevalent, and 181 cases were treated at Maseru.

Quarter evil has been less than usual, only 303 doses of vaccine were issued.

There was little bovine anaplasmosis during the year, due largely it is thought, to the drought conditions which obtained.

During the year 721 blood smears were examined microscopically, and there has been much improvement in the way smears have been taken.

In Maseru 360 cattle and 380 horses were dipped for mange, lice and ticks.

The dipping of sheep has made satisfactory progress, no less than 386,014 sheep and goats having passed through the tanks during the year. This was over 83,000 more than in 1921, and nearly 123,000 more than in 1920. There was, however, a reduction in the number of sheep and goats dipped for export.

The question of introducing further legislation against scab is under serious consideration, and it is anticipated that next year there may be a law in operation which will enable considerable progress to be made in reducing the losses that ensue annually from scab.

STUD.

The year 1922 has been the most droughty year on record, and this has reacted adversely on the stud work, delaying the covering season for six weeks.

The stud was reduced, and it was decided that no stallions should be sent out into the districts in future. All stud work is now to be carried out at Maseru under supervision of the Principal Veterinary Surgeon, and it is hoped that this will be more satisfactory.

Owing to no stallions being sent out, it has been difficult to get foal returns for the previous year and these are not yet completed. At Maseru 66 foals were born to 135 covers. During the past season 149 mares were covered.

Stallions Sailor Boy and Cruickshanks were disposed of owing to old age and the policy of reducing the stud.

Agricultural shows were held at the different centres.

Professional visits and attendances to the number of 3,881 were made during the year.

AGRICULTURE.

The grant for tree-planting, fencing, destruction of weeds, *et cetera*, during the period under review was £1,200. There was no

special grant for donga prevention. The amount provided did not admit of much fresh work being undertaken during the period under review, but the tree nurseries were kept up to last year's strength and the existing donga prevention work in the Maseru district in repair.

The mealie crop in the Quthing district has been bad for some years, and, as an experiment, several bags of early-maturing and drought-resisting varieties of seed were issued to well-known natives. If the experiment proves successful, it should lead to a greatly improved position for the natives in the district.

Lectures were delivered at Morija, Maseru and Roma. At the latter place the lectures were specially based on Father Bernard Huss' book on agriculture. There are indications that natives are showing an increasing tendency to apply to the Agricultural Officer for advice on tree-planting and the growing of wheat, mealies and vegetables.

Tree Nurseries.—At the end of 1922 there were approximately 179,000 trees on hand, and during the year some 50,000 trees were issued to Europeans and natives as against 42,362 in 1921.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Roads.—Roads throughout the Territory have been maintained, but, owing to the reduction of the vote for this work, no substantial improvement has been made.

Waterworks.—An additional supply of 10,000 gallons per diem was obtained at the Leper Settlement by boring, the water being carried to the Compound by means of an electric pumping plant, power being derived from the existing power station.

Buildings.—Owing to the financial state of the Territory, it has not been possible to carry out various works which are necessary.

Work on the new Post Office at Maseru has been commenced on a small scale, and a Government loading platform at the Maseru Station has been built.

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 1921 :—

		Labour.	Visiting and Miscellaneous.	Total.
1921	...	67,829	50,442	118,271
1922	...	57,663	59,529	117,192

GAOLS AND CRIME.

There are seven gaols and four lock-ups in the Territory, and during the year 2,206 prisoners passed through them, as compared with 1,527 during the year 1921.

The number of convictions for contravention of the liquor laws in 1922 was 63, as compared with 44 for the previous year.

Convictions for offences against property numbered 175, as compared with 160 in 1921.

POST OFFICE.

The net postal, telegraph and telephone revenue amounted to £7,521 14s. 1d., as compared with £7,668 17s. 11d. for the year 1921-22.

The expenditure amounted to £10,042 17s. 9d., as compared with £10,724 14s. 5d. for 1921-22.

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

	<i>Deposits.</i>	<i>Withdrawals.</i>
1921-22 =	926 value £ 653.	531 value £8,189
1922-23 =	1,046 value £5,225.	517 value £7,471

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>
1921-22 =	21,927 value £22,743.	20,330 value £22,295
1922-23 =	19,693 value £20,986.	22,616 value £25,831

MEDICAL.

The medical work of the Territory continues to increase. During the year 42,528 patients passed through the Government Dispensaries, 2,402 patients were treated in the hospitals, and 1,207 major, and 1,008 minor, operations were performed.

The cry is for more medical men, but in the present financial position of the country it is not possible to provide them. The medical needs of the country are attended to by ten Government Medical Officers, two of whom are on specialist duty at the Leper Settlement, and five general practitioners, three of whom are paid District Surgeons' fees for attendance at Buttha Buthe, Teyateyaneng and Mokhotlong camps. The Missionaries are allowed to dispense simple remedies, but even with their help it cannot be said that the needs of the people are adequately met, though the work done with the Government's limited resources compares favourably with that of other countries.

The distribution of free remedies for syphilis continues, and the Missionaries who assist in this report most satisfactory results.

EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

Typhus fever has become endemic and outbreaks have been reported from every district in the country; 402 cases with 70 deaths were notified by the Medical Officers. The disease is of a mild nature and many cases go unreported. It has been found most difficult to arouse the people to a sense of the gravity of the disease. The limited Medical Staff precluded vigorous measures being taken, but propaganda work is carried on, and new regulations are being framed with a view to ensuring prompt notification, disinfection and quarantine.

Smallpox was reported in all the districts except Maseru. The outbreaks were limited in extent except in Mohale's Hoek. There were in all 421 cases with 7 deaths.

Influenza was fairly prevalent; 530 cases with 2 deaths being recorded.

Pneumonia, 77 cases and 6 deaths notified.

Dysentery, 89 cases and 2 deaths notified. Dysentery is of the bacillary variety. Amœbic or Tropical Dysentery is never seen except as an importation.

Four cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis were recorded.

LEPER SETTLEMENT.

The leper population of the Institution on 31st December, 1922, was 479, comprising 220 males and 259 females, and showing a decrease of 12 as compared with the number on the same date in the previous year.

Eighty-seven new patients were admitted. It was noted that many were in the early stages of the disease, which is a sign that the objects and benefits of the Institution are being appreciated by the people. A number came voluntarily to get admission. Ten deserters were readmitted, and, from reports received, there are very few at large now. Five patients deserted during the year, which is by far the smallest number on record. All of them were returned promptly by their chiefs or their people, and this has had an excellent effect in the compounds.

There were 68 deaths, of which 12 were due to influenza. The number of deaths was much above last year, but is about the average.

Thirty-four patients were discharged as arrested cases during the year. Treatment with sodium morrhuate and the ethyl esters, of the chaulmoogric acid series is being vigorously pushed, and the good results already obtained are expected to be continued.

The patients were well behaved and gave very little trouble. Crimes were practically unknown, and consisted mostly of offences for breaches of the Settlement Regulations.

A number of outstanding cases in the Chiefs' courts were dealt with promptly, which helped to produce peace and contentment.

New regulations for visitors were sanctioned by the National Council, and have been the means of much improvement in the good order of the place. This was not brought about without a good deal of grumbling among the lepers, but they have now realised that it was for their own good.

Improvements continue to be made in the buildings and precincts of the compounds. All the huts in the male compound have been provided with reed shelters, which has added to the comfort of the patients in the winter and during inclement weather. Shelters for the visitors have also been erected, and have enabled the staff to keep them under stricter observation.

Tree planting continues, and the orchards begun last year give promise of being very useful. It has been noted that fresh fruit, besides preventing scurvy, has a beneficial effect in leprosy, no doubt due to Vitamin C.

Improvements have been made on the farm, the most important of which is a large dam which will be valuable for watering stock. A mill is in course of erection, and should help in reducing the maintenance bill by grinding the grain produced on the farm and by the lepers.

The leper lands produced over 400 bags of mealies, all of which were used for feeding stuff for stock.

A plentiful supply of water has now been found, which should give the Institution an ample supply even in the severest drought, and thus remove a great source of anxiety.

The Roman Catholic Church erected a place of worship in the beginning of the year, and the English Church has just finished a large and imposing chapel. Both buildings are outside the compounds, and have been urgently needed for a long time.

R. B. SMITH,
Government Secretary.

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.
1138	Swaziland	1921
1139	Hongkong	"
1140	Straits Settlements	"
1141	St. Lucia	"
1142	Ashanti	"
1143	Jamaica	"
1144	Falkland Islands	1920
1145	Bahamas	1921-1922
1146	Seychelles.. .. .	1921
1147	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
1148	British Solomon Islands Protectorate.. .. .	1921-1922
1149	Mauritius	1921
1150	Sierra Leone	"
1151	Uganda	"
1152	Somaliland	"
1153	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	(April-December) "
1154	Gold Coast	"
1155	Nigeria	1922
1156	Nyasaland	1921
1157	Falkland Islands	"
1158	Weihaiwei.. .. .	1922
1159	Cyprus	"
1160	Gambia	"
1161	New Hebrides	1921 and 1922
1162	Nyasaland	1922
1163	Zanzibar	"
1164	St. Helena	"
1165	Sierra Leone	"
1166	Trinidad and Tobago	"
1167	Bermuda	"
1168	Grenada	"
1169	St. Lucia	"
1170	Leeward Islands	1921-1922
1171	Fiji	1922
1172	Ceylon	"
1173	Gibraltar	"
1174	British Guiana	"
1175	Barbados	1922-1923

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.	Subject.
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.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.