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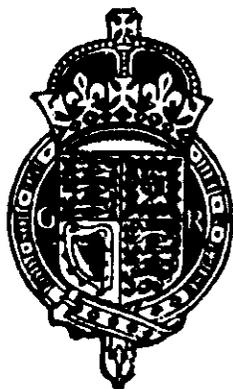
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1244.

BASUTOLAND.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(For Report for 1923-24 see No. 1212.)



LONDON.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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

1925.

Price 9d. net.

No. 1244.

BASUTOLAND.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1924.

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, and 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 area is gradually becoming as thickly populated as the low-lying country to the west. In favourable seasons the Territory produces wheat, mealies and kafir-corn, also cattle, horses and sheep; the export of wool for this year amounting to over $11\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds weight.

In 1818 the first Paramount Chief of Basutoland, Moshesh, gathered together the remnants of various tribes which had been scattered about South Africa during the wars waged by Moselekatse, and thus 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 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, which included a clause providing 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 had been 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.

On the 10th September His Excellency the Earl of Athlone paid his first official visit to the Territory as High Commissioner. His Excellency, on arrival, was escorted by some 25,000 mounted Basuto, and after a short interval at the Headquarter Offices of the Territory, the vice-regal party proceeded to the Pitso-ground, where some 50,000 natives were present.

The British Empire Parliamentary Delegates, who arrived on the same day, also attended the Pitso, and were present when His Excellency opened the National Council in the afternoon. Mr. J. H. Thomas, Secretary of State for the Colonies, who accompanied the Delegation, was also present at the Pitso and addressed the natives. He subsequently attended the National Council.

The High Commissioner paid visits to the Leper Settlement, Industrial School and other places of interest ; received addresses from Missionaries, the Chamber of Commerce and others, and after receiving deputations from certain native Chiefs, left Maseru on the 15th September.

The 19th Session of the National Council was held from 15th September to 30th September, 1924, and amongst other matters the following were the more important matters discussed :—

- (1) *Administration of Justice in Native Courts.*—It was agreed that there was still a certain amount of avoidable delay in disposing of cases, due to a great extent to the non-attendance of parties and their witnesses, but on the whole there was some improvement.
- (2) *Eradication of Burr-weed.*—In the main, but little genuine attempt had been made by the Chiefs and people to destroy this weed, but some Councillors agreed that the Paramount Chief was in a position under the native law to enforce his orders for its destruction, and this view was emphasized by the Chairman.
- (3) *Amendments to the Scab Regulations.*—The Councillors, after considerable discussion, agreed to the necessity for amendment of the regulations so as to render more efficient the working of the law.
- (4) *Theft of Stock in Basutoland.*—A lively discussion took place on this subject, which resulted in a request being sent to the High Commissioner for legislation empowering the Resident Commissioner's Court to inflict corporal punishment in serious cases of stock and wool theft. This request has since been acceded to, and in certain cases corporal punishment has been inflicted, with, it is hoped, salutary effect.

- (5) *Sale of Native Beer*.—The Councillors were fairly evenly divided on this question and, after a heated discussion, the majority voted against the authorization of canteens.

LEGISLATION.

The more important Proclamations promulgated during the year were :—

The Pensions Proclamation, 1924.—Consolidating and amending the rules and regulations concerning the granting of pensions and of superannuation and other allowances to persons employed in the Government Service.

Public Service Proclamation, 1924.—Amending the law governing appointments to and promotions in the Public Service of Basutoland.

Combined Court.—Empowering the Resident Commissioner to associate with himself as a member of the Court an Advocate from the Union of South Africa, in civil cases in which both parties are Europeans.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year ended the 31st March, 1924, amounted to £252,613, an excess of £10,113 on the estimate and an increase of £40,075 on the revenue for the preceding year. The expenditure for the year was £241,668, a saving of £784 on the sum authorized. The net result shows an excess of revenue over expenditure of £10,945. The native tax collection yielded £134,689, an increase of £13,456 compared with the collection during the preceding year.

The following heads of revenue also show increases on the estimate :—

	Estimate	Actual Receipts.
	£	£
Customs and Excise	65,000	71,043
Posts and Telegraphs	7,750	8,038
Licences	7,200	7,585
Income Tax	4,000	6,773
Wool Export Duty	13,000	14,128

The last head of revenue represents a tax of $\frac{1}{4}d.$ a pound on wool and mohair exported from the Territory and was imposed on the 1st April, 1923, in connection with measures taken for the eradication of scab in Basutoland

The expenditure incurred during the year on such measures amounted to over £14,000.

The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure during the past three years :—

REVENUE.

	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£	£	£
Native Tax	126,541	121,233	134,689
Customs and Excise ..	54,403	62,011	71,043
Posts and Telegraphs ..	7,661	7,522	8,038
Licences	7,174	7,097	7,585
Fees of Court or Office ..	970	814	784
Judicial Fines	1,461	1,305	2,009
Income Tax	2,732	3,755	6,773
Fees for services rendered	2,490	2,605	1,366
Interest	2,640	2,550	2,341
Wool Export Duty ..	—	—	14,128
Miscellaneous	3,730	3,645	3,857
	<u>£209,802</u>	<u>£212,537</u>	<u>£252,613</u>

EXPENDITURE.

	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£	£	£
Establishments	26,962	—	—
Resident Commissioner ..	—	(a) 12,554	13,758
District Administration ..	—	(a) 12,934	12,670
Police	38,184	35,647	36,189
Posts and Telegraphs ..	10,725	10,043	10,437
Administration of Justice	5,955	9,116	9,806
Public Works Department	4,328	5,811	6,526
Public Works Recurrent ..	22,484	20,371	20,990
Public Works Extraordinary	2,874	2,335	3,661
Medical	20,396	20,443	20,575
Education	35,301	34,681	34,813
Government Industrial School	2,454	2,323	2,437
Audit	650	733	(b) —
Agriculture	9,871	9,984	21,806
Allowances to Chiefs ..	14,409	11,290	12,448
National Council	1,933	1,830	1,950
Leper Settlement	21,720	20,845	20,036
Pensions	4,942	5,259	6,681
Miscellaneous	9,652	4,868	5,656
Total Ordinary Expenditure	<u>232,840</u>	<u>221,067</u>	<u>240,439</u>
Expenditure from Surplus			
Balances	10,238	3,480	1,230
Total	<u>£243,078</u>	<u>£224,547</u>	<u>£241,668</u>

(a) Previously shown as " Establishments."

(b) Provision now made under " Resident Commissioner."

INCOME TAX.

The rates of normal and super taxes imposed by Proclamation No. 36 of 1923 in respect of income for the year ended 30th June, 1923, were the same as for the previous year.

Collections under this head amounted to £6,772 13s. 6d., being an increase of £3,017 6s. 4d. on the receipts for the year 1922-1923, and an excess of £2,772 13s. 6d. on the estimate for 1923-1924.

The collection was made up of :—

	£	s.	d.
Arrear Tax	136	13	10
Current Tax	6,635	19	8
	<hr/>		
	£6,772	13	6
	<hr/>		

On the above total the following shows the sources from which taxable incomes were derived and the amount of tax obtained from each :—

	£	s.	d.	per cent.
General Traders	4,023	10	11	or 59·41
Civil Servants	1,334	9	2	„ 19·71
Employed persons—other than Civil Servants	441	7	10	„ 6·51
Others—including Banks, etc. ..	689	2	6	„ 10·18
Non-Residents	284	3	1	„ 4·19
	<hr/>			
	£6,772	13	6	= 100 per
	<hr/>			cent.

The number of incomes assessed for current tax in the various categories were :—

No.	Category.	Total of Taxable Incomes.
	£	£
80	301-500	33,282
49	501-750	29,798
23	751-1,000	20,134
16	1,001-1,500	18,973
12	Over 1,500	39,063
	<hr/>	<hr/>
180	Total taxable income of persons assessed for current tax	£141,250
		<hr/>

TRADE.

The following is a return of the imports into, and the exports from, the Territory during the calendar year 1924, the figures for 1923 being given for purposes of comparison :—

IMPORTS.

	1923.		1924.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
Merchandise	—	£767,198	—	£788,005
Livestock :—				
Horses, Mules, etc. ..	157	669	692	2,124
Cattle	5,580	13,097	4,891	11,548
Sheep and Goats	401	350	468	216
Grain :—	<i>Muids.</i>		<i>Muids.</i>	
Wheat and Wheat-meal ..	2,132	3,762	4,666	7,582
Maize and Maize-meal ..	10,024	8,242	82,291	69,928
Kafir Corn	2,899	2,552	32,871	28,963
Other Produce	—	622	—	604
Government Imports ..	—	796,492	—	908,970
	—	30,562	—	33,309
Total Imports	—	£827,054	—	£942,279

EXPORTS.

	1923.		1924.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
Livestock :—				
Horses, Mules, etc. ..	250	£1,462	58	£430
Cattle	1,773	6,647	242	1,048
Sheep and Goats	734	518	253	210
Grain :—	<i>Muids.</i>		<i>Muids.</i>	
Wheat and Wheat-meal	64,144	71,791	30,858	32,492
Maize and Maize-meal	87,161	41,409	9,767	6,939
Kafir Corn	52,570	34,536	14,628	8,865
Oats	83	32	—	—
Barley	107	56	39	23
Beans and Peas	9,622	9,045	3,010	2,927
Wool and Mohair :—	<i>lb.</i>		<i>lb.</i>	
Hair, Angora	2,001,564	119,646	2,455,950	183,076
Wool	10,264,894	513,644	11,577,384	715,665
Hides and Skins :—				
Hides	142,336	3,035	160,627	4,116
Skins	89,731	1,751	99,342	2,732
Miscellaneous	—	197	—	287
Total Exports	—	£803,769	—	£958,810

The above figures show that the exports from the Territory during the year exceeded the imports by some £16,000, and, deducting the £33,000 odd Government imports, show a balance

of trade in favour of the Territory of some £49,000. The balance of trade in favour of the Territory during 1923, calculated on the same basis, was approximately £7,000.

The exports of wool and mohair showed a considerable increase, both in quantity and value, over the previous year. In view of the great importance of these commodities, forming, as they do, the greater part of the exports of the Territory, it is interesting to compare the figures for the last five years :—

		Wool.	Mohair.
		lb.	lb.
1920	..	10,030,954	2,259,741
1921	..	12,826,792	2,330,006
1922	..	12,829,330	2,326,367
1923	..	10,264,894	2,001,564
1924	..	11,577,384	2,455,950

The exports of livestock by traders show a considerable decrease as compared with the figures for the year 1923. As stated in the report for last year, however, a large business is done by speculators from the Union of South Africa, and the amount of trade in this line by resident traders is practically negligible.

Wheat, maize and kafir-corn exports amounted to 55,000 odd muids, as compared with 147,700 muids in 1923, whilst 119,700 muids were imported, as compared with 14,400 in 1923. These figures show that the amount of grain grown in the Territory during the year fell a long way short of the needs of the people. The failure of the grain crop was due to the prolonged drought, which prevented the natives from ploughing and sowing their lands until late in the season, with the result that the greater part of the crops failed to mature before winter set in.

IMPORTS.

These show an increase of £100,000 over the previous year's figures. A slight increase in the imports of merchandise and a large increase in the quantity and value of grain is accountable for this.

GENERAL.

Despite the failure of the grain crop, the trade for the year showed an improvement over the previous year, and there is evidence that the Territory is well on the way to normal prosperity.

EDUCATION.

The average attendance of pupils in Schools and Institutions is now close on 30,000, while the number of pupils on the Roll is 40,814.

The following table shows the average attendance of pupils during the last 10 years :—

Table I.

Total average attendance in Schools and Institutions for the year ending December :—

1915	..	..	..	..	17,167
1916	..	..	..	..	19,496
1917	..	..	..	..	20,760
1918	..	..	..	..	21,160
1919	..	..	..	..	22,556
1920	..	..	..	..	23,479
1921	..	..	..	..	22,586
1922	..	..	..	..	23,424
1923	..	..	..	..	26,124
1924	..	..	..	..	29,267

The increase in the average attendance for 1924 is 3,143.

Table II.

Grants to Missions for Schools and Institutions :—

Paris Evangelical Mission Society	£	21,528
Roman Catholic Mission ..	..	6,530
Church of England Mission ..	..	3,315
		<hr/>
		£31,373

Table III.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ACCORDING TO SIZE AND DENOMINATION.

Mission.	Over 200	150 to 200	100 to 150	70 to 100	60 to 70	45 to 60	25 to 45	20 to 25	Under 20	Total.
Paris Evangelical Mission Society	3	9	37	69	34	63	90	26	22	353
Roman Catholic	1	5	13	9	8	16	41	9	7	109
Church of England	—	2	4	13	3	8	22	6	2	60
Total	4	16	54	91	45	87	153	41	31	522

Table IV.

ENROLMENT OF PUPILS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Mission.	Number of pupils on the Roll, December, 1923.			Number of pupils on the Roll, December, 1924.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Paris Evangelical Mission Society.	8,978	17,790	26,768	9,588	18,621	28,209
Roman Catholic ..	1,845	5,740	7,585	1,949	5,733	7,682
Church of England ..	1,289	2,852	4,141	1,434	2,895	4,329
Total	12,112	26,382	38,494	12,971	27,249	40,220

This shows an increase of 1,726.

Table V.
ENROLMENT OF PUPILS IN INSTITUTIONS.

Institution and Mission.	No. of pupils on Roll, December, 1923.			No. of pupils on Roll, December, 1924.			
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
Moriya (Paris Evangelical Mission Society).	94	—	94	77	—	77	Normal.
Th. Morena (P.E.M.S.).	—	37	37	—	37	37	Industrial and Normal.
Leloaleng (P.E.M.S.).	45	—	45	46	—	46	Industrial.
Roma (Roman Catholic).	127	242	369	138	245	383	Industrial; Agricultural and Normal.
Masite (Church of England).	27	—	27	18	—	18	Industrial and Normal.
Maseru (Church of England).	—	50	50	—	40	40	Industrial.
Total ..	293	329	622	279	322	601	—

Table VI.
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE OF PUPILS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Mission.	Year ending December, 1923.			Year ending December, 1924.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Paris Evangelical Mission Society.	5,942	11,552	17,494	6,439	13,272	19,711
Roman Catholic ..	1,327	4,070	5,397	1,437	4,462	5,899
Church of England ..	859	1,866	2,725	971	2,143	3,114
Total ..	8,128	17,488	25,616	8,847	19,877	28,724

EUROPEAN SCHOOLS.

In December, 1924, there were 131 pupils in the eight schools for European children, being a decrease of two pupils as compared with last year's figures.

VETERINARY.

ANTHRAX.

During the year 62 outbreaks of anthrax occurred, 27 less than last year. The Mafeteng District furnished the most outbreaks, 19 occurring in this district. Prompt inoculation has been carried out in all outbreaks and the actual mortality has been very low. Research laboratory vaccine has been employed with excellent results.

All transport cattle are inoculated every 12 months and all cattle entering the Orange Free State have to be inoculated prior to export.

During the year 32,873 cattle were inoculated—11,785 by the Principal Veterinary Surgeon's staff, and the remainder by the Police. Assistant Commissioners and police officers have rendered excellent assistance in this work.

EQUINE MANGE.

It is regretted that a favourable report cannot be given in regard to the endeavours to eradicate this disease. A scheme was evolved of treating all equines by spraying at the sheep dipping-tanks with full strength Cooper's Dip, and it is regretted that in practice this was found not to be successful. Climatic conditions have been much against this form of treatment, constant rain neutralizing the good effect of the spraying. In addition to the shortcomings of this treatment, many owners have neglected to carry out the instructions given them, and unless there is soon an improvement in this direction it will become necessary to legislate more forcibly in order that the necessary treatment and precautions may be better carried out.

Having recognised that the spraying treatment was not going to be effectual, the Principal Veterinary Surgeon evolved a cheap oily dressing which it is hoped will prove efficient.

During the year 5,396 horses have been sprayed and dressed. This clearly illustrates how extremely prevalent horse mange is in the Territory, and how serious this disease has become. The most infected districts are those of Butha Buthe, Leribe, Maseru and Qacha's Nek.

SHEEP SCAB.

Considerable progress has again been made during the year in the eradication of scab in those areas supplied with tanks, and it is very gratifying in repeating the scheme of simultaneous dipping all along the Orange Free State and part of the Cape borders to find how clean the flocks had become since the advent of the scab campaign, and a good demonstration of this was furnished in the Mafeteng district, where 79,000 sheep were dipped on the Wepener border and only 10 sheep were found to be infected with scab.

Similar illustrations were found in other districts and there is no doubt whatever that if sufficient tanks can be built in the Territory to give everyone proper facilities for dipping the dipping-tank can be relied upon to beat the scab parasite.

The climatic conditions have been particularly unfavourable for dipping operations. Since September the wettest summer on record has been experienced, and this has naturally resulted in much delay in the efforts to carry out simultaneous dipping in protected areas. Notwithstanding this disability, 1,459,047 sheep and goats have been dipped.

The casualties from dipping have been 225 sheep and goats, and, considering that an arsenical dip is being used, they must be looked upon as light. Efforts are being made, however, to reduce these, as they are undesirable and at times fall extremely heavily on the individual owner. Although owners are compensated for all losses, dipping casualties tend to cause dissatisfaction and endanger the confidence of the native in the work.

During the year 18 new dipping-tanks have been erected and 12 have been converted into circular stone tanks.

As tank-building has now to take place away from the main waggon roads the work is becoming more difficult and expensive, inasmuch as the material in these cases has to be transported by means of pack animals. A good instance of this has been the Namahali tank, which has been built at an altitude of 9,000 ft. Difficulties are also being experienced owing to the fact that most of the tanks now to be erected will be out of the sandstone area, which will render the building of a water-tight tank very difficult. It is hoped, however, to overcome this by making the tanks of concrete.

It has been very difficult to find good and reliable men to tender for the erection of the tanks, and in some cases this difficulty has been overcome by the permanent employment of either European or native builders. It has been found, however, that where good men can be secured the system of calling for tenders is the best, as the responsibility for the work is not then thrown on to the European staff, whose time is fully occupied in handling the dipping operations.

Observations during the last year have shown a remarkable absence of the scab parasite of the angora goat, and it is hoped to be able to make use of this observation in the future in reducing some of the dipping expenses.

During the year the Principal Veterinary Surgeon discussed sheep scab with the members of the Basutoland National Council, and it was gratifying to find in this discussion how appreciative the members were of the work which had been done and how fully they recognised the advantages of the scab eradication legislation to the Territory, and there was a unanimous wish for the speedy erection of more tanks, so that every one could avail himself of the opportunity of dipping his sheep.

Much of the success has been due to the loyal co-operation of the sheep owners, and if this persists our anticipations of a possibility of eradicating scab may be confidently looked forward to. Except for a portion of the south-east corner of the Territory, the whole of the Orange Free State and Cape borders are now supplied with tanks, and this of course reduces the possibility of scab-infected sheep trespassing into the Union to a minimum. During the next year an effort will be made to complete the erection of the necessary tanks on our south-eastern border.

All sheep dipped in protected areas have been branded, and it is hoped that it will be found possible next year to brand the sheep in each tank area with a distinctive brand, as it has been found that branding has been of great assistance in carrying out check inspections.

Fourteen thousand five hundred and one sheep and goats were exported into the Union of South Africa under the Union Regulations. Ten thousand one hundred and one of these were exported from the Qacha's Nek district.

MICROSCOPIC SLIDES.

During the year 458 slides were examined by the Principal Veterinary Surgeon.

STUD

During the year 83 foals were born out of 147 mares covered. This is the best return the stud has had and the quality of the foals was also the best seen. The stallion Gumshoe produced 32 foals from 40 mares—a remarkable return considering the conditions that exist in a native Territory.

GENERAL.

Nine hundred and seventy-seven cattle and horses were dipped at Maseru for ticks and lice.

Two thousand three hundred and eighty-two professional visits and attendances were made by the Principal Veterinary Surgeon of which 1,435 were to native owners.

AGRICULTURE.

The grant was the same as last year, *i.e.*, £1,200. A grant of £250 was also made for the purpose of starting Agricultural Demonstration work in the Territory.

A little fresh donga prevention work was undertaken and the existing work was kept in repair.

At the close of the year there were some 242,350 trees in the various Government nurseries, and the number of trees issued during the year was 58,295. This represents an improvement of 15,295 on last year's issues.

It is gratifying to be able to report that during the period under review there was no infestation of locusts in Basutoland.

Three Agricultural Demonstrators were employed and stationed at the chief educational centres, viz., Morija, Roma and Leloaleng, and good work is being done by them. The Agricultural Officer has several demonstration plots under him, which are turning out very successfully and it is found that the natives are taking great interest in the work. Two more demonstrators are to be engaged during the coming year.

After several experiments with cotton, it is feared that cotton-growing will never become a payable proposition in Basutoland. The drought during 1924 made the plant so late in maturing that only about half the bolls ripened. Added to this are the drawbacks of altitude and too short a growing period. Hail is also a tremendous drawback. Cotton was planted three times most carefully at Roma, but was completely destroyed each time by hail.

Burr-weed is still very prevalent in the Territory. In some parts the natives have made an attempt to destroy it, but on the whole very little is being done by them.

The wheat crop is better than it has been for some years. The mountain districts require dry weather to enable the natives to harvest their crops.

The maize and kafir-corn crops throughout the country are promising well, except where cultivation has been left too late.

On the whole, it is anticipated that a fairly good grain crop may be expected during the forthcoming season.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Roads.—An exceptionally wet season has made it impossible to maintain the surface of the roads in a satisfactory condition; floods have done so much damage to permanent work that the available funds have to a great extent been expended on repairing culverts and building retaining walls.

Water Works.—Work on a pumping-plant for Teyateyaneng is well in hand, and on completion the old system of bringing water to the camp by ox-drawn water carts will be abolished.

Buildings.—The new Post Office at Maseru has been completed, and was opened for business on 9th February, 1925.

The building of the new hospital at Qacha's Nek is in progress and will be completed during the course of next year.

GAOLS AND CRIME.

There are seven gaols and four lock-ups in the Territory, and during the year 2,049 prisoners passed through them, as compared with 1,939 during the year 1923.

The number of convictions for contravention of the liquor laws in 1924 was 76, as compared with 27 for the previous year.

Convictions for offences against property numbered 137, as compared with 214 in 1923.

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 1923 :—

	Labour	Visiting and Miscellaneous.	TOTAL.
1923	76,202	33,194	109,396
1924	88,627	41,841	130,468

POST OFFICE.

The net postal, telegraph and telephone revenue amounted to £8,038 7s. 3d., as compared with £7,521 14s. 1d. for the year 1922-23.

The expenditure amounted to £10,437 8s. 3d., as compared with £10,042 17s. 9d. for 1922-23.

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>
1922-23 = 1,046, value £5,225.	517, value £7,471.
1923-24 = 1,261, value £7,129.	442, value £5,512.

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>
1922-23 = 19,693, value £20,986.	22,616, value £25,831.
1923-24 = 20,301, value £23,248.	21,376, value £26,721.

MEDICAL.

Treatment at the Government Dispensaries was given to 57,194 patients during the year—an increase of 8,876 over the previous year. This shows that these institutions are doing good and useful work, and that the increase of the medical establishment by the appointment of an additional officer has been justified. The new Medical Officer has been stationed at Teyateyaneng in the Berea district since September and has already proved the need for medical assistance in that part of the country.

The number of patients treated in the hospitals was 2,265. There is a decrease of 72 in the number of admissions which is accounted for by the closing down for repairs of certain wards in the Maseru Hospital. The building of a cottage hospital at Qacha's Nek is proceeding and when finished should prove of great use to that remote part of the country.

It has been noted that the majority of patients seeking admission to the hospitals do so for surgical aid.

The revenue collected from the hospitals and dispensaries amounted to £2,420 17s. 0d.

The general health of the Territory was good, and with the exception of typhus fever and smallpox there was no serious outbreak of epidemic disease. It is gratifying to note that the number of cases of typhus has decreased considerably. Nine hundred and fifty-eight cases, with 120 deaths, were reported in 1923, and 556 cases, with 41 deaths, in 1924. Reports from the districts indicate that the epidemic is gradually dying out.

Smallpox (227 cases with 15 deaths) is still epidemic in the central districts of the country, principally along the slopes of the mountains and in remote villages where vaccination has not been carried out for some years.

Sixty-four thousand nine hundred and sixty persons were vaccinated during the year.

Influenza of a mild nature was prevalent in the winter and spring months, and a majority of the cases were of the gastric type. There were 693 cases reported with no deaths.

Bacillary dysentery accounted for 110 cases and there were sporadic outbreaks of mumps, measles, chicken-pox and whooping cough. None of these diseases assumed epidemic form.

LEPER SETTLEMENT.

The inmates on the whole continue to be well contented with their lot, a fact which is evidenced by the smallness of the number of convictions for minor offences and breaches of regulations, as well as by some diminution in the number of desertions, and the voluntary return of nearly all the deserters.

The conditions as regards the provision of remunerative work and lands for the cultivation of crops by the lepers themselves continue to be as described in previous reports. It must be confessed that leper labour is uneconomical; that lepers are very unwilling to perform work of any kind unless they are paid for it; and that in the case of paid labour the actual output is small. Although the wages paid are not high, it is probable that the same work could be done more efficiently and at a lower cost by the hiring of outside labour. On the other hand, the thera-

peutic effect of remunerative employment is recognised in all leper institutions, and such employment must be recognised as an important part of treatment which fully justifies the expenditure incurred thereby.

On 31st December, 1923, the number of the inmates was 213 males and 254 females, or 467 in all. On 31st December, 1924, the numbers were 224 males and 237 females, making a total of 461. Thus the population appears to be fairly stationary.

There were 96 admissions during 1924, as compared with 68 in 1923, an increase of over 45 per cent. This increase does not necessarily mean that leprosy is increasing in Basutoland; sufferers from the disease, on observing the return to their homes of persons in whom the disease has become arrested, are encouraged to present themselves voluntarily for isolation.

Fifty-eight persons were discharged as arrested cases.

The death-rate in 1924 was a little higher than in 1923. The comparatively large number of discharges, viz., 58, is partly explained by the more general application of intensive treatment, partly by the fact that many old patients were discharged in whom the disease was of long standing, and had undergone spontaneous arrest. As there was a general clearing-out of such cases in 1924, it is not anticipated that patients will continue to be discharged at such a rate in the near future.

Structural Changes.—Bricks are at present being made for the purpose of replacing the wood lining with bricks and cement plaster in two of the leper huts in order to make them more vermin-proof, and of more equable temperature. If the change be found to be very advantageous, it is proposed to treat the remainder of the huts in the same way, doing as many each year as the exigencies of the finance and labour will permit.

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.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Year.</i>
1215	British Honduras	1923
1216	New Hebrides	"
1217	Gibraltar	"
1218	Jamaica	"
1219	Sierra Leone	"
1220	Uganda	"
1221	Grenada	"
1222	British Guiana	"
1223	St. Vincent	"
1224	St. Helena	"
1225	Barbados	1923-1924
1226	Somaliland	1923
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	"
1228	Hongkong	"
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1923-1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	1914-1923
1231	Cayman Islands	1923
1232	Leeward Islands	1923-1924
1233	Federated Malay States	1923
1234	Mauritius	"
1235	Straits Settlements	"
1236	Seychelles	"
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1923-1924
1238	Brunei	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States	"
1240	St. Lucia	"
1241	Bahamas	1924
1242	Falkland Islands	1923
1243	Ceylon	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Subject.</i>
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.