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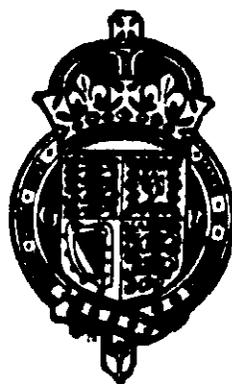
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No. 1428

BASUTOLAND

REPORT FOR 1928

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BASUTOLAND.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1928.*

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PREFATORY NOTE.

History and Geography.

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° 35' and 30° 40' South latitude, and between 27° and 29° 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, which occupy most of the country to the east, in former years were reserved entirely as cattle and sheep-posts, but owing to the increase in population the Basuto have found it necessary to migrate there, build villages and cultivate the land, so that to-day this more or less inaccessible area is gradually becoming as thickly populated as the low-lying country to the west. The result of this invasion into the mountain area is the disappearance of all big game, such as eland and hartebeeste, that used to abound some 30 years ago and the gradual elimination of the smaller buck.

* The financial information given in this Report is for the financial year ended 31st March, 1928.

In favourable seasons the territory produces wheat, maize, and kaffir corn, while horse-breeding and the raising of cattle and sheep are profitable undertakings, especially the latter; the export of wool for this year amounting to 14,927,616 pounds weight, valued at £765,000 approximately.

In 1818 the first Paramount Chief of Basutoland, Moshesh, gathered together the various remnants of tribes which had become scattered about South Africa during the wars of Moselekatse and thus founded what has become the Basuto nation. The estimated native population is 550,000, while the Europeans, as taken at the last Census, numbered 1,609.

A series of wars took place from 1856 onwards between the Basuto and the inhabitants of the Orange Free State, and it was not until 1868, when he was hard pressed by the Boers, that Moshesh appealed to the British Government for help and the recognition of his people as British subjects. This was carried into effect in March, 1868, but 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 for the general disarmament of the Basuto. The Basuto, however, 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 that date the territory has been governed by a Resident Commissioner under the direction of the High Commissioner for South Africa.

Languages.

The principal languages are English and Sesuto.

Currency.

The coin in circulation is mainly South African, but late South African Republic coins are occasionally met with. Central Reserve Bank notes are brought into the territory, but the local bank only re-issues the notes of joint stock banks. Gold coin is unlimited, but the demand is negligible. £12,500 in gold, £1,000 in silver, and £90 in copper coin was exported during the year by the Maseru branch of the Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited.

The amount of coin in circulation at the end of 1928 was between £40,000 and £50,000, and notes between £100,000 and £125,000.

The Imperial Coinage Act, 1920, is in force in the territory, re-enacted under the High Commissioner's Notice No. 63 of 1920.

Weights and Measures.

The weights and measures in use in Basutoland are the British Imperial, but the Colonial ton of 2,000 lb. is also used.

I. GENERAL.

In September the aged Chief Jonathan died ; during the earlier wars alluded to in the preceding section this Chief had always been a loyal supporter of the Government and he commanded great respect from the tribe. His successor has been nominated by the Paramount Chief, but up to the time of writing the appointment has not been officially confirmed.

There were no faction fights of importance during the year.

A decision was given in the Privy Council regarding the succession of the sons of the late Chief Mojela in which the judgment of the Resident Commissioner's Court was upheld.

Two new appointments—a Judicial Commissioner and a Crown Prosecutor—were made during the year, the duties of these officers being divided between the High Commission Territories.

Drought.—The territory again suffered from a severe drought in the early spring and autumn ; the crop prospects are, however, fairly normal.

Basutoland Council.—The twenty-third session of the Basutoland National Council was held from the 29th September to the 6th October, 1928. The following were the more important subjects discussed :—

1. Agriculture--the appointment of additional Agricultural Demonstrators and the apathy of many leading chiefs towards Agricultural Shows.
2. Erection of dipping tanks.
3. Deferred pay at the mines---explanation of the " Engcobo " System.
4. Stricter enforcement of Leprosy Proclamation.
5. " Placing " of sons of chiefs.
6. Conservation of water.

II. FINANCE.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the financial year ended 31st March, 1928, amounted to £306,399, and the expenditure to £294,874, an excess of revenue over expenditure of £11,525.

The balance of assets in excess of liabilities at the 31st March, 1928, was £105,659.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure during the past five financial years :—

							REVENUE.				
<i>Head.</i>							<i>1923-24</i>	<i>1924-25</i>	<i>1925-26</i>	<i>1926-27</i>	<i>1927-28</i>
							£	£	£	£	£
Native Tax	...	...	...	...	...	...	134,698	127,531	139,776	132,072	137,744
Customs and Excise	...	...	...	...	...	...	71,043	76,765	84,196	87,352	92,201
Posts and Telegraphs	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,038	8,520	8,428	7,648	8,466
Licences	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,585	7,928	7,766	8,758	8,938
Fees of Court or Office	...	...	...	...	...	...	784	906	1,084	933	956
Judicial Fines	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,009	1,991	3,022	1,911	2,629
Income Tax	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,773	12,997	13,759	10,784	12,843
Fees for Services rendered	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,366	1,484	1,386	1,278	1,159
Interest	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,341	1,735	1,819	2,158	2,275
Wool Export Duty	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,128	17,189	15,421	17,141	17,918
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,857	3,962	4,915	4,369	7,913
Education Levy	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	13,357
Totals							...	...	...	...	...
							£252,613	£261,008	£281,572	£274,404	£306,399

EXPENDITURE.

<i>Head.</i>	1923-24	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28
	£	£	£	£	£
Resident Commissioner	13,758	13,692	13,829	13,811	12,532
District Administration	12,670	12,791	13,091	13,690	13,619
Police	36,189	36,756	37,507	39,164	39,160
Posts and Telegraphs	10,437	10,118	10,458	11,676	11,118
Administration of Justice	9,806	11,078	11,659	11,194	12,379
Public Works Department	6,526	5,665	5,616	5,218	5,147
Public Works Recurrent	20,990	22,153	23,778	25,669	23,044
Public Works Extraordinary	3,661	2,383	8,820	6,872	3,671
Medical	20,575	22,795	21,548	22,617	26,121
Education	34,813	35,836	40,113	41,412	54,871
Government Industrial School	2,437	2,429	2,486	2,508	6,566
Agriculture	21,806	22,927	28,780	27,659	30,874*
Allowances to Chiefs	12,448	12,323	11,994	11,691	12,002
National Council	1,950	2,193	2,037	1,909	1,641
Leper Settlement	20,026	19,077	19,306	19,401	19,558
Pensions	6,681	6,812	7,599	10,030	11,797
Miscellaneous	5,656	6,955	9,455	6,076	6,970
Capital Expenditure	1,230	4,214	—	2,030	3,804
Totals	£241,609	£250,197	£268,076	£272,627	£294,874

* Includes cost of measures taken for eradication of Scab.

INCOME TAX.

The rates of Normal and Super Tax remained the same as during the preceding financial year, and were imposed by the Basutoland Income Tax Proclamation, 1925. The only enactment during the year under review dealing with Income Tax was the Basutoland Income Tax Proclamation, 1928 (No. 14 of 1928), which levied the tax for the twelve months ending 30th June, 1928. The total collection of Income Tax was made up as follows :—

				£	s.	d.
Arrear Normal Tax	...	...	...	217	17	11
Current Normal Tax	...	...	...	10,084	14	11
Current Super Tax	...	...	...	2,540	8	1
				<hr/>		
				£12,843	0	11
				<hr/>		

The following table shows the sources from which taxable incomes were derived and the amount of tax paid from each source :—

				£	s.	d.
General Traders	...	...	...	9,803	0	9
Civil Servants	...	...	...	1,157	19	3
Employed Persons	...	...	...	1,012	14	2
Others, including Bank	...	...	...	467	0	4
Non-Residents	...	...	...	402	6	5
				<hr/>		
				£12,843	0	11
				<hr/>		

There is a noticeable decrease in the amount collected from non-residents.

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

<i>Number.</i>	<i>Category.</i>	<i>Total of Taxable Income.</i>		
		£		
63	£500 and under	...	...	23,776
59	£501—£750	...	...	25,482
28	£751—£1,000	...	...	24,738
24	£1,001—£1,500	...	...	28,591
6	£1,501—£2,000	...	...	10,330
11	£2,001—£4,000	...	...	27,832
9	Over £4,000	...	...	76,512
				<hr/>
200	Total taxable income of persons assessed for current tax.	£217,261		

III. PRODUCTION.

AGRICULTURE.

Locust Destruction.—There have been no outbreaks of *voetgangers* during the year and no flying locusts were observed in Basutoland. The campaign against the “Elegant Grasshopper” which was carried out on the Maseru Reserve last year proved successful as these insects have not been nearly so numerous this season.

Reports of damage done to young wheat crops in parts of the Qacha’s Nek district by the “Elegant Grasshopper” have been received, but the pest was quickly overcome on the arrival of the migratory storks.

Agricultural Shows.—An amount of £500 was provided for Agricultural Shows which were held at all Government Camps with the exception of Butha Buthe, Peka, and Mokhotlong.

The work of the Agricultural Demonstrators is already bearing fruit and is evinced by the keener interest taken by the people and the higher quality of the exhibits, the Produce Sections at all Shows showing a marked improvement.

Sheep and Goat Sections at all Shows were also better than usual owing to the keenness and co-operation of Scab Inspectors throughout the territory. The results of the Ram bounty Importation Scheme were also apparent.

Donga Prevention and Tree Planting.—The vote for these services was £1,500. Efforts to counter serious soil erosion and to check the growth of existing dongas were continued, several new works being undertaken.

At the close of the year there were some 253,251 trees in the various Government nurseries. During the year, 46,540 trees were issued to natives and others and 6,625 were planted on the various Government reserves.

Seed Wheat Bounty.—An amount of £500 was set aside as a bounty on seed wheat. The bounty was confined to imported seed but owing to the severe droughts experienced it is feared that very few natives benefited from it.

Agricultural Demonstrators.—Thirteen Demonstrators are now employed in the various parts of the territory. Increasing interest is being taken in their work by the natives, many of whom are purchasing cultivators and planters and the exhibits at the produce sections of the various Shows are proof of the increasing number of converts to better agricultural methods.

General.—The maize and kaffir-corn crops were good. Wheat crops in the lowlands were almost a complete failure, though excellent crops were obtained in the mountain areas.

Among the growing crops a very bad attack of “Cut Worm” in mealies is responsible for many thin fields and poor prospects, as many natives had to sow their lands as many as three times owing to the ravages of this pest.

FORESTRY, FISHERIES, AND MINING.

There are no natural forests in Basutoland and no fisheries. No mining operations are carried on.

IV. TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The following is a return of the imports into, and exports from, the territory by general traders during the calendar year 1928, the figures for 1927 being given for the purposes of comparison :—

IMPORTS.

	1927		1928	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
Merchandise	—	£ 780,470	—	£ 881,767
<i>Livestock.</i> —				
Horses, Mules, etc.	127	490	1,350	1,855
Cattle	2,747	6,947	4,772	11,230
Sheep and Goats	598	1,059	716	1,541
<i>Grain.</i> —	<i>Muids.</i>		<i>Muids.</i>	
Wheat and Wheat Meal... ..	5,925	9,506	6,920	10,460
Maize and Maize Meal	46,602	34,155	15,289	10,925
Kaffir Corn	8,452	9,631	3,399	3,124
<i>Other Produce</i>	—	635	—	663
Totals	—	£842,893	—	£921,574

EXPORTS.

	1927		1928	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
<i>Livestock.</i> —		£		£
Horses, Mules, etc.	21	95	32	233
Cattle	1,081	9,620	1,538	7,165
Sheep and Goats	867	569	—	—
<i>Grain.</i> —	<i>Muids.</i>		<i>Muids.</i>	
Wheat and Wheat Meal... ..	103,568	115,455	118,280	131,414
Maize and Maize Meal	37,512	17,663	100,774	59,295
Kaffir Corn	22,062	20,020	30,969	18,530
Oats	55	23	56	37
Barley	67	35	138	86
Beans and Peas	3,458	3,521	2,371	3,166
<i>Wool and Mohair.</i> —	<i>Lb.</i>		<i>Lb.</i>	
Wool	12,906,780	508,687	12,725,153	610,750
Mohair	2,132,907	139,226	1,921,180	159,484
<i>Hides and Skins.</i> —				
Hides	402,626	18,280	607,428	31,817
Skins	217,351	5,356	406,480	11,002
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	—	538	—	413
Totals	—	£839,095	—	£1,013,392

OTHER STATISTICS.

Government imports during the year amounted to £50,059, as compared with £51,562 in 1927.

The total exports of wool and mohair during the year amounted to 14,927,616 lb., of which 14,646,342 lb. were exported by general traders.

GENERAL.

All imports by traders are made through wholesale houses in the Union of South Africa or by direct indent with wholesale houses overseas, and all exports are to the Union of South Africa. It is therefore impossible to give the origin of goods imported or the ultimate destination of goods exported.

With the exception of fuel, soap, motor-oil, and petrol which are purchased in the Union, all Government imports are made through the Crown Agents for the Colonies, London.

V. COMMUNICATIONS.

RAILWAYS.

There is only a small branch line from Marseilles (on the Bloemfontein-Natal main line) to Maseru, and only one mile of this is in Basutoland.

ROADS.

The reorganization of the staff, which was carried out during 1927, has resulted in general improvement in the condition of the roads; re-gravelling has been carried out almost continuously, additional culverts have been built, and a number of low-lying sections have been built up.

The increase in the number of motor-lorries during the year is very noticeable and, though the travelling public appear satisfied that progress is being made it is realised that the growth of motor transport will call for continued improvement.

The reinforced-concrete bridge across the Telle River on the Quthing-Cape Province border has been completed by the Public Works Department of the Union of South Africa, and has greatly improved the communications of this part of the territory. The Administration of Basutoland bore half the cost of this work.

POSTAL.

All districts in Basutoland are linked up with Maseru by telegraph and telephone lines with the exception of Qacha's Nek, which is connected by telegraph and telephone with Matatiele in East Griqualand. The systems are owned by the Basutoland Government. Both telegraph and telephones are used by the general public and public telephone call offices are attached to each post office.

There are ten telegraph offices in the territory and 154½ miles of telegraph wire. During 1928 telegraph messages numbering 60,965 were dealt with as follows:—cables 296; Government telegrams 2,758; ordinary 24,368; transmitted 13,180; received 20,363.

There are ten central telephone offices with telephones in service. The length of local exchange wire is 84½ miles and long-distance wire 410½ miles.

The net postal, telegraph, and telephone revenue for the year ended 31st March, 1928, amounted to £8,465, as compared with £7,648 for the year 1926-27, and the expenditure amounted to £11,117, as compared with £11,676 for the year 1926-27.

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

<i>Deposits.</i>		<i>Withdrawals.</i>	
1926-27 =	1,587, value £6,925	923,	value £7,404
1927-28 =	1,845, value £9,187	867,	value £6,540

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

<i>Issued.</i>		<i>Paid.</i>	
1926-27 =	32,225, value £28,611	65,457,	value £74,003
1927-28 =	32,597, value £29,905	47,427,	value £53,377

VI. JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

During the year, two new appointments, a Judicial Commissioner and a Crown Prosecutor, were made, the duties of these officers being divided between the three High Commission Territories.

During the year under review 2,914 crimes were reported or known to the Police, the number of persons proceeded against being 2,737, as compared with 2,185 and 2,456, respectively, for the year 1927. Convictions in Magisterial Courts numbered 2,162 and in the Resident Commissioner's Court 37, as compared with 2,080 and 95, respectively, in 1927.

The following table shows the number of convictions for various crimes and offences during the last four years :—

<i>In Magisterial Courts.</i>	<i>1925.</i>	<i>1926.</i>	<i>1927.</i>	<i>1928.</i>
Offences against the person ...	125	97	287	438
Offences against property ...	327	244	272	253
Offences against liquor laws ...	48	52	37	42
Other crimes ...	1,446	1,409	1,484	1,429
<i>In the Resident Commissioner's Court.</i>	<i>1925.</i>	<i>1926.</i>	<i>1927.</i>	<i>1928.</i>
Murder ...	4	6	1	1
Culpable Homicide ...	18	38	24	20
Attempted Murder ...	—	—	1	4
Rape ...	2	2	—	2
Unnatural Crime ...	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the person ...	13	11	4	2
Offences against property with violence to the person.	84	298	48	4
Other offences against property...	28	41	15	3
Other crimes ...	1	1	—	—

POLICE.

The Police Force consists of native non-commissioned officers and men under European Officers.

PRISONS.

There are seven gaols and three lock-ups in the territory, and 2,597 prisoners passed through them during the year, as compared with 2,401 in 1927.

VII. PUBLIC WORKS.

Repairs to Government buildings in the Leribe, Butha Buthe, Peka, and Teyateyaneng Camps have been carried out, and the Government Hospitals at Maseru, Leribe, Mafeteng, and Mohale's Hoek have been re-painted and repaired. All other works carried out during the year were of minor importance.

WATER WORKS.

The Qacha's Nek Water Supply Scheme, which was commenced in 1927, was completed during the year and brings in a supply of 20,000 gallons per diem.

Owing to the severe drought, difficulty has been experienced in maintaining adequate supplies.

The water supplies in the Teyateyaneng, Maseru, Mafeteng, and Mohale's Hoek Camps have diminished to such an alarming extent that the whole question has had to receive special consideration.

The main contributory factors in the decrease are, firstly, the gradual drying-up of springs throughout the territory, due to the decreased rainfall and general overstocking, and, secondly, from the yearly increased demand for water in each camp owing to the growth of the population. Other factors are old and faulty piping and insufficient reservoir storage accommodation.

As Teyateyaneng Camp is situated on the top of a sandstone ridge and is considerably higher than the surrounding country, the water supply is dependent on bore-holes, as a gravitation scheme—even if suitable springs on nearby mountains existed—would be too expensive and probably would not, in any case, yield a sufficient supply.

Maseru, which has a supply of spring water, led from some eight miles away, as well as a river-water supply pumped up from the Caledon River, has suffered very severely during the past year. Owing to the severe droughts experienced during the spring and early summer, the spring-water supply became seriously diminished and, with the exception of the Government Hospital, the whole township had to be cut off from the mains all day save from 6 to 9 a.m. and 5 to 9 p.m., and even then water failed to reach many consumers.

The river-water supply pumping plant, which has been in operation for some 15 years, has become so worn out that, despite constant repairs, it was not running for more than an average of one day per week, and the shortage of spring-water was accentuated by the fact that it was used by many consumers for purposes for which river-water would, under normal circumstances, have sufficed.

In Mohale's Hoek, where the shortage was principally due to mechanical defects in the pumping plant, measures have been taken to effect the necessary repairs.

GENERAL.

Owing to the almost general shortage of water, it was decided to call for the opinion of an expert, and it is proposed within the course of the next year to sink bore-holes at the various centres with a view to ensuring a more constant supply, and provision is being made for the replacement of the Maseru River pumping plant.

VIII. PUBLIC HEALTH.

During the year, 2,332 patients were treated in the hospitals, showing a decrease of 267 as compared with the previous year. This decrease was due to the fact that the Maseru, Mafeteng, and Mohale's Hoek hospitals were in turn closed, to all intents and purposes, for renovation from July to the end of October. The hospital at Qacha's Nek was closed in November for a time on account of the shortage of water.

The European patients during the year numbered 102; as usual, most of them were surgical cases. The deaths during the year numbered 169. The number of patients treated in the out-patients department was 66,080, showing an increase of 3,019 over the previous year. The number of vaccinations during the year was 2,003. The revenue collected in hospital and dispensary fees was £2,835 4s. 6d.

The following table details the above quoted total:—

District.	In-patients.	Out-patients.	Vaccinations.	Revenue.		
				£	s.	d.
Maseru	863	14,509	—	800	1	3
Leribe	438	12,933	—	539	11	6
Mafeteng	355	12,787	—	539	1	0
Mohale's Hoek	253	6,747	74	290	3	0
Quthing	268	8,089	1,730	278	5	0
Qacha's Nek	155	3,657	199	125	2	0
Teyatoyaneng	—	7,358	—	254	0	9
Totals	2,332	66,080	2,003	£2,835	4	6

As regards the health of the territory, there has been no epidemic of any nature. Cases of enteric fever were reported in every district, the total number of cases being 575. Inoculations against this disease were carried out in each instance when an outbreak occurred.

There was not a single case of small-pox reported in the country, but, on the other hand, 76 cases of scarlet fever were reported. Of the other epidemic, endemic, and infectious diseases, the number of cases were as follows :—

Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,016
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	311
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	189
Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tetanus	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

There was a small outbreak of diphtheria in the north of the Territory, but no deaths were reported. Antitoxin was immediately supplied. There were many cases of whooping cough amongst the Europeans, affecting both children and adults; many natives were also victimised. The cases of measles were not many. There were 13 cases of anthrax, but this was due to the carelessness of the natives. There was a slight increase in the number of venereal diseases, but these were not out of proportion to the great increase in the number of cases treated.

The general health of the Government native employees and also of the prisoners has been good.

During the year, the number of rodents destroyed was 6,444, but there was no suspicion of any case of plague in Basutoland.

Sanitary measures were adopted in Mafeteng for the benefit of the natives, and it is hoped to do the same in Butha Buthe during the coming year.

LEPER SETTLEMENT.

On the 31st December, 1927, the population of the Settlement was 496, consisting of 237 males and 259 females. On the 31st December, 1928, there were 243 males and 283 females, making a total of 526, showing an increase of population of 30.

The changes of the population throughout the year are indicated in the following table :—

		<i>Admitted.</i>	<i>Re-admitted.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Deserted.</i>	<i>Discharged.</i>
Males ...	...	58	9	21	5	35
Females	...	57	7	14	6	20
Totals...	...	115	16	35	11	55

The following is the corresponding table for the year 1927 :—

		<i>Admitted.</i>	<i>Re-admitted.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Deserted.</i>	<i>Discharged.</i>
Males ...	...	51	12	36	23	14
Females	...	54	7	18	12	19
Totals...	...	105	19	54	35	33

The increase in the number of patients was 10. There was a decrease in the number of those re-admitted of 3, a decrease of 19 in those who died, a decrease of 24 of those who deserted, and there was a happy increase of 22 of those who were discharged. So that the increase of the population at the end of the year is not entirely accounted for by the increase of the number of admittances.

It will be noted that, whilst the number of deaths amongst the males last year was double that of the females, this year the proportion is as three to two. The number of desertions has decreased by more than two thirds, which would seem to show that the inhabitants are more or less satisfied with their surroundings.

As has been mentioned before, the increase in the number of those discharged is a testimony of the good work which is being done by the Medical Officer.

IX. EDUCATION.

The new system, by which is meant the re-classification of the schools in the territory and the enlargement of the Inspectorate, has now been in operation for a full year and it is consequently possible profitably to examine some of its results.

Schools were divided at the beginning of 1928 into Elementary (Grades I-VI) and Intermediate (Grades I-VI and Standards IV-VI). Previously all schools had been allowed to teach up to Standard VI. The effect of this new classification is apparent in Tables I, III, and IV. The increase in pupils has fallen to 196; the number of large schools has increased by 16 and many others have decreased in size.

The average number of pupils on the roll has dropped by over 300 in comparison with the previous year, which shows that many pupils who had taken Standard III did not continue their studies.

It was found that complaints were made of the insufficiency of Intermediate Schools, and at the meeting of the Board of Advice on Education in November it was decided to increase their number by eight. The building of the Government Intermediate Schools at Maseru and Mafeteng is progressing satisfactorily and it is expected that they will be opened at the beginning of the third quarter. These Schools will admit Standard IV-VI pupils only and it is hoped that they will relieve the congestion in the Mission Intermediate Schools.

Since many native parents wished their children to continue their education above Standard III without necessarily taking the full intermediate course, it was decided that in 1929 200 selected Elementary Schools should be allowed to teach up to Standard IV.

The effect of the enlargement of the Inspectorate has been seen in the number of inspections carried out during the year (650 as compared with 340 in 1927 and 270 in 1926). Teachers are being shown how to make the best of their abilities and resources, the syllabus is more carefully followed, and lazy dishonest work is becoming rarer. No similar advance can be reported in the school buildings and equipment which on the whole are still distinctly poor owing to the impecuniosity of the Missions.

The annual reports of the Mission Institutions relate of satisfactory progress. Leloaleng has had an exceptionally good year, but the agricultural course is not popular with the boys. At Morija, on the other hand, the agricultural section is in a more flourishing state, a number of pupils being engaged in this branch of work. Morija has also had very satisfactory results in the external examinations. Reports from Cana are excellent and at Thabana Morena many awards for industrial work were gained at the camp exhibitions. Agriculture is making great strides at Masite, and Maseru (St. Catherine's) has had a satisfactory year.

The new bursary system, by which the sons of poor and deserving parents who take good places in the annual Standard VI examination are given bursaries at Morija, Roma, and Masite, is proving its worth to the full. There is no doubt that in this way the right type of candidate is being selected, the type likely to take the good in higher native education and leave the bad.

STATISTICS.

The average attendance of pupils in schools and institutions is now 34,330 and the number of scholars on the roll is 46,606.

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

Table I.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Average Attendance.</i>	<i>Increase.</i>	<i>Decrease.</i>
1919	22,556	1,390	—
1920	23,479	932	—
1921	22,586	—	893
1922	23,424	838	—
1923	26,124	2,700	—
1924	29,267	3,143	—
1925	30,005	738	—
1926	33,074	3,069	—
1927	34,134	1,060	—
1928	34,330	196	—

Table II.

Grants to Missions for schools and institutions for the year ending 31st December, 1928, were as follows :—

	£
Paris Evangelical Society (Missionary)	24,832
Roman Catholic Mission	7,896
Church of England Mission	3,716
	£36,444

Table III.

Elementary and Intermediate Schools according to size and denomination :—

Mission.	Over 150		100 70		60 45		25 20		Under 20		Total.
	200	200	150	100	70	60	45	25	20	20	
P.E.M.S. ...	14	11	45	67	32	47	98	28	17	359	
R.C. ...	9	3	11	11	14	17	38	3	7	113	
C. of E. ...	1	1	7	6	10	14	13	6	3	60	
Total ...	24	15	63	84	56	78	149	36	27	532	
+ or -	+16	-15	-5	0	0	+3	+11	-12	+1	-1	

The increases and decreases as compared with 1927 are given under each column. The increase in the number of large schools is due to the creation of Intermediate Schools. Of the above, 28 are Intermediate Schools and 504 Elementary Schools.

Table IV.

Enrolment of pupils in Intermediate and Elementary Schools :—

Mission.	Average number of pupils on roll, year ending September, 1927.			Average number of pupils on roll, year ending September, 1928.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
P.E.M.S. ...	10,652	21,892	32,544	10,919	20,804	31,723
R.C. ...	2,145	6,825	8,970	2,418	7,218	9,636
C. of E. ...	1,507	3,178	4,685	1,418	2,968	4,386
Totals ...	14,304	31,895	46,199	14,755	30,990	45,745

The total of 45,745 is 454 less than in the previous year. This decrease is due to the creation of Intermediate Schools and to the fact that the Elementary Schools were not allowed to take Standard IV and above.

Table V.

Enrolment of pupils in Institutions :—

Mission.	Institution.	Number of pupils on roll, September 1927.			Number of pupils on roll, September 1928.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
P.E.M.S. ...	Morija (Normal and Agr.).	138	—	138	133	—	133
P.E.M.S. ...	Th. Morena (Normal and Ind.).	—	31	31	—	46	46
P.E.M.S. ...	Cana (Industrial).	—	31	31	—	46	46
P.E.M.S. ...	Leloaeng (Ind. and Agr.).	56	—	56	47	—	47
R.C. ...	Roma (Normal, Indus. and Agr.).	141	307	448	183	326	509
C. of E. ...	Masite (Normal, Indus. and Agr.).	30	1	31	28	4	32
C. of E. ...	Maseru Industrial.	—	36	36	—	44	44
C. of E. ...	Hlotse Industrial.	—	—	—	—	29	29
	Totals ...	365	444	809	391	527	918

Table VI.

Average attendance of pupils at Elementary Schools :—

Mission.	Year ending September 1927.			Year ending September 1928.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
P.E.M.S. ...	7,404	15,958	23,362	7,585	15,093	22,678
R.C. ...	1,540	5,181	6,721	1,780	5,604	7,384
C. of E. ...	1,033	2,334	3,367	1,123	2,356	3,479
Totals ...	9,977	23,473	33,450	10,488	23,053	33,541

EUROPEAN SCHOOLS.

The eight European schools, with a total attendance of approximately 115 pupils, received a grant of £1,900. These schools have good buildings and are well equipped. They provide elementary education and prepare pupils for schools outside Basutoland.

X. LABOUR.

The following figures give the number of passes issued to natives to leave the territory for labour purposes during the last two years :--

Year.	Mines.	Railway Construction.	Agriculture.	Miscellaneous Labour.	Total.
1927	24,880	173	9,507	23,407	57,967
1928	25,523	284	7,353	20,718	53,878

XI. VETERINARY.

ANTHRAX.

Thirty-six outbreaks of anthrax occurred during the year, being eight more than last year.

The policy of keeping all transport oxen inoculated on the western roads, particularly in the vicinity of anthrax-infected outspans which are known to exist, is being continued and altogether 43,911 animals have been inoculated. All inoculations have been carried out by trained members of the police force, and the ready co-operation of Assistant Commissioners and police officers in this matter has been much appreciated.

No anthrax was diagnosed amongst equines or sheep, and the absence of anthrax in sheep grazing on well-known infected pastures is rather remarkable, as experimentally the sheep is very susceptible to the anthrax bacillus.

EQUINE MANGE.

As anticipated in the last report, the position of equine mange in the territory has greatly improved, and it is now a rare sight to see a case of mange.

The erection of more dipping tanks in the mountain areas has largely contributed to this end, and it is hoped that this disease will soon be a thing of the past.

During the year, 5,572 animals were treated for mange, but it is believed that many of these animals were suffering from lice and allied infections, the natives being educated to bring any horses suffering from loss of hair or itching for treatment immediately.

Last year 14,202 animals were treated, which clearly demonstrates the progress made.

SHEEP SCAB.

The past year has proved the most difficult since the scab campaign was brought into force. Owing to the severe drought, the spring and early summer of this year were almost the worst on record for sheep, with the result that many animals were in the advanced stages of poverty, rendering them very susceptible to the ravages of the scab mite. Flocks developing scab under these conditions proved very difficult to treat, as it was often found impracticable

to dip them owing to their poverty ; as a result, hand-dressing had to be resorted to, and experience has shown that this form of treatment is never satisfactory.

Associated with these severe grazing troubles there has been a great tendency for sheep to stray from infected areas to the lowlands in search of better veld, and this has been responsible for many serious recrudescences of scab in areas where none has existed for one, two, or three years.

The difficulties encountered this year have very forcibly demonstrated that scab can never be eradicated from the territory until the mountain areas have been tanked, and all evidence goes to show that there has been a most serious mortality owing to scab in un-tanked mountain areas.

Very real progress has, however, been made in this direction, and the Quthing, Mohale's Hoek, and Mafeteng districts have been completely equipped with dipping tanks during the year, and it is hoped that before the advent of the next winter the Maseru and Qacha's Nek districts will be in the same position.

The most serious factor in the scab campaign is the inefficiency of the native staff, many of the native dipping supervisors who have been in Government employment for three or four years—men who know their work thoroughly—proving the worst offenders. All of them appear to be subject to a peculiar type of mental lapse during which they are capable of the most serious neglect of duty ; recognising this, schools of instruction have been started and now take place at the end of each month. The Principal Veterinary Officer has drawn up a complete list of questions and the European scab inspector, when paying the native staff, puts them through this catechism, and there is reason to hope that this may improve matters.

The dismissal of a trained dipping supervisor is a great blow to the Department, as it takes several weeks of intense work to render the average Mosuto fit to take charge of a dipping tank.

During the year, twenty-six contracts for the erection of dipping tanks in the mountain areas were entered into, and some eleven tanks have been completed. All the tanks contracted for are situated at any altitude from 7,000 to 10,000 feet and the building period lasts only six months owing to frost, but the organisation of this work has never been better than it now is and it is hoped to complete all the contracts in the prescribed period. The principle of arranging for the contractor to take over the pack transport of all material from wagon-head to the site is a great improvement and has considerably reduced the worries of the scab inspector.

In view of the unreliability of the native dipping supervisors, the Veterinary Department has for some time past been in search of a dip that could be relied upon to cure scab without hand dressing as it is conceded that such a dip would considerably increase the possibilities of the complete eradication of scab from the territory.

In co-operation with Messrs. Cooper & Nephews, Ltd., a large experiment has been carried out in the mountain area to test a new dip which they have recently evolved and which they claim to be very efficient in the destruction of the scab mite. Some 15,000 sheep were treated with this new dip, 50 per cent. of the flocks being scab-infected, and no hand-dressing, other than the treatment of the ears and orbital fossae, was resorted to. These sheep will be subjected to a table inspection in March, and if, as the firm claims, this dip will clean them without hand-dressing, it will be of enormous value and will be adopted throughout the territory.

BASTARD SHEEP.

The campaign against the farming of bastard sheep in the territory has been much more successful than was anticipated. The propaganda work carried out by the European Scab Inspectors has been very energetically and efficiently done. They have preached the castration of all bastard rams and the consumption of bastard sheep, and the results have been surprising.

Coinciding with the destruction of the bastard ram, it was thought that the time was ripe to make an attempt to import good Merino rams and so enable flock-owners to purchase rams of the right type at a low price.

The Basutoland Chamber of Commerce were invited to co-operate with the scheme, and it was finally decided to allocate £500 for this work. Rams were to be purchased by traders after having been passed by the Veterinary Department, and no ram was to be sold to the native for more than £2, the Government paying the trader £1 on the sale of each ram.

Many good rams were imported, some of them when clipped produced fleeces of £1 in value, which meant that the native was able to get a good ram for £1. At the outset of the scheme rams sold readily, but eventually many traders were left with rams on their hands, and out of the £500 allocated only £329 has been spent.

This experiment has been a great disappointment as, given the whole-hearted support of the Basuto, an annual importation of 500 good Merino rams would revolutionise the quality of our wool and neutralise the ill-effects of incestuous breeding that takes place in the haphazard and careless methods of the average Mosuto farmer.

STUD.

The continuance of severe drought conditions has militated against stud work this season. There was a general absence of green grass in the spring and early summer, and mares were in poor condition.

Altogether 134 mares have been covered during the season and 67 proved to be in foal.

GENERAL.

The usual outbreaks of strangles, gallsickness, and biliary fever have been successfully treated.

During the year, 2,242,918 sheep and goats were dipped and over half a million were subjected to "table inspection." Sheep and goats exported from Basutoland to the various provinces of the Union totalled 8,683.

During the year, 2,066 professional visits and attendances were made by the Principal Veterinary Officer.

XII. MISCELLANEOUS.

The following proclamations were promulgated during the year:—

(1) No. 3.—Basutoland Auditor's Pension Proclamation, 1928.

(2) No. 5.—Basutoland Further Appropriation (1926-1927) Proclamation, 1928.

(3) No. 7.—Basutoland Customs Tariff (Amendment) Proclamation, 1928.

(4) No. 10.—Basutoland Court of Resident Commissioner Proclamation, 1928.

(5) No. 13.—Basutoland Appropriation Proclamation, 1928.

(6) No. 14.—Basutoland Income Tax Proclamation, 1928.

(7) No. 17.—Amending Schedule to Proclamation No. 16 of 1907, to provide for the stamping of Auxiliary or Collateral Bonds.

(8) No. 26.—Establishing the Office of Crown Prosecutor in Basutoland.

(9) No. 27.—Amending the Basutoland Sheep and Goats Importation Restriction Proclamation, 1927.

(10) No. 28.—Basutoland Trading Proclamation, 1928.—Consolidating and amending the Law.

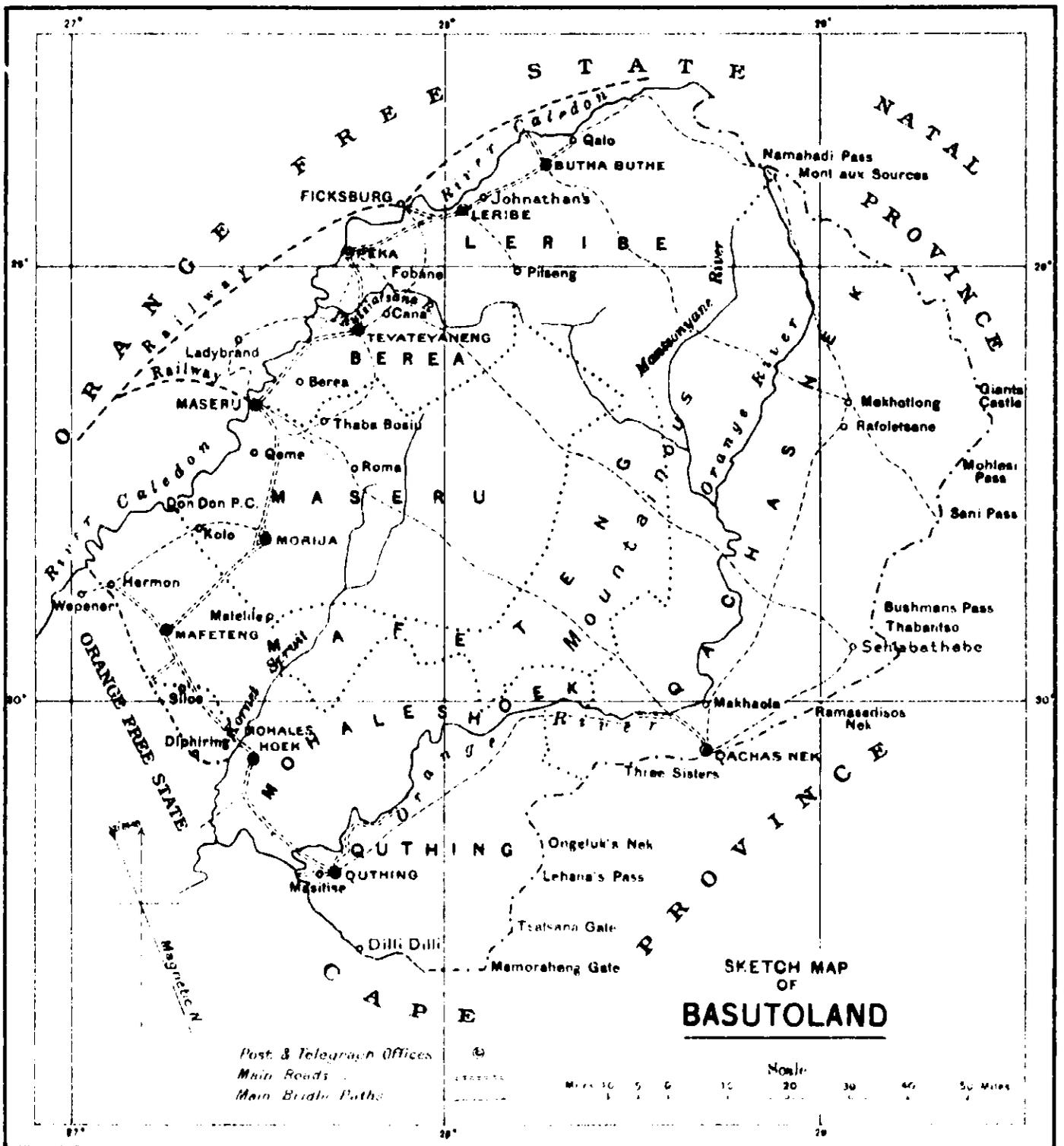
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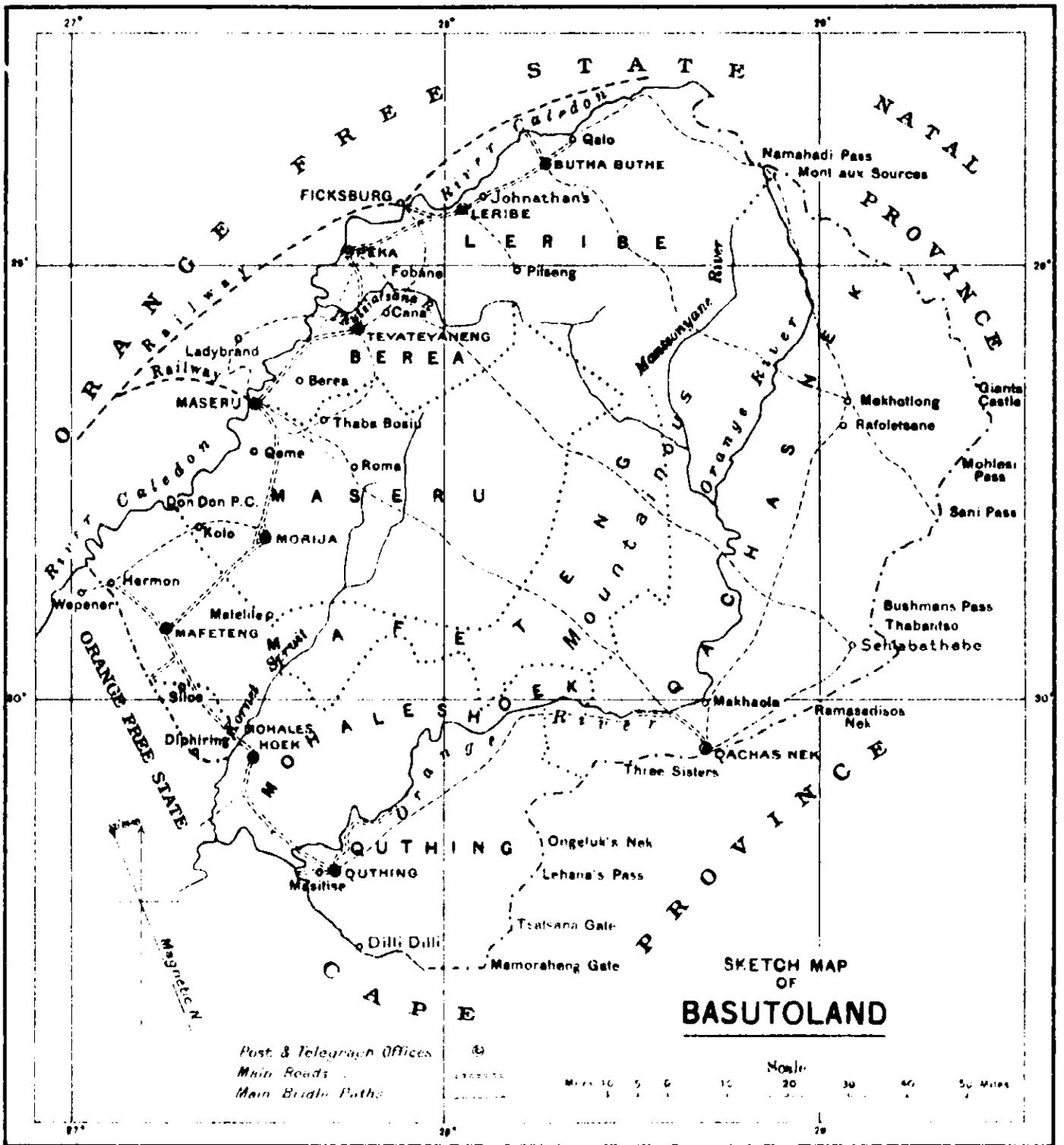
(12) No. 32.—Government Reserves Regulations (Basutoland) Proclamation, 1928.

R. M. BOSWORTH SMITH,

Government Secretary.

BASUTOLAND.





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