



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

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 677.

BASUTOLAND.

REPORT FOR 1909-10.

(For Report for 1908-9, see No. 634.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
June, 1911.



LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
To be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN AND SONS, LIMITED, FETTER LANE, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, S.W.; or
OLIVER & BOYD, TWEEDDALE COURT, EDINBURGH; or
E. PONSONBY, LTD., 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

PRINTED BY
DARLING AND SON, LIMITED, BACON STREET, E.
1911.

[Cd. 5467-13.] *Price 1d.*

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
FINANCIAL	4
TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND STOCK-BREEDING	6
EDUCATION	9
MEDICAL	9
LEGISLATION	10
GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS	10
PUBLIC WORKS	11
CRIMINAL AND POLICE	12
GENERAL	13

No. 677.

BASUTOLAND.

(For Reports for 1908-9, see No. 634.)

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO THE SECRETARY
OF STATE.

Government House,
Cape Town.
April 12th, 1911.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from the Resident Commissioner of Basutoland, forwarding the Report on the annual Blue Book for the territory for the year ended June 30th, 1910.

I have, &c.,

GLADSTONE,
High Commissioner.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

Resident Commissioner's Office,
Maseru.
March 24th, 1911.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to return the Report on the annual Blue Book for Basutoland for the year ended 30th June, 1910.

I have, &c.,

H. C. SLOLEY,
Resident Commissioner.

His Excellency
The Right Honourable
Viscount Gladstone, P.C., G.C.M.G.,
High Commissioner for South Africa.

REPORT ON BASUTOLAND BLUE BOOK.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue of Basutoland for the year ending 30th June, 1910, amounted to £119,974, being an increase of £11,336 as compared with the revenue for the previous financial year.

The principal increases were under the heads of Hut Tax, Customs, and Post Office.

Subjoined are comparative statements of revenue and expenditure for the years 1908-09 and 1909-10.

Revenue.

	1908-9.	1909-10.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Hut Tax	65,059	69,601	4,542	—
Post Office	3,441	4,012	571	—
Licences	4,232	4,021	—	211
Fees of Court or Office	238	278	40	—
Miscellaneous	1,872	1,717	—	155
Customs	30,060	35,976	5,916	—
Interest	3,736	4,369	633	—
Total	108,638	119,974	11,702	366

Expenditure.

Heads of Service.	1908-9.	1909-10.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Establishments	14,184	12,618	—	1,566
2. Police	17,977	18,361	384	—
3. Post Office	4,024	4,685	661	—
4. Allowances to Chiefs and Headmen.	5,782	6,042	260	—
5. Medical Expenses	352	787	435	—
6. Office Contingencies	1,211	1,216	5	—
7. Revenue Services	422	398	—	24
8. Administration of Justice...	2,718	2,864	146	—
9. Transport	145	58	—	87
10. Public Works	35,773	28,195	—	7,578
11. Hospitals	7,304	10,836	3,532	—
12. Education	10,631	12,241	1,610	—
13. Rewards for Special Services.	80	75	—	5

Heads of Service.	1908-9.	1909-10.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
14. Audit	304	357	53	—
15. Miscellaneous	4,918	3,039	—	1,879
16. Agriculture	9,127	7,024	—	2,103
17. National Council	372	490	118	—
18. Pensions	—	2,158	2,158	—
Total Expenditure charge- able to General Revenue.	115,324	111,444	9,362	13,242
Capital Expenditure from Surplus Balances.	11,597	15,993	4,396	—
Total	126,921	127,437	13,758	13,242

The ordinary expenditure for 1909-10 amounted to £111,444, to which, however, must be added £15,993 extraordinary expenditure met from surplus balances under special authority from the Secretary of State. Both revenue and expenditure have been rising steadily in the territory for some years, as will be seen from the attached comparative statement for five years past.

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1905-06	98,515	93,334
1906-07	111,904	108,833
1907-08	116,530	126,604
1908-09	108,638	126,921
1909-10	119,974	127,437

The expenditure for the last two years includes capital expenditure from surplus balances, amounting to £27,590.

The actual state of the Basutoland finances on the 30th June, 1910, is shown in the following tables of assets and liabilities:—

Statement of Assets and Liabilities, 30th June, 1910.

Assets:—

	£	s.	d.
Balance at Standard Bank, Maseru ...	4,190	19	9
Balances in hands of sub-Accountants ...	916	15	3
Balance in hands of Crown Agents ...	1,546	14	0
Fixed deposit with Standard Bank ...	40,000	0	0
Loan to Swaziland Administration ...	80,000	0	0
Advances recoverable	83	7	3
Total	£126,737	16	3

Liabilities:—

	£	s.	d.
Deposits from Labour Agents	1,200	0	0
Balances of assets in excess of liabilities ...	125,537	16	3
Total	£126,737	16	3

The loan of £80,000 to the Swaziland Administration referred to, was at the rate of three and a-half per cent., repayable in twenty-five years. The deposits by labour agents mentioned are the various sums of £100 each deposited as security for good behaviour by labour agents in terms of Proclamation No. 27 of 1909 by His Excellency the High Commissioner.

British sterling and the coinage of the late South African Republic are legal tender, and accounts are kept in British sterling.

The Standard Bank of South Africa has opened a branch office at Maseru.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND STOCK-BREEDING.

It is to be noted that since 1905 the Customs year ends on the 31st December, and not on the 30th June as does the financial year.

A table is given herewith showing the imports and exports of the Territory, in detail, of the principal heads:—

Return of Exports for year ended 31st December, 1909.

	Quantity.	Value. £
Animals, living:—		
Horses	482	7,638
Cattle	1,313	9,813
Mules and donkeys	15	99
Sheep and goats	169	126
All other	—	185
Articles of food and drink:—	lbs.	
Beans and peas	812,883	1,903
Kaffir corn	1,382,415	3,820
Maize	36,431,349	75,201
Oats	835,618	2,036
Wheat	12,511,009	48,979
All other, N.O.D.	905,394	4,346
Eggs, meat, &c.	—	248
Produce:—		
Hair, Angora	1,455,943	49,721
Wool, sheep's	6,960,675	139,022
Hides and skins:—		
Hides, cattle	22,975	543
Skins, sheep and goats'	121,147	2,112
All other articles	—	4,092
		<hr/>
		£349,884

Return of Imports for the Year ended 31st December, 1909.

	£
Animals (horses, cattle, sheep, &c.)... ..	4,120
Apparel, slops, &c.	12,773
Bags of all sorts	10,583
Beads of all sorts	807
Cotton piece-goods	18,244
Cotton manufactures	12,094
Food and drink (articles of)	31,540
Haberdashery and millinery	13,048
Hardware and cutlery, fencing material, &c. ...	6,013
Hats and caps	740
Implements (agricultural)	4,844
Iron manufactures	2,379
Leather and leather manufactures—including boots and shoes	16,495
Soap, all kinds	4,439
Vehicles of all sorts	3,379
Wood (manufactured and unmanufactured) ...	3,780
Woollen manufactures—including blankets and shawls	84,830
All other articles of merchandise	24,096
	254,204
Articles for the use of the Government	4,790
	£258,994

Exports showed an increase of £156,762 compared with 1908, and Angora hair (mohair) and sheep's wool show, respectively, an increase of 60 per cent. and 66 per cent. At the same time it is not clear that this increase is all current gain, as it seems likely that, owing to low market prices at the end of 1908, some wool and hair was brought forward and sold in 1909.

The considerable increase in wheat and maize exported, as shown above, is principally grain harvested in the early half of 1909, and has nothing to do with the crops grown in the financial year 1909-10. A comparative statement of imports and exports for the last four years may prove interesting, as showing the almost continuous rise in both figures:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
30th June, 1906	191,701	172,496
31st December, 1906	242,353	185,155
31st December, 1907	238,599	248,541
31st December, 1908	239,830	193,122
31st December, 1909	258,994	349,884

Stock-breeding.

Basutoland is before all things a stock-breeding country, though the stock-farming of the Basuto in the past has been of the rudest description.

The Government has for some years past interested itself generally in the question; but of late, under the superintendence of the Principal Veterinary Surgeon, large strides have been taken towards improving the stock of the country by distribution of well-bred sheep and goat rams to stockowners throughout the Territory, and by the introduction of stallions, picked carefully, as being suitable for the country mares.

The results as regards wool and mohair have already become evident, though there is still great room for improvement. As to horse-breeding, the results can hardly be expected to show yet, but in a few years a considerable improvement may be looked for. No direct attempt has, for many reasons, been made to improve the breed of cattle.

Possibly, with the disappearance of East Coast fever from South Africa and with changed local conditions as to cattle values in the Territory, some assistance may become advisable. For the present it does not appear that any counter-balancing gain would accrue from efforts to improve the breed of cattle in Basutoland, beyond the encouragement given to every class of stock and produce by the presentation of prizes at the Agricultural Shows held every year at each Government station in the country.

Sporadic cases of the usual stock diseases have occurred here and there during the year, but, generally speaking, the country has been remarkably free from disease.

Three outbreaks of glanders, however, were much more serious, and though these outbreaks were successfully and, it is hoped, thoroughly dealt with, we must, of course, keep ourselves keenly on the look-out for a recrudescence of this persistent relic of the late war.

The Basutoland position as regards East Coast fever becomes more serious year by year. The disease still spreads in Natal towards this border, and is now creating a very serious position in the Cape Colony. The Basutoland-Natal border is most favourable for restrictive measures, consisting as it does, throughout the greater part, of perpendicular precipices, while the natives on either side have little or no intercourse with each other, even in ordinary times. All known passes have been closed or destroyed, guards have been set over them and every means which experience can suggest has been adopted to make a successful fight against the disease.

On the Basutoland-Cape Colony side, however, matters are very different; the country is much more open than on the Natal border; the mountain passes are lower; in fact, in the greater part of its length it presents few difficulties to the introduction of cattle.

Since the great campaign against locusts in 1908, I am glad to say that the Territory has been free of the pest, and from reports received from different parts of South Africa there does not seem much likelihood of an invasion in the coming year.

EDUCATION.

In educational matters some progress has been made in carrying out the suggestions of Mr. E. B. Sargant in his report of 1905-06.

In August, 1909, the Central Board of Advice on Educational Matters, which had been recommended by Mr. Sargant, sat at Maseru. It was preceded by an informal meeting of missionaries, at which a new syllabus much resembling that suggested on pages 200 and 201 of Mr. Sargant's report, was decided on.

It is too soon yet to judge how this new syllabus will work, but it certainly appears that it will do much to direct native teaching into more intelligent paths.

Enrolment of Pupils in Elementary Schools.

Mission.	No. of pupils on roll, December, 1909			No. of pupils on roll, December, 1908.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Paris Missionary Society.	4,993	6,044	11,037	4,651	5,176	9,827
Church of England ...	646	844	1,490	605	662	1,267
Roman Catholic ...	185	667	852	109	567	676
Total ...	5,824	7,555	13,379	5,365	6,405	11,770

The average attendance was—boys, 4,126; girls, 5,592; total, 9,718 with 352 teachers.

There are not many white children, comparatively speaking, in Basutoland, and an inquiry has shown that in only eight cases was the provision made by the parents for their children's education unsatisfactory.

A sum amounting to £12,240 15s. 4d. was expended by the Government on education during the financial year 1909-10.

MEDICAL.

The work done in the public dispensaries is most gratifying—a total of 37,000 cases having been treated during the year.

There have been new hospitals opened at Mafeteng and Mofale's Hoek during the year. The beds in both have been fully occupied, and there is no doubt that these institutions will prove as useful to their respective districts as the hospitals of Maseru and Leribe have already proved to North Basutoland.

A small hospital was completed at Moyeni, in Quthing District, but owing to the temporary absence of the medical officer has not yet been opened.

Maseru hospital has been enlarged to accommodate forty beds, which are fully occupied, and has been fitted with a good installation of electric light.

The question of leprosy, which has been drawing attention all over South Africa, is receiving attention in Basutoland also.

The number of beds in each hospital are as under:—

Leribe	...	...	...	...	...	20
Maseru	...	...	...	...	...	40
Mafeteng	...	...	...	...	...	24
Mohale's Hoek	...	...	...	...	...	20
Quthing	...	...	...	...	...	8
						112
					Total	...

LEGISLATION.

His Excellency the High Commissioner issued seven Proclamations and six Notices having reference to Basutoland during the year. Among the most important were:—

1. A Proclamation dealing more stringently with liquor smuggling in the territory.*

2. A Proclamation embodying and revising existing regulations and instructions, determining the constitution, powers, and procedure of the Basutoland Council.*

3. A Proclamation embodying the substance of existing rules governing appointments to, and promotion in, the public service of Basutoland.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

All hospitals and dispensaries at Government stations in Basutoland are under the management of Government medical officers.

Gaols.

There are seven gaols and two lock-ups in the territory, and 432 prisoners passed through them during the year, there being 151 prisoners confined in them on June 30th, 1910, which was an increase of 19 on those in gaol on 30th June, 1909.

Post Office.

There are post offices at Leribe, Maseru, Teyateyaneng, Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, and Quthing, at all of which postal, telegraph, money order, and savings bank work is carried on. There are also sub-offices at Butha Buthe, Peka, Siloe, and Qacha's Nek, for ordinary postal work.

Throughout the territory during the year there were 14,506 money and postal orders issued at a value of £17,732, while 10,946 orders were paid amounting to £17,579.

* These proclamations are printed on pages 179-182 of [Cd. 5582].

Stamps to the value of £2,625 4s. 6d. were sold, while £3,008 7s. 6d. was deposited in, and £2,058 6s. was withdrawn from, the savings bank.

Telegraph and cable revenue amounted to £1,149 3s.

There is a telephone line throughout the country. It is not used by the public, being retained entirely for Government work.

A branch of the South African Railway from Marseilles crosses the border at Maseru and runs into Maseru station, about one and a half miles within the territory.

For many years past the Cape Colony Government has most courteously rendered invaluable assistance by supervising and administering the postal service of the territory, though the local postal officials are in the service of the Basutoland Government.

Since the taking effect of the South African Union Act this plan, I am glad to say, has been continued by the Union Government to the great benefit of the public in Basutoland.

A native industrial school which is partially self-supporting has been established at Maseru. Stone-cutting, fitting, wagon-building, blacksmithing, and carpentry are taught at this school, which appears to be doing fairly well.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The past year has not been marked by any big undertaking from current expenditure, under which head £28,195 was spent. An extension of Mafeteng waterworks at a cost of £1,000 has been completed, and a number of repairs have been carried out and smaller new buildings, which have become necessary, have been built from current revenue, while roads have been repaired and improved throughout the country, and a small bridge across the Khomokhoana River was also built and completed.

Under capital expenditure from surplus balances the following works were commenced and carried on.

A sum of £4,566 was spent during the year on a new hospital at Mohale's Hoek --£1,464 having been spent in the previous year, making £6,030 in all.

Some £2,000 has been spent on the Phutiatsana bridge, which is still unfinished.

The Mekhaleng bridge, which is nearly finished, was commenced at the end of 1908-09. It will have cost some £7,000 when completed.

The new hospital at Mafeteng, which was practically finished at the commencement of the year, was completely finished early in 1909-10, and cost in all £5,476, being slightly below the estimate.

The extension to Maseru hospital referred to above is still unfinished --£800 out of the estimated £1,200 having been spent.

It has been proposed, but not yet decided, to build a stone and iron bridge over the Caledon River at or near Peka. The bridge—should the undertaking be found practicable—will be an immense assistance in the transport of grain from Southern Leribe district and Berea to the railway.

With this bridge, the northern system of bridges would be complete, as at present projected. South Basutoland does not, perhaps, call for bridges to the same extent as the north of the territory. One bridge, however, over the Makhaleng River, has proved a great boon, and possibly in time others may follow.

CRIMINAL AND POLICE.

The police force, which is composed of white officers with native non-commissioned officers and men, is fully mounted and equipped, and is posted round the borders of Basutoland—principally at the various magistracies where the Assistant Commissioners of the districts hold their courts.

The officers, in addition to their police duties, do clerical work in the offices of the Assistant Commissioners of their districts.

The non-commissioned officers and men are all natives, and find their own horses and rations; their pay varies from £2 per month to £5, together with uniform, arms, and saddlery equipment in every case.

The police to-day consists of:—

White officers	...	...	...	...	12
White constables	...	...	...	...	5
Native constables	...	...	...	...	4
Native officers	...	...	...	...	4
Native sergeants	..	...	...	...	8
Native corporals	...	...	...	...	12
First and second class privates	...	...	...	...	247
Total	...	...	...	...	<u>292</u>

In addition to the above force, which does its work fearlessly and well, undergoing on occasion considerable hardship and exposure, the exigencies of East Coast fever on the Natal and East Griqualand borders have necessitated the enlistment of some 117 special native police. These men are picketed throughout the long mountain border at weak points in the defence, and there, stiffened by a backbone of regular police, they do work and undergo on occasions hardships such as do not often fall to the lot of South African police. To give an idea of their difficulties, I may mention that dangerously heavy snow and occasional frost bites are recurrent events, which certainly seem out of place in 30 degrees south latitude.

This rigorous climate is, of course, due to the altitude at which their work is carried on, the passes they guard being anywhere from 6,000 to 10,000 feet above sea-level.

The special police are not provided with uniform, but receive great coat, blanket, and boots, while wearing a brass official badge on the left arm when on duty.

In the lower-lying country on the western face of the Territory the regular police are kept busy with general police work.

It does not appear that the amount of liquor smuggled into the country has increased much, if at all, of late years, but a comparative table of arrests during five years, for liquor smuggling, shows how the police have by degrees begun to get the better of it:—

	Arrests.					
1905-6	22
1906-7	32
1907-8	67
1908-9	79
1909-10	90

A good deal of liquor, of course, still gets through unintercepted, but smuggling is now recognised by those indulging in it as a dangerous undertaking, and one, moreover, which the general opinion of the tribe is against.

There were 484 cases brought before the Assistant Commissioners' Courts, of which 479 were dealt with summarily, while five were committed for trial by a Superior Court.

Homicide	...	...	...	...	...	22
Other offences against the person	...	...	...	...	...	26
Offences against property	...	...	...	...	...	73
Offences against Revenue and Pass Laws	...	...	...	...	...	207
Other offences	...	...	...	...	...	156
Total	...	...	...	...	...	484

The great increase in manslaughter cases is due to several small intertribal quarrels, which have been referred to elsewhere.

It is encouraging to see that the offence of resisting police is less common than it was.

In one case sentence of death was passed and carried out on a native who murdered his concubine.

Wilful murder is not at all a common offence among the Basuto, and the above is, in point of fact, only the second execution since the assumption of control in Basutoland by the Imperial Government in March, 1884.

GENERAL.

The population of Basutoland at the Census in 1904 amounted to nearly 348,000 natives and some 1,500 white and coloured.

Allowing for 20,000 native men away working at the mines and elsewhere, the sexes appear to have been almost exactly equal in numbers.

The past year, as a whole, may be taken to have been a peaceful and prosperous one. The satisfactory state of affairs is reflected not only in the commercial figures for the Territory but in the returns of passes issued to natives (1) for work outside Basutoland, and (2) for private business, visiting, &c.

Passes for labour have increased from 68,900 last year to 82,000 this year, and visiting passes have increased also from 43,700 to 55,300.

Such an increase in labour passes means a very considerable addition to the prosperity of the tribe.

The Transvaal mines seem to continue popular with the Basuto mining labourers, but this year Kimberley and the Orange Free State diamond mines have proved formidable rivals.

Of the 82,000 men who went to work, 32,000 were despatched to the mines in the Orange Free State and Transvaal; a further 30,000 took passes for what is described as "miscellaneous" work.

These men travel about as free lances, accepting work where the terms seem good. In a large number of cases they eventually drift to the labour centres and join the mass of their countrymen who are at work on the mines.

A meeting of the Basutoland Council, lasting about three weeks, was held in the new Council House in March, where much useful business of an advisory nature was done.

At the request of the High Commissioner an ethnological collection of articles illustrative of native life and customs among the Basuto in Basutoland was got together and presented by the Administration to the Natal Government Museum, where, it is understood from the Director, it is much valued as a memorial of times and customs now passing rapidly away.

The visit of Halley's Comet caused some interest, but no real tendency was observed among the natives to construe it into a portent of coming events, whether good or bad.

The average rainfall at all Basutoland stations amounted to 33.28 inches, which is much below a satisfactory average. The mean maximum and minimum temperatures throughout the Territory were 72.7 degrees and 41.6 degrees, respectively.

The country has been quiet throughout the year, with the exception of some small local quarrels which mostly occurred in Leribe District, where young chiefs have quarrelled over boundary lines. These small quarrels, wrong though they are and much to be condemned, must not be taken to have any political significance, or to be in any way referable to what is called "unrest among the Basuto." They have in every case been dealt with judicially, and the young chiefs and their followers responsible for the disturbances have been imprisoned and fined.

A regrettable feature of the year has been the number of tribal fights in which Basutoland natives have been embroiled at the mining centres. These disturbances have formed the subject of much discussion in the Basutoland Council, where all members promised to use their influence with the young men going out to work to prevent their participation in such disturbances while at the mines.

L. WROUGHTON,

Government Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
638	St. Helena	1909
639	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
640	Ashanti	"
641	Gambia... ..	"
642	Malta	1909-1910
643	Seychelles	1909
644	Colonial Survey Committee... ..	1909-1910
645	Falkland Islands	"
646	Turks and Caicos Islands	1909
647	Gibraltar	"
648	Sierra Leone	"
649	Somaliland	1909-1910
650	Bahamas	"
651	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
652	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
653	Ceylon	1909
654	Gold Coast	"
655	Nyasaland	1909-1910
656	Imperial Institute	1909
657	Fiji	"
658	Grenada	"
659	Hong Kong	"
660	Barbados	1909-1910
661	Swaziland	1909
662	Jamaica	"
663	Straits Settlements	"
664	Trinidad and Tobago	1909-1910
665	Southern Nigeria	1909
666	Mauritius	"
667	British Honduras	"
668	St. Vincent	1909-1910
669	East Africa Protectorate	"
670	Uganda... ..	"
671	British Guiana	"
672	St. Lucia	1909
673	Leeward Islands	1909-1910
674	Northern Nigeria	1909
675	St. Helena	1910
676	Gibraltar	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
67	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1905-6.
68	Do. do.	Do. 1906-7.
69	St. Helena	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Surveys, 1906-7 and 1907-8.
75	West Indies... ..	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

1911.