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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 710.

BASUTOLAND.

REPORT FOR 1910-11.

(For Report for 1909-10, see No. 677.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
March, 1912.



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No. 710.

BASUTOLAND.

(For Report for 1909-10, see No. 677.)

 THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

 High Commissioner's Office,
 Cape Town.
 31st January, 1912.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from the Acting Resident Commissioner of Basutoland, forwarding a Report on the annual Blue Book for the territory for the year ended June 30th, 1911.

I have, &c.,
 GLADSTONE,
 High Commissioner.

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

 Resident Commissioner's Office,
 Maseru.
 January 15th, 1912.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward for Your Lordship's information the accompanying general Report on the annual Blue Book for Basutoland for the year ended 30th June, 1911.

I have, &c.,
 L. WROUGHTON,
 Acting Resident
 Commissioner.

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

BASUTOLAND ANNUAL REPORT.—1910-11.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue of the territory for the year ended 30th June, 1911, shows an increase over the previous year's revenue of £25,526, and amounted to £145,500. Below are given statements showing the revenue and expenditure of the last two years. It will be seen that the principal causes of the increase in revenue are due to the operation of the new native tax law* and to an adjustment of this territory's share of Customs duties under the Union of South Africa.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £134,888, of which £12,125 was extraordinary, being capital expenditure from surplus balances. The increase of total expenditure over last year amounts to £7,451.

STATEMENT OF THE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS.

Revenue.

	1909-10.	1910-11.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Native Tax	69,601	84,175	14,574	—
Post Office	4,012	3,775	—	237
Licences	4,021	5,852	1,831	—
Fees of Court	278	344	66	—
Miscellaneous	1,717	2,260	543	—
Customs	35,976	45,029	9,053	—
Interest	4,369	4,066	—	303
Total	119,974	145,501	26,067	540

Expenditure.

Heads of Service.	1909-10.	1910-11.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Establishments	12,618	13,740	1,122	—
Police	18,361	18,114	—	247
Post Office	4,685	4,378	—	307
Allowances to Chiefs and Headmen ...	6,042	6,376	334	—
Medical Expenses	787	642	—	145
Office Contingencies	1,216	1,154	—	62
Revenue Services	398	112	—	286

* *Colonial Office Note.*—By the new native tax proclamation the hut tax has been abolished, and a tax on adult males of £1 per annum substituted. If an adult male native has more than one wife by native custom, he pays £1 per annum for each wife up to a maximum payment of £3 per annum for himself and his wives.

Heads of Service.	1909-10.	1910-11.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Administration of Justice	2,864	2,822	—	42
Transport	58	—	—	58
Public Works	28,195	32,401	4,206	—
Hospitals	10,836	9,868	—	968
Education	12,241	12,385	144	—
Rewards for Special Services	75	64	—	11
Audit	357	355	—	2
Miscellaneous	3,039	7,079	4,040	—
Agriculture... ..	7,024	10,429	3,405	—
National Council	490	818	328	—
Pensions	2,158	2,025	—	133
Total	111,444	122,762	11,318	2,203
Capital Expenditure from Surplus Balances.	15,993	12,125	—	3,868
Total	127,437	134,888	13,579	6,071

The following is a comparative statement of revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure
	£	£
1906-07	111,904	108,833
1907-08	116,530	126,604
1908-09	108,638	126,921
1909-10	119,974	127,437
1910-11	145,501	134,888

The expenditure for the last five years includes capital expenditure from surplus balances, under special authority from the Secretary of State, to the extent of £39,714, which has mostly been spent on well-bred stallions and rams, sheep-dipping stations, and bridges.

Subjoined is a table showing the actual state of Basutoland finances at 30th June, 1911.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

Assets.

	£	s.	d.
Balance at Standard Bank, Maseru	6,302	10	6
Balances in hands of Crown Agents	781	6	6
Balances in hands of Sub-Accountants	1,585	8	6
On fixed deposit with Standard Bank	45,000	0	0
On deposit at Crown Agents at call	2,000	0	0
On loan to Swaziland Administration	80,000	0	0
Advances recoverable from other Administrations	81	6	11
Remittances in transit	2,000	0	0
Total	£137,750	12	5

<i>Liabilities.</i>				£	s.	d.
Deposits from Labour Agents	...	...	...	1,600	0	0
Balance of Assets in excess of Liabilities	...	...	...	136,150	12	5
Total				£137,750	12	5

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND STOCK-BREEDING.

Trade.

Owing to the new arrangement by which Basutoland receives annually a proportionate share of Customs duties from the Union Government, no figures are available to show the exports and imports of the territory in detail.

Both maize and wheat crops fell much below the average during the year. Owing to severe droughts during December, January, and February, 1910, in some parts of the country the maize crop was a total failure. An attempt was made to introduce soya beans into Basutoland, it being thought that they might prove of considerable commercial value to the natives should they do well. Unfortunately, however, want of rain rendered the experiment abortive. It is hoped that should further attempts be made to introduce the bean, they will meet with better success. The beans did well till destroyed by the drought, and it may be that under more favourable climatic conditions they will be a success.

Stock-Breeding.

Under the superintendence of the Principal Veterinary Surgeon, 286 merino sheep rams and 140 Angora goat rams were purchased by the Government during the year and distributed throughout the territory. These rams were selected from the flocks of some of the best breeders in South Africa, and it is thought that if those who have received them do their duty by them they will make a considerable improvement in the wool and mohair exports of the territory.

The attempts to improve the breed of horses in Basutoland appear to be meeting with moderate success. The returns of the year for foals born from mares brought to Government stallions show, on the whole, better results than in previous years, but they are by no means satisfactory, the spring droughts and the rough treatment of mares being largely responsible for the difficulty which is experienced in obtaining good percentage of foals. It is, however, gratifying to note that many native owners of foals from the well-bred Government sires show an increasing tendency to treat these animals well, a tendency which the Agricultural Shows held annually in each district tend greatly to encourage. A considerable desire to bring their mares to Government stallions is shown by the native owners.

The country has not suffered to any great extent during the past year from stock diseases. No case of glanders has occurred,

and, with the exception of sheep-scab, other stock diseases have not been as prevalent as usual.

With regard to scab amongst sheep, it is unfortunately the case that this curse of the sheep farmer is very prevalent in Basutoland. With a view to assisting the natives to free their flocks from this pest, dipping tanks have been established at various centres throughout the country, to which natives are encouraged to bring their sheep to be dipped. A mere nominal charge is made for this. There are at present 15 of these tanks erected, where 82,927 sheep were dipped last year, and it is hoped that more tanks will be erected shortly, especially in the mountain areas, where there are a great number of sheep, though owing to transport and other difficulties the work necessarily proceeds slowly.

The country has been entirely free from locusts this year.

The position as regards East Coast fever is still very serious, and must remain so while centres of infection exist in East Griqualand and Natal. The Natal and East Griqualand borders have been rigidly guarded and all outbreaks of bovine diseases thoroughly investigated by stock inspectors stationed on the border for the purpose.

EDUCATION.

It is satisfactory to note that the average attendance of pupils in Basutoland schools, after remaining almost stationary for the past three or four years, has, during the year under review, made a considerable advance.

Enrolment of Pupils in Elementary Schools.

Mission.	No. of Pupils on Roll, December, 1909.			No. of Pupils on Roll, December, 1910.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
P.E.M.S.	4,993	6,044	11,037	5,285	7,325	12,610
Church of England ...	646	844	1,490	823	976	1,799
Roman Catholic ...	185	667	852	179	809	988
Total	5,824	7,555	13,379	6,287	9,110	15,397

The advance is not confined to the larger schools in favoured positions, but is largely due to the increasing attendance in remote and backward portions of the territory.

The average attendance was--boys, 4,685, girls, 6,497; total, 11,182, with 399 teachers. A steady improvement is also taking place in the type of instruction given in the schools. The range of subjects taught has not been greatly widened, but teachers are beginning to acquire a deeper insight into the minds of native children, and the subjects themselves are taught with an increasing thoroughness.

MEDICAL.

The number of patients treated during the year in the Government hospitals and dispensaries shows a considerable increase over the previous year. The in-patients treated amounted to 1,732, and out-patients to 43,961, of whom 9,500 attended at the dispensaries more than once. During the year the Principal Medical Officer made a tour of inspection of the hospitals and dispensaries throughout the territory, and reports very favourably on the work done, both as regards quantity and efficiency.

The small hospital at Quthing mentioned in last year's report as not having been opened owing to the temporary absence of the medical officer has now been opened and has been much appreciated in the district.

A table showing the number of beds in each hospital was given in last year's report.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health of the territory has been good and no epidemics of any importance have occurred. Small-pox broke out in the Quthing district but was confined to one village. The infection was traced to the Cape Province, and steps were immediately taken to secure vaccination of those leaving the country, certificates of vaccination being demanded of those requiring passes. The important subject of leprosy has been under consideration during the past year. Suggestions for the establishment of a leper settlement were laid before the meeting of the Basutoland Council in May. These were most favourably received and have been generally approved by His Excellency the High Commissioner. The selection of a suitable site for a leper settlement will, perhaps, prove difficult, but it is hoped that the question will be satisfactorily settled before long. The health of the police and convicts has been good.

LEGISLATION.

His Excellency the High Commissioner published 12 Proclamations and 25 Notices having reference to Basutoland during the year. Among the most important were:—

1. Proclamation of the accession of His Majesty King George the Fifth.
 2. Native Tax Proclamation.
 3. Marriage Proclamation.
-

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Post Office.

There are Post Offices at Leribe, Teyateyaneng, Maseru, Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, and Quthing, at which all postal and telegraph work is done, with money order and savings bank business. Peka, Butha Buthe, Siloe, and Qacha's Nek are sub-offices for ordinary postal work. Throughout Basutoland £2,894 11s. 3d. worth of postage stamps were sold during the year, being an increase of £269 6s. 9d. over the previous year.

The following comparative table shows the amount of money orders and postal orders issued and paid during the last two years.

	Issued.		Paid.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
1910-1911	17,543	£ 21,441	13,493	£ 23,907
1909-1910	14,506	£ 17,732	10,946	£ 17,£79

Savings bank deposits totalled £4,689, and withdrawals £2,844 in 1910-11, as compared with £3,008 and £2,058, respectively, in 1909-10. Telegraph and cable revenue amounted to £1,143 15s. 8d.

The Government telephone and telegraph lines which run through the country, connecting the different district stations with headquarters at Maseru, were this year overhauled and put into good working order with the kind assistance of the Union Postal Department.

The native industrial school at Maseru has progressed satisfactorily during the year, the number of pupils being 70. Work has been fairly plentiful, and the various departments of masonry, wagon making, engineering smith's, and carpentry have been kept busy. A small profit has been made on the year's working.

As mentioned in last year's report a branch of the South African Railway from Marseilles runs to Maseru station, about one and a half miles within the territory. This remains unchanged.

Gaols.

There are seven gaols and two lock-ups in Basutoland, and during the year 716 prisoners passed through them, compared with 452 in the previous year. On 30th June, 1911, 163 were confined in gaol, being an increase of 12 on those in gaol on 30th June, 1910.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

All hospitals and dispensaries at Government stations in Basutoland are under the management of Government Medical Officers. Further information on this subject will be found under the head "Medical."

PUBLIC WORKS.

The bridge over the Mekhaleng River in the Mohale's Hoek District, mentioned as unfinished in last year's report, has now been completed, together with the bridge over the Phuthiatsana River at the boundary of the Leribe and Berea Districts. A small bridge over the Khomokhoana River in the Leribe District has also been erected, and these bridges have proved of great value in rendering more stable the conditions of travelling. A sum of £18,997 has been spent in the maintenance and repair of the roads in the territory, the average condition of which has improved considerably. The extension to Maseru hospital has now been completed, and the electric light which has been installed throughout the buildings has proved a complete success and is much appreciated by the doctors and staff. A small gaol has been built at Butha Buthe.

CRIME AND POLICE.

The police of the territory may be divided into two forces, (1) the regular police, who are fully clothed and equipped, (2) special East Coast Fever police, who are ununiformed with the exception of an arm badge. Both forces work together and are all mounted. It has been found that a few special police, stiffened by one or two regulars, may be depended on to do excellent work under very trying circumstances.

The strength of the total force on 30th June, 1910, was:—

European Inspectors	...	...	...	4
„ Sub-Inspectors	...	...	...	9
Native Officers	...	...	...	2
„ Constables	...	...	...	5
„ Sergeants	...	...	...	8
„ Corporals	...	...	...	13
„ Privates	...	...	...	247
Special Native Police	...	...	...	199
European Constables	...	...	...	6

The police have been fairly successful in their attempts to cope with the brandy smugglers on the Cape and Free State borders.

This year again the number of convictions obtained has exceeded those in any one year in the past. There is, however, no doubt that much liquor still gets into the country undetected.

Public opinion among the Basuto in general appears to be against the illicit traffic, but is not sufficiently strong to induce the people to side actively with the Government in suppressing it.

The following shows the arrests for liquor smuggling during the last five years:—

1906-7	...	...	...	...	32
1907-8	...	...	...	...	67
1908-9	...	...	...	...	79
1909-10	...	...	...	...	90
1910-11	...	...	...	...	148

There were 710 cases brought before the Assistant Commissioners' Courts, of which 636 were dealt with summarily, while 74 were committed for trial by a Superior Court.

In one case sentence of death was passed and carried out on a native who murdered his uncle in cold blood.

It is regrettable to have to report that such crimes of violence seem to be on the increase in Basutoland. On the other hand, during the past year there have been fewer tribal disturbances than usual, and though, of course, occasional land and other quarrels have occurred the disputants have not resorted to violence, as has been frequently the case of late years. The turbulent behaviour of some of the younger chiefs was much blamed by the older members of the Council during the last session, while His Excellency's remarks on the subject at the Pitso in May have undoubtedly had a considerable effect.

GENERAL.

The two principal occurrences of the year were His Excellency the High Commissioner's official visit to the territory, and the Census of the inhabitants.

His Excellency's visit in May, 1911, was made the occasion of a very large gathering of the Basuto at Maseru. His train, on arrival, was met at the station by the officials, the Paramount Chief, and some 20,000 mounted natives, who lined a large portion of the road to Maseru.

His Excellency attended the Basutoland Council, which was in session at the time in the new buildings, and, after formal speeches, adjourned the meeting till after his departure from Maseru.

The next day a review of some 25,000 to 30,000 men, mostly mounted, was held on the racecourse, at which Their Excellencies received a most enthusiastic reception. At the Pitso (public meeting) which followed the principal chiefs declared their loyalty to His Majesty and His Government, to which His Excellency replied, advising and urging the Basuto to be law abiding and obedient to the officers over them, to refrain from using firearms in their disputes, and generally to merit the protection which had been so long extended to them by His Majesty's Government.

The meeting, which had an excellent effect, then broke up amidst shouts of "Khotso," "Pula"—("peace," "rain,") and the people left for their homes while Their Excellencies travelled on horseback through northern Basutoland, visiting the Missions and inspecting the Government stations on the way.

A Census of the inhabitants of the territory was taken by the Government during the two weeks beginning the night of the 23rd April and ending on the 7th May. Native enumerators were used throughout. The various Missions in the country very kindly closed their schools and placed their native teachers at the disposal of the Government as enumerators. These men were supervised by the European District Officers, and the result was distinctly satisfactory. The forms used were more elaborate and the information called for was considerably more advanced

than that required on former occasions. The result was very satisfactory considering the difficulties with which the men had to deal. I give below the unaudited general return of population. This return may need some slight amendment, but in the meantime it may be taken as substantially correct. The sexes in Basutoland may be taken to be nearly equal. The men travel and go out to work far more than the women, hence the apparent difference in the totals.

The total population in 1911 amounts to 402,434, showing an increase since the Census of 1904 of 54,703 or approximately 15.73 per cent. in seven years.

Males under 21, 118,210; females under 21, 129,061. Males over 21, 65,031; females over 21, 90,132. Total males, 183,241. Females (total), 219,193. Unaudited grand total, 402,434.

The total number of passes to natives to leave the territory granted during the year amounted to 135,700, as against 138,500 in the previous year. At the same time the number of men who went out to work was 84,600, which is an increase of 2,500 for the same period. The men who went out visiting or on their own business amounted to 51,100, or a decrease of about 5,000.

This decrease may be accounted for by His Excellency's visit to the territory in May. Comparatively few passes were issued at that time, the whole tribe being eager to hear what would be said by the chiefs, both white and black, at the Pitso.

At the present moment I understand that diamond mines are in the greatest favour among labourers going out for work.

BASUTOLAND COUNCIL.

The Basutoland Council has been several times referred to in this and previous reports, and a few details as to its working may prove of interest.

The duties of the Council are of an advisory nature and for the discussion of the domestic affairs of the country. It consists of 99 members (all natives) and the Paramount Chief of the tribe. Of these, 94 members are nominated by the chiefs and headmen of the tribe and approved by the Paramount Chief subject to confirmation by the Resident Commissioner. Five members are appointed by the Government.

The Council meets in the Council Hall at Maseru not less than once a year and sits for some three weeks. The Resident Commissioner is President (ex officio), the Paramount Chief occupying a raised seat in the body of the hall. The form of procedure is practically that of most bodies of a similar nature. Proceedings are formal and regular, and indiscriminate argument is not allowed. The point that would probably strike a visitor would be the courtesy and politeness with which members treat each other, as well as the moderate tone of the speeches made in the course of debate. It would seem that nervousness is a product of civilisation, for in this Council, whose members have only comparatively lately come into contact with European forms and procedure, every member speaks fluently and easily and it is practically

unknown for a speaker to stammer, hesitate, or repeat himself unconsciously. The principal fault to be found with the debates is their tendency to drag on to undue lengths, and as a result it has been found that there is always business left unfinished at the close of the session.

The Council on assembling in May, 1911, proceeded to discuss the Basutoland Council Proclamation, No. 7, of 31st March, 1910, referred to last year. It was pointed out by several speakers that if the function of the Council was to advise the Resident Commissioner on current events, it was necessary that they should be informed as to any impending Proclamations affecting the domestic affairs of the territory before they were made law, in order that, while, of course, the final decision in all cases rested the High Commissioner, the Council might have an opportunity of laying their views before him before it was too late.

The Principal Medical Officer then addressed the Council on leprosy and on the Government proposal to establish a leper settlement for Basutoland patients. The subject was one which affected every member present, and a most interesting debate took place, resulting in a large majority in favour (1) of a site being selected in the neighbourhood of Maseru sufficiently large to contain all the lepers in the territory, and (2) of a request that the Resident Commissioner should apply to the High Commissioner to authorise the necessary expenditure to carry the undertaking through successfully.

The following matters were then discussed:—The loan to Swaziland, legislation as to the importation of bees' honey, &c., the East Coast Fever Proclamation, the Public Service Proclamation, and the Proclamation of His Majesty King George the Fifth. The Council afterwards settled down to discuss the Native Tax Proclamation, No. 3, of 1911, clause by clause. The general principles of the tax were accepted without demur, but explanations were frequently called for on certain details of the Regulations, such as the levying of fines on defaulters, &c. The debate was drawn out to such length that at the end of the session it was still unfinished.

The next meeting of the Council will most probably be held towards the end of March, 1912.

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.
680	Ashanti	1910
681	Turks and Caicos Islands...	"
682	Falkland Islands	"
683	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast...	"
684	Bahamas	1910-1911
685	Colonial Survey Committee	"
686	Malta	"
687	Imperial Institute	1910
688	Gold Coast	"
689	Fiji	"
690	Somaliland	"
691	Hong Kong...	"
692	Nyasaland	1910-1911
693	Seychelles	1910
694	Sierra Leone	"
695	Southern Nigeria	"
696	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1910-11
697	Swaziland	"
698	Barbados	"
699	Trinidad and Tobago	"
700	Mauritius	1910
701	Grenada	"
702	British Guiana	1910-1911
703	Jamaica	"
704	Northern Nigeria	"
705	East Africa Protectorate	"
706	British Honduras	1910
707	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
708	Uganda	1910-1911
709	Straits Settlements	1910

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
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.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.

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