



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

No. 911.

**BASUTOLAND.**

---

**REPORT FOR 1915-16.**

(For Report for 1914-15 see No. 858.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

*December, 1916.*

---



LONDON:

PRINTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF HIS MAJESTY'S  
STATIONERY OFFICE  
BY BARCLAY AND FRY, LTD., THE GROVE, SOUTHWARK STREET, S.E.

To be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from  
WYMAN AND SONS, LIMITED, 29, BREAMS BUILDINGS, FETTER LANE, E.C.,  
and 28, ABINGDON STREET, S.W., and 54, ST. MARY STREET, CARDIFF; or  
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE (SCOTTISH BRANCH),  
23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH; or  
E. PONSONBY, LIMITED, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN;  
or from the Agencies in the British Colonies and Dependencies,  
the United States of America and other Foreign Countries of  
T. FISHER UNWIN, LIMITED, LONDON, W.C.

1916.

[Cl. 8172 37] Price 1½d.

## CONTENTS.

---

	PAGE.
FINANCIAL .. .. .	4
TRADE .. .. .	6
VETERINARY .. .. .	8
EDUCATION .. .. .	10
POST OFFICE .. .. .	13
PUBLIC WORKS .. .. .	14
GAOLS .. .. .	14
CRIME AND POLICE .. .. .	14
MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH .. .. .	15
GENERAL .. .. .	16

A sketch map will be found in the previous Report, No. 858.  
[C. 7622--49.]

---

**No. 911.**

**BASUTOLAND.**

(For Report for 1914-15 see No. 858.)

**THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.**

**High Commissioner's Office,**

**Cape Town,**

**20th October, 1916.**

**SIR,**

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from the Resident Commissioner of Basutoland forwarding the Annual Report and Blue Book of the Territory for the year ended March 31st, 1916.

I have, &c.,

**BUXTON,**

**High Commissioner.**

**The Right Honourable**

**A. Bonar Law, M.P.,**

**&c., &c., &c.**

---

**Resident Commissioner's Office,**

**Maseru,**

**10th October, 1916.**

**My LORD,**

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year ended 31st March, 1916, together with the Annual Report for the same period.

I have, &c.,

**R. T. CORYNDON,**

**Resident Commissioner.**

**His Excellency,**

**The High Commissioner for South Africa.**

## BASUTOLAND ANNUAL REPORT 1915-16.

### FINANCIAL.

The revenue of Basutoland for the financial year ended 31st March, 1916, amounted to £176,202 and the ordinary expenditure to £153,677, an excess of revenue over expenditure of £22,525. In addition to ordinary expenditure a sum of £2,514 was spent on the completion of certain works of a permanent nature, authorized to be met from funds representing the accumulated surpluses of former years.

The following table shows the revenue collected during the past three years :—

#### *Revenue.*

	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.
	£	£	£
Native Tax .. .. .	96,393	97,436	105,144
Customs .. .. .	45,214	34,898	46,971
Post Office .. .. .	5,287	5,400	5,833
Licences .. .. .	* 5,922	3,821	3,174
Fees of Court or Office ..	473	593	625
Judicial Fines .. .. .	—	2,611	7,877
Fees for Services rendered ..	—	2,576	2,432
Interest .. .. .	4,538	3,410	2,660
Miscellaneous Receipts ..	† 3,590	857	1,486
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>£161,417</b>	<b>£151,611</b>	<b>£176,202</b>

\* In these figures are included Judicial Fines.

† Fees for services rendered are included in this amount.

It will be seen that this year's revenue shows an excess on the previous year of £24,591, which is mainly accounted for by collections under the three heads of revenue, Native Tax, Customs, and Judicial Fines.

The generally improved conditions prevailing throughout the Territory and increased efforts on the part of collectors resulted in an increased collection of Native Tax amounting to £7,708. Under the head Customs the increase on the previous year's collection amounted to £12,073. Receipts, however, under this head depend on the Customs collection in the Union—Basutoland receiving a definite proportion under one per cent. Fines imposed by the Resident Commissioner's Court in two political cases were largely responsible for the increase of £5,266 under the head "Judicial Fines."

*Expenditure.*

The following is a return of the expenditure during the last three years :—

	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.
	£	£	£
Establishments .. ..	15,115	15,886	17,489
Police .. ..	22,243	22,923	22,364
Post Office .. ..	4,963	5,127	5,788
Allowances—Chiefs, etc. ..	7,034	11,271	12,150
Office Contingencies .. ..	2,890	2,130	—
Administration of Justice ..	4,323	4,727	4,806
Public Works Recurrent .. ..	32,170	24,060	21,126
Public Works Extraordinary	12,205	4,029	3,046
Medical .. ..	13,680	13,516	13,095
Education .. ..	16,771	16,544	17,632
Rewards for Special Services	86	—	—
Audit .. ..	514	507	375
Miscellaneous .. ..	6,708	1,204	* 2,614
Agriculture .. ..	7,999	5,967	5,570
Prevention of east coast fever .. ..	10,195	9,940	8,003
National Council .. ..	1,411	2,013	1,449
Pensions .. ..	3,805	3,995	3,580
Leper Settlement .. ..	3,707	15,093	14,589
Capital Expenditure from surplus Balances .. ..	37,842	9,152	2,514
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>£203,461</b>	<b>£170,084</b>	<b>£156,190</b>

\* Office Contingencies included in these figures.

Owing to the continuation of the War, expenditure was restricted as far as possible and but few new works were undertaken. Compared with the previous year, ordinary expenditure for this year shows a decrease of £7,255.

The following is a statement showing expenditure during past years, and up to 31st March, 1916, on capital expenditure from surplus balances :—

	£
Hospitals .. ..	13,513
Bridges and Roads .. ..	29,568
Agriculture .. ..	12,810
Headquarter offices .. ..	5,480
Water supplies .. ..	6,607
Telephone lines .. ..	7,870
Leper Settlement .. ..	38,109
Sundry .. ..	1,400
	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/>
	<b>£115,357</b>

March, 1916 :—

*Assets.*

	£	s.	d.
Balance at Standard Bank of South Africa ..	17,717	3	9
Balance in hands of Sub-Accountants .. ..	11,941	10	11
Balance with Crown Agents .. .. .	1,134	10	0
On deposit with Crown Agents .. .. .	6,000	0	0
On loan to Swaziland Administration .. ..	72,500	0	0
On fixed deposit with Standard Bank of South Africa .. .. .	10,000	0	0
Advances recoverable .. .. .	48	10	0
	<u>£119,341</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>8</u>

*Liabilities.*

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Deposits from Master of Court ..	5,562	13	4			
Deposits from Labour Agents ..	1,100	0	0			
Balance of Sub-Accountants' Suspense Account .. .. .	390	9	0			
				<u>7,053</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
Balance of assets in excess of liabilities ..				112,288	12	4
				<u>£119,341</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>8</u>

**TRADE.**

In common with the rest of South Africa, Basutoland importers have experienced great difficulty in maintaining supplies of merchandise from oversea, and the small shipments which have come through have had to bear greatly increased freights, plus dearer raw material, and more expensive labour in manufacture.

The advances have been most keenly felt in cotton, and woollen goods, such as prints, sheetings, hosiery, and shirts; also in cotton and woollen blankets and rugs, which form such a large portion of the trade of the territory.

As an instance of the advance in cost of the last mentioned class of goods the cloth for blankets and rugs, pre-war prices for which ranged from 1s. 9d. to 3s. per pound, cannot be bought in England at the present time for less than 5s. to 8s. per pound.

The result has been that most of the cheaper lines in these articles have almost entirely disappeared; for instance, the sixpenny and shilling cotton blankets, and the moderate priced wool rug, selling at from 6s. to 10s., so much in demand for children and people of the poorer class, are practically unobtainable.

---

Boots—particularly for men—have advanced to such an extent that all cheaper lines have entirely dropped out ; but fortunately this want has been largely filled by the Colonial-made veldtschoen, which, for practicable purposes and durability, possibly gives the purchaser better value for his money.

From the foregoing it will be gathered that the value of goods imported into the Territory during the period under review, has probably been below the average for the last two years.

Speaking generally the crops harvested in 1915 were good, and considerable quantities of both wheat and maize were exported.

The reports for the latter part of 1915 and early 1916 were not encouraging, frost having fallen early in March, and considerable damage was done to that portion of the crop which was still in a tender condition.

Enquiries were immediately sent out, and the replies received from the various districts indicate that, while there will be sufficient for the food supply of the territory as a whole, there will be little, if any maize or kaffir corn for export.

In some districts there may even be a shortage, but there will be a sufficient surplus in other parts to make good the deficiency, so it is hoped there will be no actual hunger.

Wool and mohair, at both autumn and spring shearings, realized excellent prices ; it is doubtful, however, whether the actual quantity has increased or whether the country under present conditions can safely carry larger flocks.

The Statistical Bureau having been abolished immediately after the Union of South Africa, no figures have been available of the imports and exports of the various Provinces and Native Territories.

A special effort was made towards the close of 1915 to obtain statistics regarding the wool and mohair industry of Basutoland, and it was found that during the past decade the approximate increase has been as follows :

The total weight exported rose from 4,400,000 lb. in 1906, to 13,900,000 lb. in 1915, and the total local value from £109,000 to £330,000 during the same period.

The above results are certainly encouraging, and go a long way to counter-balance the serious decrease in production and export of cereals, as compared with the closing twenty years of last century.

It is doubtful if, with changes in climatic conditions which are responsible for the decrease in agricultural returns, any increase in the number of sheep and goats is probable or desirable ; but with improved methods in the direction of systematic dipping, the destruction of burrweed, and the gradual discontinuance of the cruel practice of shearing in the late autumn and early spring, at the time when small stock need their natural protection, it is not too much to hope that the figures now quoted will be maintained.



---

The losses in horned cattle have been considerably less than last year, and prices have been in favour of sellers.

Perhaps, if ever it should be possible, it may be wise for the Government to consider the advisability of introducing bulls of a hardy and virile type. The native herds are sadly in need of new blood; but this is a subject which will require careful consideration in view of severe winters, and scarcity of cattle feed.

Owing to the closing down of the diamond mines, demand for Native labour has not been so great as in former years, and there has been a considerable reduction in earning and spending power from that source.

### VETERINARY.

The past year has been a much more favourable one for stock, both with regard to drought and serious animal diseases. All classes of stock have thriven far better than for some previous years, partly due, no doubt, to the reduction in numbers from continued droughts and also due to the better grazing conditions, the result of a better and more even rainfall.

Except for the continued prevalence of anthrax the other diseases, such as horse sickness and blue tongue, were conspicuous by their absence. There have been eight outbreaks of anthrax in different parts of the Territory, causing considerable cattle mortality, and in some cases there have been a few deaths amongst horses. It is difficult to get the natives to observe the proper precautions with regard to dead carcasses; the only hope under such conditions of quickly stamping out the disease is to render all contact animals immune by inoculation. Natives, for the most part, are willing to have their stock inoculated when the mortality appears to assume serious proportions, but it is often difficult to get them to see the wisdom of this precaution at the outset of the trouble. During the year 882 animals have been inoculated with good results, and more would have been done had it been possible to obtain necessary vaccine.

#### *East Coast Fever.*

The position with regard to this disease has continued to improve and guards are now withdrawn from the Natal border. An outbreak occurred in the Matatiele district, which goes to show that it is still necessary to be on the alert in East Griqualand section of the border. During the year no known attempt to bring cattle into the Territory was discovered. All outbreaks of cattle disease have been investigated. During the year 192 slides have been examined microscopically.

In addition to the export of cattle on this border being permitted via Bushmans Nek, arrangements were made with the Union Government for the export of cattle through our gate at Qachas Nek. This has proved of considerable economic importance to the Qachas Nek

district, no less than 3,731 animals having been exported during the year, and, as these cattle are mostly fat oxen, this must represent a considerable sum of money. All cattle exported at Qachas Nek have to be "tick-free" and branded.

#### *Strangles.*

This disease has again been very prevalent, and during the summer took on a rather severe form. Experiments have been made with the vaccine now claimed to immunise and cure animals. Attempts to immunise the Police horses did not prove very successful, but it is hoped that with a new vaccine and using not less than 200,000,000 organisms at each dose a very valuable addition to the treatment of this serious equine disease will be arrived at.

#### *Biliary Fever.*

Numerous animals have been treated for this disease and, thanks to trypan blau inoculation, the losses have been reduced to a minimum.

Quarter evil has not been so prevalent and only 397 doses of vaccine have been issued.

#### *Parasites.*

Sheep have not suffered so badly this year from wire worm, but horses continue to be infected with parasites and a very large number of animals have been treated.

#### *Sheep Scab.*

During the year under review 131,558 sheep were dipped at the various Government dipping tanks, as compared with 284,114 last year. Owing to the number of officers who are away on leave serving with the military forces in various parts of the world, it was found necessary to transfer the officer who had been in charge of the Government dipping tanks to another department, and this no doubt partly accounts for the reduction in the figures for this year. It is hoped that it will be found possible, later on, to renew the appointment for the carrying on of this useful work.

#### *Stud Department.*

The climatic conditions this year fortunately proved far more favourable for stud work, and it is hoped there will be a much higher percentage of foals during the next spring.

During the season 463 mares were covered by Government stallions.

The severe drought effects of the previous summer told its tale in the return of foals, and this was well illustrated in the Quthing district where 31 mares were covered by Government stallions and no less than 18 of these aborted, and in the entire returns 50 mares are returned under this heading. Out of a total of 383 mares there were 120 live foals born, and of these 52 were sired in the Maseru district.

It was very gratifying to see some really good young horses at most of the agricultural shows, the progeny of the Government stallions taking a very large share of the prizes in all classes. At the Maseru show there was an excellent exhibit of progeny of the Government stallions and some of the prize winners were quite good enough to exhibit at any European show in the Union.

## EDUCATION.

For the first time since 1908 a fall in the average attendance of pupils has to be recorded. Minor causes, such as a slight recrudescence of heathenism, may have contributed to this decrease but the principal factor has undoubtedly been the inability of the Government to maintain in 1914-15 the normal increase of grants for the support of new schools.

These schools, situated mostly in heathen areas, have a great difficulty in coming into being. The parents in such places are not sufficiently interested in the decent upbringing of their children. The existence of these schools depends therefore upon the efforts of a few of the more enlightened parents, the continued pressure of the teacher, the keenness of the children, and, above all, upon the financial support of the Governments.

Mention has previously been made of the good work which these out-of-the-way schools do for the prosperity and general wellbeing of the country. Though crude and perhaps even inefficient from the point of view of actual education, they are for many of the children who enter them the only thing in their lives which stands for sober and decent living. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the schools will recover rapidly from the set-back experienced in 1915.

The following table shows the total daily average attendance of pupils in elementary schools and boarding institutions during recent years:—

TABLE I.

*Table of Total Average Attendance in Schools and Institutions.*

Year ending December.		Year ending December.	
1902	.. 9,057	1909	.. 9,498
1903	.. 10,024	1910	.. 11,651
1904	.. 10,041	1911	.. 13,417
1905	.. 9,963	1912	.. 15,271
1906	.. 9,704	1913	.. 17,070
1907	.. 9,454	1914	.. 17,643
1908	.. 9,279	1915	.. 17,167

Tables II., III., IV, give the enrolment of pupils in schools and institutions separately.

TABLE II.

*Enrolment of Pupils in Elementary Schools.*

Mission.	Number of Pupils on Roll, December, 1914.			Number of Pupils on Roll, December, 1915.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Paris Evangelical Mission Society	6,327	11,762	18,089	6,837	11,045	17,882
Church of England	869	1,661	2,530	909	1,581	2,490
Roman Catholic	336	1,560	1,896	430	1,008	2,038
	7,532	14,083	22,515	8,176	14,234	22,410

TABLE III.

*Average Attendance of Pupils in Elementary Schools.*

Mission.	Year ending December, 1914.			Year ending December, 1915.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Paris Evangelical Mission Society	4,810	8,751	13,561	5,001	8,069	13,070
Church of England.	665	1,267	1,932	648	1,114	1,762
Roman Catholic	291	1,299	1,590	350	1,314	1,664
	5,766	11,317	17,083	5,999	10,497	16,496

TABLE IV.

*Government Grants to Missions.*

Mission.	Elementary Schools. £	Institutions. £	Total. £
Paris Evangelical Mission Society	8,673	2,500	11,173
Church of England	1,257	400	1,657
Roman Catholic	1,070	350	1,420
	£11,000	£3,250	£14,250

TABLE V.

*Enrolment of Pupils in Institutions.*

Church or other Institution controlling agency.	No. of Pupils on Roll, December, 1914.			No. of Pupils on Roll, December, 1915.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Moriya *P.E.M.S. .. ..	158	—	158	176	—	176
Th. Morena .. ..	—	50	50	—	44	44
Leloaeng .. ..	70	—	70	70	—	70
Masite †C. of E. .. ..	21	—	21	19	—	19
Maseru .. ..	—	18	18	—	31	31
Roma ‡R.C. .. ..	62	234	296	85	246	331
	311	302	613	350	321	671

TABLE VI.

*Elementary Schools according to size and Denomination.*

Mission.	Average Attendance, December, 1915.					Total.
	20 to 45	45 to 70	70 to 100	100 to 200	Over 200	
*P.E.M.S. ..	102	58	43	28	1	232
†C. of E. ..	16	11	5	3	—	35
‡R.C. ..	3	1	6	8	1	19
	121	70	54	39	2	286

\*Paris Evangelical Mission Society.  
 †Church of England.  
 ‡Roman Catholic.

Table VI. is interesting as showing to what an extent the smaller schools (*i.e.*, those below 70 in average attendance) participate in the Government grant. Out of 286 schools, nearly 200 come under this heading and are, for the most part, schools remote from camps and missionary centres. In the absence of a map of the schools, which would show still more clearly the wide-spread nature of education in the territory. The above Table is specially instructive.

TABLE VII.

*Pupils in European Schools.*

	Roll on last day of quarter ended 31st March, 1915.	Roll on last day of quarter ended 31st March, 1916.
Leribe .. .. .	14	8
Teyateyaneng .. .. .	13	9
Maseru .. .. .	39	42
Mafoteng .. .. .	23	27
Mohale's Hoek .. .. .	6	7

Education of an elementary nature is provided at the above schools for children of European parentage. Excellent work is being done, and the pupils who leave these schools after passing, say Standard V. or VI., have no difficulty in taking their places in the larger schools outside this territory to which they generally proceed for the completion of their school education.

A bursary of £20 a year (tenable for two years) is competed for annually by pupils under 13 years of age, and the spirit of competition has done a good deal to stimulate not only the candidates, but the pupils generally throughout these schools.

POST OFFICE.

The net postal, telegraph, and telephone revenue collections for the year amounted to £4,976 4s. 5d., of which the sums of £3,037 10s. 1d. and £1,377 16s. 10d. were for the sale of postage stamps and stamps on telegrams respectively. In addition the sum of £94 18s. 6d. was collected on cable traffic.

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

	1914-15.	1915-16.
<i>Deposits.</i>		
Number ..	889	1,173
Value ..	£ s. d. 6,095 2 0	£ s. d. 5,984 2 3
<i>Withdrawals.</i>		
Number ..	377	357
Value ..	£ s. d. 5,510 19 4	£ s. d. 5,337 9 9

It will be observed that there were 294 more deposits than in the previous year and that the amount of deposits was £80 19s. 9d. less. The withdrawals totalled 20 more than in 1914-15, although the amount withdrawn was £173 9s. 7d. less than previously.

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

Year.	Issued.		Paid.	
	Number.	Amount. £	Number.	Amount. £
1914-15 ..	27,493	30,031	19,282	31,436
1915-16 ..	27,044	30,217	18,962	21,083

### PUBLIC WORKS.

No works of any magnitude have been carried out during the year under report. Among minor works may be mentioned the building at Maseru, by the Government Industrial School, of accommodation for native councillors. At the Leper Settlement at Botsabelo a new prison has been built by the Industrial School to hold fifty natives. At Quthing a large store at the Government Offices and an addition to the gaol have been built by the Industrial School of the P.E.M.S.

### GAOLS.

There are seven gaols and two lock-ups in Basutoland, and during the year under review 1,717 prisoners passed through them as compared with 1,161 during the year 1914-15.

### CRIME AND POLICE.

The Police Force of the Territory on the 31st March, 1916, was of the following strength :—

European Inspectors .. .. .	3
European Sub-Inspectors .. .. .	10
European Constables .. .. .	7
Native Officers .. .. .	3
Native Sergeants .. .. .	10
Native Corporals .. .. .	14
Native Privates .. .. .	261
Native Special Police .. .. .	173

Of the European Officers, four are away on War leave, and are serving in the Imperial Army in various parts.

The native special police shown above are employed as border guards in the Quthing and Qachas Nek districts as a precautionary measure against the introduction of east coast fever into the Territory, from Natal and East Griqualand. They are not uniformed, with the exception of an arm badge, but, like the regular force, are mounted. Owing however to the continued improved outlook as regards east coast fever, it has been possible further to reduce the number of these special police, particularly along the Qachas Nek-Natal border, but as regards the East Griqualand border it has not been considered advisable to effect a similar reduction.

The following table shows the number of convictions for liquor smuggling for the last eight years: -

1908-09	..	..	..	..	79	convictions.
1909-10	..	..	..	..	90	..
1910-11	..	..	..	..	148	..
1911-12 (nine months ended 31st March, 1912)	..	..	..	..	100	..
1912-13	..	..	..	..	186	..
1913-14	..	..	..	..	222	..
1914-15	..	..	..	..	160	..
1915-16	..	..	..	..	150	..

It is gratifying to note that the decrease apparent last year for the first time has been maintained, and it is to be hoped that a healthier public opinion, backed up by the example of the Paramount Chief, and aided by the energetic efforts of the police, is beginning to make itself felt among the people.

#### MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

As was stated in last year's report, the fee payable by native out-patients for attendance at the Government dispensaries was raised from 6*d.* to 1*s.* The increased fee has had the effect of considerably diminishing the total number of cases treated during the year by eliminating trivial cases and enabling the Medical Officers to devote more attention to cases that required it. The change has not affected the number of in-patients, which remains practically the same. The following table shows the number of patients treated at the Government hospitals and dispensaries for the last two years:--

Year.	In-patients.	Out-patients (new cases).	Out-patients (subsequent attendances).
1914-15	1,850	38,619	13,477
1915-16	1,841	23,575	9,302

There has been a marked absence of serious epidemic diseases during the year. The general health of the community during the year has been good. Enteric fever has been less evident, partly due to the introduction of anti-typhoid vaccination, which has been fairly general throughout the camps, and has been carried out as far as possible in the districts also.



### *Leper Settlement.*

On the 1st April, 1915, there were 223 male and 236 female inmates. During the year 67 new cases were admitted; 3 were discharged as "arrested cases"; there were 105 deaths, 8 births, and 182 desertions; 118 deserters were returned. On the 31st March, 1916, there were 178 male and 167 female inmates.

The reasons given for desertions are first, the longing for their homes and children; secondly, the non-return of some of the deserters.

There is no doubt that some of the Chiefs take an interest and assist greatly by returning deserters, but others are very lax. The behaviour of the inmates seems to be improving. Every care is taken for their comfort and well-being in circumstances that cannot be otherwise than depressing. Food and accommodation is adequate and satisfactory, cleanliness is strictly observed, and discipline is not stricter than is found to be necessary.

One great drawback at the Asylum is the scarcity of water. The present supply consists of a borehole and four small springs, the water from which is collected in a reservoir holding 40,000 gallons. This supply is not adequate or certain. Much enquiry is being devoted to improving the water supply, as scrupulous cleanliness is essential. The drainage system is not too good, but it is being improved. The cost of the Settlement is considerable, but expenses are being kept down.

Good work has been done by the staff, although it is shorthanded, owing to certain members being allowed to proceed to Europe for war service.

### GENERAL.

In April the Paramount Chief and ten of his principal chiefs proceeded to Cape Town to pay their respect to his Excellency Viscount Buxton, who had succeeded Lord Gladstone as High Commissioner. The chiefs expressed the sincere feeling of loyalty which animates the Basuto people, and Lord Buxton announced his desire to visit the Territory as soon as possible.

During the month of May the relations between the chiefs Jonathan and Joel in the Leribe district, which for many years past have not been of a friendly nature, reached a crisis. The ostensible cause of quarrel was the ownership of certain grazing and other rights in the high mountain area lying east of Hlotse. When Chief Joel felt that active hostilities could not be prevented, he sent to the Government for instructions, and was recommended not to take up arms. It was not found possible to prevent Jonathan from taking active steps, and his people, in charge of some of his sons, raided into the mountains. Many villages were burnt and numbers of stock of all descriptions were driven off by Jonathan's people. In the hearing of the important case which followed, the Resident Commissioner (Sir Herbert Sloley)

was assisted by the Paramount Chief and all his most important chiefs, as assessors. The evidence was exhaustive, and the verdict and sentence of the Resident Commissioner met with the unanimous approval of the assessors. Chief Jonathan was found to be responsible for the grave disturbances, and was fined a thousand head of cattle, and four of his more important sons were fined fifty head each; the stock looted from Chief Joel's people was ordered to be returned. Steps were taken, according to Basuto custom, to recover the stolen stock, and approximately £2,800 worth was recovered and handed over to Joel. That chief, however, was not satisfied with the amount, and further enquiries were set on foot. The matter is still under consideration.

On the 1st September Sir Herbert Sloley was granted leave of absence prior to retirement, and Mr. Barry May, Deputy Resident Commissioner and Treasurer, acted as Resident Commissioner. On the 11th January, Mr. R. T. Coryndon, C.M.G., late Resident Commissioner of Swaziland, arrived at Maseru and assumed duties of Resident Commissioner.

A special session of the Basutoland Council was summoned for 12th January, when Sir Herbert Sloley bade farewell to the Basuto after a residence in the Territory of thirty-two years; Mr. Coryndon was introduced to the Council as the new Resident Commissioner.

In view of a probable visit to Basutoland in the near future of the High Commissioner, and to enable Mr. Coryndon to make himself acquainted with outstanding questions in the Territory, the Session of the Council was adjourned *sine die*, notice being given that it would be summoned when the date of His Excellency's intended visit was known.

The War in Europe has not affected the Territory to any great extent. Certain commodities have gone up in price and others are difficult to obtain; it has also increased the general cost of living to a considerable extent. Numbers of Europeans have left Basutoland to take part in the War, and as twenty-two members of the Administration have been granted leave for the same purpose, it has been found necessary to employ extra temporary assistance for the duration of the War.

The heavy harvests anticipated last year were not realized, owing to want of rain and early frosts. In some districts perhaps a third of the crop was reaped and still less in other parts. On the whole, however, there has been no definite want, though a shortage of the staple articles of food produced in the country has been noticeable in many areas.

C. E. BOYES,

Government Secretary,

Basutoland.

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 :—

A N N U A L.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
877	Trinidad and Tobago .. .. .	1914-1915
878	Nigeria .. .. .	1914
879	Cayman Islands .. .. .	1914-1915
880	St. Lucia .. .. .	"
881	East Africa Protectorate .. .. .	"
882	Imperial Institute .. .. .	1914
883	Nyasaland .. .. .	1914-1915
884	Gilbert and Ellice Islands .. .. .	"
885	Weihaiwei .. .. .	1915
886	Zanzibar .. .. .	"
887	Fiji .. .. .	"
888	Sierra Leone .. .. .	"
889	Turks and Caicos Islands .. .. .	"
890	Gambia .. .. .	"
891	Trinidad and Tobago .. .. .	"
892	Hong Kong .. .. .	"
893	Ashanti .. .. .	"
894	Gold Coast .. .. .	"
895	Malta .. .. .	1915-1916
896	St. Helena .. .. .	1915
897	Seychelles .. .. .	"
898	Bechuanaland Protectorate .. .. .	1915-1916
899	Gibraltar .. .. .	1915
900	Bahamas .. .. .	1915-1916
901	Swaziland .. .. .	"
902	Somaliland .. .. .	"
903	Cyprus .. .. .	"
904	Ceylon .. .. .	1915
905	Straits Settlements .. .. .	"
906	Grenada .. .. .	1915-1916
907	Falkland Islands .. .. .	1915
908	Bermuda .. .. .	"
909	Jamaica .. .. .	1915-1916
910	British Guiana .. .. .	1915

M I S C E L L A N E O U S.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
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.
83	Southern Nigeria .. .. .	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies .. .. .	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria .. .. .	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria .. .. .	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon .. .. .	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute .. .. .	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria .. .. .	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent .. .. .	Roads and Land Settlement.