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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 997.

BASUTOLAND.

REPORT FOR 1917-18.

(For Report for 1916-17 see No. 947.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
June, 1919.



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BASUTOLAND.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1917-1918.*

FINANCIAL.

During the year ended the 31st March, 1918, the revenue collected in Basutoland amounted to £175,028, an excess of £4,778, over the estimate, and a decrease of £3,343 on the revenue collected in the year 1916-17.

Native tax yielded £104,144, an increase of £1,398 over 1916-17, and Customs, £46,239, a decrease of £3,152.

The amount received from the Union Government as Basutoland's share of Customs Duties under Article III of the Customs Agreement was £45,277. The balance of £962 represents duty collected in Basutoland on importations of spirits and beer manufactured in the Union.

The ordinary expenditure during the year ended 31st March, 1918, amounted to £163,233, a decrease of £1,168 on the preceding year's expenditure. Increased expenditure under many heads of service was caused by the enhanced cost of clothing and equipment and to meet this it was necessary to reduce the amount provided under the vote "Public Works Recurrent." Capital Expenditure amounted to £9,965, as compared with £7,036 in the previous year.

The financial result of the year was a surplus of revenue over expenditure of £1,839, after providing for capital expenditure.

The balance of Assets in excess of Liabilities on 31st March, 1918, amounted to £121,052 3s. 2d.

TRADE.

The following is a return of the exports from the Territory during the calendar year 1917, the figures for 1916 being also given for comparison:

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914-15, No. 858: [Cd. 7622-49].

	1916.		1917.	
	No.	£.	No.	£.
Horses	662	7,469	330	3,456
Cattle	13,135	79,085	11,150	88,694
Sheep	—	—	1,374	979
	Muids.		Muids.	
Kaffir corn ..	76,300	46,397	21,443	5,535
Maize and maize meal	181,248	90,835	101,166	57,954
Wheat and wheat meal	70,563	99,302	67,792	105,552
	lbs.		lbs.	
Mohair	2,894,184	156,555	1,739,565	126,752
Wool	11,375,035	331,077	8,782,305	388,753
Hides	268,108	10,996	122,327	5,699
Skins	813,663	18,325	562,677	16,045
Miscellaneous ..				2,612
Total value of				
Exports		£840,041		£812,031
Total value of				
Imports		£666,979		£901,332

During the period under review, imports from overseas have been still further restricted, owing in part to shortage of shipping and in part to the large number of articles which have been added to the list of prohibited goods by the Imperial Government for war purposes. The result has been a still further advance in the price of practically all commodities required for daily use, not only in regard to food supplies and clothing, but in the many small things which in pre-War days were considered indispensable. Colonial manufacturers have doubtless done their best to supply the deficiency, but, being dependent to a large extent on the supply of raw material, they have advanced the prices, in many instances far above what used to be paid for imported foods. It is estimated that before the War, practically one-third of the Basutoland trade consisted of rugs, blankets, and shawls. The home price of the best English rugs then ranged from 1s. 9d. to 2s. 6d. per pound, in comparison with present prices amounting to at least four times as much; it is, therefore, not difficult to understand why the values of the merchandize imported have risen from £667,000 in 1916 to £901,000 in 1917. In last year's report the opinion was expressed that even the figures then quoted could not be maintained, but from the illustration above mentioned, to say nothing of the enormous increase in the prices of all cotton goods, agricultural implements, building material, and hardware of every description, it must be evident that the advance in the value of imports is not due to any increase in quantity, but to the extraordinary appreciation in overseas prices.

The value of merchandize imported is approximately the cost at the coast where the majority of traders purchase their goods from Union firms. It is regretted that no classification of the merchandize imported can be given.

From the above figures it would appear that the balance of trade was against the Territory, but it must not be forgotten that Basutoland

has a large asset in the supply of labour. It is quite impossible to estimate the amount of money brought into the country by labourers from the mines and elsewhere, but it is considerable and should place the balance far on the other side of the account.

With reference to the exports it will be observed that there is a decrease in the total value of £28,000 on the total value for 1916. Wool and mohair contribute about five-eighths of the total, but there has been a falling-off in weight of three and three quarter million pounds while the value has increased by nearly £28,000. This is unsatisfactory, but it is impossible to account for the short-fall, which may be due to overlapping of one year's clip with another, owing to difficulties in shipping transport.

There have also been appreciable decreases in the export of Kaffir corn and maize, due to unseasonable dry weather and the ravages of the borer grub.

A slight increase is shown in the values of cattle and wheat exported.

VETERINARY.

The past year has been a satisfactory one for the stock of Basutoland, and except for one outbreak of glanders and four outbreaks of anthrax (none of which assumed serious proportions) the Territory has been free from contagious diseases.

The East Coast Fever outlook continues to improve and the situation in East Griqualand and the Transkei has made satisfactory progress but as long as there are centres of infection in these areas the illicit introduction of cattle into Basutoland must be guarded against.

Altogether, 757 doses of anthrax vaccine were used in the past year, in all cases with gratifying results.

Strangles has, as usual, been very prevalent and the streptococcus of strangles appears to be always prevalent in Basutoland.

All severe cases, when possible, have been vaccinated with dead streptococci, and this treatment if adopted in the early stages has been found to be of great benefit. Experience indicates that one should employ large doses, and the Principal Veterinary Surgeon now gives 500,000,000 organisms at one time and repeats the dose in three or four days' time if necessary.

Equine biliary fever has been more prevalent than last year, but all cases have been treated successfully, thanks to trypan blue.

The Territory has been remarkably free of quarter evil during the past year, only 606 doses of vaccine having been supplied.

During the year 140 blood slides have been examined by the Principal Veterinary Surgeon. These have been for the most part supplied from cattle on the border (where slides are taken from all animals that die) and all cases where anthrax is suspected.

It is regretted that no headway has been made in the dipping of scab-infected flocks, 124,754 sheep having been dipped during the year as against 133,144 last year. The reduction in the numbers dipped cannot be assigned to any reasonable reduction in sheep scab, and it is to be regretted that the natives do not take more advantage of the facilities given them by Government. During the year a new dipping tank was constructed in a large sheep area in the Qacha's Nek District.

During the past season 200 live foals were born in the Territory sired by Government stallions, and 23 by a Premium stallion, against 209 of last year.

The present season was a busy one and no less than 535 mares were covered by Government stallions and it is hoped a good percentage of foals will be produced.

The principal Veterinary Surgeon thinks that the experiment in mule-breeding is proving successful, and he has no doubt that when the natives find how valuable their mules are they will be very anxious to send more mares to the donkey.

At the commencement of the season the Government purchased the imported Highland pony Glenbanvie, bred by the Duke of Atholl. This pony is much admired by the natives and should the experiment prove successful then it might be sound to get more of this breed into the stud.

At our recent Shows it was gratifying to see good results from the Government sires, and given good seasons the sires we have are no doubt capable of greatly improving the much degenerated ponies in the Territory. The prospects for horse breeders producing good riding or remount cobs are exceedingly bright, as such articles are extremely scarce in the Union.

Agricultural Shows have been held at all the magisterial centres.

EDUCATION.

The average daily attendance of pupils in schools and institutions is now over 20,000, while the total number of pupils on the roll exceeds 27,000.

The total average attendance in schools and institutions during the year ending December 31, 1917, was 20,760, as compared with 17,167 and 19,496 in 1915 and 1916 respectively.

Since the year 1910 the average attendance has increased usually at the rate of 1,200 each year. A decrease was recorded in 1915, but this decrease was exceptional.

The following Grants were made to missions for Schools and Institutions :—

Paris Evangelical Missionary Society ..	£12,750
Church of England Mission	1,950
Roman Catholic Mission	2,100
	£16,800

The above amounts may appear large, but should be compared with the figures of average attendances given above. Nearly the whole amount is spent on salaries of native teachers varying from £8 to £34 per annum. No reduction is possible under this head as the salaries are extremely low in view of the present cost of living. Taking an average of 40 pupils per teacher, the grant, if spent entirely on elementary schools, would provide an average salary little above £30 per annum. But out of this grant boarding schools for higher education have to be maintained and these, even when managed with the closest attention to economy, are expensive.

*Elementary Schools according to Size and Denomination.**Average Attendance December, 1917.*

Missions.	Over	150	100	70	60	45	25	20	Under	Total.
	200	200	150	100	70	60	45	25	20	
Paris Evangelical Missionry. Society	2	9	31	48	33	34	54	15	10	230
Church of England	—	1	3	4	6	8	10	5	4	41
Roman Catholic . .	1	5	7	4	—	5	2	2	4	30
	3	15	41	56	39	47	66	22	18	307

Enrolment of Pupils in Elementary Schools.

Missions.	Number of Pupils on Roll, December, 1916.			Number of Pupils on Roll, December, 1917.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Paris Evangelical Missionry. Socty.	7,762	12,315	20,077	7,877	12,892	20,769
Church of England	1,137	1,876	3,013	1,067	1,837	2,904
Roman Catholic	69	2,133	2,840	754	2,387	3,141
	9,596	16,334	25,930	9,698	17,116	26,814

Enrolment of Pupils in Institutions.

Institution.	Church or other controlling agency	No. of Pupils on Roll December, 1916.			No. of Pupils on Roll December, 1917.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Moriya . .	Paris Evangelical Missionary Society	156	—	156	150	—	150
Thaba Morena	„	—	60	60	—	63	63
Lelcaleng	„	24	—	24	24	—	24
Masite . .	Church of England	19	—	19	15	—	15
Maseru . .	„	—	34	34	—	18	18
Roma . .	Roman Catholic .	133	249	382	150	258	408
		332	343	675	339	339	678

Average Attendance of Pupils in Elementary Schools.

Mission.	Year ending December, 1916.			Year ending December, 1917.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Paris Evangelical Missionary Society.	5,851	8,790	14,641	6,207	9,312	15,519
Church of England.	822	1,335	2,157	833	1,329	2,162
Roman Catholic	502	1,602	2,104	585	1,840	2,425
	7,175	11,727	18,902	7,625	12,481	20,106

The above Tables show the enrolment and average attendance of pupils divided according to sex and according to the Missions to which they belong. Roughly two-thirds of the pupils are girls.

EUROPEAN SCHOOLS.

	No. of pupils on roll, December, 1917.			
Maseru	44
Mafeteng	23
Moriya	20
Leribe	15
Teyateyaneng	10
Mohales Hoek	11

				121

The above schools provide elementary education for children of European descent.

Two general tendencies of education in Basutoland are worthy of note :--

In the first place the Basuto parents are gradually abandoning their opinion that school education should begin at puberty. Many children are now being sent to school at the proper age for elementary education.

The second tendency is for the schools to become less mechanical. School subjects are not so often now presented by the teacher as mysteries which the pupils should memorize. In many schools pupils and teachers alike have a very definite idea of the worth of the subject taught and its relation to real life.

Another advance in the direction of giving reality to the school course has recently been made possible by the publications for school use of an extremely interesting "History of Basutoland" and a "History of South Africa," written in Sesuto, by the Rev. E. Jaccottet, and published by the Sesuto Book Depôt, Morija.

POST OFFICE.

The net postal, telegraph, and telephone revenue amounted to £5,614 13s. 6d.

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 :—

	<i>Deposits.</i>	<i>Withdrawals.</i>
1916-17.	1,172 value £7,080.	382 value £5,073.
1917-18.	1,467 „ £9,347.	360 „ £6,645.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Improvements in the condition of the main roads continue to be made and some good permanent work has been done at certain necessary points. Several important deviations have been made which have considerably improved some very steep gradients. A considerable amount of work has been put into the more important of the numerous by-roads, which are kept in fair condition. A certain amount of money is also spent by the traders in making and repairing roads connecting the main and by-roads with some of the more distant trading stations.

GAOLS.

There are seven gaols and two lock-ups in the Territory and during the year under review 1,333 prisoners passed through them, as compared with 1,547 during the year 1916-17.

CRIME AND POLICE.

The Police Force of the Territory on the 31st March, 1917, consisted of 15 European officers, 7 European constables, three native officers and 467 native non-commissioned officers and men.

Of the above, six European officers and one European constable are away on war leave and are serving in the Imperial Army in various parts.

The above figures include 159 native special police who are employed as border guards in the Quthing and Qacha's Nek District as a precautionary measure against the introduction of East Coast Fever into Basutoland from East Griqualand and Natal. With the exception of an arm badge, they are not uniformed but, like the regular police force, are mounted.

The number of convictions for contravention of the liquor laws in 1917-18 was 141 as compared with 238 in 1916-17. Convictions for offences against property have increased to 178, as compared with 127 in the previous year.

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

Typhus fever which had been prevalent for more than a year in certain districts of the Cape Colony appeared in Basutoland in August, 1917. The early cases were nearly all among the Tembu of the

Quthing and Mohales Hoek Districts. Later, cases occurred in the Qacha's Nek district.

Energetic measures were at once taken to control the epidemic. Infected areas were strictly quarantined. Recruiting for mines and other purposes was prohibited in the southern districts and every means taken to discourage the movements of natives from one place to another. All infected huts were destroyed by fire, and clothing and other personal effects disinfected by boiling. The death rate was high, about 50 per cent., but this resulted in the people, who were thoroughly scared, co-operating actively with the authorities in enforcing quarantines. This would not have been the case had the disease been attended with a low mortality. From August 14th, when the first cases were noted, till December 31st, there were 215 cases with 100 deaths. No Europeans were affected.

In co-operation with the Orange Free State Health authorities, applicants for passes were medically inspected, and verminous people were refused passes.

There were no cases of small-pox.

Contrary to our usual experience a good many men suffering from malarial fever came under the notice of the Medical Officers. They were all imported cases, chiefly returned general service boys from German East Africa.

Syphilis is still very prevalent and a proposal is under consideration to inaugurate free treatment for this disease. The general difficulty in dealing with the problem of syphilis in a native territory is the indifference of the people. Most cases have a non-venereal origin (only 14 cases of chancre were seen during the year). The initial lesion is often overlooked. Mucous patches of the mouth follow, and the infection spreads from one member of a family to another, and whole villages may be rapidly infected.

In a great many instances the secondary symptoms subside without treatment, but not before the patient has passed infection on to many others.

Dysentery was again prevalent but much milder in type than in recent years.

Tuberculosis and leprosy remain at about the same level. Very few cases of pulmonary disease were noted in boys returning from the mines.

There were a few cases of meningitis, mostly tubercular in origin.

The general health of the community has been above the average, and with the exception of the limited outbreak of typhus referred to above, there has been a remarkable absence of epidemic disease.

There was a notable decrease in the incidence of enteric. Beyond digestive troubles there was no illness among the convicts.

The following table shows the number of patients treated at the Government Hospitals and Dispensaries for the last two years:

	<i>In-patients.</i>	<i>Out-patients.</i>
1916-17.	1,999	26,214
1917-18.	1,997	32,347

LEPER SETTLEMENT.

On the 1st April, 1917, there were 181 male and 182 female inmates, or a total of 363 inmates.

During the year ended 31st March, 1918, 52 new cases were admitted 1 patient was discharged as a possibly arrested case; there were 29 deaths, 8 births, 13 deserters, and 41 deserters returned to the Settlement.

On the 31st day of March, 1918, there were 189 male and 194 female inmates, or a total of 383 inmates.

Still further improvement in the general health of the inmates may be recorded.

With the exception of desertions, there have been very few offences committed by the inmates. The behaviour remains good, the principal grievance being the length of time taken by the chiefs in settling their cases with the outside public.

A new reservoir is in course of construction, and will be a great benefit to the place when complete.

The mealie and kaffircorn crops this year have failed and it is not expected that more than a few bags will be harvested.

The work done by the Staff generally, though very trying, has been done without complaint, and the good feeling between the staff and inmates continues to exist.

GENERAL.

In the month of April, 1917, the twelfth session of the Basutoland Council was held at which it was decided that the Paramount Chief and Chiefs should endeavour to raise a Basutoland contingent of 2,000 men for the Overseas Native Labour Corps. Recruiting was started in May but the result was disappointing. It was then placed in the hands of district officers who were more successful. Their efforts brought the total of the contingent up to 1,400 men when the Army Council decided to discontinue further enlistment of South African natives.

Of the 160 Europeans mentioned in last year's report as having gone on active service some returned from East Africa. These, with the exception of a few who were medically unfit for further service, joined up for service overseas. They were accompanied by others who had succeeded in obtaining leave from their employers. An effort was also made to allow more Government officials to volunteer and seven were granted war leave and proceeded overseas.

Towards the end of the year under review certain changes were made in the personnel of the Administration. The Resident Commissioner, Mr. R. T. Coryndon, C.M.G., having been appointed to the Governorship of Uganda, Lieutenant-Colonel E. C. F. Garraway, C.M.G., Resident Commissioner of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, was appointed to succeed him as Resident Commissioner, Basutoland.

Mr. J. C. Macgregor, Deputy Resident Commissioner, was appointed Resident Commissioner, Bechuanaland Protectorate.

Mr. C. E. Boyes was promoted from the post of Government Secretary to that of Deputy Resident Commissioner; Mr. J. P. Murray, Assistant Commissioner of Mafeteng, was promoted to the post of Government Secretary, and Mr. J. H. Sims, Inspector Basutoland Mounted Police, was appointed to the post of Assistant Commissioner.

J. P. MURRAY,

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:—

No.	Colony, &c.	ANNUAL.						Year
964	Seychelles						1917	
965	Weihaiwei						"	
966	Fiji						"	
967	Solomon Islands						1917-1918	
968	Grenada						"	
969	Turks and Caicos Islands						1917	
970	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast						"	
971	Ceylon						"	
972	Hong Kong						"	
973	Zanzibar						"	
974	St. Helena						"	
975	Malta						1917-1918	
976	British Guiana						1917	
977	St. Vincent						1917-1918	
978	Bahamas						"	
979	Gambia						1917	
980	Jamaica						1917-1918	
981	Gibraltar						1917	
982	Bermuda						"	
983	Swaziland						1917-1918	
984	Trinidad						1917	
985	Mauritius						"	
986	Cyprus						1917-1918	
987	Bechuanaland Protectorate						"	
988	East Africa Protectorate						1916-1917	
989	Barbados						1917-1918	
990	Sierra Leone						1917	
991	Straits Settlements						"	
992	Leeward Islands						1917-1918	
993	Uganda						"	
994	British Honduras						1917	
995	Gilbert and Ellice Islands						1917-1918	
996	Nyasaland						"	

MISCELLANEOUS.

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.

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