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No. 1212.

BASUTOLAND.

REPORT FOR 1923-24.

(For Report for 1922-23 see No. 1176.)



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No. 1212.

BASUTOLAND.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1923 24.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

Basutoland, which is a native territory in South Africa, is bounded on the west by the Orange Free State, on the north by the Orange Free State and Natal, on the east by Natal and East Griqualand, on the south by the Cape Province. Its area is 11,716 square miles. It lies between $28^{\circ} 35'$ and $30^{\circ} 40'$ south latitude, and between 27° and $29^{\circ} 30'$ east longitude.

The altitude varies from 5,000 ft. to 11,000 ft. above sea level, and the climate is, on the whole, healthy. The Maluti Mountains in former years were used entirely as cattle posts, but owing to the increase in population the Basuto have found it necessary to migrate there and build villages and cultivate the land, so that to-day the more or less inaccessible mountain area is gradually becoming as thickly populated as the low-lying country to the west. In favourable seasons the Territory produces wheat, mealies and kafir corn, also cattle, horses and sheep; the export of wool for this year amounting to over 10 million pounds weight.

In 1818 the first Paramount Chief of Basutoland, Moshesh, gathered together the remnants of various tribes who had been scattered about South Africa during the wars waged by Moselekatze, and thus founded what to-day has become the Basuto nation, consisting of upwards of 540,000 souls.

A series of wars took place between the Basuto and the inhabitants of the Orange Free State from 1856 onwards, and it was not until 1868, when Moshoeshoe was hard pressed by the Boers, that he appealed to the British Government for help and the recognition of his people as British subjects. This was carried into effect in March, 1868. In 1871 the Territory was annexed to the Cape Colony, and, after various disturbances, the Government of the Cape, in April, 1880, extended the provisions of the Cape Peace Preservation Act of 1878 to Basutoland, which included a clause providing for the general disarmament of the Basuto. The Basuto refused to accept the terms, and, after a war lasting nearly a year, an agreement was arrived at by which the Act was repealed and certain fines inflicted on the tribe.

Although outwardly peace had been restored, there still remained several chiefs who would in no way accept the terms, and it was eventually decided by the Government of the Cape Colony to hand over the administration to the Imperial Government. This took effect on the 13th March, 1884. Since this date the Territory has been governed by a Resident Commissioner under the direction of the High Commissioner for South Africa.

In 1903, a native National Council of 100 members was formed for the purpose of discussing internal matters, and with a view to acting in a measure as an advisory body to the Resident Commissioner.

GENERAL EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

The 18th Session of the National Council was held from the 7th August to the 29th August, 1923. The following were the more important matters dealt with:—

- (1) *The administration of justice in the Native Courts.*—In his message to the Council His Royal Highness the High Commissioner stated that he had received reports from the Resident Commissioner showing that an improvement had taken place, and expressed the hope that the improvement would continue, and that as time went on the chiefs would, by exercising in a proper manner the powers conferred on them, allay the sense of grievance which had existed.
- (2) *Scab eradication.*—The Government having decided to embark upon a more thorough campaign for the eradication of this disease, regulations were promulgated on the lines of those obtaining in the Union of South Africa. These regulations were brought before the Council, and the debate on them lasted for more than five days. The Chiefs and Councillors displayed the keenest interest. The Government agreed to certain amendments desired by the Council, and eventually all the important members indicated their agreement with the new plans.
- (3) *The eradication of burrweed.*—The High Commissioner wrote strongly on this question in his message to the Council, pointing out the bad effect the existence of the weed was having on the wool, and intimated that if the natives could not make better headway in their own way towards eradicating the weed the Government would have to enact legislation on the subject. The Paramount Chief gave information about the inspectors he had appointed to deal with the evil, and urged that other chiefs should appoint their own inspectors. The Paramount Chief and other Councillors showed their disinclination for any proclamation by Government, but promised to show greater attention to the evil in the future.
- (4) *Locusts.*—The Acting Resident Commissioner raised the question of the locust plague which was threatened, and to which reference is made elsewhere in this Report. The Council were urged to do everything possible to get the people to destroy the young locusts before they were able to fly.
- (5) *Debt collectors.*—A general feeling against allowing debt collectors was evinced in the Council.

- (6) *Runaway boys.*—The Council asked that the Union Government might be requested to assist in preventing youths running away from their homes in Basutoland to take up work in the Union. Representations were subsequently made to the Union Government and the desired assistance was promised; but it should be remarked that reports go to show that only a few cases of runaway boys have been brought to notice.
- (7) *Taking up of arms.*—The Paramount Chief and Council made strong representations that in all cases where arms were taken up the Paramount Chief should participate in the trial.

LEGISLATION.

The most important law promulgated during the year was the Wool and Mohair Export Duty Proclamation, which took effect as from the 1st April. It imposed a duty of $\frac{1}{4}$ d on every pound of wool and mohair exported from the Territory.

GENERAL.

During the latter part of the year a strenuous campaign was conducted against the locust pest, which throughout South Africa had become a serious menace. More than 23,000 swarms of young locusts were destroyed in Basutoland, the campaign costing approximately £1,000. The infestation occurred principally along the border from Teyateyaneng to south of Quthing. The northern districts and the mountain area generally were free from the pest.

There were no political events of any importance during the year.

The Resident Commissioner, Lt.-Col. Sir E. C. F. Garraway, K.C.M.G., went to England on six months' leave early in June, and Mr. J. P. Murray, Deputy Resident Commissioner, acted as Resident Commissioner.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year ended the 31st March, 1924, amounted to £252,300, an excess of £9,800 on the estimate and an increase of £39,762 on the revenue for the preceding year. The expenditure for the year was £241,570, a saving of £882 on the sum authorized. The net result shows an excess of revenue over expenditure of £10,730. The native tax collection yielded £134,589, an increase of £13,456 compared with the collection during the preceding year.

The following heads of revenue also show increases on the estimate.

	Estimate.	Actual Receipts.
	£	£
Customs and Excise	65,000	71,042
Posts and Telegraphs	7,750	8,038
Licences	7,200	7,584
Income Tax	4,000	6,773
Wool Export Duty	13,000	14,128

The last head of revenue represents a tax of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. a pound on wool and mohair exported from the Territory and was imposed on the 1st April, 1923, in connection with measures taken for the eradication of scab in Basutoland.

The expenditure incurred during the year on such measures amounted to £14,222.

The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure during the past three years :—

REVENUE.			
	1921-1922	1922-1923	1923-1924
	£	£	£
Native Tax	126,541	121,233	134,689
Customs and Excise ..	54,403	62,011	71,043
Posts and Telegraphs ..	7,661	7,522	8,038
Licences	7,174	7,097	7,585
Fees of Court or Office ..	970	814	783
Judicial Fines	1,461	1,305	2,009
Income Tax	2,732	3,755	6,773
Fees for services rendered ..	2,490	2,605	1,366
Interest	2,640	2,550	2,341
Wool Export Duty	—	—	14,128
Miscellaneous	3,730	3,645	3,545
Total	£209,802	£212,537	£252,300

EXPENDITURE.			
	1921-1922	1922-1923	1923-1924
	£	£	£
Establishments	26,962	—	—
Resident Commissioner ..	—	(a) 12,554	13,749
District Administration ..	—	(a) 12,934	12,666
Police	38,184	35,647	36,122
Posts and Telegraphs ..	10,725	10,043	10,463
Administration of Justice ..	5,955	9,116	9,812
Public Works Department ..	4,328	5,811	6,529
Public Works Recurrent ..	22,484	20,371	20,951
Public Works Extraordinary ..	2,874	2,335	3,661
Medical	20,396	20,443	20,545
Education	35,301	34,681	34,813
Government Industrial School ..	2,454	2,323	2,437
Audit	650	733	(b) —
Agriculture	9,871	9,984	21,849
Allowances to chiefs	14,409	11,290	12,451
National Council	1,933	1,830	1,950
Leper Settlement	21,720	20,845	20,104
Pensions	4,942	5,259	6,681
Miscellaneous	9,652	4,868	5,557
Total Ordinary Expenditure ..	232,840	221,067	240,340
Expenditure from Surplus Balances	10,238	3,480	1,230
Total	£243,078	£224,547	£241,570

(a) Previously shewn as " Establishments."

(b) Provision now made under " Resident Commissioner."

NOTE :—The figures for 1923-24 are approximate and subject to minor adjustments.

INCOME TAX.

The rates of normal and super taxes imposed by Proclamation 36 of 1923 in respect of income for the year ended the 30th June, 1923, were the same as for the previous year.

Collections under this head amounted to £6,772 13s. 6d., being an increase of £3,017 6s. 4d. on the receipts for the year 1922-1923, and an excess of £2,772 13s. 6d. on the estimate for 1923-1924.

The collection was made up of :—

					£	s.	d.
Arrear Tax ...	...	...	...	...	136	13	10
Current Tax ...	...	...	...	...	6,635	19	8
					<hr/>		
					£ 6,772	13	6
					<hr/>		

On the above total the following shows the sources from which taxable incomes were derived and the amount of tax obtained from each :—

				£	s.	d.		per
							or	cent.
General Traders .. ..	..	..	..	4,023	10	11	..	59·41
Civil Servants .. ..	..	..	..	1,334	9	2	..	19·71
Employed persons—other than Civil Servants .. ..	..	..	..	441	7	10	..	6·51
Others—including Banks, etc. ..	..	..	..	689	2	6	..	10·18
Non-Residents .. ..	..	..	..	284	3	1	..	4·19
				<hr/>				
				£6,772	13	6	=	100 per cent.
				<hr/>				

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

No.	Category.	Total of Taxable Incomes.
	£	£
80	301-500	33,282
49	501-750	29,798
23	751-1,000	20,134
16	1,001-1,500	18,973
12	over 1,500	39,063
		<hr/>

180 Total taxable income of persons
assessed for current tax £141,250

TRADE.

The following is a return of the exports from, and the imports into, the Territory during the calendar year 1923, the figures for 1922 being given :—

IMPORTS.

	1922.		1923.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
Merchandise	—	£ 623,755	—	£ 767,198
Livestock :—				
Mules, Horses, etc. ..	50	235	157	669
Cattle	432	1,032	5,580	13,097
Sheep and Goats	453	309	401	350
Grain :—	<i>Muids.</i>		<i>Muids.</i>	
Wheat and Wheat-meal ..	1,485	2,644	2,132	3,762
Maize and Maize-meal ..	36,584	25,176	10,024	8,242
Kafir Corn	13,126	10,677	2,899	2,552
Other Produce	—	597	—	622
	—	664,425	—	796,492
Government Imports ..	—	37,700	—	30,562
Total Imports	—	£702,125	—	£827,054

EXPORTS.

	1922.		1923.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
Livestock :—				
Mules, Horses, etc. ..	364	£ 1,937	250	£ 1,462
Cattle	2,342	8,022	1,773	6,647
Sheep and Goats	2,999	1,373	734	518
Grain :—	<i>Muids.</i>		<i>Muids.</i>	
Wheat and Wheat-meal	128,204	138,995	64,144	71,701
Maize and Maize-meal	20,316	11,188	87,161	41,409
Kafir Corn	13,984	11,319	52,570	34,536
Oats	591	452	83	32
Barley	193	106	107	56
Rye	—	—	—	—
Beans and Peas	3,149	3,669	9,622	9,045
	<i>lb.</i>		<i>lb.</i>	
Hair, Angora	2,326,367	104,835	2,001,564	119,646
Wool	12,829,330	377,333	10,264,894	513,644
Hides and Skins :—				
Hides	127,705	2,348	142,336	3,035
Skins	82,542	1,171	89,731	1,751
Miscellaneous	—	6,584	—	197
Total Exports	—	£669,330	—	£803,769

These figures show that although there has been an increase amounting to £124,929 in the value of imports and £134,439 in the value of exports, the balance of trade against the Territory

was some £22,000, compared with £33,000 in the previous year, but deducting the £30,000 odd Government imports a slight credit balance would result, while the value of the labour asset, which it is impossible to state with any degree of accuracy, must in any case far outweigh the adverse balance.

Wool and mohair are again the largest contributors to the national earnings, and, in view of the great importance of these exports, it is interesting to give the comparative figures since 1920.

			Wool. lb.	Mohair. lb.
1920	...	...	10,030,954	2,259,741
1921	...	...	12,826,792	2,330,006
1922	...	...	12,829,330	2,326,367
1923	...	...	10,264,894	2,001,564

The large decrease in both products is difficult to account for, unless a considerable amount was held over in the Territory at the close of the statistical year. It must be remembered that these figures are obtained from traders only, and that there is no record of the undoubtedly considerable quantity of wool and mohair exported privately to Union trading stores situated just beyond the Basutoland borders. But that factor has been present in previous years, and there is no evidence to show that the private exports during 1923 had developed so largely as to account for the big drop in the traders' figures. In future years it will be possible to get an approximate estimate of the private exports by means of the Wool and Mohair Export Duty figures, and also to obtain by the same means more accurate figures of the total export than the present system allows. For this year, however, such comparisons are not possible, as the Wool and Mohair Export Duty was only commenced as from the 1st April, 1923. None the less, as the drop in export has been considerable, and cannot clearly be explained, it is interesting to note that the Wool and Mohair Export Duty of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per pound produced £14,128 for the financial year ended March, 1924. This gives a wool and mohair export of 13,562,880 lb., against 12,266,458 lb. as shown by the traders' figures for the calendar year 1923. If it were possible to place the figures against each other, the balance of 1,296,422 lb. would represent the volume of export other than through traders, *i.e.*, the private exports to Union traders.

Though wool exports were 2,564,436 lb. less than 1923, the value was greater by £136,311, the appreciation being from 7d. per lb. in 1922 to 12d. per lb. in 1923.

Again, mohair exports fell off by 314,803 lb., but there was an increase of £14,813 in the value. The average price rose from 10·8d. per lb. to 14·25d. per lb. in 1923.

As regards wheat and wheat-meal, it is disappointing to have to record that the export amounted to only one half of the quantity and value exported in 1922. On the other hand, the

1922 exports were the highest since trade statistics have been available. Basutoland, however, was not alone in the failure of the wheat crop, and the unfavourable drought conditions obtained more or less equally in the Union.

Maize and kafir corn exports quadrupled those of 1922. This was due to the good spring rains having enabled the natives to plough and sow in good time, while the crops were reaped before the arrival of the locusts.

The export of livestock figures have fallen from 1922, but the figures of cattle imported are much larger. Considerable caution must, however, be observed in making any deduction from the livestock trade figures. There is a large business done by cattle speculators from the Union, the statistics of which are not available.

IMPORTS.

These show a considerable increase. The variety of articles was much the same as in former years: wool rugs, wool and cotton blankets, piece goods and clothing accounting for some 60 per cent. of the whole.

GENERAL.

The trade year was an undoubted improvement, and, although the depression cannot be said to have by any means disappeared, there is promise that the normal prosperity of former years may be expected at a none too distant date. In this regard, and specially in respect to traders, careful attention should be given to the income tax figures furnished in the Financial Section of this Report. They form an important guide to the economic condition of the country. The large percentage increase in the tax paid by traders is arresting, and is a clear indication that the time is approaching when the heavy losses suffered during the last few years will have been worked off.

EDUCATION.

The average daily attendance of pupils in schools and institutions is over 26,100, while the total number of pupils on the roll exceeds 39,100.

The following table shows the average attendance of pupils during the last 10 years :—

1914	...	...	...	...	...	17,643
1915	...	...	...	...	...	17,167
1916	...	...	...	...	...	19,496
1917	...	...	...	...	...	20,760
1918	...	...	...	...	...	21,160
1919	...	...	...	...	...	22,553
1920	...	...	...	...	...	23,497
1921	...	...	...	...	...	22,586
1922	...	...	...	...	...	23,424
1923	...	...	...	...	...	26,124

The following grants were made to Missions for elementary schools and other educational institutions :—

	£
Paris Evangelical Mission Society ...	21,528
Roman Catholic Mission	5,330
Church of England Mission	3,515
Total... ..	30,173

The grants are the same as those made for 1921 and 1922.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ACCORDING TO SIZE AND DENOMINATION.

Mission.	Over 200	150 to 200	100 to 150	70 to 100	60 to 70	45 to 60	25 to 45	20 to 25	Under 20	Total.
Paris Evangelical Mission Society	1	6	34	58	32	57	113	27	20	348
Roman Catholic	1	5	7	12	6	15	47	10	8	111
Church of England	—	—	2	12	4	12	18	7	8	63
Total	2	11	43	82	42	84	178	44	36	522

In 1922 there were 495 elementary schools.

In elementary schools the pupils enrolled were 38,494, as against 34,733 for 1922.

The average attendance was 25,616, as compared with 22,945 in 1922.

In institutions the pupils enrolled were 622, as against 576 for 1922.

EUROPEAN SCHOOLS.

In December, 1923, there were 133 pupils in the eight schools for European children, being an increase of twenty pupils as compared with last year's figures.

GENERAL.

There has been a large increase in the number of pupils attending school this year, but it should be remembered that the previous three years were years of poverty and stagnation, when normal development practically ceased.

The increase of nearly 3,000 pupils is apparently due to the advent of better times and to an awakening of interest in education, especially in the more heathen districts in the northern part of Basutoland.

VETERINARY.

ANTHRAX.

During the year 89 outbreaks of anthrax occurred, an increase of 31 on the previous year. This increase is believed to be partly due to a system of detection and investigation, which has been achieved as the result of increased co-operation of the Assistant Commissioners and Police Officers. It is also due to the fact that chiefs and headmen are now more alive to their responsibilities in reporting deaths, etc., and no doubt the discussion of anthrax at the last session of the Basutoland Council has helped towards securing more exact total reports of outbreaks than was possible in previous years. Notwithstanding the increased number of

outbreaks, there has been no serious individual mortality. This has been largely due to early diagnosis and prompt inoculation.

During the year 56,735 animals have been inoculated, 18,215 by the Veterinary Staff and 28,520 by the trained native police in the various districts. The Veterinary Department is much indebted to the police for their able work and co-operation in this matter.

Union Government spore vaccine has been used with excellent results. Prompt inoculation of all contacts invariably cleans up an outbreak. The system of enforcing inoculation of all transport oxen in infected districts has been continued, and it is felt that this has minimised the further spread of the disease.

Inoculation is also enforced on all bovines proceeding to the Orange Free State. A further effort has been made to see that the very necessary preventive measure of suitably burying the anthrax carcass is enforced, and where owners have shown neglect prosecution has resulted. Of the different districts Mafeteng and Maseru are the worst infected. There were 23 outbreaks in the Mafeteng district and 21 in Maseru. Experience respecting the susceptibility of bovines to anthrax, compared to the other domestic animals, has been the same as last year, and all attempts to get a positive diagnosis of anthrax in sheep and goats have failed; but in the worst infected centres a few equines have contracted anthrax and died.

EQUINE MANGE.

This disease has been extremely prevalent, and considerable losses were sustained in the recent bad spring. Unless this disease can be brought under proper control the outlook in the mountain areas for horses is very serious. Horses to the number of 2,257 were treated for mange during the year, and it appears that owners are now fully alive to the seriousness of this malady. They are making a more serious effort to get their animals treated, but many headmen and chiefs have been very apathetic in helping to put a stop to the undesirable traffic of mange-infected animals, which creates fresh centres of infection.

During the year experiments were made with a view to finding a cheap and effective remedy. As a result it was discovered that if one pint of Capex (lime and sulphur) and four ounces of tobacco extract were mixed with two gallons of water and thoroughly sprayed on to the animal two or three times at an interval of five days the mange insect was effectively destroyed. Spray pumps were therefore sent with this mixture to the sheep dipping tanks in the infected areas. More recently it has been found that the same result can be brought about by using Cooper's Dip at full strength, the animal being sprayed three times at an interval of seven days, and all sheep-dipping supervisors have now been furnished with proper spray pumps. This should be the means of decentralising treatment, putting a stop to the undesirable traffic over long distances of mangy horses, and prove much more economical.

During the year, 644 blood slides have been examined microscopically. The number of cattle and horses dipped at Maseru for mange, ticks and lice was 1,646.

SCAB SHEEP.

As from the 1st April, 1923, it was decided that a more serious attempt should be made towards a successful campaign and a stringent scab law was accordingly introduced. Before the new law was brought into operation it was considered advisable to have it discussed in the Basutoland Council. This was very thoroughly done with the best results. The Paramount Chief and the Councillors showed great interest, and finally gave the new law their loyal support.

Eight European Scab Inspectors were engaged and given a month's thorough training in their duties, and an attempt has been made, by the erection of new tanks, to clean up the scab which existed on our Western border and which gave rise to many complaints from the Union Government.

These efforts have been crowned with much success, and all sheep and goats during the year from the Mechachaneng to the Telle river have been very efficiently dipped under European supervision. During the year no less than 1,042,269 sheep and goats have been dipped, as against 386,014 sheep and goats during 1922. This clearly illustrates how keen and loyal the native sheep owners have been in supporting the Government attempt to improve their wool and mohair.

Twenty new tanks were erected during the year.

Considerable experience has been gained in the difficult problem of erecting tanks economically and quickly, and it is hoped in the near future to evolve the best method of doing this work.

Field work has shown the value of the "Circular" dipping tank in treating scab, and it is proposed gradually to institute this type of tank throughout the Territory.

Throughout the year Cooper's Dip was employed with excellent results. Although it is an arsenical dip, the casualties for the financial year were only 191 sheep and goats, involving the payment of compensation in the sum of £85. This is very satisfactory, and speaks well for the work done by the Scab Inspectors and Native Supervisors.

Experience showed that during the year the soundness of the policy of defining an area round a dipping tank and enforcing the simultaneous dipping of all sheep and goats in that area. This method not only proved in itself most effective in eradicating scab, but also most economical. If the policy is energetically pursued and associated with a large increase of tanks, it is thought that, with the continued loyal co-operation of native owners and the chiefs, the future success of the campaign is assured.

STUD.

Of the 149 mares covered last year 70 proved in foal. All stallions were kept at Maseru during the season.

The Fell pony "Minor" was lent to the Government by the Westminster Estate for a portion of the season. This pony should mate well with Basuto mares. During the season 146 mares were covered.

There were 3,172 professional visits and attendances in the course of the year.

AGRICULTURE.

The grant was the same as last year, *i.e.*, £1,200.

Little fresh development was possible, but existing donga work has been kept in repair and the tree nurseries have been maintained. At the close of the year there were some 234,000 trees on hand, and during the year some 43,000 trees were issued.

There was a severe drought towards the close of the year, while immediately preceding it there was a severe visitation of locusts. The campaign against locusts was reasonably successful, and the natives showed some energy in their efforts to destroy the young insects. But the locust plague, combined with the drought, left the Territory at the close of the year in an unpromising state for 1924. On the other hand, agricultural conditions in Basutoland change so rapidly that undue pessimism is not justified.

One or two European traders conducted experiments in cotton-growing. The result cannot as yet be prognosticated, but it is feared that the altitude, combined with the short growing season and the uncertain frosts, will prove serious obstacles.

The position in regard to wheat, maize and kafir corn crops is dealt with earlier in the Report under the heading of Trade Statistics.

Burrweed is still prevalent, notwithstanding that great pressure has been brought to bear upon the natives to destroy it whenever it appears.

Lectures on agriculture were continued at Roma, Morija and Maseru. It is hoped during 1924 to commence on a small scale a scheme of native demonstrators in agriculture. The plan has been adopted with success in native areas in the Union of South Africa.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Roads.—Roads through the Territory have been maintained. A concrete causeway has been built across the Telle River in the Quthing District, greatly facilitating transport between Lady Grey railhead and South Basutoland.

Waterworks.—Meters were installed in Maseru which has had the result of causing consumers to be more economical, so that the present supply should be ample for many years to come.

Buildings.—Twenty sheep-dipping tanks were constructed. Work on the new Post Office at Maseru was continued, and it is hoped that this building will be ready for occupation next year.

Buildings were maintained in a fair state of preservation as far as funds permitted.

GAOLS AND CRIME.

There are seven gaols and four lock-ups in the Territory, and during the year, 1,939 prisoners passed through them, as compared with 2,206 during the year 1922.

The number of convictions for contravention of the liquor laws in 1923 was 27, as compared with 63 for the previous year.

Convictions for offences against property numbered 214, as compared with 175 in 1922.

MOVEMENT OF INHABITANTS.

The following figures give the number of passes issued to natives to leave the Territory during the year, as compared with the figures for the year 1922.

	Labour.	Visiting and Miscellaneous.	TOTAL.
1922 ..	57,663	59,529	117,192
1923 ..	76,202	33,194	109,396

POST OFFICE.

The net postal, telegraph and telephone revenue amounted to £8,038 7s. 3d., as compared with £7,521 14s. 1d. for the year 1922-23.

The expenditure amounted to £10,463 5s. 3d., as compared with £10,042 17s. 9d. for 1922-23.

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

<i>Deposits.</i>	<i>Withdrawals.</i>
1922-23 = 1,046, value £5,225.	517, value £7,471.
1923-24 = 1,261, value £7,129.	442, value £5,512.

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

<i>Issued.</i>	<i>Paid.</i>
1922-23 = 19,693, value £20,986.	22,616, value £25,831.
1923-24 = 20,301, value £23,248.	21,376, value £26,721.

MEDICAL.

Treatment at the Government Dispensaries was given to 48,318 patients during the year, an increase of 5,790 over the previous year. In the hospitals 2,337 patients were treated, showing a slight decrease in the admissions. The number of surgical operations performed was 2,133, as against 2,215 for the previous year.

The revenue collected from dispensaries and hospitals amounted to £2,259 17s. 9d.

The general health of the Territory was good, and, with the exception of typhus fever and smallpox, there were no serious epidemic diseases.

Sixty-eight cases of measles, 49 of chicken-pox, 9 of diphtheria, 111 of whooping cough, and 22 of enteric fever were reported, all more or less sporadic. It is to be noted that no cases of scarletina were reported during the year.

Typhus fever is still epidemic in all the districts in the Territory. The Medical Officers reported 958 cases with 120 deaths. This is a considerable increase over the previous year, due in part to the regulations regarding notification being more strictly observed. Propaganda as regards prevention has been carried out in various ways, and assistance has been given by the native press. The great difficulty has been in reaching the uneducated native and the inhabitants in the remote parts of the country. The National Council was addressed by the Principal Medical Officer on the subject at its 1923 Session, and the members were requested to assist the Government in carrying out the law as regards notifications, quarantine and disinfection.

Smallpox of a mild type was epidemic during the year; 671 cases with 14 deaths were reported. Most of the cases occurred in the central districts of the country. This is a continuation of the epidemic reported last year.

The following were notified during the year :- Influenza, 337 cases, no deaths; dysentery, 56 cases, 1 death; pneumonia, 106 cases, 2 deaths; cerebro-spinal meningitis, 8 cases, 1 death.

Free treatment for syphilis continues to be given, and it is noted that many are availing themselves of the privilege. Venereal disease is accountable for much ill-health and disablement in spite of the efforts of the Medical Officers to instruct in the way of clean living and personal hygiene. It is satisfactory to note that one of the native newspapers has of late taken up the question seriously.

LEPER SETTLEMENT.

The Leper Settlement continues to do good and useful work. The population at the end of 1923 was 467—213 males and 254 females—a decrease of 12 as against last year. There were 66 admissions, 5 re-admissions, 42 deaths, 10 desertions, and 31 discharges during the year.

The discharges were less than the previous year, but the various forms of treatment are being vigorously pushed with much success, and a considerable number await discharge in the near future.

There has been a marked fall in the death-rate, which may be attributed partly to the intensive modern treatment now given and partly to the more favourable early-stage condition of the patients now being admitted. Small difficulty is now experienced in getting patients sent to the Asylum.

There has been no important change of policy. Regulations affecting the patients were gazetted for the purpose of more clearly defining the legal status of the Superintendent.

The employment of the more able-bodied patients in useful and remunerative work contributes much to their happiness and

health. Such employment among the men takes the form of sanitary work, bath attendance, repairing of clothing and boots, road-making, gardening, etc.; among the women, laundrywork, sewing, cooking, hospital attendance, etc.

The able-bodied men get one acre of land and the women one quarter acre to cultivate, the produce of which is bought by the Government. Last year the crops were good, and 1,050 bags of maize were purchased from the patients. A mill has been erected for the grinding of this product, which is one of the chief items of dietary at the Asylum.

A new supply of water has been installed which should be of great assistance during seasons of drought.

A ward for infirm male patients has been completed, and has proved very useful.

Two large Solaria have been built for the treatment of both sexes by graduated exposure to sunlight.

The farm produced good crops during the season, and there has been an ample supply of milk, together with potatoes, fruit and vegetables, to supplement the dietary. These have gone a long way to improve the general health of the patients.

More land has been broken up, and an endeavour is being made to grow sufficient produce to feed the patients, without the necessity of purchase outside.

E. G. DUTTON,

Acting Government Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

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

ANNUAL.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Year.</i>
1181	British Honduras	1922
1182	Uganda .. .. .	..
1183	Federated Malay States .. .. .	..
1184	Unfederated Malay States .. .. .	..
1185	State of Brunei .. .. .	..
1186	Straits Settlements .. .. .	..
1187	Falkland Islands .. .. .	..
1188	Kenya Colony and Protectorate .. .. .	..
1189	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1922-1923
1190	Jamaica	1922
1191	Seychelles .. .. .	..
1192	Bahamas	1922-1923
1193	Somaliland	1922
1194	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1922-1923
1195	Leeward Islands .. .. .	..
1196	Turks and Caicos Islands	1922
1197	Nigeria	1923
1198	Weihaiwei .. .. .	..
1199	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1922-1923
1200	Ashanti .. .. .	..
1201	Gambia	1923
1202	Bahamas	1923-1924
1203	Hongkong	1922
1204	Nyasaland	1923
1205	Cayman Islands	1922
1206	Cyprus	1923
1207	Gold Coast	1922-1923
1208	Trinidad and Tobago	1923
1209	Zanzibar Protectorate .. .. .	..
1210	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1923-1924
1211	Swaziland	1923

MISCELLANEOUS.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Subject.</i>
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies--General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Islands.