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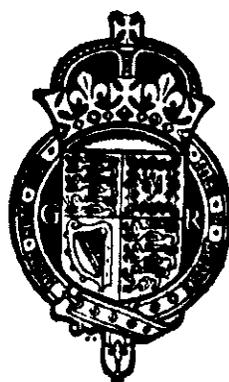
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1583

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF
BASUTOLAND, 1931

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF BASUTOLAND FOR THE YEAR 1931.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER.	PAGE.
I. GEOGRAPHY, INCLUDING CLIMATE, AND HISTORY	2
II. GOVERNMENT	4
III. POPULATION	4
IV. HEALTH	5
V. HOUSING	7
VI. PRODUCTION	7
VII. COMMERCE	12
VIII. WAGES AND COST OF LIVING	14
IX. EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS	14
X. COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT	16
XI. BANKING, CURRENCY, WEIGHTS, AND MEASURES	18
XII. PUBLIC WORKS	18
XIII. JUSTICE AND POLICE	19
XIV. LEGISLATION	24
XV. PUBLIC FINANCE* AND TAXATION	25

MAP OF BASUTOLAND.

CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHY INCLUDING CLIMATE AND HISTORY.

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, and on the south by the Cape Province. Its area is 11,716 square miles. It lies between 28° 35' and 30° 40' South latitude, and between 27° and 29° 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, which occupy most of the country to the east, were in former years reserved entirely as cattle posts, but owing to the increase in population the Basuto have found it necessary to migrate there, build villages, and cultivate the land, so that to-day this more or less inaccessible area is gradually becoming as thickly populated as

* The financial information given in this Report is for the financial year ended 31st March, 1931.

the low-lying country to the west. The result of this invasion into the mountain area is the disappearance of all big game, such as eland and hartebeest, which used to abound some thirty years ago, and the gradual elimination of the smaller buck and all species of wild fowl.

The climate is good for Europeans and natives alike. The high altitude and pure atmosphere prove most invigorating. *Phthisis pulmonalis* is little known except among Europeans who have come to the country on account of this disease, and if they come in the early stages of the disease they improve at once. Persons suffering from malarial fever or its results are benefited greatly by a short residence in Basutoland.

The range of temperature is approximately from a maximum of 93° F. to a minimum of 11° F. The average annual rainfall is 30 inches, the total recorded during 1931 at the Mafeteng Inland Barometric Station, being 29·74 inches.

In 1818 the first Paramount Chief of Basutoland, Moshesh, gathered the various remnants of tribes which had become scattered about South Africa during the wars waged by Moselekatse, the king of the Matabele, and thus founded what has become the Basuto nation. The estimated native population is 570,000, while the Europeans, as taken in the last census in 1921, numbered 1,600.

In 1852 war broke out between Moshesh and the British Government; the Basuto were defeated by Sir G. Cathcart at the battle of the Berca Mountain, and Moshesh sent in his submission and made peace. A series of wars then took place from 1856 onwards between the Basuto and the inhabitants of the Orange Free State, and it was not until 1868, when he was hard pressed by the Boers, that Moshesh appealed to the British Government for help and the recognition of his people as British subjects. This was carried into effect by a Proclamation dated the 12th March, 1868, and the event is now commemorated by observing this day as a public holiday, known as "Moshoeshoe's Day." 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 for the general disarmament of the Basuto. The Basuto, however, 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 was effected by Order in Council of 2nd February, 1884, which was proclaimed and brought into force by Proclamation 75A of 18th March, 1884.

CHAPTER II.

GOVERNMENT.

The Territory is now governed by a Resident Commissioner under the direction of the High Commissioner for South Africa, the latter possessing the legislative authority, which is exercised by proclamation promulgated in the *Official Gazette*.

For fiscal and other purposes the country is divided into seven districts, each of which is under an Assistant Commissioner, namely Maseru, Leribe, Berea, Mohales Hoek, Mafeteng, Quthing, and Qacha's Nek. These districts are sub-divided into wards presided over by hereditary chiefs and those allied to the Moshesh family, who are responsible to the Paramount Chief in all matters relating to native law and custom.

CHAPTER III.

POPULATION.

No census has been taken since 1921. The following figures indicate the racial distribution of the population at the last census:—

<i>District.</i>	<i>Europeans.</i>	<i>Bantu.</i>	<i>Coloured other than Bantu.</i>
Leribe	200	107,794	211
Berea	132	56,674	136
Maseru	612	99,378	266
Mafeteng	262	67,279	221
Mohales Hoek	159	60,568	281
Quthing	115	38,051	96
Qacha's Nek	63	66,193	30
Totals	1,603	495,937	1,241

Besides the population as enumerated above, 47,141 Bantu were stated to be absent at various labour centres outside the Territory when the census was taken.

The following is a comparative statement of the density of the population (other than European), at the censuses of 1904, 1911, and 1921:—

	1904.	1911.	1921.
No. of persons per square mile ...	33·78	38·97	48·30
No. of acres per head of population ...	18·94	16·42	13·25
No. of occupied huts per square mile...	8·42	10·86	16·99
No. of persons to each occupied hut ...	4·01	3·61	2·84

There is no compulsory registration of births, deaths, or marriages according to native custom. Marriages according to Christian rites numbered 643 during the year under review, as compared with 740 during 1930, and 819 during 1929.

Every native entering or leaving the Territory must be in possession of an official pass.

CHAPTER IV.

HEALTH.

During the year 1931, 2,664 patients were treated in the various hospitals, showing an increase of 80 over the number treated in 1930. Deaths amounted to 179 which is 22 more than in the previous year. The number of operations performed was 1,231, the majority of which were under general anaesthesia. The number of out-patients who attended the various hospitals showed a decrease of 6,160. The following table gives details of each district :—

District.	In-Patients.	Out-Patients.	Subsequent Returns.	Vaccinations.	Revenue.
					£ s. d.
Maseru ...	852	8,587	5,252	—	618 3 6
Leribe ...	539	6,528	2,940	—	345 6 0
Mafeteng ...	393	7,192	3,586	—	377 19 3
Mohale's Hoek ...	345	4,116	1,504	—	172 4 6
Quthing ...	242	4,271	1,036	100	174 0 9
Qachu's Nek ...	231	3,567	1,307	—	117 11 3
Teyateyanong ...	62	4,476	1,414	—	139 5 9
Totals ...	2,664	38,737	17,039	100	£1,944 11 0

As regards the general health of the Territory during the year under review there is nothing of note to comment upon. Typhoid fever has been more prevalent in the north than in previous years, and the number of deaths recorded from this disease was 18 as compared with 9 in 1930. Cases of typhus have increased but, of those admitted into hospital, the mortality rate was not as high as last year, viz., 5 deaths in 21 cases as compared with 10 deaths in 28. The position in regard to syphilis is not satisfactory; for although there are many less reported cases in the first and third stages, there is an increase of 112 in the secondary stage, in which it was hoped that there would be a decrease in numbers. It appears from the Medical Officers' reports on their experience with sulpharsenol injection treatment that the benefits anticipated exceeded those realized, a result which is disappointing.

The following is a comparative table of communicable diseases admitted to hospitals in the territory during the years 1930 and 1931 :—

Description.	1930.	1931.
Influenza ...	938	550
Typhoid ...	189	247
Dysentery ...	111	161
Typhus ...	75	118
Whooping Cough ...	147	337
Measles ...	78	119
Smallpox ...	1	1
Scarlet Fever... ..	2	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	295	201
Anthrax ...	14	1
Total ...	1,850	1,797

The sanitary arrangements in the various Camps have been well maintained, and there have been no outbreaks of disease which could in any way be attributed to an inefficient service. An abattoir has recently been opened in Maseru where the slaughter of all stock for European consumption is carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. Flies have not been such a nuisance as in previous years: and the measures adopted for the destruction of rodents would appear to have been satisfactory, as no reports have been received in regard to any noticeable increase in their numbers.

The gaols throughout the Territory, when inspected, were clean, and there has been no outbreak of any serious disease among the inmates.

Leprosy Settlement.

On 31st December, 1930, the population of the Settlement was 665, composed of 292 males and 373 females. On 31st December, 1931, the population was 699, of which 325 were males and 374 females, showing an increase during the period under review of 33 males and 1 female. This is interesting inasmuch as in the past the increase in females has invariably predominated over that of the males, and is doubtless due to the active vigilance of the Leprosy Health Inspectors.

The following represents the numbers of admissions, etc. :—

1931.		<i>Admitted.</i>	<i>Re-admitted.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Discharged.</i>	<i>Deserted.</i>
Males	...	69	11	42	21	14
Females	...	71	11	47	28	6
Totals	...	170	22	89	49	20
1930.						
Males	...	67	9	40	23	} 18
Females	...	80	4	29	28	
Totals	...	147	13	69	51	18

The diminution in the admission rate which was to be hoped for after the Inspectors had once traversed the whole Territory has not yet taken place, although it is estimated that by September, 1931, the whole Territory had been explored once. This is to be explained in large part by the fact that after the Inspectors have reported suspected cases of leprosy in the less accessible parts of the Territory, a considerable time elapses before the patients are sent to the Asylum.

A detailed Annual Report on Health is published separately.

CHAPTER V.

HOUSING.

Basutoland is a purely native Territory. There are no factory or industrial undertakings and the problem of the proper accommodation of workers has not therefore arisen.

The natives live in villages under tribal authority and their huts are, on the whole, healthy if primitive. These huts are invariably built of sods or stone, with a mud floor and a thatched roof; and from the figures taken at the 1921 census, the average number of persons to each occupied hut was 2·84.

The small European population, consisting of Civil Servants, Missionaries, and Traders, is, as a rule, well housed in buildings of cut stone or brick.

CHAPTER VI.

PRODUCTION.

There are no fisheries; and no mining operations are carried out in Basutoland.

Production is dealt with under two heads, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry.

Agriculture.

No land in Basutoland is cultivated by Europeans with the exception of a few fields in the vicinity of Mission stations, which are used for demonstration purposes; these are held under the same land tenure system as those of the natives. Cultivation is, in the main, carried out by individual native agriculturists who are given lands by the Chiefs on which to grow food for themselves and their families. It is estimated that approximately one-fifteenth of the country is under the plough.

The chief products of the Territory are maize, kaffir corn and wheat. Peas, beans, barley, oats, pumpkins, and potatoes are also grown, but not to any appreciable extent. Maize and kaffir corn form the staple diet of the natives, and only a very small percentage of these commodities is therefore exported.

Maize.—There was a grave shortage of this crop during the 1931 season. This was attributed to the lateness of the spring rains, in consequence of which the sowing was delayed and a larger proportion of land than usual was left unsown. The prevalence of the cut-worm and the mealie stalk borer being heavier than usual, and bad droughts obtaining throughout the country during the tasseling period of the mealies, added to the disadvantages under which the crop was grown. In spite of this, however, it is estimated that from approximately 200,000 acres of land under cultivation, 486,100 bags of mealies were reaped of which only 295 bags were exported.

Kaffir Corn.—This crop suffered under much the same disadvantages as did the maize crop, and, out of approximately 81,000 acres under cultivation, 243,000 bags of kaffir corn were reaped, of which 10,247 were exported.

Wheat.—Wheat is used for food only by the more advanced natives and by those living in the higher altitudes where the growing of other crops for food is more or less impossible. The crop reaped in the 1931 harvest totalled roughly 182,300 bags out of approximately 100,000 acres under cultivation in 1930. 103,700 bags were exported during 1931.

Peas and Beans.—These are grown by the natives on a comparatively small scale. About half the crop is consumed within the Territory, and the remainder which amounted to 4,110 bags during 1931 was exported.

Other Crops.—Barley, oats, pumpkins, and potatoes are very little grown, and are mainly consumed within the Territory. The amount exported is negligible.

General.—It is estimated that 1,027,600 bags of mixed grain, chiefly maize, was consumed in Basutoland during the year under review; of this amount roughly 26,000 bags were imported owing to local shortages. In normal years the Territory produces enough for local consumption.

Forestry.—There are very few varieties of trees indigenous to the Territory, and nothing in the nature of a forest exists. Poplar groves and willow lined streams are common in some areas and are closely guarded by the local Chief for the purpose of providing roofing beams for huts and stables, etc.

Young trees propagated in the nurseries situated in each of the Camps are available for distribution free of charge to natives and Europeans throughout Basutoland. Every facility is given to Basuto agriculturists to encourage them to undertake tree planting on a bigger scale, and it is gratifying to note that the number of trees issued yearly shows a steady increase. Communal land tenure and the consequent inability of the individual to fence his tree plantation, thus leaving it open to the attack of herds of cattle, sheep, and goats, account to a great extent for the apathy displayed by the Basuto towards this department of agriculture.

Demonstration.—The native is being assisted to improve his methods of agriculture by the appointment of Native Agricultural Demonstrators, who now number sixteen. They are all young men who have passed the Agricultural Diploma of one of the recognized Native Agricultural Schools in the Union of South Africa, and are distributed in each district and sub-district in the Territory. They are also stationed at Roma, Morija, and Leloleng Training

Institutions and the Lerotholl Technical School, Maseru, where demonstration lands are worked and where agricultural apprentices are trained and the pupils given a course of agricultural lectures.

The general work of all Demonstrators is to give lectures on subjects such as the selection of seed, planting, and proper cultivation of the various crops grown throughout their districts shortly before these operations take place. They also undertake the working of various native lands to show a contrast between them and ordinary lands worked by the natives themselves. In a good season a Demonstrator works from 25 to 30 lands and many obtain an increase of from 50 to 100 per cent.

Experimental work is also being carried out with the use of superphosphate and nitrate of soda. The application of the former has been found to be most beneficial, a land thus fertilized yielding an increase of in the region of 100 per cent. over an unfertilized land which has otherwise been treated in the same way. Nitrate of soda plots have been disappointing. Fertilizer companies have been most helpful in supplying a certain amount of fertilizer to each district free of charge to demonstrate its uses.

Agricultural Societies.—Every endeavour is still being made to foster and encourage the growth and formation of agricultural societies and associations throughout the Territory, with an appreciable amount of success, as a few fairly strong societies are now in operation in different parts of Basutoland.

Soil Erosion.—A very grave evil to both agriculture and animal husbandry, which the Agricultural Department has to combat in Basutoland is the erosion of the soil. Many thousands of tons of the richest soil of Basutoland are estimated to be washed away annually by the torrential summer rains, and the steady yearly increase in erosion in the lowland and mountain areas has caused the Department much concern. Every effort is made by the Demonstrators by way of propaganda to check the increase of this evil, but it is feared that so long as land is held communally, little success will attend their efforts. It is the old case of where it is every one's duty to prevent it, it is no one's duty.

One of the chief factors in the increase of erosion is the steady migration of the natives from the lowlands to the mountain areas, and the consequent change in the nature of the hinterland from a purely pastoral to a semi-pastoral, semi-agricultural aspect, necessitating as it does the natives ploughing on the mountain slopes.

Animal Husbandry.

This department of production has, in the past, been the most important economically in the Territory, the principal factor being sheep and goat breeding for the production of wool and mohair, and cattle raising. Horses have also in the past played their part in the economic development of the Territory.

Sheep and Goats.—It is estimated that in 1931 there were 2,828,700 sheep and 1,005,800 goats in the Territory. In the past very little has been done to improve the breed in either of these animals. In order to avoid deterioration in the breeding of sheep as a wool producing industry, legislation has been issued prohibiting the importation of Persian and bastard rams, and from time to time a good stamp of Merino ram has been introduced by the Government and distributed amongst certain of the more progressive breeders. The efforts of the Veterinary Department have, however, been mainly concentrated on the eradication of scab, which is now practically accomplished. It has been unfortunate that owing to financial stress, drastic reductions in the staff of the Scab Division have been necessary during the past year, but it is hoped that with the reduced staff which has been retained it will be possible to maintain the present position.

The year under review has been a disastrous one for the sheep-breeder, and it has been difficult to realize that prices obtaining for wool and mohair could drop so low. Latterly, natives have been receiving only 1d. per lb. for their wool, and from 3d. to 4d. for their best mohair; and even at these prices they have been at times unsaleable. This has proved a big blow to the economic condition of the Territory, whose prosperity has always depended so much on wool and mohair. The fall in the price of wool has reacted similarly on the value of fat sheep; and lambs (wethers) which two years ago had a ready sale at £1 are to-day only worth about one-third of their former value.

In analysing these difficulties, it would appear to be clear that the Basuto will never again reach the pinnacle of prosperity which they experienced during the world war period, when at all times they could get a good price for any sort of wool or mohair, good, bad, and indifferent. All indications clearly show that unless the Basuto sheep-owner is capable of realizing the altered conditions and of bringing more intelligence and effort into the production and marketing of his wool and mohair, the outlook is very gloomy.

Basutoland is considered to have the best natural sheep and goat pasturage and climate in South Africa, and there is no doubt that if brains and energy were brought to bear on their production, some of the best Fine Merino wool and mohair could be grown. A scheme is now under consideration whereby the Government will make a definite and practical attempt to improve the breed of sheep in the country; and investigations are being made by the Empire Marketing Board for the future marketing of Basuto wool and mohair.

Cattle.—An attempt was made several years ago to improve the stamp of cattle produced in the Territory by the introduction of a number of pure-bred Afrikaner bulls, but was not attended with any marked success.

Economically, practically the whole of the domestic and tribal laws of the Basuto are centred in cattle, and the wealth of the average native is indicated by the number of stock possessed. The question of improving the breed seldom occurs to him inasmuch as in his view a beast is a beast and can be used for practically any domestic transaction such as payment of dowry, compensation, or for fines imposed. It is perhaps for this reason that he is generally apathetic to any advice on the subject. There are, however, indications of a growing tendency among the more enlightened and progressive natives to alter their views in this respect, as purchases of a better stamp from farmers in the Union are now more frequently made than in former years.

It is estimated that there were approximately 650,000 cattle in Basutoland in 1931, and of that number 18,059 were exported during the year. The greater proportion of this number were oxen bought for ploughing purposes by the neighbouring farmers in the Union, while a small proportion of those from the eastern border were exported through the Durban abattoirs as meat for Italy.

Anthrax is practically the only epidemic of a serious nature among cattle. During the year 23 outbreaks of this disease were reported, but prompt inoculation in each case eliminated any serious losses—the Onderstepoort vaccine proving on the whole satisfactory.

Horses.—Basuto ponies were at one time much sought after throughout the whole of South Africa, being of sturdy build, sure-footed, and hardy. During the South African War the Territory was largely depleted of its best types for remount purposes, and as a result of this there has been considerable deterioration of the breed subsequently produced which has lost several of its former admirable qualities. Many years ago a Government Stud was introduced in an attempt to improve the stamp and to check further deterioration. The original policy was to introduce Arab blood, but later this was changed and thoroughbred stallions were substituted. In the light of subsequent experience it would almost appear to be a matter for regret that the original policy was not maintained inasmuch as the average unenlightened native pays little or no regard for the care of the mother or the foal. This is instanced by the fact that a Mosuto thinks nothing of undertaking a long journey on horseback with a foal at foot of perhaps a few weeks old. For this reason and because of the general conditions obtaining in the Territory, it is thought that the Arab would have been able to stand up to it better than the thoroughbred.

During the year under review 109 mares were served at the Stud—mostly by “Landing” and “Vibration” who have sired some promising foals. 65 mares proved in foal from the previous season, and no reports were received of a further 21 mares.

Strangles and biliary fever have been prevalent amongst horses, and the former has, at times assumed serious proportions. Equine mange is diminishing, which is due to the work of the Dip Supervisors who treat all animals suffering from this disease. Equine hepatic cirrhosis, which 24 years ago was confined to the eastern border, has in the last few years spread with remarkable rapidity across the Maluti Mountains to the eastern slopes of the last range on the western side. The disease is due to the ingestion of the plant, *senecio latifolia*, which has found ideal conditions in the overstocked pasturage of the mountains. It is due largely to this disease, and also to overstocking and generally bad seasons, that it is estimated that the number of horses in the Territory has dropped in the last two years from 200,000 to 120,000.

General.—Overstocking and denudation which have caused in many areas the complete extinction of the natural grasses of the country, have largely contributed to the deterioration of all classes of live stock, and until the native mind can grasp the idea that quality and not quantity counts in the matter of live stock as in everything else, it is to be feared that very little progress can be made in overcoming this evil. The innate love for numbers of cattle rather than quality is an inherent characteristic of the Bantu mind, and all who have had close contact with them will realize the difficulties encountered and the patience required to dissuade them from this belief.

It is probable that the present economic stress will lead to a big diminution of overstocking in the near future as evidence is not lacking to show that the shortage of food is driving the Basuto to consume more stock than is usual; nor is this to be regretted so long as discrimination is exercised in the slaughtering of the many thousands of low grade animals that to-day have no market value whatsoever beyond their local food asset.

CHAPTER VII.

COMMERCE.

The following is a comparative statement of the imports and exports by general traders during the last three years :—

Imports.

Description.	1929		1930		1931	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
<i>Merchandise</i>	—	£ 669,008	—	£ 431,534	—	£ 389,237
<i>Livestock</i> :—	No.		No.		No.	
Horses, mules, etc.	251	501	12	34	12	76
Cattle	2,428	6,351	645	1,526	436	946
Sheep and goats	149	207	312	163	344	144
<i>Grain</i> :—	Bags.		Bags.		Bags.	
Wheat and wheat meal	5,415	8,837	5,179	6,760	4,917	7,529
Maize and maize meal	25,049	17,398	61,416	30,318	139,901	63,302
Kaffir corn	4,315	3,030	10,828	7,080	1,374	1,015
<i>Other Produce</i>	—	1,084	—	524	—	440
Totals	—	£706,416	—	£477,949	—	£402,733

Exports.

<i>Live Stock</i> :—	No.		No.		No.	
Horses, mules, etc.	104	534	58	330	178	717
Cattle	1,496	6,678	3,617	14,121	8,337	27,616
Sheep and goats	26	25	1,103	552	2,420	497
<i>Grain</i> :—	Bags.		Bags.		Bags.	
Wheat and wheat meal	72,103	64,408	131,308	105,330	103,706	90,888
Maize and maize meal	87,404	42,144	6,061	2,169	295	168
Kaffir corn	37,056	21,234	4,032	2,374	10,247	6,821
Oats	—	—	—	—	4	1
Barley	90	50	224	63	89	22
Beans and peas	4,312	5,461	5,873	4,233	4,119	2,214
<i>Wool and Mohair</i> :—	Lb.		Lb.		Lb.	
Wool	12,937,198	436,083	9,729,160	156,601	9,325,140	98,304
Mohair	1,961,746	94,352	942,725	21,837	1,241,743	21,442
<i>Skins and Hides</i> :—						
Skins	365,039	8,327	359,767	3,747	119,619	679
Hides	445,286	15,126	3 1,620	6,044	186,015	2,013
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	—	272	—	225	—	45
Totals	—	£894,794	—	£317,626	—	£251,427

All exports are made to the Union of South Africa and imports are, as a general rule, made through the same channel. The past few years have been chiefly characterized by the low prices obtaining for wool and mohair, the staple products of the Territory, on the value of which the main purchasing power of the native depends. With the fall in purchasing power, there is little prospect at present of further development of trade with Great Britain. The principal articles of British manufacture for which there exist definite possibilities of further development in trade are blankets, native truck and agricultural implements (excluding steam or motor driven machinery).

CHAPTER VIII.

WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

There are no factories or industrial undertakings in the Territory, and there is only one mile of railway, which is owned and operated by the South African Railway Administration.

Salaries and wages earned by Europeans vary from £200 to £850 per annum in the case of Government servants, and from £120 to £500 per annum in the case of employees of trading concerns.

Native wages vary from £24 per annum to £204 in the case of Government employees; and from £15 to £48 per annum in the case of store-boys, etc., employed by traders.

Natives employed on contract and proceeding outside the Territory for work on the goldmines, etc., receive an average wage of £3 *per mensem* and food.

The average cost of living for single natives is estimated at £1 *per mensem*, and for married natives £3 *per mensem*. The cost of living of Europeans varies considerably and is in a great measure dependent on the social or official position of the person concerned.

CHAPTER IX.

EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education in Basutoland is mainly in the hands of three Missions, the Paris Evangelical Mission Society, the Roman Catholic Mission, and the English Church Mission, who receive grants-in-aid from the Government. These Mission schools are scattered over the country fairly equally in proportion to the density of the population, and it is probable that there are very few children who are not within reach of a school.

The chief aim of education in Basutoland is to study the interests of the vast majority of children who only have a short school life, more or less irregular, for three or four years. To this end the education in the lower classes is almost entirely in the vernacular

so that the child becomes literate in his own language and is therefore not taken out of his environment. The country unfortunately is not well suited to the teaching of indigenous arts and crafts owing to the lack of available material, but wherever possible sewing is encouraged among the girls and gardening or other manual work among the boys.

There are 541 aided elementary schools, taught mainly through the vernacular, although English is started in the upper classes. Then come the intermediate schools, 39 in number of which 3 are Government schools, managed by committees, the rest being Mission schools. Finally there are 10 institutions which give specialized training, e.g., normal, industrial, or agricultural. Apart from the 3 intermediate schools, the only Government school is the Leretholi Technical School at Maseru under its own Director.

Altogether in 1931 there were 56,451 pupils on the roll, with an average attendance of 41,366. The Education Vote for the year ended 31st March, 1932, was £48,995.

In addition to the above-mentioned schools, there are 241 schools registered by the three Missions—but not drawing grants—with a roll of about 6,000 pupils. When the financial position improves it is hoped that these schools will receive Government aid.

No fees are charged in elementary or intermediate schools, nor is attendance compulsory. Home duties and agricultural and pastoral work interfere with the regularity of school attendance, but on the whole Basuto children show wonderful keenness in attending school. A written examination for Standard VI is open to pupils from all parts of the country, from the results of which approximately six bursaries are awarded each year so that a child of exceptional ability can continue his education at one of the institutions. University education is provided at the South African Native College at Fort Hare in the Union of South Africa, to which Basutoland contributes £300 per annum, besides providing an annual bursary for a promising Mosuto student. Thus it is possible for even the poorest child to proceed from his village school to the South African Native College.

Night schools are held in a few of the Camps and are attended chiefly by herd-boys and men-servants who work in Camp during the day.

Although the Missions are chiefly concerned with Mission and school work there is no doubt that indirectly they do a great deal to promote public welfare. Each Mission Station is undoubtedly a centre of civilization with its various branches radiating around it, so that there are very few parts of the country which do not feel their influence.

Recreation is encouraged in every school, but owing to the scattered nature of the population and the domestic work required

of the children, it is difficult to arrange regular competitions. At certain Mission Stations in the Lowlands, however, some sports meetings have been held and have aroused much enthusiasm. In the Camps the older inhabitants have formed sports clubs; tennis, cricket, and football being the popular games.

Pathfinder and Wayfarer bodies have been started in several centres with every prospect of success.

At most Mission centres, annual singing competitions are held and are very popular with students, teachers, and the general public alike.

A detailed Annual Report on Native Education is published separately.

European Education.—There are 9 small schools in the Territory, managed by local committees and supported by the Government, which provide elementary education for the children in the Camps. For education beyond the elementary stage, children are sent to schools in the Union. The Government provides annually one bursary (for children under thirteen years of age) of £25 for two years; and latterly, through the generosity of Frasers' Ltd., a second bursary of £50 per annum for two years (also for children under thirteen years) has been instituted.

CHAPTER X.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Railways.

The Territory is linked with the Union of South Africa railway system by a short branch line—one mile of which is in Basutoland—from Marseilles to Maseru on the Bloemfontein-Natal main line. This railway system, however, follows closely the boundaries of the Territory and goods are transported by road to the nearest railway station across the border.

Roads and Bridle Paths.

The greater part of Basutoland is exceptionally mountainous and in this area all transport is effected with the use of pack animals. The Government undertakes repairs to a few of the main bridle paths.

On the western side of Basutoland where there is an agricultural strip of country stretching from north to south, a fairly good road system has been developed. The main roads traverse the whole distance of this strip with branches leading west to the principal points of exit. In nearly all cases the roads are gravelled and allow

for motor or ox-waggon traffic in all weather. There are, however, a number of unbridged rivers and spruits, which, during flood periods, often delay travelling for some hours.

During 1931 regravelling and reshaping of the roads has been carried out systematically to the extent of the funds available. Practically no construction work has been undertaken, but approximately 120 culverts have been erected and much work has been done on improvement to road drainage.

From the main roads a number of feeder roads lead towards the interior. By-roads to Trading Stations, Missions, etc., connect with the feeder roads traversing still further into the interior, but although several roads now cross the first range of mountains, none have yet penetrated to the second range. Feeder roads are maintained by the Government and although a slight improvement in them can be recorded during 1931, they are still of a disappointingly low standard. During the year under review a commencement was made to construct culverts on a few of them, and if funds are available to extend this practice they should gradually improve.

The by-roads are in many instances unsuitable for any type of traffic excepting ox-wagons. They are maintained by traders and others to whose station they lead, assisted by annual Government grants on the £ for £ principle.

On the eastern side of Basutoland in the Qacha's Nek district a short system of roads similar to that described above exists and the standard reached is more or less the same as that obtaining on the western side of the Territory.

The road policy of the Government has been to build up and improve gradually the existing roads, and all expenditure goes towards maintenance and betterment and does not provide for the carrying out of a constructional programme.

The funds allocated during the last three years for the maintenance of roads, bridges, ponts, etc., of which 98 per cent. is used for roads, are given below :—

1929.	1930.	1931.
£21,000	£21,000	£17,000

The following table gives a classification of the class and mileage of roads in the Territory :—

<i>Concrete, Asphaltic Bituminous Surface.</i>	<i>Water-bound Maculam Surface Tarred.</i>	<i>Gravel.</i>	<i>Earth.</i>
Nil	Nil	320 miles Main Road.	40 miles Main Road.
		62 miles Feeder Road.	70 miles Feeder Road.

CHAPTER XI.

BANKING, CURRENCY, WEIGHTS, AND MEASURES.

There are no agricultural or co-operative banks within the Territory. The Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited, has a branch at Maseru, as also has the Bloemfontein Board of Executors and Trust Company, Limited.

Coins current in Basutoland comprise British, Union of South Africa and late South African Republic. It is estimated that the total coinage and paper money in circulation at the end of 1931 was £7,500 and £25,000 respectively. Until the latter part of 1931, the Maseru branch of the Standard Bank only circulated Rhodesian issue bank notes. When Rhodesia left the Gold Standard, however, and decided to follow sterling all these notes were called in and exchanged at par. Reserve bank-notes of the Union of South Africa are now the only notes issued by the local branch of the Standard Bank.

The weights and measures in common use in the Territory are the British Imperial.

CHAPTER XII.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Owing to the financial stringency, the activities of the Public Works Department were considerably curtailed during 1931. The following works were, however, undertaken in addition to miscellaneous upkeep and repairs to all Government buildings and plants :—

New reservoirs were built at Leribe and Quthing for storage supplies; and at Teyateyaneng the new water scheme to pump 2,000 gallons of water from a borehole two miles from the storage reservoirs through a head of 700 feet has been completed.

A Government intermediate school to accommodate 130 children was built with native labour at Matsieng near the Paramount Chief's village.

At the Leper Settlement 15 rondavels were built to accommodate convalescent lepers.

Extensive repairs were undertaken to Government quarters and buildings at Maseru, Leribe, and Butha Buthe.

CHAPTER XIII.

JUSTICE AND POLICE.

Justice.

The laws in force in Basutoland are the same as were in force in the Cape of Good Hope up to 18th March, 1884, except where repealed or altered by Proclamation of the High Commissioner who is empowered to make by Proclamation such laws as may be necessary for the peace, order, and good government of the Territory.

The Basutoland Courts of Law consist of : —

(a) *The Resident Commissioner's Court* which constitutes the supreme Court of Basutoland, and from which an appeal lies to the Privy Council. Under Proclamation No. 10 of 1928, as amended, the constitution of the Resident Commissioner's Court was altered, and provision made for the appointment of a Judicial Commissioner. The Court is now constituted by the Resident Commissioner or when deputed by him thereto the Deputy Resident Commissioner or the Judicial Commissioner sitting alone or together; and there may be associated with the Court, not more than two officers of the Administration, appointed by the Resident Commissioner for the purpose by notice in the *Gazette*. The Resident Commissioner when present and, in his absence, the Judicial Commissioner shall be President of the Court and the judgment of the Court is the judgment pronounced or approved by the President.

The power conferred on the Resident Commissioner to review and correct the proceedings of Courts or officers may be exercised also by the Judicial Commissioner, and any decision recorded or action taken by the Judicial Commissioner in the course of such review or correction shall be of the same force and effect as if it had been recorded or taken by the Resident Commissioner.

(b) *Courts of Assistant Commissioners*, who are empowered to impose sentences not exceeding two years' imprisonment with hard labour, or fines not exceeding £50; with jurisdiction in civil cases up to £500. These Courts have no jurisdiction, however, to try summarily any person charged with treason, murder, attempt to murder, culpable homicide, rape, attempt to commit rape, or sedition; and in these cases and other serious crimes preparatory examinations are held.

These Courts are situated in each of the seven districts and in the sub-district of Butha Buthe. Police Officers have been given minor jurisdiction in the Courts of Assistant Commissioners to try minor offences, with power to impose sentences not exceeding 6 months' imprisonment with hard labour, and fines not exceeding £10. Detached courts are held in the sub-districts of Peka and Mokhotlong presided over by Police Officers exercising minor jurisdiction.

(c) *Chiefs' Courts.*—Under Proclamation No. 2B of 1884, the Paramount Chief and other native Chiefs of Basutoland were authorized to continue to exercise jurisdiction according to native law and custom in civil and criminal cases within such limits as may be defined by any rules established by the authority of the Resident Commissioner, subject to a proviso that no suit, action, or proceeding whatsoever to which any European shall be a party, either as plaintiff or complainant, or as defendant, shall be adjudicated upon by any such Chief, save by the consent of all parties concerned. An appeal lies from the decision of any Chief to the Court of the Assistant Commissioner of the District within which such Chief exercises jurisdiction.

The following table shows the number of convictions for various crimes and offences during the last five years :—

<i>Nature of Crime.</i>	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
<i>In Magisterial Courts.</i>					
Offences against the person ...	287	438	213	219	190
Offences against property ...	272	253	221	282	299
Offences against liquor laws ...	37	42	57	47	41
Other crimes ...	1,484	1,429	1,313	1,968	2,406
<i>In the Resident Commissioner's Court.</i>					
Murder ...	1	1	6	10	11
Culpable homicide ...	24	20	30	23	14
Attempted murder ...	1	4	5	—	3
Rape ...	—	2	5	2	9
Other offences against the person ...	4	2	1	6	9
Offences against property with violence to the person.	48	4	33	52	50
Other offences against property...	15	3	14	31	17
Other crimes ...	—	—	—	—	2

Police.

Constitution and Command.—The Basutoland Mounted Police is maintained under the Basutoland Proclamation No. 12 of 1921. The Force is under the control of the Resident Commissioner of Basutoland who is also the Commandant, with a Staff Officer who is resident at Maseru.

Some years ago a training depot for all recruits was instituted at Maseru under the supervision of the Staff Officer, with a Warrant Officer as Drill Instructor, a native Sergeant-Major and a native Non-Commissioned Officer. Refresher courses were undertaken for drafts sent in from the districts from time to time, and a competent and efficient detachment was thus maintained. Unfortunately for the general efficiency of the Force, the depot had to be closed down in November, 1931, on account of grave financial considerations which made it imperative to reduce the numbers of the personnel of the Police.

Finger-print work is also carried out by the Warrant Officer attached to the depot. This branch continues to perform valuable

were investigated by the Police, which resulted in the arrest of 3,668 persons, of which number 2,936 were convicted summarily, and 115 in the Resident Commissioner's Court. The cases investigated show an increase of 374, and the number of persons arrested an increase of 541, on the figures of last year, while those convicted summarily show an increase of 405.

General.—Apart from the ordinary Police routine, members of the Force were called upon to perform extraneous duties in assisting in the collection of hut tax and of wool export duty, in providing prison guards, clerical assistance in various district offices, and services in the Medical and Veterinary Departments.

Prisons.

There are gaols at the Headquarter Camp of each of the 7 districts into which the Territory is divided and in the sub-districts of Butha Buthe, Mokhotlong, and Peka.

Buildings.—All gaol buildings are of stone with iron roofs and cement floors; the inmates, however, are provided with bed-boards on which to sleep. The majority of cells are built to contain on the average 8 to 10 prisoners, but there are usually one or two smaller ones for violent or dangerous inmates, or for occasional European convicts. Attached to each prison is an exercise yard and cement baths with water laid on. The cook-house is in the yard, and a daily scale of rations as laid down by Statute is provided. As no special accommodation exists in the district gaols for female or European prisoners, they are invariably transferred to Maseru to serve sentence, etc.

Health.—The health of the prisoners during 1931 has, on the whole, been good—the daily average on the sick list being 15·76; 11 deaths and 8 executions were recorded during the year. All prisoners are medically examined on admission, and the Medical Officers make regular visits to the gaols, apart from the weekly inspection when they accompany the District Administrative Officer in charge. Prisoners reporting sick are taken to the Government Dispensary, and if necessary are admitted to hospital where they are put into the ordinary public wards and treated on similar lines to other patients.

Discipline.—With the exception of a few breaches of prison discipline, the conduct of the prisoners, on the whole, has been good. In the past the majority of offenders have been stock thieves, and persons committed for public violence in connexion with land disputes with, of course, a large percentage of tax defaulters and persons convicted of offences against the other revenue laws. For the most part they were not the habitual criminal type, and gaol discipline has therefore been more or less easy to maintain. Unfortunately during the last two years there has been an influx of the more criminal type, owing to the deportation of bad characters by

the Union Government ; and it is feared that this will in the future be detrimental both to discipline and to the morals of the inmates of the gaols.

Labour.—During the year 1931, convicts have been utilized to a greater extent than in previous years on road construction and maintenance in the vicinity of the various Camps. But as a general rule, where possible, they are trained to become useful members of society on release, by instruction in such trades as masonry, carpentry, building, and other kinds of manual labour.

Sentences.—The majority of offenders are given the option of a fine or imprisonment with hard labour, but for the more serious offences, sentences of imprisonment only are imposed. Provision has been made under Proclamation No. 55 of 1921, for the punishment of offenders in certain cases under which the Court may in its discretion :—

(a) postpone for a period not exceeding six months the passing of sentence, and release the offender on one or more conditions ; or

(b) pass sentence but order the operation of the sentence to be suspended for a period not exceeding three years on such conditions as the Court may specify in the order ; or

(c) pass sentence of a fine or, in default of payment, imprisonment, but suspend the issue of a warrant for committing the offender to a gaol in default of payment until the expiry of such period not exceeding twelve months as the Court may fix for payment in instalments or otherwise, of the amount of the fine or until default has been made.

Suspended sentences are invariably awarded in cases of default of payment of tax and similar offences against the revenue laws. Good conduct remission up to one-fourth of the sentence is allowed.

Statistics.—During the period under review 4,025 persons passed through the various gaols in the Territory, and of these 2,552 were committed to penal imprisonment. The figures for 1930 were 3,480 and 2,012 respectively.

Juvenile Offenders.—It has been the practice for several years to transfer all juvenile prisoners of from 15 to 20 years of age, whose sentences are over three months, to serve their sentences at the Peka Gaol in order to prevent contact as far as possible with adult offenders. At Peka these juveniles are under the close supervision of the Officer-in-Charge, and they are taught stone-cutting, masonry work, road-making, repairs to buildings, and gardening. The gaol is visited weekly by the Medical Officer, Teyateyaneng. Parents of these youths are allowed to visit them on Sundays, and religious services are held fortnightly by a native minister. The average daily number in this gaol during 1931 was 19·7, of which 12·3 were juveniles. Of the juveniles the daily average on the sick list was 0·19, and there was one death during the year.

CHAPTER XIV.

LEGISLATION.

The following legislation was issued during the year by proclamation in the *Gazette* :—

(1) No. 1.—Basutoland Further Appropriation (1929-1930) Proclamation, 1931.

(2) No. 5.—Concealment of Childbirth Proclamation, 1931.

(3) No. 10.—Basutoland Flour and Meal Importation Restriction Proclamation, 1931.

(4) No. 13.—Amending Proclamation No. 58 of 1922 to provide for the appointment of Deputy Assistant Commissioners as Marriage Officers.

(5) No. 16.—Customs Tariff Amendment Proclamation, 1931.

(6) No. 21.—Basutoland Nursing Sisters (Retiring Allowance) Proclamation, 1931.

(7) No. 22.—Basutoland Stamp Duties Amendment Proclamation, 1931. (16 of 1907.)

(8) No. 26.—Basutoland Radio Amendment Proclamation, 1931.

(9) No. 37.—Basutoland Income-Tax Proclamation, 1931.

(10) No. 39.—Basutoland Wool and Mohair Fund Proclamation, 1931.

(11) No. 44.—Amending Proclamation No. 10 of 1928 relating to the Court of the Resident Commissioner.

(12) No. 46.—Basutoland Wool and Mohair Export Duty (Amendment) Proclamation, 1931 (amending No. 14 of 1923 and 43 of 1927).

(13) No. 45.—Basutoland Opium and Habit-forming Drugs Regulation (Amendment) Proclamation, 1931 (amending No. 35 of 1922).

(14) No. 47.—Basutoland Appropriation (1931-32) Proclamation, 1931.

(15) No. 48.—Basutoland Further Appropriation (1930-1931), Proclamation, 1931.

(16) No. 49.—Amending further the Basutoland Wool and Mohair Export Duty Proclamation No. 14 of 1923.

There is no factory legislation or legislation relating to compensation for accidents, etc.

CHAPTER XV.

PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure for the past five financial years :—

<i>Head.</i>	REVENUE.				
	<i>1926-27</i>	<i>1927-28</i>	<i>1928-29</i>	<i>1929-30</i>	<i>1930-31</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Native Tax	132,072	137,744	141,719	136,237	125,665
Customs and Excise	87,352	92,201	96,072	95,504	77,810
Posts and Telegraphs	7,648	8,466	9,181	9,377	8,883
Licences	8,758	8,938	9,206	9,141	8,068
Fees of Court or Office	933	956	1,094	1,083	810
Judicial Fines	1,911	2,629	2,515	2,039	1,445
Income-Tax	10,784	12,843	16,022	10,732	5,929
Fees for Services Rendered	1,278	1,159	1,296	1,387	1,105
Interest	2,158	2,275	3,670	5,101	4,033
Wool Export Duty	17,141	17,918	33,976	32,187	25,436
Miscellaneous	4,360	7,913	10,038	8,943	8,654
Education Levy	—	13,357	15,103	14,885	13,963
Totals	£274,404	£306,399	£339,892	£326,676	£281,801

<i>Head.</i>	EXPENDITURE.				
	<i>1926-27</i>	<i>1927-28</i>	<i>1928-29</i>	<i>1929-30</i>	<i>1930-31</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Resident Commissioner	13,811	12,532	13,099	12,724	12,783
District Administration	13,690	13,619	14,118	14,926	15,333
Police	39,164	39,160	38,357	38,678	37,600
Administration of Justice	11,194	12,379	11,764	12,087	13,306
Posts and Telegraphs	11,676	11,118	11,568	13,494	12,004
Public Works Department	5,218	5,147	5,239	5,276	5,322
Public Works Extraordinary	6,872	3,671	2,747	3,597	5,168
Public Works Recurrent	25,660	23,044	29,502	30,521	29,774
Medical	22,617	26,121	25,676	26,832	28,202
Education	41,412	54,871	58,596	57,105	53,235
Lerotholi Technical School	2,508	6,566	6,658	6,674	5,772
Agriculture—					
Veterinary	27,659	30,874	30,178	37,104	39,140
Agricultural				5,911	6,849
Allowances to Chiefs	11,691	12,002	12,562	14,260	13,754
National Council	1,909	1,641	1,762	1,777	1,634
Lepet Settlement	19,401	19,558	19,238	20,077	21,501
Pensions	10,030	11,797	11,828	14,291	12,726
Miscellaneous	6,076	6,970	7,998	8,468	7,225
Capital Expenditure	2,030	3,804	6,687	10,060	1,090
Totals	£272,627	£294,874	£316,577	£333,862	£322,418

Debt.

The Basutoland Administration has no Public Debt, but its liabilities in connexion with the "Guardian's Fund" and the "Basutoland Native Education Fund" were, at 31st March, 1931, £28,712 and £14,359 respectively.

Assets.

The assets at 31st March, 1931, were as follows:—

	£
Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd.—	
" Current Account "	7,534
" Deposit Account "	15,000
Crown Agents for Colonies—	
" Current Account "	135
" Deposit Account "	51,300
Balances in the hands of Sub-Accountants	13,650
Advances recoverable	8,211
On loan to Swaziland Administration	35,000
Stores Suspense	9,160
Total	£139,990

Description of the Main Heads of Taxation.

Native Tax.—The collection under this head for the year ending 31st March, 1931, was £125,665. Fuller details as regards the method of collection, etc., are given on page 29.

Customs and Excise.—Under the Customs Agreement entered into with the Union of South Africa in 1910, the Basutoland Administration receives annually 0·88575 per cent. of the total Customs revenue of the Union, less payments to Northern and Southern Rhodesia and South West Africa. The amount received for the twelve months ended 31st March, 1931, was £76,101.

In addition to the above, a duty is levied on importations of Union manufactured spirits and beer into Basutoland, and the amount received in this connexion for the above period was £1,709, making the total Customs revenue for the Territory, £77,810. The rates of duty on spirits and beer is governed by Part III of the Schedule to Proclamation No. 64 of 1921.

Licences.—Trades and businesses are subject to annual licences in terms of the Schedule to Proclamation No. 28 of 1928, which consolidated and amended the laws relating to the carrying on of businesses in Basutoland. A duty at the rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. is charged upon the purchase consideration in the case of the transfer of a General Trader's Licence. Labour Agents' and Motor Vehicle Registration Licences are governed by Proclamations Nos. 27 of

1907, as amended, and 7 of 1926, as amended, respectively. Assistant Commissioners are responsible for the collection of all licence fees in their districts.

The chief classes of licences and the amount collected in respect of each, during 1931, are as follows :—

					£
General Traders	...	...	...	...	4,725
Hawkers	...	...	...	...	548
Labour Agents	...	...	...	...	292
Labour Runners	...	...	...	...	168
Commercial Travellers	...	...	...	...	543
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	644
Motor Registration...	...	...	...	...	1,048
Motor Drivers	...	...	...	...	72
Transfer Fees	...	...	...	...	27

Total	...	...	...	...	£8,067

Income-Tax.—The collection of income-tax is governed by the Basutoland Income-Tax Proclamation No. 52 of 1920, as amended. The general provisions of the Principal Proclamation apply each year to the determination of the taxable amount upon which the tax is to be levied and the collection of the amount payable in respect of that taxable amount, but the actual rates to be levied are fixed by Proclamation each year.

The taxes imposed for the year 1930 were : (i) Normal Tax, (ii) Super Tax ; and the rates were fixed as follows :—

(i) Normal Tax :—

(a) In the case of companies, for each pound of the taxable amount, two shillings and sixpence.

(b) In the case of persons other than companies, for each pound of the taxable amount, one shilling and as many two-thousandths of a penny as there are pounds in that amount, subject to a maximum rate of two shillings in every pound.

(ii) Super Tax :—

(a) When the amount subject to super tax does not exceed twenty-four thousand pounds, for each pound of such amount, one shilling and as many five-hundredths of one penny as there are pounds in that amount.

(b) When the amount subject to super tax exceeds twenty-four thousand pounds, for each pound of such amount, five shillings.

The amount collected for the income-tax year ended 30th June, 1930, was as follows :—

	£
Current Normal Tax	5,264
Arrear Normal Tax	367
Current Super Tax	292
Arrear Super Tax	6
Total	£5,929

The following table shows the sources from which taxable incomes were derived and the amount of tax paid from each source and also compares the collection with that of the previous year.

Source.	1929-30 £	1930-31 £	+ or - £
General Traders	7,515	2,464	- 5,051
Civil Servants	1,128	1,216	+ 88
Employed Persons	460	262	- 198
Others	836	1,015	+ 179
Non-Residents	793	972	+ 179
Totals	£10,732	£5,929	- £4,803

The number of incomes for current tax and the total amounts of taxable incomes in the various categories were :—

Number.	Category.	Taxable Income. £
35	£500 and under.	13,642
41	£501 to £750.	25,692
26	£751 to £1,000.	22,361
21	£1,001 to £1,500.	24,131
5	£1,501 to £2,000.	8,895
7	£2,001 and over.	31,650
135		£126,371

Wool Export Duty.—The imposition and the collection of the duty on wool and mohair exported from the Territory are governed by the Wool and Mohair Export Duty Proclamation No. 14 of 1923 as amended. This duty was originally imposed to help to defray the expenses of the costly campaign inaugurated to eradicate scab among sheep and goats which was at that time very rife throughout Basutoland.

The duty levied during the twelve months ended 31st March, 1931, was one-halfpenny upon every pound of wool or mohair exported, and the total receipts for this period amounted to £25,436. Owing to the low prices obtaining for wool and mohair, the duty

was reduced as from 1st September, 1931, to 2d. for every 12½ lb. exported, but the amount collected under this reduced levy will only be reflected in the figures for the financial year ending 31st March, 1932.

Education Levy.—In accordance with Proclamation No. 13 of 1927, every adult native male domiciled in Basutoland has to pay a levy of three shillings per annum, and the total amount collected each year is credited to a special fund known as the "Basutoland Native Education Fund," and is devoted solely to purposes of native education. For purposes of convenience this levy is collected in conjunction with the hut tax, and both are embodied in one receipt which is superscribed, "Hut Tax, £1 5s. 0d.; Education Levy, 3s."

Customs Tariff.

In accordance with the Customs Agreement entered into with the Union Government in 1910, the Basutoland Administration maintains a Customs tariff similar to that which exists in the Union of South Africa.

Excise and Stamp Duties.

Stamp duties are imposed in terms of Proclamation No. 16 of 1907 as amended, and are mostly chargeable in respect of the following instruments, acts, etc., arbitrations and awards, bills of exchange, bonds, courts of law, acts and deeds of donations, leases, transfers, and in respect of duties performed by the Master of Court.

Hut Tax.

Hut tax is imposed by the Basutoland Native Tax Proclamation, 1911, (as amended). Every adult male native domiciled in Basutoland is liable for the payment of a tax at the rate of twenty-five shillings per annum and in addition, if such native has more than one wife according to native custom, a further sum of twenty-five shillings for every such additional wife. No native, however, is liable to pay in respect of himself and his wives, more than three pounds fifteen shillings in any one year. A native inhabitant of the Union who resides in Basutoland for twelve months becomes liable to taxation in respect of that year, unless he is able to prove payment of tax in the country of his permanent residence.

Assistant Commissioners are empowered to exempt from the payment of tax for any one year or more, any native who is incapacitated by extreme old age, personal infirmity, or other causes from earning a livelihood.

The Assistant Commissioners are in charge of the collection of tax in their districts, which duty they carry out through the Chiefs and Headmen who are nominally responsible to them for the collection in their respective wards. Paid native collectors operate in each

district under the supervision of the Assistant Commissioners, and in conjunction with the Chiefs to whose wards they are appointed. To encourage the Chiefs to interest themselves in this department of their duties, they are paid annual gratuities based on a percentage of the yearly collection in their respective wards. Facilities also exist, and are largely used both by individuals and by labour recruiting agencies, for the payment of tax at the Government Offices situated in each of the Camps, and at the more important ports of exit. Members of the Basutoland Mounted Police are invariably employed towards the end of each financial year to patrol the districts, accompanied by Chiefs' messengers, to give a stimulus to the collection and to bring in defaulters.

The collection for the year ended 31st March, 1931, was approximately £10,500 less than that of the previous year, and £16,000 less than that of 1928-29.

J. H. SIMS,

*Acting Deputy Resident Commissioner
and Government Secretary.*

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