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No. 955.

NYASALAND.

REPORT FOR 1916-1917.

(For Report for 1915-1916 see No. 919.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
March, 1918.



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No. 955.

NYASALAND.

(For Report for 1915-16 see No. 919)*

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1916-17.

I.—FINANCIAL.

REVENUE.

The revenue of the Protectorate from all sources, including land sales, for the year under review was £143,284, as against £137,911 in the preceding year. The principal increases were Customs, £12,573; Port, Harbour, and Wharf dues, £2,106; Native Hut Tax, £1,799; and Post Office, £1,352. Licences, Excise, &c., fell off by £5,155 and Fees of Court or Office, &c., by £2,210.

The further satisfactory increase in the Native Hut Tax is due partly to the restoration of the North Nyasa District, which borders on German East Africa, to more normal conditions and partly to an increase in the number of 8s. taxes paid by natives of the Momberas District rendered possible through the sale of cattle on an extensive scale to the military authorities. 347,697 taxes were paid in 1916-17, as compared with 340,377 in the previous year, an increase of 7,320.

The increase in postal revenue is principally due to the presence in the Protectorate of an abnormally large white population.

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the year, exclusive of loan expenditure, was estimated at £151,056, while the actual expenditure amounted to £128,272. Of the saving of £22,784, £9,304, under head of Estimates No. 24, in respect of Government guaranteed interest on the capital of the Central Africa Railway Company, must be regarded as a liability outstanding, payment having been deferred in respect of the year 1916. Direct economies were effected under the general votes for Passages, £1,992; Travelling Expenses, £1,311; Personal Emoluments, £6,530; while a sum of £678 was saved on investigations and works postponed. A saving of £4,690 under Head No. 17, "Military," must be regarded as funds reserved on account of the Protectorate's War expenditure liability.

In five instances Heads of Expenditure show totals in excess of the Estimates and two only of these call for comment. Head No. 1, "Charge on account of Public Debt," showed an over-expenditure of £1,235 due to liabilities amounting to £1,457 outstanding from 1915-16 having been paid during the year under review. Head No. 23, "Public Works Extraordinary," disclosed an excess of £1,850 over the sanctioned Estimates, chiefly due to work on the new Central Prison, the construction of which, with the sanction of the Secretary of State, was pushed forward beyond the point provided for in the estimates.

* A Map of the Protectorate will be found in the Report for 1912-13, No. 772 [Cd. 7050-13].

II.—TRADE AND SHIPPING.

TRADE.

The gross receipts from Customs duties during the year amounted to £42,955, or an increase of £14,680 on the amount collected in the previous year.

The increase in Customs revenue may be attributed to the improved trade of the Protectorate which has resulted from the employment of large numbers of natives by the military forces and consequent distribution of large sums of money, and to the enhanced value of goods in the United Kingdom from which over 67 per cent. of Nyasaland imports emanate, and partly also to the necessity which arose, through prohibition of exports from the United Kingdom, for the purchase of large quantities of goods in still more expensive markets, viz., South Africa and Portuguese East Africa.

IMPORTS.

The value of imports for home consumption, excluding specie and goods in transit, but including Government imports other than military stores, amounted to £385,567, which represents an increase of £147,491, or 61·9 per cent. over the previous year's imports. The increase is mainly due to the improved trade of the Protectorate and to inflated prices of goods at the port of shipment.

The United Kingdom supplied 67·9 per cent. of the total imports; British possessions, 18·2 per cent.; Foreign countries, 13·9 per cent. The percentages in the previous year were, in the order named, 65·5, 16·8 and 17·7 respectively, all exclusive of specie.

EXPORTS.

In the year under review the exports, excluding Government exports, show an increase, as compared with the year 1915-16, of £91,262, but a decrease in weight of 158,545 lbs.

As compared with the previous year, the export of coffee increased by 25,304 lbs. in weight and £633 in value.

The export of tea increased from 288,341 lbs. in 1915-16 to 420,685 lbs., a rise of 132,344 lbs. in weight and £5,438 in value.

Tobacco, during the year under review, attained its greatest output, the weight exported being 4,304,124 lbs., valued locally at £112,321.

The export of cotton reached the record figure of 3,462,478 lbs., valued locally at £127,131, as against 3,065,248 lbs., valued at £68,586 in 1915-16, an increase in the value of £58,545.

Fibre showed an increase in weight exported of 56,706 lbs., and £1,555 in value over the preceding year, the total quantity exported having been 290,188 lbs., valued at £4,056.

69,851 lbs. of rubber were exported, as compared with 46,002 lbs. in 1915-16, an increase of 23,849 lbs. in weight and £2,240 in value.

Strophanthus also showed an increased export, 22,564 lbs., valued at £1,178, having been exported as compared with 434 lbs., valued at £22, in the previous year.

As was to be expected the largest decreases are in those commodities which were formerly consigned to foreign markets. The more important are beeswax, decrease of 6,362 lbs.; castor oil seed, 5,438 lbs.; ground-nuts, 240,022 lbs. Mica is now a negligible export.

The direction of the export trade was in the following proportions:— to the United Kingdom, 95·4 per cent.; to British possessions, 0·9 per cent.; and to foreign countries, 2·9 per cent. respectively.

III.—AGRICULTURE.

The principal crops grown for export are cotton, tobacco, tea, chillies, groundnuts, maize, and rubber. The total acreage under European cultivation amounted to 52,883, as against 51,208 in the previous year.

Cotton.—Cotton still maintains its position as the most extensively cultivated crop. The exported crop in bales of 400 lbs. lint amounted to 8,656, as against 7,663, in the previous year, the area under European cultivation being 29,850 acres, as compared with 24,006 in 1915-16. In no previous year has the quantity of cotton exported from Nyasaland been so great.

The local valuation of the crop was £127,131 or an increase of £58,545 on that of the preceding year and realised from 10*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* per lb., on the home markets.

Native-grown Cotton.—During the year under review 944 tons of seed cotton were gathered as compared with 815 tons in the preceding year, or an increase in lint of 195 bales of 400 lbs. each.

Tobacco.—The area under this crop for the year under review was 7,484 acres, as compared with 9,042 in the previous year. The export amounted to 4,304,124 lbs., valued locally at £112,321, being an increase of 597,921 lbs. in weight and £19,665 in value on the figures for 1915-16.

Despite heavy freight rates amounting in the year under review to over £20 a ton, Nyasaland tobacco was keenly competed for on the home markets and realized prices of from 9*d.* to 1*s.* 10*d.* a pound, according to grade. The increased demand for Nyasaland tobacco is the direct result of the privileged admission of British-grown tobacco into the United Kingdom.

Tea.—The export of tea for the year amounted to 420,685 lbs., as against 288,341 lbs. in the preceding year, the local value being £14,022, or an increase of £5,437. The acreage increased from 4,141 to 4,228.

The tea industry is steadily prospering and the crop exported finds a ready sale in the London market at about 1*s.* per lb., which price, with the low cost of production, leaves a good margin of profit.

Other Products.—The acreage under cultivation of chillies was 650, as compared with 357 in the previous year, and the value of the crop exported rose from £269 to £3,133 in the year under review.

Ground-nuts, maize, rice, potatoes, and wheat were extensively cultivated and found a good local market in supplying the requirements of the troops and the local population. Fibre showed an area of 801 acres under cultivation, as compared with 420 in the preceding year, and the value of the crop exported was £4,056 as compared with £2,501 in 1915-16.

The acreage under cultivation of rubber was 6,120, as against 6,766 in the preceding year, but the local value of exports of cultivated rubber rose from £3,801 in 1915-16 to £6,041 in the year under review.

Experimental Farms.—Experimental work on the two Government farms at Namiwawa in the Zomba District and at Nyachiperi in the Lower Shire District was continued throughout the year under review, the principal work undertaken, being the testing of imported varieties of long staple cotton, flax, and tobacco manures. The supply of selected cotton seed was maintained and at Namiwawa farm 70 tons of maize were grown and supplied to the military at a cost of £212.

Live Stock.—The entire veterinary staff was employed throughout the year in operations connected with the southward spread of rinderpest in German East Africa and that their efforts have been successful is shown by the fact that so far no sign of the disease has been observed south of the Songwe River on the northern border of the Protectorate.

The general health of stock in the Shire Highlands is much improved and this satisfactory result has been obtained through improved facilities for regular dipping.

The outbreak of demodectic mange referred to in the last Report has been practically stamped out.

Forestry.—69,000 poles, thinnings from the cypress and eucalyptus plantations in Zomba, were supplied to the military for the construction of temporary buildings and huts in Zomba, and 20,000 lineal feet of cypress (*Widdringtonia Whytei*) timber were supplied from the Mlanje Plateau forests to the Public Works Department.

Very little in the way of development work was done during the year owing to the absence from the Protectorate of the Chief Forest Officer, on leave.

IV.—INDUSTRIES AND MINES.

No new trades were introduced during the year under review, and the mica mining operations referred to in previous reports were, without exception, abandoned. The quantity of mica exported during the year amounted to 1,568 lbs., valued at £78, as compared with 8,176 lbs. in 1915-16, 10,903 lbs. in 1914-15, and 19,248 lbs. in 1913-14.

V.—EDUCATION.

Education is carried on in the Protectorate by means of the schools which are controlled and maintained by the various missionary societies, ten of which participated in the annual Government grant of £1,000 in aid of education.

At the end of the year under review there were 2,054 schools established, as compared with 2,067 in the previous year. The total number of scholars on the roll was 76,829 boys and 52,981 girls, the average attendance being 47,993 boys and 33,531 girls.

VI.—JUDICIAL AND POLICE.

Police.—The authorised establishment of native police on the 31st March, 1917, was 410, as compared with 387 in the previous year.

Criminal Statistics.—The number of persons tried criminally in the High Court was 16, as compared with 17 in the previous year.

In addition cases involving 94 persons came up from subordinate courts for confirmation by the High Court, as compared with 110 in 1915-16.

The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates was 3,851, as compared with 4,246 in the previous year.

In connection with these offences 4,410 persons were apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates, 16 of whom were committed for trial in the High Court.

The offences most prevalent during the year were assault, larceny, and adultery.

Civil Statistics.—The number of civil cases tried in the High Court was 63, as against 80 in the previous year.

VII.—POPULATION.

The number of Europeans resident in the Protectorate, including officials and non-officials, was 474 males and 257 females, or a total of 731, as compared with 523 males and 262 females, or a total of 785, in the previous year. The Asiatic population amounted to 391, as against 379 in the preceding year.

The native population is estimated at 1,137,266, being approximately 506,785 males and 630,481 females.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

GENERAL.

During the year under review military requirements for labour having necessitated an abnormally increased movement of natives in all parts of the Protectorate the public health has not been as satisfactory as in previous years.

Small-pox was still confined to the Lilongwe and Dowa districts, and although labour was recruited from both these areas the precautionary measures which were instituted proved successful in preventing any spread of the disease. Two localized outbreaks which occurred in the Zomba and Upper Shire districts respectively among labourers employed on the military roads were promptly and effectually dealt with.

As in the previous year, sleeping sickness investigations were confined to the proclaimed area in the Dowa district, the number of cases reported amounting to 31. In 1915 the figures were 25 from this area, plus 4 from other parts of the Protectorate, making a total of 29. It would be misleading to assume that these figures represent the actual incidence of sleeping sickness in the Protectorate as a whole, for the results of investigations in the past have shown that the portion of the Marimba district bordering on the Lake is as heavily infected as the proclaimed area in the Dowa district.

It is much to be regretted that bubonic plague has made its appearance in the Protectorate for the first time. Every effort was made to ascertain the source whence this disease gained entry into the North Nyasa district, and enquiry has shown that there can be little doubt but that it was introduced from German East Africa during the latter part of the year when there was considerable movement of native carriers between Karonga and Mwaya. Three cases of bubonic plague were reported in the neighbourhood of Karonga in the month of November, and ten in December. Further cases occurred during the following months, but at the moment of writing it is satisfactory to record that, following the campaign of rat extermination, inoculation, and the adoption of other preventive measures, the outbreak is now well in hand and the disease has not shown any indication of spreading to other parts of the Protectorate.

IX.—COMMUNICATIONS.

RAILWAYS.

There are no Government railways in the Protectorate. The railway from Port Herald to Blantyre, 113½ miles in length, is owned and worked by the Shire Highlands Railway Company and is connected at Port Herald by the Central Africa Railway with terminus on the Zambesi River at Chindio, a distance of 60½ miles from Port Herald.

The Central Africa Railway, which was opened for traffic in 1915, has much facilitated the movement of troops and military stores from the Zambesi to the interior throughout the year under review as, during the dry season, the Shire River, the alternative route, was, as usual, unfit for navigation by even the lightest draught river steamers.

Provision has been made for the extension of the existing railway system to Lake Nyasa, but the outbreak of war has entailed the postponement of its construction. The Upper Shire River has ceased to be a navigable waterway owing to the continued fall in the level of Lake Nyasa and, in consequence, pending completion of the railway extension referred to, the transport of produce from districts bordering on the Lake to railhead presents great difficulties, and the further development of these districts must be deferred.

MARINE TRANSPORT.

Throughout the year all steamers on Lake Nyasa were continuously engaged in transporting troops and military stores to the north end of the Lake for the operations against German East Africa.

ROAD TRANSPORT.

The Government motor lorry service for the transport of Government passengers and cargo between Limbe and Zomba has been maintained. The Albion lorry ran 11,687 miles during the year, transporting 444 tons of cargo and 396 passengers. Military services were separately provided for, and large numbers of motor vehicles were imported and employed between Limbe and Fort Johnston, and forward, with the various columns operating in German East Africa.

X.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Notwithstanding the heavy calls made on all districts in the Protectorate for military porters for the front and on lines of communication during the year under review, the native population has remained entirely loyal and peaceable throughout, and the splendid manner in which these demands have been met reflects the greatest credit on District Residents and the principal native headmen.

A feature of the year was the revival of the native smelting industry which, although never conducted on a large scale, has assisted in augmenting the supplies of native hoes which, owing to the restrictions on the export of steel manufactures of all kinds from the United Kingdom, can be obtained only with great difficulty, and at greatly enhanced prices.

During the year the District Administration Native Ordinance, which is referred to in the report for the year 1913-14, was applied to the Ngara division of the Marimba District. The advantages of this system of native administration, which is still in its infancy, are clearly demonstrated by the comparative ease with which the hut tax has been collected in, and enormous numbers of carriers recruited from, those districts to which the Ordinance has been applied.

G. B. ANDERSON,

Acting Assistant Chief Secretary.

Zomba, Nyasaland,
1st December, 1917.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

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

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922	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
923	Hong Kong	1916
924	Weihaiwei	"
925	Zanzibar	"
926	Fiji	"
927	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
928	Cayman Islands	1915-1916
929	Seychelles	1916
930	Trinidad and Tobago	"
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MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasa'land	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Mineral Survey, 1913.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Mineral Survey and Land Settlement.