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NYASALAND.

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REPORT FOR 1922.

(For Report for 1921 see No. 1156.)



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No. 1162.

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# NYASALAND.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE  
YEAR 1922.\*

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## GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL.

### BOUNDARIES.

The territory comprised in the Nyasaland Protectorate is a strip about 520 miles in length and varying from 50 to 100 miles in width. It lies approximately between latitude S. 9° 45', and 17° 16', and longitude E. 33° and 36°. The area is roughly 40,000 square miles, or about one-third the area of the British Isles. The most southerly portion of the Protectorate is about 130 miles from the sea as the crow flies.

This strip falls naturally into two divisions: (1) consisting of the western shore of Lake Nyasa, with the high tablelands separating it from the basin of the Loangwa river in Northern Rhodesia, and (2) the region lying between the watershed of the Zambesi river and Shire river on the west, and the Lakes Chiuta and Chilwa and the river Ruo, an affluent of the Shire, on the east, including the mountain systems of the Shire Highlands and Mlanje, and a small portion, also mountainous, of the south-eastern coast of Lake Nyasa.

The Protectorate is divided for administrative purposes into three Provinces, the Southern, Central, and Northern, each of which is in the charge of a Provincial Commissioner. Each Province is subdivided into districts in the charge of residents.

The chief towns are Blantyre, with about 300 European inhabitants, and Zomba, the seat of the Government.

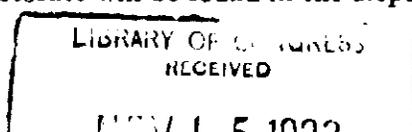
### HISTORICAL.

Very little is known of the history\* of the region now called Nyasaland before the middle of the past century. Jasper Bocarro, a Portuguese, is said to have been the first European to visit Nyasaland; he appears to have travelled early in the 17th century from the Zambesi to the junction of the Ruo and Shire rivers, and thence via Lake Shirwa and the Lujenda river to the coast at Mikandani.

The real history of Nyasaland begins with the advent of Dr. Livingstone, who, after experiencing considerable difficulty

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



in ascending the Shire, discovered Lakes Shirwa and Pamalombe, and on 16th September, 1859, reached the southern shore of Lake Nyasa. Livingstone was closely followed by a Mission under Bishop Mackenzie, sent out by the two English Universities. The Mission settled in the Shire Highlands, but, on account of loss of its members by sickness and otherwise, it withdrew in 1862. It was subsequently re-established in 1881 on Lake Nyasa, with headquarters on the island of Likoma, where it still remains.

In 1874 the Livingstonia Mission, named in honour of the great explorer, was founded by the Free Church of Scotland. They were joined in 1876 by the pioneers of the Church of Scotland Mission, who chose the site of the present town of Blantyre, and established themselves in the Shire Highlands, while the Free Church applied itself to the evangelization of the inhabitants of the shores of Lake Nyasa.

The Missions were followed by the African Lakes Corporation, and in 1883 Captain Foote, R.N., was appointed first British Consul for the territories north of the Zambesi, to reside at Blantyre.

A serious danger had arisen in connection with Arab slave traders who had settled at the north end of Lake Nyasa. At the time of Livingstone's first visit he found the Arabs established in a few places on what is now the Portuguese shore of the lake, and at Kota-Kota, on the west side. Arab caravans, trading with the tribes in and beyond the valley of the Loangwa, were in the habit of crossing the lake on their way to and from the sea coast. Opposition of the new settlers to the slave trade carried on by Arab coastmen and natives alike resulted in a conflict with the Arab traders under Chief Mlozi, settled at the north end of Lake Nyasa, which spread to the Yao chiefs, who were under their influence.

In the summer of 1889 Mr. Johnston (now Sir H. H. Johnston, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.) arrived at Mozambique as H.B.M. Consul, and proceeded to travel in the interior to inquire into the troubles with the Arabs.

Treaties having been concluded with the remaining Makololo chiefs and with the Yaos round Blantyre, Mr. Johnston proceeded up Lake Nyasa, leaving Mr. John Buchanan, Acting-Consul, in charge, who, after the first encounter between Major Serpa Pinto and Mlauri, a powerful Makololo chief, proclaimed on 21st September, 1889, a British Protectorate over the Shire districts.

In 1891 an Anglo-Portuguese convention ratified the work of Mr. Johnston, Mr. Sharpe (now Sir A. Sharpe, K.C.M.G., C.B.), and other pioneers of British Central Africa, and in the following spring a British Protectorate over the countries adjoining Nyasa was proclaimed. The Protectorate of Nyasaland, under the administration of an Imperial Commissioner, was confined to the regions adjoining the Shire and Lake Nyasa; the remainder of

the territory under British influence north of the Zambesi being placed, subject to certain conditions, under the British South Africa Company.

On 22nd February, 1893, the name of the Protectorate was changed to "The British Central Africa Protectorate," but the old name "Nyasaland Protectorate" was revived in October, 1907, by the Order in Council which amended the Constitution.

### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

By Proclamation No. 3 of 1922 under the British Central Africa Order in Council, 1902, the Protectorate was re-divided into three provinces, which were subdivided into districts. As considerable alterations were thus made in the old district boundaries, it may be advisable to set out in detail the position brought about by the Proclamation above quoted.

Province.	District.	Headquarters.	Area in sq. miles.		Popula- tion.
			Land.	Water.	
Northern ..	North Nyasa	Karonga ..	4,515	1,117	44,963
	Mombera ..	Mzimba ..	3,360	—	94,070
	West Nyasa	Chinteche ..	2,626	4,352	53,572
	Kasungu ..	Kasungu ..	4,317	—	19,537
Central ..	Fort Manning	Fort Manning..	1,464	—	22,560
	Kota-Kota ..	Kota-Kota ..	1,918	2,289	50,033
	Lilongwe ..	Lilongwe ..	2,227	—	110,078
	Dowa ..	Dowa ..	2,232	737	96,283
	Dedza ..	Dedza ..	1,748	353	97,307
	Ncheu ..	Ncheu ..	1,162	—	74,051
	South Nyasa	Fort Johnston	2,542	1,246	84,461
	Upper Shire	Liwonde ..	1,912	—	31,448
Southern ..	Zomba ..	Zomba ..	903	259	75,313
	Central Shire	Neno ..	1,761	—	50,018
	Chiradzulu ..	Chiradzulu ..	270	—	60,692
	Blantyre ..	Blantyre ..	372	—	57,151
	Mlanje ..	Mlanje ..	1,531	—	64,601
	Cholo ..	Cholo ..	624	—	33,339
	Chikwawa ..	Chikwawa ..	1,869	—	37,319
Lower Shire..	Port Herald ..	717	—	50,835	
Totals ..			37,890	10,353	1,187,631

The European population at the end of 1922 was returned at 1499, the Asiatic at 662, and the Native at 1,185,655. As compared with the numbers shown in the Census taken in April, 1921, there was an increase of 13 Europeans, and an increase of 99 Asiatics.

The rainy season 1921-1922 was an unsatisfactory one, as the rainfall was much below normal, and conditions of drought, followed by a scarcity of native foodstuffs, prevailed throughout the southern part of the Protectorate. Famine relief measures were rendered necessary. The export and the purchase for resale of native foodstuffs were forbidden throughout the Protectorate by Proclamations issued in January, and in the same month the sale and manufacture for sale of native beer were prohibited. These measures remained in force throughout the year. Other steps were taken to conserve the stocks of native foodstuffs, and to use in

the famine areas the surplus available in more favoured districts ; but it also proved necessary to import 1,500 tons of maize from outside the Protectorate. Government distributed, in all, some 2,300 tons of food to about 110,000 natives. The total cost was £29,000, of which £6,000 was recovered from those natives who were in a position to pay some part of the cost of the food provided. As was only to be expected, a considerable amount of suffering was entailed by the famine, but there is no reason to think that the deaths from starvation were numerous. The natives bore the distress and suffering with courage and fortitude, and expressions of gratitude to Government were received from principal headmen for the assistance rendered to them and their people.

On the 24th of February a cyclone struck Chinde, at the mouth of the Zambesi, at that time the port of entry for the Protectorate. Its effects were more serious than those of any other cyclone experienced there within living memory, and four Portuguese and one British subject were drowned or killed during the storm. At least fifty natives, including about fifteen from Nyasaland, also lost their lives. As regards material damage the offices, cargo sheds and workshops of the trading companies were either damaged or completely destroyed, and dwelling houses were unroofed. Most of the river steamers and barges were sunk or blown on the beach. Many of them were afterwards salvaged and were purchased by the Trans-Zambesia Railway Company. The Portuguese township and river craft suffered even more than the British.

The damage done to British property and shipping was valued at about £20,000 ; in addition to which inward cargo to the value of £4,000 and outward cargo worth £19,000, which was mostly insured, was also destroyed by the cyclone and subsequent rain. The reports circulated at the time as to the damage done were, however, greatly exaggerated. It was fortunate that the Trans-Zambesia Railway from Beira to the Zambesi, opposite Chindio, was nearly completed at the time, and a provisional weekly service for passengers and mails was initiated on the 18th of April, pending a more general opening which took place in July.

In November the Customs Tariff was again amended ; the *ad valorem* rates remained at 15 per cent. plus 1 per cent. wharfage and registration fee, but a few articles were removed from the list of specific duties, personal baggage was given a wider interpretation, and each adult passenger was allowed to import such baggage duty free to a value not exceeding £100.

#### HEALTH.

During the year 1922 the health of the Protectorate was satisfactory. There were a few cases of smallpox in the early part of the year, the residue of the outbreak which occurred at Mlanje in 1921, since when no further cases were reported.

There were no cases of plague reported. Fewer cases of venereal diseases were recorded than in 1921. 341 cases of yaws were treated, as against 235 during 1921. Most of these cases occurred at Karonga.

Seventy rural dispensaries were opened during 1922. These are worked by natives who have had an elementary training in dealing with minor ailments and in dressing wounds. Although these dispensaries were open for about half the year only, it is satisfactory to record that they have resulted in double the number of native out-patients being treated. There were over 39,000 out-patients treated in 1922, as against 19,000 in 1921. The in-patients numbered about the same as in the previous year (2,300).

As regards Europeans, as in 1921, about 500 were treated by the medical department, and there were 15 deaths, 6 of which were due to blackwater fever; there were 14 cases of blackwater fever in 1922, whilst in 1921 there were also 14 cases, but with only 2 deaths. As was the case in 1921, malaria accounted for nearly 28 per cent. of the European illnesses. Amongst the native population 8 cases of sleeping sickness were recorded. Villages infected with human trypanosomiasis were removed to a "fly-free" area.

#### IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION.

A considerable number of Europeans and natives pass through Nyasaland on their way to or from Northern Rhodesia, Tanganyika Territory, Portuguese East Africa and the Belgian Congo. Excluding these transit passengers, 515 Europeans and 427 Asiatics entered the Protectorate, while 484 and 320 respectively left. It will, of course, be understood that in a tropical country there must always be a flow of Europeans and Asiatics proceeding on or returning from periodical visits to their homes. As regards natives, it is only possible to say that 4,758 left and 5,607 entered through stations of entry, but many others crossed the borders without being recorded. There is a constant stream of natives to Southern Rhodesia, where they seek employment on farms and in mines and, for the most part, return home after an absence of a year or so.

During the year the Immigration Restriction Ordinance, 1913, was repealed and replaced by fresh legislation.

#### AGRICULTURE.

The drought, which proved so disastrous to the native food-stuffs, was less harmful in its effects on European agriculture, and fair crops of tobacco and cotton were realised. The reaction from the boom year of 1920 continued to be felt, however, and the chief difficulty of the planters was that of disposing of stocks still lying unsold in the United Kingdom. Consequently, there was a lack of capital available for carrying on planting operations, and many planters found themselves seriously embarrassed financially. The banks, too, had been somewhat optimistic during the period

of prosperity following the conclusion of hostilities, and their restriction of operations when depression set in served to increase the difficulties under which the planting community laboured.

The area under European cultivation in 1922 was about 66,000 acres, chiefly divided as follows:—tobacco 18,440 acres, cotton 27,750 acres, maize 6,630 acres, tea 4,701 acres, and the remainder under minor crops. The increase of 11,000 acres over the 1921 figures is chiefly due to the cultivation of maize to feed labourers during the famine.

Native-grown cotton amounted to 387 tons of seed cotton, a slight increase over the 375 tons of the previous year, but a considerable decline on the 1,000 tons raised by the natives in 1914. With a view to encouraging the native cotton industry, two important projects were mooted during the year under review, although they were not actually achieved until after its close. One was the loan by the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation of the services of two cotton specialists for a period of two years. The other was the completion of an agreement between Government and the British Cotton Growing Association, by which the latter was to have the sole right for a period of five years to purchase all native-grown cotton on Crown lands in certain districts at such minimum prices as were to be fixed. By these two measures it is confidently hoped to improve the strain of native cotton and at the same time to give the native grower that stability of price and certainty of sale without which he will never be encouraged to persevere in his efforts in this direction.

#### TRADE.

The general position as regards trade remained unchanged, and the looked-for revival did not make its appearance, although towards the end of the year the figures showed some signs of improvement. Famine conditions prevented the natives from earning much money to spend on cloth and other staple items of trade.

The following tables show the values of imports and exports, excluding specie, transit trade, and Government stores, during each of the past five years:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Imports,</i>	<i>Exports.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	£	£	£
1918 .. ..	516,680	485,052	1,001,732
1919 .. ..	608,788	483,251	1,092,039
1920 .. ..	507,573	370,072	1,177,645
1921 .. ..	637,567	416,404	1,053,971
1922 .. ..	522,119	442,164	964,283

In considering these figures, it must be remembered that the fall in value of imports is partly due to the fact that market prices of many articles imported were lower than they have been in recent years. It is noteworthy that native imports accounted for 40 per cent. of the total for the year. As regards exports, there

are indications that a revival of prices obtainable for the economic products of Nyasaland has commenced, and may be expected to result in a gradual depletion of the unsold stocks in the United Kingdom, and an expansion in local production.

Of the imports, 55·16 per cent. came from the United Kingdom ; 20·48 per cent. from British possessions ; and 24·36 per cent. from foreign countries. As compared with last year, the United Kingdom supplied 8·34 per cent. less ; the British possessions 5·88 per cent. and foreign countries 2·46 per cent. more. The United Kingdom took 99·3 per cent. of the exports.

The quantities of the principal products exported during each of the last three years were :—

	1920.	1921.	1922.
	lb.	lb.	lb.
Cotton .. ..	913,718	1,475,232	2,227,674
Tobacco.. ..	4,963,130	4,945,169	6,330,808
Tea .. ..	496,836	208,255	737,165
Fibre .. ..	290,822	243,742	1,129,476
Rubber .. ..	128,253	44,910	91,242
Coffee .. ..	64,362	90,412	95,277
Capsicums and Chillies .. ..	9,035	Nil.	14,258

The noteworthy increase was due partly to stocks from previous years being held back till prices reached more favourable levels and partly to larger areas being placed under cultivation, especially in the case of fibre, the cultivation of which is now assuming considerable importance. About 13 per cent. of the cotton exported was native-grown.

#### LABOUR.

There is nothing of special importance to report as regards labour. The utilisation of agricultural implements and mechanical means of transport continues to release manual labour either for extended agricultural operations or for absorption into native industries. Certain native chiefs in the Central Province have decided to start using ploughs. Such a project would mark a striking advance in native agricultural practice, and would be watched with interest. So far, there have been no signs of increasing emigration of native labour with the opening of through-rail communication with Rhodesia and South Africa. In the first place, few natives in Nyasaland have the money to pay for long railway journeys, and, secondly, it may be that most of them prefer the easier life that goes with the low wages of Nyasaland to the more strenuous labours inseparable from the higher pay obtainable in Rhodesia and South Africa. Nyasaland natives are great wanderers, and the walk to Rhodesia is not likely to deter such of them as are anxious to secure the wages paid there, and in any case the distance from the north-western parts of the Protectorate to Southern Rhodesia is not much greater than the distance to

railhead at Limbe or Blantyre. The districts around the railway are not those from which any considerable amount of native emigration takes place, as the labour there is always assured steady employment on European estates and in other ways connected with the European settlements in the Shire Highlands.

#### CRIME.

The European staff of the reorganised Police Force was increased by the addition of an Assistant Superintendent in charge of the Criminal Investigation Department and by four Cadets during 1922. It has not yet been possible to extend the new system beyond the southern province, which contains the bulk of the European settlements. There still remains a large field of work in developing the organisation in those areas which are at present subject to the direct control of the Chief Commissioner and his staff.

The total strength of the police force on the 31st of December was 12 officers and 441 native ranks, and the area under its jurisdiction was 6,659 square miles, with a population of 1,054 Europeans, 568 Asiatics, and 416,426 natives.

#### FINANCE.

The financial year ended on the 31st of March, 1923, was far from a satisfactory one, and the financial position of the Protectorate is at the present moment a matter of no little concern to the Government.

The principal items tending to reduce the revenue were a shortage of £17,000 in income tax, due to stagnation in the produce markets, and £12,000 in hut taxes, due to famine conditions combined with lack of employment of native labour. A satisfactory feature was an excess of £5,000 in customs revenue. The over-expenditure, besides famine relief measures, was caused by unforeseen items such as £3,000 additional annual payments on the Trans-Zambesia Railway loan; £1,800 for the charter of a steamer while the Government vessel was undergoing repairs, and £1,700 to meet a revised assessment of mail transit dues.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure during each of the past five financial years:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>		<i>Expenditure.</i>	
	£		£	
1918/19	..	187,645	..	150,198
1919/20	..	186,927	..	217,659
1920/21	..	267,970	..	261,813
1921/22	..	259,117	..	305,495
1922/23	..	257,000*	..	333,000*

\* Approximate Figures.

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st of March in the above years was :—

					£
1919	..	..	..	..	100,408
1920	..	..	..	..	69,674
1921	..	..	..	..	75,831
1922	..	..	..	..	29,453
1923				(excess of liabilities)	47,000*

The public debt, excluding war loans, for the same years is as under :—

					£
1919	..	..	..	..	192,890
1920	..	..	..	..	211,890
1921	..	..	..	..	209,388
1922	..	..	..	..	306,328
1923	..	..	..	..	390,163

The public debt as at the 31st March, 1923, was made up of a loan of £186,050 from the Imperial Treasury to enable the Protectorate to meet its liabilities for payment of interest under the Trans-Zambesia Railway Guarantee; £164,909 remaining unpaid of the £180,800 advanced for the redemption of the Shire Highlands Railway subsidy lands; and £39,204 representing the balance due in repayment of the instalments totalling £40,000 on account of the East African Protectorates Loan, 1914, for railways and roads.

#### LAND.

The question raised by the Lands Commission which sat during 1920 are still under consideration, and it has not, therefore, been possible to effect any radical changes in the policy of the Government regarding such important and pressing problems as European settlement and tenure of land and native reservations.

The tendency of settlers, noted in 1921, to surrender land hastily acquired during the boom years continued during the year under review, due not so much to adverse seasons as to depressed markets and consequent shortage of floating capital. The decline in applications for fresh holdings likewise continued, and only 2,280 acres were leased for new agricultural holdings, as against 14,420 in 1921 and 81,553 acres in 1920.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES.

##### FORESTRY.

The facts referred to in the previous paragraph on Land also militated against any development of forestry policy, and work during the year was confined to the normal routine duties of the office. With regard to the pressing question of preventing deforestation by natives it was, however, found possible to declare five areas in various parts of the Protectorate to be demarcated forests under the Forests Ordinance, 1911, and thus prevent the

\*Approximately.

areas in question from being denuded of trees. Administrative Officers are directing their efforts to the education of natives in the matter of preserving the forestal resources of the Protectorate, and the problem will receive still closer attention during the coming year.

#### VETERINARY.

It was found desirable during the year to consolidate the law relating to diseases of animals in the light of experience which had been gained during recent years in dealing with outbreaks of disease both in Nyasaland and in other parts of Africa.

The outbreak of East Coast Fever which was mentioned in last year's report was successfully dealt with during the year and the Protectorate is now practically free from this disease. In the Lake districts the losses were insignificant, but in the southern area some thirty estates and herds were affected, and the deaths may be put at 600, or about 15 per cent. of the infected herds. It is a cause for satisfaction, however, that the prompt action of the Veterinary Department and the hearty co-operation of stock owners in carrying out the stringent measures necessary caused the losses in Nyasaland to compare so favourably with those recorded in other parts of Africa. The precautionary steps maintained on the northern border against the introduction of rinderpest remained efficacious throughout the year.

#### FISHERIES.

Establishment of fisheries on a commercial basis has not been found possible in Nyasaland, and the fish of many kinds abounding in the lakes and larger rivers are exploited only as food for the natives living in their vicinity. A limited quantity of fish is used by Europeans who live near Lake Nyasa.

#### WATER POWER.

In recent years there has been noted an increased activity on the part of planters and others to make use of the water power of streams and rivers for running machinery in connection with various agricultural and kindred operations. The Government electric light, workshops and printing plants in Zomba are worked by water power.

#### MANUFACTURES.

Nyasaland is primarily an agricultural country, and manufactures on a large scale as understood in Europe are non-existent. The Imperial Tobacco Company has a factory at Limbe, and there are cotton ginneries and tea factories in various parts of the country. Native industries flourish to the extent necessary to supply the limited local demand for furniture, curios, mats, etc.

### BANKS.

The Standard Bank and the National Bank, both of South Africa, continued to provide for the financial business of the community. The Post Office savings bank caters for the needs of the natives, but owing to their general poverty the business done is not very important. At the end of 1922 there were only 417 accounts in operation, including those of Europeans and Asiatics, and the sum standing to the credit of depositors was £6,297, an increase of 9 depositors and £224 on deposit as compared with 1921.

### LEGISLATION.

During the year 1922 a slight alteration was made in the manner of selecting unofficial members of the Legislative Council. Hitherto the Governor had submitted names to the Secretary of State for the approval of His Majesty, but, in order to meet the wishes of the unofficial residents, it was arranged that the Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce should submit lists of nominees, from which the Governor would select names to be recommended to His Majesty the King.

Eighteen ordinances were passed in the two Sessions of the Legislative Council during the year under review. Many of these were formal or amending ordinances. Special mention may be made of the Prisons Ordinance, which repealed and re-enacted the Prisons Ordinance, 1905, so as to meet the altered conditions brought about by the reorganisation of the prison service. The Defence Force Ordinance, which provided for a modified form of compulsory military service, was disallowed by His Majesty.

### EDUCATION.

The Missions, to whom a grant-in-aid of £2,000 is made annually, continued to provide practically all the educational facilities of the country. Provision was made for an educational adviser to visit the Protectorate and report to the Government on the whole question of education, but he was not appointed during the year and had not been selected at the time of writing.

### CLIMATE.

The climate of Nyasaland in its essential features is similar to that of the rest of Eastern Africa within the tropics.

The climate is necessarily diversified in various districts, owing to variations in latitude, altitude and general configuration of the terrain, presence or absence of rivers, forests, etc., but, as a large proportion of the Protectorate lies at an altitude of 3,000 ft. or more, the heat is not generally excessive. The south-east monsoon commences to blow strongly in September, in conjunction with the sun's increase in southerly declination, and the first rains may be expected any time after mid-October. From their commencement to the end of December it is usual to

experience violent thunderstorms and heavy precipitation in a few hours, followed by an interval varying from one to fifteen or twenty days of intense heat. With the return of the sun from its southern limit of declination, the thunderstorms diminish in intensity and frequency, and are replaced by steady rain—January, February, and March being usually the wettest months as regards duration of rainfall as well as actual amount. After March the frequency and intensity of rainfall diminishes rapidly, and from May to September the climate is comparatively cool and dry.

#### COMMUNICATIONS.

The Trans-Zambesia Railway from Beira to Muraca, opposite Chindio on the Zambesi, was opened for passengers and mails in April and for general traffic in July. It is not likely that a bridge will be constructed across the Zambesi in the near future on account of the engineering difficulties and the heavy cost involved. In the meantime, passengers and goods are ferried across the river between Muraca and Chindio on one of the river steamers, where passengers also as a rule pass the night. It is now a two-days' journey between Blantyre and Beira.

The steamer routes to Beira from the United Kingdom are north through the Suez Canal and south via Cape Town and Durban. The southern route is most used, and it is served by the steamships of various companies.

#### TRANSPORT.

The tendency to replace native porters by mechanical means of transport continues, not only on the part of Government, but also in the case of private individuals and trading firms. There are now several persons engaged in the business of transporting goods by motor vehicles, and most of the transport between Fort Jameson, in Northern Rhodesia, and railhead at Limbe is now done in this way. The six Albion lorries and trailers ordered by the Government Transport Department in 1921 arrived during the year under review and were of invaluable service in the matter of distributing foodstuffs during the famine. The suffering to the natives would have been immeasurably greater had these light lorries not been available.

#### POSTAL.

There were 27 Post Offices conducting business during the period under review, being one in excess of the previous year, a new office being opened at Mkhoma. Of these offices 18 issue and pay Money Orders.

The Money Orders issued in 1921-22 amounted to £22,371, and the amount in 1922-23 was £22,222. The value of Money Orders paid in 1921-22 was £15,042, and for 1922-23 was £12,315. This decrease is practically entirely due to the lesser number of Nyasaland natives at present employed in Rhodesia. The fall in Money Orders from Rhodesia amounted to almost £3,000.

Postal Orders issued in 1921-22 and 1922-23 amounted respectively to £7,038 and £7,279. The value of Postal Orders paid during the respective periods was £23,941 and £19,518; the decrease in the value of Postal Orders paid is attributable to the same reason as that causing the decrease in Money Order transactions.

The mail matter handled during the year shows a decrease of over 100,000 articles. This is principally due to the fall in native correspondence to and from Rhodesia and South Africa and, to a lesser extent, to the closing of the Chinde office.

The first Nyasaland mail was conveyed from Beira over the Trans-Zambesia Railway on the 17th April, 1922, since which date many changes have been introduced in the postal service. Prior to the opening of the railway to Beira all mails to and from the Protectorate were dealt with at the Office of Exchange at Chinde, which office was closed on the 30th April, 1922.

A direct exchange of mails has been introduced between Zomba, Blantyre, Limbe and Port Herald with the United Kingdom, the Union of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. All mails to and from stations north of Zomba are dealt with at Zomba, and mails for India, Kenya, Zanzibar and Aden are dealt with at Limbe, whilst mails to and from Portuguese East Africa are dealt with at Port Herald. A quicker and cheaper exchange of parcels has been arranged with Southern Rhodesia, via railway throughout, and a quicker parcel post service is in force with the Union of South Africa. A motor mail service was introduced on the 1st October, 1922, between Zomba and Fort Jameson, all mails to and from up-country stations being put down and picked up at Liwonde, Dedza and Lilongwe, beyond which stations the mails are conveyed by the old " Mail carrier " service.

#### TELEPHONES.

During the year no new telephone system was installed, and the only system of importance in existence is that operated by the Government in Zomba connecting the various offices and the Camp.

#### TELEGRAPHS.

The African Transcontinental Telegraph Company owns and works the trunk line telegraphs in Nyasaland. The Protectorate is directly connected with Salisbury in Southern Rhodesia, and with Fort Jameson and Fife in Northern Rhodesia, as well as with Tukuyu in Tanganyika Territory. The various stations of the Shire Highlands and Central African Railway are connected by the private lines of the railway companies, which work in conjunction with the African Transcontinental Telegraph Company's system.

**PUBLIC WORKS AND ROADS.**

Although no Public Works of major importance were undertaken during the year, the programme was a fairly heavy one. Several buildings in Zomba were completed, including civil, military and police quarters. The power plant and pipe line for the Printing Department were finished, and have proved very useful in rendering unnecessary the large amount of manual labour formerly employed in carrying wood fuel for a steam engine. Grain storage tanks were erected in Zomba, and have proved effective in preventing the heavy losses previously incurred through weevils. The Cholo road was formed and drained, and, with the aid of a contribution of £1,500 from North-Eastern Rhodesia, a road was constructed from Matope to Ncheu, thus connecting Blantyre with the north-west parts of the Protectorate and with North-Eastern Rhodesia. This route involves a saving of about 35 miles of motor road over the old route, and is likely to prove of considerable benefit. The widening of the Mudi bridge at Blantyre and the construction of a steel bridge over the Kwakwazi river on the Cholo road also were completed during the year.

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## 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.

No.	Colony, etc.	Year.
1126	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast .. .. .	1921
1127	Gibraltar .. .. .	"
1128	St. Vincent .. .. .	"
1129	St. Helena .. .. .	"
1130	Fiji .. .. .	"
1131	Basutoland .. .. .	1921-1922
1132	Bermuda .. .. .	1921
1133	Bechuanaland Protectorate .. .. .	1921-1922
1134	Barbados .. .. .	"
1135	Trinidad and Tobago .. .. .	1921
1136	British Honduras .. .. .	"
1137	Ceylon .. .. .	"
1138	Swaziland .. .. .	"
1139	Hongkong .. .. .	"
1140	Straits Settlements .. .. .	"
1141	St. Lucia .. .. .	"
1142	Ashanti .. .. .	"
1143	Jamaica .. .. .	"
1144	Falkland Islands .. .. .	1920
1145	Bahamas .. .. .	1921-1922
1146	Seychelles.. .. .	1921
1147	Turks and Caicos Islands .. .. .	"
1148	British Solomon Islands Protectorate.. .. .	1921-1922
1149	Mauritius .. .. .	1921
1150	Sierra Leone .. .. .	"
1151	Uganda .. .. .	"
1152	Somaliland .. .. .	"
1153	Kenya Colony and Protectorate .. .. .	April-Dec.,
1154	Gold Coast .. .. .	"
1155	Nigeria .. .. .	1922
1156	Nyasaland .. .. .	1921
1157	Falkland Islands .. .. .	"
1158	Weihaiwei.. .. .	1922
1159	Cyprus .. .. .	"
1160	Gambia .. .. .	"
1161	New Hebrides .. .. .	1921-1922

## MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.	Subject.
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 Pacific.