



This document was created by the
Digital Content Creation Unit
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2010

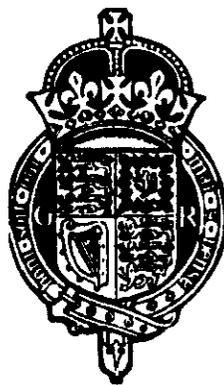
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1257.

NYASALAND.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(For Report for 1923 see No. 1204.)



LONDON:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Astral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 29, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
or 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
or through any Bookseller.

1925

Price 6d. Net.

No. 1257.

NYASALAND.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE
YEAR 1924.*

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 Luangwa 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, Limbe near Blantyre, 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

* 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 Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. 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 Luangwa, 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.

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 feet or more, the heat is not generally excessive. The 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 diminish rapidly, and from May to September the climate is comparatively cool and dry.

General Observations.

Sir Charles Calvert Bowring, K.B.E., C.M.G., arrived in the Protectorate and took the Oaths of Office as Governor and Commander-in-Chief on the 27th of March.

The East Africa Commission, appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, consisting of the Honourable William Ormsby-Gore, M.P., Chairman, Major A. G. Church, D.S.O., M.C., M.P., Mr. F. C. Linfield, M.P., with Mr. J. A. Calder, of the Colonial Office, as Secretary, visited the Protectorate in September and spent some days here. Their visit gave great satisfaction to the European community, both official and non-official, and it is felt that the Protectorate will benefit greatly from the experience gained by the Commission and the interest shown by the members.

The Phelps-Stokes Education Commission, accompanied by Major Vischer, Secretary to the Advisory Committee on Native Education in the British Tropical Africa Dependencies, visited Nyasaland in May and spent some time

The European population at the end of 1924 was estimated at 1,462, the Asiatic population at 669, and the Native population at 1,210,344. As compared with the figures returned at the census of April, 1921, there is a decrease of 24 Europeans, and an increase of 106 Asiatics and 10,410 Natives, respectively. The increase in the native population in the three and a half years between the census and the end of 1924 would probably have been shown as a decrease had it not been for the considerable numbers of natives who have settled permanently in the Protectorate from Portuguese East Africa during the past few years.

There was a plentiful crop of native foodstuffs throughout the Protectorate with the exception of a portion of the Momberas district, where a somewhat acute local shortage necessitated the sending of food supplies to the affected area from other parts of the country.

The District Administration (Native) Ordinance, 1912, was repealed and replaced by a new Ordinance aiming at a system of government of the native population through or with the assistance of the natives themselves.

Continued investigations of the local areas appear to show that coal of commercial value exists in the Lower Shire district. Further investigations will be continued by the Government and, it is hoped, by private enterprise which, if the necessary transport facilities can be provided, may result in coal being made available not only for local use but for export.

A discovery of dinosaur remains in the North Nyasa district is of great scientific importance as bearing upon the question of the age of various geological formations in this part of Central Africa.

Generally speaking, the year 1924 was one of fair prosperity, and trade and agriculture at least maintained their foothold on the difficult upward slope from the depression that, in common with all the world, Nyasaland has experienced during recent years. An index of returning prosperity is shown by the increased imports of iron, steel, machinery, cotton manufactures and vehicles, which together show an increase in value of nearly £100,000 as compared with 1923.

Hea'th.

The admissions to hospitals, both European and African, were slightly fewer in number than in 1923, though the out-patients in both cases were more.

Four cases of pneumonic plague (all fatal) were reported from Fort Johnston in March.

There were no cases of smallpox reported.

One case of sleeping sickness in a native was reported ; and one European who contracted the disease in Portuguese Territory came in for treatment.

During the year there were treated at the Government hospitals and dispensaries a total of 709 Europeans and 116,890 natives, as compared with 635 and 99,522, respectively, in 1923.

The increasing use made of the Government Native Hospital in Zomba and of the rural dispensaries, indicates the popularity of these institutions amongst the natives. A very high proportion of the native population is infected with ankylostomiasis, and large numbers of natives suffer from ulcers and sores, which, because they are not treated properly or in time, cause much suffering. There is little doubt that the death rate among young children is very high. That there is the greatest need for additional medical services is obvious, and it is greatly to be hoped that the funds with which to provide for these may before long be available.

Immigration and Emigration.

During the year, 728 Europeans and 294 Indians were admitted to the Protectorate, of whom 129 Europeans and 42 Indians were in transit. The numbers leaving were 661 Europeans and 202 Indians, including 95 Europeans and 55 Indians merely passing through the country.

The net result is 599 immigrant Europeans and 566 emigrants, showing an increase of population from this cause of 33, as compared with 73 in the previous year. The figures for Indians show 252 entering the country and 147 leaving it, a net increase of 105 as compared with 57 in 1923. It would be unwise to attach much importance to these figures, as they chiefly relate to the normal leave arrangements of Europeans and Indians employed or settled in Nyasaland. There is, however, a slow but continuous increase of Indians in the Protectorate.

No reliable figures can be given as regards native emigration, as many thousands leave annually for work in Rhodesia and elsewhere. The majority of them eventually return, usually after one season's absence. As regards immigrants, there is a stream of permanent settlers from Portuguese East Africa, which appears to be slightly on the increase, the number so settling being returned at over 10,000 in 1924. These immigrants serve a useful purpose as labourers, but steps are being taken to regulate their introduction as settlers.

Agriculture.

A fortuitous combination of favourable weather conditions and of good market prices resulted in the year 1924 being one of the most prosperous in the history of the Protectorate. Records were established for the production of tobacco and tea, which amounted, in the case of tobacco, to over 7,000,000lb., and in that of tea to over 1,000,000lb. Cotton yields were low, owing to the depredation of insect pests, but were an improvement on

the previous year, while prices were appreciably higher. The figures given below show the acreages of exportable crops grown by Europeans in 1924, as compared with 1914 and 1923 :—

European Agriculture.

<i>Crop.</i>	1914.	1923.	1924.
Coffee	1,559	474	424
Cotton	24,006	20,948	26,120
Fibres	820	2,763	5,902
Rubber	5,936	1,812	1,795
Tea	3,338	4,235	5,093
Tobacco	9,042	17,308	20,590

The boom in tea values on the home market resulted in increased attention to this crop in Nyasaland. Improved methods of cultivation and manufacture have been adopted, and the industry is now on a very sound footing.

No figures are available regarding the tonnage of tobacco grown by natives, but the amount was greatly in excess of the previous year and has been estimated at 500 tons. The cotton crop produced by natives was 1,369 tons of seed cotton as compared with 747 tons in 1923.

Trade.

Confidence in the recuperative power of the Protectorate was justified by the results of the year 1924, since the external trade during that period was greater than that of any previous year. Favourable climatic conditions for the production of tea, cotton, and tobacco, all of which showed largely increased yields, contributed to the general improvement.

The balance of trade was in favour of exports for the first time since 1920. The most noteworthy feature of the import trade was the value of goods imported for native consumption, which, with certain goods alone exceeding a quarter of a million pounds sterling in value, comprised 50 per cent. of the total imports.

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>
	£	£	£
1920	507,573	670,072	1,177,645
1921	637,567	416,404	1,053,971
1922	522,119	442,164	964,283
1923	462,284	425,181	887,465
1924	548,156	583,555	1,131,711

In total quantity, 14,549,839 lb., domestic exports far exceeded that of any year in the history of the Protectorate,

Hitherto the natives of the Protectorate have been slow to engage in the production of crops for export. With the help of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation and the British Cotton Growing Association, endeavour was made to extend the native cotton industry. Especially in the Lower Shire district this endeavour was largely successful. Increased attention is also being given to cotton growing by natives in other districts, with the result that the export of native-grown cotton increased from 747 tons of seed cotton in 1923 to 1,369 tons in 1924.

In 1924 natives engaged for the first time in the production of tobacco on Crown lands, and grew about 500 tons.

The necessity for advice and assistance to natives in the production of crops for export, and adequate control of their operations in order to prevent improper use of land, neglect of essential food crops, and the production of cotton and tobacco of inferior quality, is fully recognized, and steps have been and are being taken to provide for this need. The prospect of a very large extension of native industry is most encouraging, and there is reason to anticipate a material increase in the exports of the Protectorate in the near future.

The United Kingdom supplied 57·7 per cent. of the imports, taken by value; 18·2 per cent. came from British possessions, and 24 per cent. were shipped from foreign countries. The United Kingdom took 98·5 per cent. of the exports by value and 86·3 per cent. by quantity.

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

	1922.	1923.	1924.
	lb.	lb.	lb.
Cotton ..	2,227,674	2,182,537	2,229,316
Tobacco ..	6,330,808	5,158,326	7,044,175
Tea ..	737,165	963,309	1,058,504
Fibre ..	1,129,476	1,673,762	1,789,038
Rubber ..	91,242	127,141	173,973
Coffee ..	95,277	92,216	47,296
Capsicums and Chillies.	14,258	25,755	35,436

The most noteworthy feature of the year's export trade was the record production of tobacco, tea, and fibre. Although there is a tendency on the part of Europeans to regard cotton growing with some disfavour, mainly owing to its susceptibility to the ravages of pests, but partly to the less healthy nature of the areas suitable for its production, the encouragement given to native cotton growers has enabled the Protectorate to maintain and even to increase the quantity of this product. During 1924, 36 per cent. of the cotton exported was grown by natives, as compared with 22 per cent. in the previous year and 15 per cent. in 1922.

Labour.

There is little of importance to report regarding labour conditions during 1924. The natives of the Central and Northern Provinces appear loth to work on European estates, and apparently rely on remittances from friends and relatives in Rhodesia or on their own savings to provide money for their taxes and modest domestic needs. Natives exhibit marked preferences in respect of paid labour, and, although they will return year after year to work during the season on certain estates, some planters experience the greatest difficulty in obtaining adequate supplies of labour. In many parts of the Southern Province the chief source of labour is Portuguese East Africa, whence many thousands of natives immigrate yearly to work on the various plantations in Nyasaland, and many of these natives remain permanently either as settlers on private land or, with the permission of the authorities, on Crown land. This process of permanent and semi-permanent infiltration of alien natives has a beneficial effect on the labour supply. Indeed, without this source of supply in some districts, the labour problem would become extremely acute. But, on the other hand, the settlement of thousands of natives in the very areas where Crown land is least plentiful is creating a serious state of congestion in many places, and a position has arisen which is receiving the closest attention of the Government.

It is not improbable that the time is approaching when the natives will realise clearly that their choice in future lies between peasant proprietorship and individual or communal production of foodstuffs and economic products on the one hand, and hired labour with a consequent partial divorce from their customary village life on the other hand. The success or failure of the present revival of interest in cotton and tobacco as native crops will doubtless have a far-reaching effect on the mental attitude of the native towards the question of hired labour.

Signs are not lacking, however, that the European planting community is becoming increasingly alive to the fact that, if they are to continue to obtain an adequate supply of plantation labour, the conditions under which labourers are engaged and employed must be very carefully considered.

Crime.

The strength of the police force on 31st December, 1924, was 12 officers and 440 African ranks, and the area under its jurisdiction about 40,000 square miles. The estimated cost of the force for 1924 was £12,904.

Since the reorganisation of the police in certain districts of the Southern Province, crime has shown a tendency to decrease, and there were 1,228 fewer cases reported to the police in 1924.

The prisons of the Protectorate consist of a central prison at Zomba for long sentence prisoners, and 20 district prisons situated

at the headquarter stations of each district, for short sentence native prisoners. The strength of the prison staff on 31st December, 1924, was two European officers and 104 African warders. District prisons are under the charge of administrative officers or police officers, and where no warder staffs are provided the police perform such duties.

The estimated cost of the prisons for 1924 was £4,532.

The total number of persons committed to the prisons in 1924 was 3,872, of whom 865 were for safe custody pending trial, and 3,007 on sentence to imprisonment. The daily average number of persons in the prisons during 1924 was 681·48.

Finance.

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>
	£	£
1920-21	267,970	261,813
1921-22	259,117	305,495
1922-23	247,347	312,302
1923-24	281,044	282,800
1924-25	285,459*	305,341*

* Estimated.

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

	£
1921	75,831
1922	29,453
1923 (excess of liabilities)	35,498
1924	7,704
1925	8,855*

* Estimated.

The public debt of the Protectorate as at 31st March, 1925, was as follows :—

	£
East African Protectorates (Railways and Roads) Loan, 4 per cent. ..	10,236
East African Protectorates (Railways and Roads) Loan, 6 per cent. ..	32,809
Shire Highlands Railway—Redemption of Subsidy Lands Loan	158,879
Trans-Zambesia Railway Guarantee Loan	289,298
Famine Relief Loan	19,600
Total	£510,822

Land.

The whole question of land tenure and settlement is under consideration, and in the meantime no change has been made in the methods of alienating land.

A successful season enabled many planters to pay off their arrears of rent, and the position in that respect was more or less satisfactory at the end of the year.

There was not much demand to lease new agricultural land during the year, and the European population is slightly smaller than it was four years ago. This is due largely to the fall in prices of tobacco since 1920 and to bad seasons.

Natural Resources.

FORESTRY.

Attention was concentrated on the formation of forest reserves, their demarcation, protection, and the examination of new tracts with a view to reservation. At the end of 1924, twenty-one reserves had been proclaimed with an approximate area of 2,634 square miles. Many of these areas are important watersheds, and have been reserved mainly with the object of regulating, maintaining, and improving water supplies. Some, however, contain forest of a slightly better quality than the poor type general to the Protectorate.

A Bill to prevent the reckless or careless use of grass fires was under consideration at the end of the year.

VETERINARY.

With a view to the better control of rinderpest, a complete register of cattle has been prepared during the year in the North Nyasa district, that portion of the Protectorate which borders on Tanganyika Territory.

There was a total absence of East Coast fever in the Southern Province during the year. In this area the dipping of cattle is now practically universal, with the result that tick-borne diseases are non-existent, the same remark applying to skin diseases.

A few outbreaks of East Coast fever have occurred in the Central and Northern Provinces, where the disease is endemic, but the death-rate has been slight.

The great cause of anxiety has been the gradual but steady spread of trypanosomiasis. Considerable numbers of deaths have occurred and are still occurring in the Lower Shire and Chikwawa districts, and one serious aspect of the situation is the difficulty encountered in discovering the actual locality of the tsetse fly, if such should be the vector. The matter is being investigated locally, but on all hands it is felt that there are factors

in the problem not at present properly understood, and the appointment of a Commission to investigate the problem is an urgent need.

FISHERIES.

There is no organized fishing industry in Nyasaland, although considerable quantities of fish are caught in the lakes and larger rivers by waterside natives and hawked for sale, either fresh to Europeans in the vicinity or sun-dried for sale to natives, often at very considerable distances from the place where they are caught.

WATER POWER.

Water power continues to be utilised to an increasing extent for running machinery connected with agricultural operations, and some interest is shown in the question of erecting dams across various streams in order to make use of the water for irrigation purposes. The Government electric light system, the machinery in the workshops, and the printing plant in Zomba are run by water power.

MANUFACTURES.

Manufactories on the European scale do not exist in Nyasaland. Tobacco and tea factories are, however, in existence, and cotton is ginned at various centres in the country. Native industries, such as mat and basket-making, wood and ivory carving, furniture and jewellery making, and similar domestic industries, are carried on to the extent necessary to supply the limited local demand.

Banks.

The banking position remains unaltered. British sterling coin is the legal currency of the Protectorate, and there are no notes officially recognized, although a certain number of South African bank notes circulate in the country and are generally accepted as a convenience by the local stores.

The Standard Bank of South Africa and the National Bank of South Africa continue to share the banking business of the community.

Both these banks conduct savings bank business, and the Post Office and some of the missions also provide similar facilities. The Post Office Savings Bank continues to make slow headway against the innate prejudice of the native mind, and there is evidence that its popularity is increasing. In 1919 and 1920, withdrawals greatly exceeded deposits; but during and since 1921, deposits together with accrued interest have exceeded withdrawals. In 1924 the excess of deposits amounted to £1,916.

The number of new accounts opened during the year was 81, and the number closed was 56. At the end of 1924 a sum of £8,444 was held to the credit of depositors, who numbered 453 on that date.

Legislation.

Apart from the legislation mentioned under the appropriate sections of this Report, the only Ordinances worthy of special notice which were passed during 1924 were the Wild Birds' Protection Ordinance, and the Dogs Ordinance, which repealed and replaced the 1912 Ordinance.

Education.

No change was made in the educational system of the Protectorate. The Government grant of £2,000 was, as usual, divided between the various missions in the form of a grant-in-aid towards the cost of their educational activities. Government takes no direct part in the education either of European children or of the natives.

The Marist Fathers' Mission conducts a boarding and day school at Limbe for European children.

The Phelps-Stokes Education Commission, accompanied by the Secretary to the Advisory Committee on Native Education in the British Tropical African Dependencies, visited Nyasaland during the year, and upon its report and the appointment of a Director of Education the decision of Government must await as to the education policy to be adopted in the future.

Communications.

The steamer services between Beira and the United Kingdom still leave much to be desired, and passengers are frequently kept waiting at Beira for a week or more owing to the uncertainty of the sailing dates of all steamers except those of the British India Line, which maintain a regular fortnightly or monthly mail service.

It has not yet been found possible for the railway company to run a twice-weekly service, but when they are in a position to do so, it may be hoped that much of the present inconvenience and delay will be avoided.

The time taken between Beira and England is from five to six weeks by intermediate steamer, and about thirty days by the all-sea mail route.

TRANSPORT.

Except in the remote areas, carriage by native porters has been almost entirely replaced by mechanical transport, and every encouragement by means of the exemption from import duty of commercial vehicles and the provision of suitable roads, as funds

permit, is given to this means of transport. Notwithstanding this assistance the cost of local transport is high, especially from places remote from the railway. From Beira the charges are a great handicap to the development of the Protectorate's resources, but until both imports and exports increase in bulk to a very considerable extent these charges are not likely to be materially reduced, as the net railway revenues are insufficient to provide for interest and sinking fund charges on the capital expended.

POSTAL.

A new sub-post office having been opened at Namwera, there are now 28 post offices conducting business; of these 18 both issue and pay money orders, 3 pay only, and 7 transact no money order business.

The money orders issued in 1923-24 amounted to £12,901 and the amount of money orders paid amounted to £9,187. Orders issued and paid in the Protectorate amounted to £8,030. Money orders issued on the United Kingdom show a considerable increase, mainly due to the growing popularity of the C.O.D. business, otherwise the money order business shows a decrease.

Postal orders issued in 1923-24 amounted to £8,063, and the value of postal orders paid was £17,289, an increase of £788 and a decrease of £2,229 respectively.

Postal articles have increased both in the numbers posted and in those delivered, probably due to the improved mail service.

During the year a travelling post office was established on the Shire Highlands Railway, and all letter mails are treated *en route* with the exception of the Zomba and Blantyre direct services. Inward parcel mails are dealt with for Customs assessments at Zomba and Limbe, and all outward parcel mails are despatched from Limbe. The motor mail service with Northern Rhodesia has given great satisfaction and has maintained exceptionally good time in spite of an abnormally wet season.

TELEPHONES.

No extension has been made to the Government telephone system, which is still the only system of any importance in the Protectorate.

TELEGRAPHS.

The African Transcontinental Telegraph Company owns and works the main telegraph system in Nyasaland, which is directly connected with Salisbury in Southern Rhodesia, with Fort Jameson and Fife in Northern Rhodesia, and with Tukuyu in Tanganyika Territory. The railway stations are linked up by the private systems of the railway companies, which work in conjunction with the trunk lines of the African Transcontinental Telegraph Company.

During the year the Company proposed for financial reasons to close down certain important stations, but in the meantime they are being kept open pending negotiations with the Government.

Public Works and Roads.

The principal public works undertaken in Zomba were :— The provision of a water supply to the Central Prison and the Native Hospital; additional storage at Medical Store, and the provision of public latrines. At Blantyre a hospital laundry was built. In the district Chikwawa Boma, consisting of a two-storied resident's house, a three-roomed office, a small prison, and lines for police, warders, and station staff, was erected on a site on the high river bank, thus eliminating what was probably the most unhealthy and badly-equipped station in the country. At Cholo a house was built for the Assistant Resident, but it still requires an iron roof. Financial stringency prevented the building of more civil quarters which, however, are urgently needed, especially at Zomba and Blantyre. Much new work was carried out on the roads. Further re-metalling was done on the Zomba-Blantyre road, and the metalling of the Cholo road continued for another 2½ miles, with new culverts and other necessary work. Culverting was continued on the Blantyre-Ncheu road, and a new district road, with a low level bridge over the Lichenya River, was opened to Mitambi (Mlanje). A new road designed to open up the Mwanza Valley district for native and European settlement was surveyed and roughly constructed as far as the Shire river. On the Fort Jameson road the Lintipe bridge begun last year was completed, and a bridge over the Diampwe, consisting of ten 18-ft. brick arches, was erected. The Lilongwe bridge was strengthened to take four tons (gross live weight); numerous brick arch minor bridges and culverts were built, and drainage improvements carried out.

Bridges over the Lingadzi and Lombadzi rivers, on the Lilongwe-Dowa road (Great North road, first section) were begun.

The Likulezi and Mlosa roads, Mlanje, were improved, and a route from Dedza down the escarpment to the south-west arm of Lake Nyasa was surveyed to a 1 in 15 grade.

Various roads, primarily for the benefit of the cotton industry, were improved from funds made available for cotton development from the profits under the agreement with the British Cotton Growing Association.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

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

ANNUAL.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Year.</i>
1231	Cayman Islands	1923
1232	Leeward Islands	1923-1924
1233	Federated Malay States	1923
1234	Mauritius	"
1235	Straits Settlements	"
1236	Seychelles	"
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1923-1924
1238	Brunei	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States	"
1240	St. Lucia	"
1241	Bahamas	1924
1242	Falkland Islands	1923
1243	Ceylon	"
1244	Basutoland	1924
1245	Nigeria	"
1246	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1923-1924
1247	Bermuda	1923
1248	Wei-hai-wei	1924
1249	Gambia	"
1250	Brunei	"
1251	St. Helena	"
1252	Ashanti	1923-1924
1253	Cyprus	1924
1254	Zanzibar	"
1255	Gold Coast	1923-1924
1256	Federated Malay States	1924

MISCELLANEOUS.

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