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NYASALAND.

REPORT FOR 1928.

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NYASALAND.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1928.

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MAP.

Geography.

The territory comprised in the Nyasaland Protectorate is a strip about 520 miles in length and varying from 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 Zambezi river and Shire river on the west and the Lakes Chiuta and Chilwa and the Rao river, 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 four Provinces, the Zomba, Southern, Central, and Northern, each of which is in the charge of a Provincial Commissioner. Each Province is sub-divided 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 in ascending the Shire, discovered Lakes Shirwa and Pamalombe, and on the 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, the late Mr. Johnston (afterwards 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 feature 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 mid 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.

**Languages.**

The principal language spoken in the Protectorate is Nyanja, which is understood by most tribes throughout the country and is the official language which all civil servants are expected to learn.
Other languages in use in various parts of Nyasaland are Yao, Nguru (which is spoken chiefly by natives who have immigrated from Portuguese East Africa), Tumbuka, Tonga, and Nkonde, the last three practically confined to the Northern Province. Swahili is spoken to a limited extent, chiefly by Mohammedan Yos.

Currency, etc.

The currency of the Protectorate consists of English coinage, gold, silver, and copper but there is no note issue and notes of other parts of the Empire are not legal tender.

The weights and measures in use are also the ordinary English units, although there is an increasing tendency to use the short ton of 2,000 lb. The only two banks operating in Nyasaland are the Standard Bank of South Africa and Barclays' Overseas Bank, formerly the National Bank of South Africa.

I.—GENERAL.

His Excellency opened the 36th session of the Legislative Council on the 2nd of April and, in dealing with the Estimates, observed that the Secretary of State’s advisers had convinced him that the results of the experiments embarked on in 1926 with regard to tsetse fly control measures had not proved so hopeless as it at one time appeared would be the case, and he had accordingly directed that the work should be resumed. In order that an adequate supply of labour might be available for the experiments, the Secretary of State had authorised the proclamation of the work as being of a public nature under the District Administration (Native) Ordinance, 1924. The Governor also announced that he had appointed a standing committee with unofficial representation to advise the Government generally on matters concerning the spread of the tsetse fly, the creation of game reserves, and the destruction or disturbance of game in its relation to the movement of the fly.

The Natives on Private Estates Ordinance which had reached the Committee stage at a previous Session was passed through its remaining stage, the Secretary of State having agreed in the meantime to an amendment whereby the acquisition clauses would not be applicable to estates of less than 3,000 acres. The Governor stated that he would not give his assent until he had acquainted the Secretary of State with any views submitted by Members on the question of restricting land that might be acquired by Government to undeveloped land. The Ordinance received His Excellency’s assent in August and in November an amending Ordinance was passed of which the principal purpose was to raise the 3,000 acre limit for acquisition to 10,000 acres.

The Governor also announced that the draft of a new Crown Lands Bill had been sent to the Secretary of State for consideration.
and that, as the Native Lands Bill was still being held up, the Government was considering the proclamation of Native Reserves under the Crown Lands Ordinance, 1912, as a step towards the creation of Native Trust Lands.

At that time the weather had been so unfavourable that famine conditions later on appeared inevitable. Happily, the prospect improved later on and no famine occurred, although a considerable expenditure was incurred in making the necessary preparations to meet the food shortage which no one at that time doubted would prevail.

In connection with the visit of the Commission on the Nyasaland Protectorate, His Excellency commented on the fact that it was particularly fortunate that Mr. Oldham was a member of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Native Education in Tropical Africa, he was able to give his attention to the working of the new education policy of the Government and submitted a memorandum on the subject which would be of the greatest value in removing misunderstandings that had arisen as to the effect and intentions of the new policy.

He also stated that he had discussed the financial position of the Protectorate very fully with Sir George Schuster, another member of the Commission, and that as a result he was engaged in preparing for the consideration of the Secretary of State a scheme for the re-arrangement of the system of financial control exercised over the Protectorate by the Imperial Treasury, and for meeting our increased liabilities in respect of the capital it would be necessary to provide for improved transportation facilities and for departmental expansion with the object of increasing production so as to increase exports and thus provide the necessary means to reduce the incubus of the Trans-Zambesia Railway Guarantee.

At the session held on the 16th of July, the new unofficial members took their seats for the first time. The Governor stated that the new Crown Lands Bill, which had been prepared in accordance with the instructions of the Secretary of State after very lengthy correspondence, would be introduced at that session, but that he did not intend to pass it through its final stages without allowing ample time for the Secretary of State to consider any objections that might be raised in the debate on the Bill.

The Thirty-Eighth session was held on the 12th of November. His Excellency announced that it had naturally been a great disappointment to everyone in Nyasaland that Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Gloucester had been unable to pay the Protectorate a visit during their East African trip. He had ascertained, however, that lack of time and difficulties of communications had prevented Their Royal Highnesses from arranging their programme so as to pass through Nyasaland or at least to visit the Nyasaland shores of Lake Nyasa.
As regards the Crown Lands Bill, the Governor said that he was not authorised to abandon the two main principles which he understood were to be vigorously opposed, namely the perpetuation of the system of auctioning rentals and the terms under which existing leaseholders could convert their leases to leases for 99 years. He proposed to refer the Bill to a select committee for consideration of the detailed provisions and to ask the committee to report to the Council at the next session. In the meantime he undertook to forward for the consideration of the Secretary of State the gist of the opposition to the general principles of the Bill.

He referred to the scheme for guaranteeing advances to planters to enable them to tide over the period of depression in the tobacco market and stated that it was then in operation, and that advances aggregating £5,700 had been approved to 17 planters.

In July, the Governor called an informal conference, presided over by the Chief Secretary and attended by Heads of Departments, to which all the local European Associations were invited to appoint delegates. As a result of this conference a local Convention of Associations was formed, which will serve a very useful purpose in representing the views of the public on matters of common interest.

In February, Sir Alan Cobham passed through Nyasaland in his flying boat on his African transcontinental journey.

In June, Monsignor Arthur Hinsley visited Nyasaland. He was delegated by the Holy See to visit the Roman Catholic missions in British Africa with special reference to their co-operation in the education policy of the Government. His visit was made the occasion of an Education Conference at which the Education Board and the Heads of the majority of the local missions were present.

During the year, the Secretary of State sanctioned the renaming of Mount Nyamhowa, which overlooks the spot at Livingstonia from which the Reverend Dr. Robert Laws, C.M.G., directed the affairs of his mission. In future this mountain will be known as Mount Laws, in honour of this eminent missionary.

II.—FINANCE.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924–25</td>
<td>293,055</td>
<td>295,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925–26</td>
<td>322,160</td>
<td>303,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926–27</td>
<td>348,320</td>
<td>318,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927 (April–December)</td>
<td>346,341</td>
<td>266,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>378,123(a)</td>
<td>497,377(b)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) Includes £3,150 Loan in aid of annuities, Trans-Zambesia Railway.
(b) Includes £18,276 redemption of Famine Relief Loan, 1924.
The public debt of the Protectorate as at the 31st of December, 1928, was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loan</th>
<th>Total Loan received</th>
<th>Interest &amp; Annuity Charges paid in 1928</th>
<th>Unredeemed balances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shire Highlands Railway:— Subsidy Lands ... ... 180,800</td>
<td>8,371</td>
<td>147,593</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East African Protectorates:— Loan 1915 ... 4 per cent. 12,000</td>
<td>2,890</td>
<td>42,108</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>... 6 per cent. 33,348</td>
<td>2,890</td>
<td>42,108</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans-Zambesia Railway Guarantee and Annuity Loans 1921-27:— January Issues (Plus Interest 1927, £9,660) 105,000</td>
<td>13,650</td>
<td>1,9210</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March Issues ... ... ... 210,550</td>
<td>14,399</td>
<td>189,150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July Issues ... ... ... 125,000</td>
<td>8,750</td>
<td>116,250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June Issues ... ... ... 25,000</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>22,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December Issues ... ... ... 25,000</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>22,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan in Aid of Famine Relief, 1924 20,000</td>
<td>1,745</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£826,698</td>
<td>53,645</td>
<td>739,900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The state of depression in the tobacco market was reflected in the trade of the country and as a consequence the revenue fell below the estimate. The balance of assets over liabilities was reduced during the year by almost £30,000, although this was due in great part to the fact that £18,276 was paid out of ordinary expenditure to redeem the balance of the Loan in Aid of Famine Relief made in 1924.

An amendment was made in the Income Tax Ordinance so as to exempt single persons from tax on the first £300 and married persons on the first £600 as well as to grant allowances in respect of children and insurance.

Under the Non-native Poll Tax Ordinance a charge of two pounds a head was levied on all adult male non-natives.

The Customs Schedule was amended by raising the import duties on spirits from 25s. to 30s. a proof gallon, and the road and river dues on imports and import transit traffic from 2 per cent. to 3 per cent. ad valorem.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculture.

Cotton.—In 1923, the area of cotton planted by Europeans was 20,048 acres. By 1928 it had fallen to 1,046 acres, so that the amount of cotton now grown by Europeans is practically negligible. Unless it is taken up as a rotation crop in mid-elevations there is not much prospect of a revival in this industry.

In 1928, Europeans produced 52 tons of lint cotton and natives produced 746 tons, the percentages of the total being 6.52 and 93.48 respectively. Native production increased from 2,107 tons...
of seed cotton in 1926 to 2,486 tons in 1928. The increase in native production took place chiefly on the Lower Shire. During the year the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation introduced a new variety of seed known as "Over the Top" which is proving satisfactory.

**Tobacco.**—The season was not so favourable for this crop as in the previous year, which was a record one for quantity, and there was a general falling off. The main feature of the season was the growth of dark tobacco rather than brights owing to the glut of the latter variety on the home market. The Native Tobacco Board is concentrating on the Central Province, and there is a marked improvement in native culture and curing.

In 1928, tobacco accounted for 6,482 tons out of the total of 9,110 tons of crops produced for export. Europeans produced 4,054 tons or 62.76 per cent. of the total, and natives produced 2,414 tons or 37.24 per cent. of the whole crop, being a slightly lower proportion than in 1927.

There was not the increase in the number of native tobacco growers that was anticipated, probably owing to the comparatively low prices received by natives the previous year. The number of registered native growers declined from 66,321 in 1927 to 34,761 in 1928.

**Tea.**—This crop continues to expand and in 1928 there was an increase of 526 acres under tea as compared with 1927. The improvement in the standard of cultivation and manufacture continues and there is evidence of progress on all sides in this industry, both as regards increased acreage and new factories. An interesting and valuable report was issued by Dr. Butler following upon his visit to the country the previous year.

**Sisal.**—The recent expansion in the production of this product was continued during the year, the amount exported rising to 1,161 tons as compared with 801 tons in 1927.

**Coffee.**—Interest in this crop is reviving in a small way, and the area devoted to it increased from 875 acres in 1925 to 1,281 acres in 1928. It is hardly likely, however, that coffee will again become an important product in Nyasaland.

The following table shows the annual exports of the principal products in quantities and values during each of the past five years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1924</th>
<th>1925</th>
<th>1926</th>
<th>1927</th>
<th>1928</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tons.</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>Tons.</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>Tons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>3,143</td>
<td>352,348</td>
<td>3,048</td>
<td>345,872</td>
<td>4,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>127,584</td>
<td>1,023</td>
<td>96,243</td>
<td>1,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sisal</td>
<td>706</td>
<td>18,015</td>
<td>785</td>
<td>19,388</td>
<td>920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>37,046</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>64,242</td>
<td>324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1,764</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It may be noted that the successful operations of the Native Tobacco Board gave rise to the question of creating a Native Agricultural Board, and, as a result the Senior Provincial Commissioner at the November session of the Legislative Council gave notice that he proposed to move the following resolution at the next session of the Council:

"That the Council agree to the appointment by His Excellency of a Committee to consider and report upon the desirability or otherwise of the formation of a Native Agricultural Board."

Such a Board, if created, would be vested with the duties hitherto performed by the Native Tobacco Board and would be further charged with the duties of supervising and assisting natives in the production of native crops both economic and otherwise.

Veterinary.

Tick-borne parasites were the main cause of losses among all classes of animals during the year.

The tick-borne parasites *babesia bigemina* and *babesia bovis* as well as *theileria mutans* occur in cattle throughout Nyasaland, and usually cause a comparatively low mortality except where there are other adverse factors, such as liver fluke, wireworm, or tapeworm infection.

East coast fever, *theileria parva* infection, in addition to the annually recurrent losses in the districts where the disease is enzootic, has occurred in epizootic form in parts of the Central Province, and in the early part of the year 563 deaths were reported as having occurred from this disease in one small portion of the Dedza District.

The policy of extending dipping facilities into the cattle rearing districts is being continued. In the southern district of the Central Province, Ncheu, 88 per cent. of the cattle are now being dipped and an increasing percentage of the cattle in the other districts of the Central Province are being provided for each year.

Outbreaks of trypanosomiasis, although detected in practically every district of the country at different times during the year, have not caused very heavy mortality except in North Nyasa, where the spread of tsetse fly and some illicit movements of cattle through tsetse fly infested zones was a cause of losses from this disease.

Infestation by various helminths is extremely common and is often a contributory cause of mortality. This applies particularly to the common liver fluke, which infests the livers of cattle grazed in the highlands and also to the wireworms and tapeworms which are a serious menace to the rearing of young calves. These conditions are being combated, as the number of trained African Field Assistants increases, by the more general application of means for the prevention of infection, and also by the treatment of animals already infected.
The diseases anthrax, blackquarter, demodectic mange and streptothricosis of cattle have been well under control. Only one case of tuberculosis in cattle and one case of rabies in a dog were reported during the year.

The general increase in the numbers of all classes of animals has been extremely satisfactory.

**Forestry.**

No new Forest Reserves were proclaimed during the year, although various proposals for further reservation were put forward for consideration.

Certain adjustments were made in the boundaries of two or three reserves in order to exclude native settlements, and others were closely examined with a view to excluding any existing native settlements in them, either by reduction of area or by concentrating the villages into definite excisions.

The preliminary reconnaissance of the Protectorate’s forests, which was commenced in 1923, is now practically complete (with the exception of the North Nyasa District which is owned by the British South Africa Company), and much has been accomplished in the collection of data as to the distribution, composition, and existing state of the forests in each district. It is established that the forests mostly consist of the dry "open woodland" and "savanna" types which are generally of little commercial value except for providing poles and fuel for local use. Nevertheless such material constitutes the main demand of the population in its present stage of development and vigorous action is considered necessary to safeguard future supplies, on account of forest destruction due to the practice of shifting-cultivation by the people.

The scheme of "village forest areas," referred to in last year’s Report, is considered to be the only practical means of dealing with the matter. To a great extent it must essentially be an administrative concern, although the Forestry Department will give all possible advice and assistance in promoting and developing the scheme. Only a very few new "village forest areas" were allotted and demarcated during the past year, chiefly on account of District Commissioners being unable to spare time to co-operate in this particular work.

There were 1,223 convictions under the Forest Ordinance during the year, as compared with a total of 288 in 1927. This increase was due to stricter measures being taken for enforcing the forest regulations rather than to any actual increase in the breach of them.

Departmental exploitation of the Mlanje cypress forests, for supplying building timber to the Public Works Department, was continued throughout the year and adequate stocks of sawn timber were made available.

Timber, poles, and firewood were also supplied to the Public Works and other Government Departments from plantations at Zomba, Blantyre, and South Nyasa.
Timber and forest produce was sold to the public under the licence system, and forest revenue showed a satisfactory increase over previous years.

Short courses of instruction for Native Foresters and Forest Guards were held in the Southern, Central, and Northern Provinces.

The Mlanje cypress forests and all forest plantations were protected from fire by means of hoed roads and fire patrols. Fire was also successfully kept out of a few of the smaller "protection" reserves. Cleaning, tending, and thinning operations were undertaken in existing plantations, and additional areas were planted up under afforestation schemes at Zomba, Limbe, and Dedza. Re-afforestation was also carried out at Mlanje, in areas of cypress forest which had been clear-felled under exploitation plans.

Experimental work was continued in all forest divisions, particular attention being given to:

(a) The trial of indigenous and exotic species, for afforestation purposes, under varying climatic and soil conditions.
(b) Various methods of nursery practice, with a view to ascertaining the most suitable for various species.
(c) Immunity of species from attack by termites and other pests.
(d) Work in connection with minor products, e.g., gums.

Advice on forestry matters was given to the public wherever asked for either by letter, interview, or by personal inspection.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

Trade conditions during 1928 were detrimentally affected by the depressed state of the market for Empire tobacco, with the result that the volume of trade decreased by £439,696, equal to 19.9 per cent., when compared with the exceptionally good trade year of 1927. Compared, however, with the year 1926, a year of normal conditions, the volume of trade shows an increase of £129,013, or 7.8 per cent. Occasional set-backs are to be expected in a country, the present mainstay of which is tobacco growing, and the trade of which is governed by the success or otherwise of this commodity. Despite these set-backs, however, Nyasaland trade continues to make gratifying progress.

Imports of a capital nature were fewer, partly due, no doubt, to requirements of this kind being imported during the year preceding this in quantities sufficient for a number of years. This applies especially to the larger types of motor-lorries.

The fall in market prices of some of the important products of the Protectorate, particularly sisal, tea, and cotton, also affected the purchasing power of the country. This fall so affected the local values of exports as to be the main cause of the trade balance veering again to imports, by £162,706. In the preceding year this balance favoured exports by £22,408.
The import of cotton piece goods appears to be steadily declining, due, doubtless, to the greater attraction of ready-made clothing, shirts, &c. The native demand for bicycles, sewing machines, and cheap hardware is yearly increasing.

The incidence of the import trade remains practically the same as last year, viz.:—European 57 per cent., Native 38 per cent., and Indian 5 per cent.

The volume of trade, domestic imports and exports (excluding Government imports) and goods in transit, is shown below for each of the last five years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Volume of Trade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>1,278,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>1,294,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>1,637,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>2,206,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>1,766,742</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As compared with 1927, the trade volume of the year may be analysed as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1927</th>
<th>Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Imports</td>
<td>938,461</td>
<td>68,993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exports</td>
<td>251,112</td>
<td>254,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transit Inwards</td>
<td>33,834</td>
<td>82,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transit Outwards</td>
<td>82,752</td>
<td>23,646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton manufactures</td>
<td>63,552</td>
<td>7,938</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The importation of manufactured articles declined by £56,492, equal to 7.1 per cent., when compared with that of the previous year. Iron and steel manufactures improved by 6,847 cwt. and £3,111, this increase being due, mainly, to larger importations of structural material for tea factories, and railway rolling stock and materials increased by 97,965 cwt. and £43,592. Decreases are shown against agricultural implements and machinery by 5,867 cwt. and £9,920; machinery by 333 cwt., and £7,618; motor spirit by 25,640 gallons and £6,226; cotton manufactures by £7,958; and vehicles and parts by £58,654.

Touring motor-cars, with a total import of 128 (78 from the United Kingdom) were fewer by 8, and commercial lorries and tractors with a total of 88 (United Kingdom 14) were less by 132. Cotton piece goods, with a total import quantity of 8,190,440 lineal yards, declined by 679,790 yards.

The significant feature of the domestic trade is the considerable comparative increase in the value of foreign imports which, this year and for the first time in Nyassaland's history, exceeds the value of direct imports from the United Kingdom. The shipment value
of imports from the United Kingdom was 39.49 per cent. of the total as against 43.76 per cent. in 1927 and 44.66 per cent. in 1926. Foreign imports equalled 40.32 per cent. of the whole as compared with 33.75 per cent. in 1927 and 34.61 per cent. in 1926. Imports from Germany, increased by 2.73 per cent. and those from Japan increased by 21 per cent.

The following table shows four years' direct importations of cotton manufactures, the most valuable item in the import trade of the Protectorate, and indicates how the United Kingdom still continues to lose this trade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Value</th>
<th>From United Kingdom</th>
<th>From India</th>
<th>From Other</th>
<th>From Foreign Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>259,074</td>
<td>108,343</td>
<td>73,438</td>
<td>17,614</td>
<td>50,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>300,863</td>
<td>108,363</td>
<td>66,031</td>
<td>21,71</td>
<td>52,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>275,301</td>
<td>62,237</td>
<td>95,106</td>
<td>34,598</td>
<td>10,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>248,316</td>
<td>33,631</td>
<td>76,988</td>
<td>28,723</td>
<td>10,267</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The allocation of direct consignments of domestic trade import for each of the last four years, is given in the statement below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>United Kingdom</th>
<th>British Possessions</th>
<th>Foreign Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>259,074</td>
<td>108,343</td>
<td>50,719</td>
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<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>248,316</td>
<td>33,631</td>
<td>10,267</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since 1925 direct imports from the United Kingdom have declined by 10.51 per cent., those from British possessions by 3.31 per cent., while those from foreign countries have increased by 13.82 per cent.

India, outside the United Kingdom, is the largest contributor in the Empire to the Protectorate's import trade; shipping 11.5 per cent. of the total—mainly cotton manufactures. South Africa shipped 4.5 per cent. and Southern Rhodesia 3.4 per cent. Of the foreign countries Portuguese East Africa supplied 13.7 per cent. of the total, chiefly motor spirit, paraffin, cotton manufactures, salt, and sugar; Germany shipped 8.4 per cent., cotton goods, beads, hoes and hardware; the United States supplied 5.8 per cent., cotton goods; Belgium 4.4 per cent., rolling stock; Holland 2.6 per cent., cotton goods, blankets, beads, and fertilizers and Japan 1.5 per cent.
The uncertainty of the tobacco market restricted production of this commodity, with the result that the weight exported, amounting to 5,193 tons, was less by 1,711 tons than the quantity shipped in 1927. There was a larger production of cotton, due to stabilised and improved prices, although the quantity actually exported, amounting to 797 tons, was lower than the 1927 shipment by 28 tons. This discrepancy is accounted for by a large carry over from 1926 compared with a much smaller carry over into 1928. Natives produced over 90 per cent of the 1928 crop.

Tea improved its export weight by 114 tons, being 637 tons as against 523 tons shipped in 1927, and sisal exports, having this year taken second place in Protectorate crops, were better by 380 tons. The quantity shipped amounted to 1,161 tons. The weight of fibre exported 15 years ago was 17 tons.

The total exports of the Protectorate weighed 8,962 tons and were valued at £706,757, as against 9,829 tons valued at £860,869 in 1927. A decrease in weight of 8.74 per cent. and in value of 26.4 per cent.

Of the total domestic products exported the United Kingdom took 96 per cent. by weight and 99.4 per cent. by value. Exports to other countries were negligible.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

Except for the steamers of the British India Line which maintain a regular mail service, there are no fixed sailing dates from Beira and passengers are often kept waiting some days at that port awaiting the departure of the ship on which they are booked. Similar delays occur on the inward journey, as there is only one regular train a week from Beira to Blantyre, although a mid-week or special train is occasionally run. The voyage from England to Beira takes about 30 days by mail steamer and from five to six weeks by other vessels.

Railways.

There are three separate railway systems to be passed over on the journey from Beira to Blantyre, although they are all under one management. These are the Trans-Zambesi Railway from Beira to Murraca on the south of the Zambesi. Passengers and cargoes cross the river by a ferry-steamer, for as yet there is no bridge. From Chindio, opposite Murraca, the Central African railway runs to Port Herald, and the Shire Highlands Railway continues from the latter place, the port of entry into the Protectorate, to Blantyre. The journey normally occupies two days, passengers sleeping the intervening night on the ferry-steamer.
Roads.

Road development was continued from funds provided under the East African Loan, and it may be said that every local area of production not directly served by railway or lake steamer now has its road connection, for motor transport purposes, with the rail-head.

It follows that future development will consist of improvement of the present road system rather than its extension, and will particularly include the execution of such works as will reduce the frequency and duration of the periods, in the wet season, for which un-metalled roads have to be closed to heavy traffic.

The road between Blantyre and Tete, and thence to Salisbury, was opened during the dry season. The extent to which it was used indicated that it will form an important inter-territorial link in the future.

With regard to maintenance, an earth road of the type which constitutes over nine-tenths of the road system of the Protectorate requires to be reconditioned annually after the rains, and then, if used by heavy traffic, must be kept continuously under repair.

Pending the introduction, at each road centre, of mechanical equipment of the type which has been evolved in the United States of America for dealing with earth roads, and which is being generally adopted wherever similar conditions prevail (as for instance in Kenya and Tanganyika), attempts have been made to institute a system of maintenance by permanent gangs, living on the road in camps which have been provided for them. The alternative of arranging with local natives, through their Headman, for the re-conditioning and maintenance of certain sections of road adjacent to their villages and remunerating them on a piece-work basis, has also been tried.

By neither method has much success been achieved at present, and for the most part the work has to be executed by casual labour taken on by the month, which is unsatisfactory owing to the difficulties first, of securing a regular supply of volunteers when and where they are required, and secondly, of training and supervising them.

Postal.

The abnormal increase in mail traffic for 1927 over 1926 was not maintained in 1928, but the increase, though small, was satisfactory. The number of postal articles dealt with was 2,440,000, a comparison with 2,411,672. Local letters increased by 3,660. Correspondence to and from Great Britain showed a slight increase, but traffic with other countries showed a considerable decrease. Parcels also decreased by 900.

The C.O.D. for parcels continued to be popular. Money orders and postal orders show a satisfactory increase.

Telegrams.

There was a decrease in telegraphic traffic in 1928 as compared with 1927. The increase in 1927 was mainly due to the introduction of
the Cape Town "beam" wireless installation which resulted in "beam" traffic to and from Tanganyika Territory and Kenya transmitting over our land lines. Owing to serious delay due to the number of transmissions this traffic has reverted to the cable route. Apart from the abnormal increase in 1927 the traffic for 1928 was very satisfactory, an increase of 11,274 messages over 1926 being shown.

The telegraph system was extended during the year and both telegraph and telephone construction is provided for in 1929.

The Protectorate is still without a wireless installation and no provision has yet been made for the introduction of this useful system. Over 40 free licences have been issued in respect of receiving sets and excellent results have been obtained on both long wave and short wave sets.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The Police Force consists of 14 European officers and 502 African ranks. The cost of the Police Department for 1928 was £16,917.

Crime.

Crime in the settled areas of the Southern and Zomba Provinces has not shown the same tendency to increase as in the years immediately following the War. The total number of offences reported was 2,643, of which 387 were offences against the person and 1,948 against property, resulting in the convictions of 53 Europeans, 54 Asiatics, and 1,795 Africans.

There is little serious crime in the districts not affected by the settlement of non-natives.

Prisons.

The established prisons of the Protectorate consist of a Central Prison at Zomba for the detention of long-sentence prisoners, at which various trades are taught, and 19 District prisons, situated at the headquarters stations of each District, for the detention of short-sentence prisoners.

The prison staff consists of a Chief Inspector of Prisons and two other European officers, and 128 African warders and wardresses. The European officers are in charge of the Central Prison, and District prisons are under the supervision of District Administrative or Police officers.

The total number of persons committed to the prisons during 1928 was 3,280, of whom 667 were for safe custody pending trial and 2,613 for purposes of penal imprisonment, including 17 capital sentences.

The cost of the Prison Department for 1928 was £5,733.
VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The following table gives expenditure under the various heads for 1928, compared with that for the previous year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1927</th>
<th>1928</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Works Department</td>
<td>£15,048</td>
<td>£16,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Works Annually Recurrent</td>
<td>£14,834</td>
<td>£15,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Works Extraordinary</td>
<td>£12,797</td>
<td>£13,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan</td>
<td>£9,469</td>
<td>£17,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£52,088</strong></td>
<td><strong>£63,442</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total increase</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>£11,354</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following were the most important works undertaken during the year, apart from ordinary maintenance and improvement of buildings, roads, &c.:

- The new east wing of Government House, Zomba, containing the drawing-room and principle bedrooms, was completed and occupied.
- The west wing containing dining and hall-room with council chamber on the ground floor, and spare bedrooms on the first floor, was partially roofed by the end of the year.
- New European quarters were completed as follows:
  - Magistrate, Blantyre (by contract), Police Officer and Forest Officer, Limbe.
  - Comptroller of Customs, Limbe; Assistant Director of Education and Assistant Auditor, Zomba.
- New European quarters in progress but not completed were:
  - Comptroller of Customs, Limbe; Assistant Director of Education and Assistant Auditor, Zomba.
  - A standard steel bridge of 100 feet span, with brick arch approach spans, was erected at Lilongwe on the trunk road from Dedza.
  - A similar bridge was commenced at Ngara, across the Bua river, on the Great North road.
- The steel work was imported for two other similar bridges for the Luchenza-Manje road.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The population of the Protectorate at the end of 1928 was estimated at 1,877 Europeans, 1,085 Asians, and 1,326,165 Natives.

The health of the European population during 1928 was good. One hundred and forty-seven Europeans were admitted to the Government hospitals as compared with 179 during the previous year. Five deaths were recorded as against four in 1927. The number treated as out-patients was also lower, being 652 against 715 in 1927. As in previous years, malaria was responsible for more sickness amongst Europeans than any other disease. Of the total
number of cases—799—malaria was responsible for 127—the same number as in 1927. Infections of the air passages amounted to 90; influenza, 50; diarrhoea and enteritis, 55.

From the Native population 3,781 cases were admitted to the Government hospitals as in-patients and, as out-patients, 108,181 cases were treated, the attendances amounting to well over half a million. Over 40,000 cases of skin diseases were treated, of which more than half were ulcers. Injuries of various kinds amounted to over 29,000, as did affections of the digestive system, whilst respiratory affections numbered over 25,000. Of the recorded deaths over 21 per cent, were due to bronchitis or pneumonia; nearly 17 per cent, were the result of injuries (including accidental poisoning); over 10 per cent, were due to ankylostomiasis, and over 10 per cent, to diarrhoea or dysentery. Of the other deaths recorded no one disease was responsible for over 4 per cent.

Towards the latter part of the year smallpox broke out, having spread from adjoining territory, and some 25 cases were reported. The outbreak continued into the year 1929 and the numbers of cases increased.

During the year, further statistics were collected in various parts of the Protectorate in an endeavour to obtain figures relating to births and deaths among natives. Although the figures relate to small areas, they may be considered representative of the whole Protectorate, in so far as it is possible to obtain reliable statistics without creating an elaborate machinery for the purpose, such as a systematic registration of births and deaths.

### Central Province

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Births</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infants</td>
<td>Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>315</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The infantile mortality was thus 200 per 1,000 births.

### South Nyasa District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Births</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infants</td>
<td>Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>194</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In this case the infantile mortality was 221.6 per 1,000.

The District Commissioner, Liwonde, also in the Zomba Province, made a special effort to get at the facts of infantile mortality. He pointed out that the collection of these statistics causes considerable annoyance to the people questioned, especially to the old women, who on occasion were seen to break down and wail when reminded of their dead children. It would appear that although the births may be accurately recorded, the deaths, as the figures quoted above seem to show, are not so readily revealed.
The Liwonde figures were as follows:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Births</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill People</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River People</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government employees</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>453</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

So far as these figures can be taken as representative they show a much higher mortality in the low-lying district than in the hills.

The infantile mortality was 142 per 1,000 in the hills, and 176 per 1,000 in the low levels.

IX.—EDUCATION.

During the year the Government and all interested in education throughout the Protectorate sustained a deep loss through the death while on leave of Mr. R. F. Gaunt, the Director of Education.

Visits of inspection were made to all mission stations by the late Director and Assistant Director, and a few village schools were also inspected. The Board of Education held four meetings during the year and the Executive Committee of the Board met on four occasions.

From the educational point of view, the most important matter of the year was the drafting of a new Education Ordinance to meet the objections that had been raised in various quarters to the 1927 Ordinance. The Foreign Missions Committee of the United Free Church of Scotland and the Universities Mission to Central Africa were the bodies chiefly concerned in raising objections to certain features of the Education Ordinance as it stood.

A conference of Heads of Missions and others concerned was convened in March, which was attended by Mr. J. H. Oldham, and amendments were framed to embody the various recommendations made. In June, on the occasion of the visit of Bishop Hinsley, an informal conference considered those proposed amendments. As a result of these two conferences and the discussions of the Board of Education a new Bill was drafted and submitted to the Secretary of State for approval.

District School Committees had been appointed in each district of the Protectorate by the end of the year, but it had not so far been necessary to appoint any Provincial Committees.

The policy of the Government has resulted in a greater effort on the part of the missions in establishing training centres and refresher courses for the staffs of their village schools. There is, however, a continued loss of trained teachers on account of the higher wages that educated natives can command in other occupations.

The total number of certificated teachers at the end of 1928 was 599 third grade, 76 second grade, 4 first grade, and 227 honorary certificates have been issued. Ten women teachers were successful in obtaining third grade certificates.
The first buildings necessary to begin the Jeanes’ Training Centre were almost completed during the year, and it is hoped that the first course will open in May, 1929, with twenty-four selected teachers attending it.

Greater attention is now being given to agricultural work in all schools, but the benefits will not be great until the teachers themselves have had the benefit of an adequate training in the subject.

The Vocational Training Committee of the Board of Education made preliminary steps in the direction of investigating the types of industrial training given throughout the Protectorate and of classifying the qualifications of the various instructors employed by the missions.

At the Livingstone Mission and at the Church of Scotland Mission at Blantyre, attention continued to be devoted to the training of dressers and hospital assistants, and medical training is also a feature of the educational work of the Universities’ Mission to Central Africa.

Grants in aid of native education to the total amount of £7,842 were distributed among the various missions during the year.

In addition a sum of £600 was divided between the four schools engaged in the education of European children. Sanction was not received for the scheme of building a Government central school for European education.

X.—LAND AND SURVEY.

During the year 23 leases of Crown Land, with a total acreage of 8,410 acres, were issued, as compared with 50 leases totalling 10,403 acres in 1927. The majority were for land for the cultivation of tobacco. Four leases totalling 1,003 acres were surrendered.

No exchanges of any importance were completed during the year.

The demand for yearly tenancy agreements for plots for native trade has continued. 151 agreements were issued as against 182 in the previous year.

The falling off in the number of leases and, in a lesser degree, the number of yearly tenancy agreements may be attributed to a great extent to the depressed state of the tobacco market.

During the year 47 surveys totalling 21,227 acres were effected.

The Geological Survey Department completed the coal-boring operations near Chiroro and a final report on the work was submitted. It was shown that although coal of satisfactory commercial quality had been proved to exist, the area did not offer good prospects of development owing to the highly disturbed condition of the strata.

An economic survey of the proposed railway extension from Blantyre to Lake Nyasa was made and detailed reports were submitted on the resources of building stone and brick-clay, limestones and cement materials, and water supply.

The asbestos deposits of the southern part of Nyasa District were examined and reported upon. Many exposures were seen, but
in most cases these were very small; in no case had the trial working
gone beyond the weathered zone, but certain of the larger deposits
showed promise of commercial development.
Deposits of additional minerals were also examined; these
included iron ore, graphite, corundum, garnet, and spinel.
The Rwani Valley and the Lilongwe area were visited in order
to report upon questions of water supply.
Much time was devoted to the examination of rocks belonging
to the crystalline series, particularly in North Nyasa and in the
Port Herald Hills.

XI.—LABOUR.

Owing to the depressed state of the tobacco industry, there was
a falling off in the number of natives employed in 1928.
The Public Works Department has adopted a system of providing
permanent camps whenever possible for the labourers employed by
them on road work, but the system has not met with much success
as road construction work is still unpopular.
Rest houses have been instituted at various places for the use of
native labourers travelling between their homes and their places of
employment, and it is also proposed to provide such accommodation
at various ports on Lake Nyasa.
It had been intended to take a census of native labour during the
year, but owing to the unfavourable conditions in the country it
was decided to postpone it until 1929. It will therefore be possible
to give a more complete account under this heading in the report
for that year.
There is no doubt that employers of labour are giving more attention
than formerly to the comfort and well-being of their employees,
especially in the direction of medical attention for which purposes
drugs and medicines are supplied at cost price by the Government.
Where labour is employed on task work there is a general tendency
for the task to decrease, owing to competition between the various
employers of labour.
The practice of signing on labour under formal contract is on the
decrease and the majority of the unskilled labourers are employed
from mouth to month on what is known locally as the ticket system.
The ticket is marked each day the labourer works, and the wages
are paid when the month's work has been completed.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Certain legislation dealt with during the year was mentioned
previously in this report. Other Ordinances of importance which
were passed were:

(a) The Lunacy Ordinance which provided for the certification
and care of lunatics and repealed the Native Lunatics Ordinance,
1913, and certain sections of the High Court Practice and Procedure Ordinance, 1906, under which such matters were previously dealt with.

(b) The Asylum Ordinance which controls the constitution and government of asylums and the discipline and terms of service of the staff.

c) The Bankruptcy Ordinance which consolidated and amended the law relating to bankruptcy in the Protectorate.

d) The King's African Rifles Ordinance which repealed the 1911 Ordinance as amended from time to time and provided for the constitution, duties, discipline, and government of the military forces.
### EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

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AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATION IN THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING DEPENDENCIES.
Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 2926.] 2s. 6d. (2s. 9d.).

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