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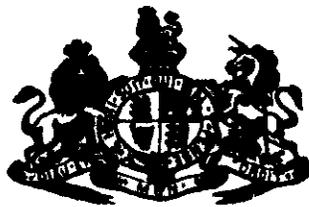
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 226.

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 1896-7.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
April 1898.



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1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

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ANNUAL.

No	Colony.	Year.
193	Bahamas	1896
194	Zululand	"
195	Gambia	"
196	Malta	"
197	British New Guinea	1895-96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	"
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
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206	Falkland Islands	"
207	British Honduras	"
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No.	Colony.	Subject.
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2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.

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HIGH COMMISSIONER SIR ALFRED MILNER TO
MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Cape Town,
14th October, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your information, a copy of a letter from Mr. Newton enclosing Annual Reports for the Bechuanaland Protectorate for the year ended 31st March last.

I have, &c.,

A. MILNER,

Governor and High Commissioner.

FROM THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, MAFEKING, TO
THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, CAPE TOWN.

Mafeking,

31st August, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for your Excellency's information, copies of the Annual Reports for the year ended the 31st March last, which I have received from the Assistant Commissioners of the Northern and Southern Protectorates, the Commandant of the Bechuanaland Protectorate Division of the British South Africa Police, and the Postmaster-General.

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The Reports of the two Assistant Commissioners tell the same tale of rinderpest, drought, scarcity, and sickness. The greatest of these afflictions has been the rinderpest.

The territory was attacked at very short notice by an almost unknown disease in its most virulent form, which took for its victims the staple product, the chief means of livelihood, an important item of the food supply, and the capital and the currency of the country. To what an extent cattle performed all these functions is perfectly familiar to residents in the North, and they can best realise what a paralysing blow has been dealt by the visitation. Acting under professional advice, the Government ordered the destruction of over ten thousand head of cattle in the course of a few weeks, in the hope of checking infection. This was effected almost without a murmur and without the slightest resistance, either from Europeans or natives, by a handful of police.

The rinderpest travelled through the country from north to south, at one time at the rate of 25 miles a day, and destroyed not less than 90 per cent.—at a low estimate—of the enormous heads of cattle within the Protectorate.

The failure of the crops for the second year in succession followed heavily on the rinderpest. As pointed out by Mr. Surmon and myself in previous correspondence, the distress was not so great as had been at first anticipated, for these reasons:—

1. The natives made “biltong” not only from the cattle which otherwise they would have lost from rinderpest, but also from those they had actually lost from the disease.

2. Their reserve of purchasing power in cash, or in produce other than large cattle, was greater than had been estimated.

It is satisfactory therefore to be able to report that, with the exception of small supplies of daily rations given here and there to destitute aged and sick persons, there has been no free grant of relief to natives generally, as was at first feared might be necessary; supplies of grain were laid down at suitable spots and retailed at a fixed and, as nearly as could be estimated, at cost price. The Government has, however, sustained some loss by expenses of transport, death of mules and depreciation of grain, which could not well be allowed for or avoided.*

A very welcome contribution from the London Relief Committee was devoted to the purchase and distribution of seed grain among the Bechuanas. This grain was sold at a nominal price to cover the cost of transport from the port or place of purchase.

To counterbalance these misfortunes, the construction of the Railway through the Territory has given most valuable aid

* See *infra* under Expenditure, item Native Relief.

both in furnishing a profitable field for labour and in forwarding food supplies. The work, begun in January, 1896, has proceeded swiftly and with little or no intermission from the Ramathlabana Spruit to the Ramaqueban River. As far as the Protectorate is concerned "*Finis coronat opus*," and European and native alike may now rest secure in their immunity from famine, or, at any rate, from famine prices. The actual work of construction has been of the greatest advantage to the country. The Bechuana, a pastoral race, are not naturally good labourers—eight Colonial kaffirs carry a rail under which sixteen Bechuana stagger; there were also at the outset one or two unfortunate misunderstandings between sub-contractors and headmen as to wages. In time, however, the supply of labourers came in freely, and the natives of the country have not only learnt to work, but also to appreciate the very liberal rates of pay allowed by the contractors and those who work under them.

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I take this opportunity of recording the courtesy and consideration which the officers of the Government have always received from the Messrs. Pauling, the contractors, and their employees, who have done their best throughout to assist in the maintenance of order and in the repression of the sale or gift of liquor to natives in their employ.

Throughout the whole of the native districts, there has been, in spite of the misfortunes already described, perfect peace. I must make one slight exception to this statement, viz., that of a small intertribal quarrel among the Bakwena, which arose in a great measure from the incompetence of the Paramount Chief Sebele to rule over his people. The matter in dispute has been for the time peacefully, if not finally, disposed of by the removal of Khari's sons and clan from Kolobeng to Monokwe.

The Report of the Commandant of Police furnishes returns in the usual form of work done during the year. The police duty during that period has been particularly arduous and, so far as individuals are concerned, has on the whole been well performed.

But the organization and working of the police leaves, in my opinion, some room for improvement. There has not been that cordial and active co-operation between the magisterial authority and the police which is necessary for the administration of justice and the maintenance of an effective police supervision in native districts. I ascribe this to a system and a sentiment which date from the time when the police were rather a military force, having its central camp at Makloutsi, than a genuine police force. What is now required is a body rather resembling the Cape police in its method of working; whose members the local magisterial authority should be able to instruct and direct in all matters other than those of maintenance, equipment, and discipline.

Your Excellency will no doubt note the testimony borne by Mr. Surmon to the value of the services rendered by the new

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Basuto police, which from personal knowledge I readily endorse. Our best thanks are due to Sir Godfrey Lagden, who selected the officers and men, and forwarded them from Basutoland, mounted, equipped, and ready for duty. The men enlisted are of an excellent stamp; active and willing, and for the most part discreet and intelligent: they are good riders and well mounted; and have managed to find their way about over a strange country with ease, and to make friends among a strange people whose language they have quickly acquired. There can be no question as to the loyalty of these Basuto, and I should be glad to see their sphere of usefulness extended so as to include the Northern Protectorate and Ngamiland. To thoroughly police the whole Protectorate will prove a heavy responsibility and expense, and to do so with efficiency and economy the European may in many places be replaced by the Basuto.

Throughout the year, a detachment of European police, commanded by an officer having magisterial powers, has been stationed in Ngamiland. Chiefly owing to inexperience and the difficulties of communication, no great progress was made in extending our influence or authority over the natives there. A fresh detachment has now been sent up under Lieutenant Scholefield, who is cordially co-operating with Major Lugard in his work of developing and opening up the country under the auspices of the British West Charterland Company.

I have the honour to enclose a statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year ended 31st March, 1897.

REVENUE—£47,510.

The true Revenue of the Country, derived from Customs, Licences, Stamps, Posts, and Sundries, amounted to about £20,000.

The bulk of the items sales of Government Property and sundries, which together amount to £29,358, is derived from the sale of spare stores, camp equipments, &c. in excess of requirements, and from the sale of grain at approximately cost price for cash to natives.

As regards Posts, it must be borne in mind that though the Revenue under this head has practically equalled the expenditure, this has only been arrived at by the aid of an abnormally high postal rate for the Northern Territories and of a heavy transit rate secured to us on Matabeleland postage. Both of these sources of revenue will, I trust, shortly be curtailed. In fact, the railway will reduce both postal revenue and postal expenditure, to the very great advantage of the public.

Your Excellency will find in the very full report of the Postmaster General all information on this head.

EXPENDITURE—£88,448.

On the principal item, Police, £40,102, I have already made some remark.

The cost of maintenance of horses and mules was this year unusually heavy, owing to the high prices of forage and grain, and the scarcity of transport. The cost of the Ngamiland detachment and part of the cost of Major Goold Adams's expedition have also been a charge on the police vote.

The remaining ordinary items of expenditure, from "Pensions" to "Medical," call for no further remark.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION—£339.

This sum represents part of the cost of Major Goold Adams's journey through the Protectorate, where he was engaged in delimiting the boundaries of Bathoen, Sebele, and Linchwe, prior to his journey into the Northern Interior.

RINDERPEST—£4,707.

Expenditure to the foregoing amount was incurred in maintaining an extra force of special police, and also in burning or burying the thousands of carcasses in the vicinity of the principal roads and rivers. Most of the chiefs and headmen in the Protectorate eventually gave active assistance in the destruction of carcasses and kraals.

NATIVE RELIEF—£24,152.

The deficit in cash on this work amounted to £10,973 : as the sale of grain to natives realised £11,180 : and an amount of about £2000 was recovered through the Customs Union as revenue, for duty paid on the imported grain at the port. Against this deficit must be set off a useful stock of sixteen wagons and sets of harness and some fifty mules. The remainder of the mules (about 200) died in the course of the year. There was also a considerable balance of unsold grain in stock at Mafeking and Gaberones on the 31st March last ; while it should also be taken into calculation that a valuable amount of police transport work was incidentally performed by the Native Relief Transport Service which was in charge of the police. The work of relief, which consisted in the distribution and sale of grain, was performed without any substantive addition to the staff of the Protectorate. It involved the performance of a great deal of extra duty, which was cheerfully performed by those on whom it devolved, without any suggestion of extra pay. The supply of grain at cost price went far to relieve the want, which in some places amounted to distress, among the natives. Had the food requirements of the country been left to be supplied through the natural channels of trade, some traders would have made fortunes

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and many natives would have starved. The sale of grain by the Government, which has so far fulfilled the purpose for which it was instituted, will be discontinued so soon as the prospects of a food supply are tolerably certain.

GENERAL.

The retrospect of such a year does not tempt one to prognosticate. It must be many years before the stock of cattle in the country can be raised to its normal strength. By that time sheep and goats may be found to be doing well in places where they would not otherwise have had a chance. But the best results may be safely anticipated from the making of the railway, the finest "improvement scheme" of any that can be devised for an undeveloped land. "Railroads are the very arteries which carry the life blood of countries; without them the country languishes and dies, with them it springs up again into healthy life." Without a railway the Protectorate would have remained in at least a state of suspended animation for many years to come.

The Northern extension undertaken by the Bechuanaland Railway Company has justified the enterprise of its promoters in the first year of its existence, and will be in time not only the vehicle for the local trade of the Eastern Valley of the Protectorate, but also the chief instrument whereby Northern and North Western Zambesia and the vast plains around Ghansi and the Western Kalahari will be opened up for development and occupation.

As regards the mineral wealth of the country, little can be said. The Tati Concessions Company are thoroughly prospecting the comparatively small strip of territory which they hold under their concession from Lobengula.

The rest of the country is for the most part unprospected and almost unknown to mining Europeans. The fact, however, is worth recording that good coal has been discovered close to the railway in the Northern Protectorate in such a form as to encourage closer search for a payable seam.

I have, &c ,

F. J. NEWTON,

Resident Commissioner.

SOUTHERN PROTECTORATE : ANNUAL REPORT.

Assistant Commissioner's Office,

Gaberones, 27th August, 1897.

SIR,

IN compliance with the instructions contained in Your Honour's Minute of the 9th inst., I have the honour to submit the following Report for the year ended the 31st March last:—

1. The last year has been a most disastrous one for the natives in the Protectorate, and it will take a long time for them to recover from the very severe losses they have sustained during that period.

2. In March, 1896, the cattle plague known as rinderpest appeared at Palla, the northern border of the Southern Protectorate, having been brought down from Matabeleland by transport oxen. Endeavours were made to stamp it out by shooting all the spans of oxen and herds which first became infected with it, but the ox-wagon traffic between Buluwayo and Mafeking was so great at the time that the few police then in the country were totally inadequate to check the advance of the disease, and it rapidly swept through the whole of the Southern Protectorate, carrying off about 95 per cent. of the cattle in the country, and leaving hundreds of wagons stranded along the roads. The loss of their cattle has been a very severe blow to the natives, who had many thousands, and who depended, to a large extent, upon the milk from them for food for their families and upon the cattle themselves as currency wherewith to purchase whatever they required ; added to this, nearly all their crops during the last two seasons failed through drought and locusts.

3. In order to relieve the distress amongst the natives caused by the loss of their cattle and the failure of their crops, the Government sent grain into the country and sold it at cost price. The London Relief Committee also provided a number of bags of Kaffir corn and seed mealies, which were distributed amongst the different tribes.

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4. The relief thus afforded warded off any actual starvation, but many of the people died of scurvy, caused, it is believed, by their eating meat only, which most of the natives did during the time the rinderpest raged in the country, and for some time afterwards.

5. Seeing that there was no hope of saving their cattle, they slaughtered many of them before they were affected by the disease, and sun-dried the meat in order to preserve it as long as possible. Some even dried the meat of cattle that actually died of rinderpest. The meat thus dried was kept, and formed the sole diet of many for several months.

6. Scurvy disappeared soon after the people began using, as food, the grain supplied by Government; but not long afterwards malarial fever broke out in several of the large villages and carried off a large number of the people. Some are still suffering from it, but not nearly so many as were a few months ago, and the death rate has greatly decreased.

7. In June, 1896, a European passenger by mail coach arrived here from Buluwayo suffering from typhoid fever, and, as he was too unwell to proceed by the coach, he remained here at one of the stores. He ultimately recovered, but several others, including his brother and a nurse from Kimberley, contracted the disease, and, I regret to say, died of it. As no case of the fever has occurred here for several months past, it is hoped that it has now left us.

8. All the tribes, except perhaps Linchwe's people, are at present very short of food, and many have not the means of purchasing sufficient for their families. They are, however, making an effort to obtain money for the purpose of buying food by going out to work at Kimberley, Jagersfontein, Johannesburg, or other places. So many of the men in the Southern Protectorate have done this that most of the villages present quite a deserted appearance.

9. During the year the railway has been constructed through the Protectorate. It was most fortunate that it was built so soon after the visitation of rinderpest, as, without it, the hardships caused by rinderpest would have been enormously increased. The chiefs through whose territories it passes did not in any way oppose its construction and gave no trouble whatever in connection with it.

10. Owing to the disorganised state in which the immense transport service through the country was suddenly thrown by rinderpest, and the influx of labourers on the railway construction works, there has been more judicial work in my Court during the last than during any previous year since my arrival in 1890. The number of criminal cases heard by me during the period under report was 140, and the number of civil cases 32.

11. The Protectorate Native Police have been extremely useful to me since their arrival in June, 1896, and have rendered great assistance not only in enforcing the provisions of the law and in carrying messages (which is a very important duty in a country where the chiefs can neither understand English nor obtain the services of a competent interpreter), but in enabling me through them to get into touch with the different chiefs in my district, and to obtain information regarding matters in which the chiefs or their people are concerned.

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12. There is no doubt that natives, under European officers, are vastly more useful and efficient as policemen in a native territory than Europeans. The latter in such territory are, owing to their ignorance of the laws, customs and language of the natives, much more likely than the former to unnecessarily involve the Government in serious trouble with the chiefs.

13. As the Protectorate Native Police are Basuto from Basutoland, and as they are not connected with any tribe in the Protectorate, there is, in my opinion, no danger of their ever turning against the Government and joining any tribe that may become disloyal.

14. The prison accommodation at this station has been considerably increased. The Gaol, which formerly consisted of two small cells only, now contains six cells and two gaoler's rooms. A building 34 feet by 35 feet, containing four rooms, has also been erected for use as a Court-room and Public Offices.

15. Owing to the severe drought during the last two seasons, water has become very scarce, and can only be obtained at present at but few places in the lower Protectorate. At this Station it is now only obtainable from pits sunk in the bed of the Notwane River. This river, in ordinary seasons, contains a plentiful supply.

16. There is still a very bitter feeling between the Chief Sebele and the Bakwena who left Molepolole and settled at Kolobeng in 1895; and during last year a disturbance, in which three of the latter were shot, took place between the two sections about midway between Molepolole and Kolobeng. The matter was fully enquired into, and those who provoked the disturbance were brought to trial and punished. The Kolobeng Bakwena have been assigned an occupation boundary, but they are dissatisfied with it, and refuse to recognise Sebele as Paramount Chief over them.

17. In accordance with instructions from the Secretary of State a boundary was made by Mr. St. Quintin between the Chiefs Sebele and Linchwe, which runs considerably to the West of the railway line.

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18. The Revenue collected at this Office, from the 1st April, 1896, to the 31st March last, amounted to £11,328 8s. 11d. sterling, as follows:—

				£	s.	d.
Stamps and Fees	...	...	...	239	13	8
Fines	...	...	...	266	15	0
				£	s.	d.
Licences: General Traders	...	...	...	420	0	0
" Hawkers	...	...	...	65	0	0
" Liquor	...	...	...	195	10	0
" Gun	...	...	...	36	0	0
" Gunpowder	...	...	...	15	0	0
" Ammunition	...	...	...	34	17	6
" Butchers	...	...	...	10	0	0
" Bakers	...	...	...	15	0	0
				791	7	6
Miscellaneous Receipts	...	...	...	17	8	9
Total Ordinary Revenue	...	...	...	1,315	4	11
Sale of Relief Grain	...	...	...	10,013	4	0
Grand Total	...	...	...	£11,328	8	11

I have, &c.,

W. H. SURMON,

Assistant Commissioner.

His Honour,

The Resident Commissioner,

Mafeking.

NORTHERN PROTECTORATE : ANNUAL REPORT.

Palapye,

21st August, 1897.

SIR,

As requested in your Honour's telegram of the 17th inst., I have the honour to forward my Annual Report for the financial year 1896-7.

I have, &c.,

J. A. ASHBURNHAM,
A. C.

His Honour,
The Resident Commissioner,
Mafeking.

The past year has not been a prosperous one for the natives of the Northern Protectorate. As anticipated in my last Annual Report, the rinderpest, shortly after its appearance here, got quite beyond control, and it was found hopeless to attempt to check its progress through the country. An unsuccessful effort was made to keep the disease back at the Cape Colonial border, and finally all regulations on the subject were suspended with the exception of that prohibiting the importation of fresh cattle to feed the disease. This regulation is still enforced as far as possible, and only salted cattle (*i.e.* cattle which have recovered from rinderpest) are now allowed into the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

The percentage of native cattle which have "salted" is small—probably not more than 6 per cent.; Khama himself, who is said to have owned three or four hundred head of trained *trek* oxen, did not save a sufficient number of them to make up one span. It is difficult to estimate the actual losses of the natives, but it has been roughly calculated that about 800,000 head of cattle perished last year in Khama's country of rinderpest. This scourge has been followed by another season of drought and locusts, and the yield of grain this year will be considerably below the average. The distress, however, among the natives does not seem to have been so great as might have been expected. A large quantity of grain has been sent up during the year for distribution, in return for which it was

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thought that the natives would supply labour for improving the roads and water supply, and for other useful public works. It has been found, however, that the natives have experienced no difficulty in paying for all grain supplied, and nearly £1,000 has been received by me under this head during the past year. A certain quantity of grain was supplied by a London Committee for gratuitous distribution, but the Chief Khama, on behalf of his tribe, stated that his people were able and willing to pay, and would prefer to do so. The grain in question was, therefore, sold to them at a low rate, which merely covered the cost of transport. Fifty bags of this grain were forwarded to the General Manager of the Tati Concessions for gratuitous distribution amongst the natives in the Tati District, where there has been much distress and want.

The Europeans—among whom carriers have perhaps been the greatest sufferers—being less inured to hardships, and feeling the pinch of poverty more than the natives, have suffered to a greater extent during these times of trouble. Many of them had invested their last pennies in oxen, and were left absolutely destitute. Some few obtained temporary relief from the Government, but I have found the transport riders, as a class, anxious to help themselves and reluctant to apply for relief until actually compelled by imminent starvation. The local merchants have given a helping hand to the more deserving carriers by advancing them money for the purchase of salted oxen; the cost of transport advanced to almost ten times the normal rate; and the majority of these men were soon able to repay the advances, and make a fresh start in life. Towards the close of the year a Board was appointed to examine claims for compensation for oxen actually destroyed by Government to prevent the spread of rinderpest, and it is hoped that some payment may shortly be made to the owners of all such cattle.*

Owing to failure of transport, following on the outbreak of rinderpest, the cost of living in the Northern Protectorate was enormously increased, and the natives—who have been spending money with reckless extravagance—must have been greatly impoverished. In the midst of the times of greatest want the natives would eagerly flock to local stores to secure meal at £10 per bag of 200 lbs., sugar at 2s. and 2s. 6d. per lb., and sweets, jams, and other luxuries at exorbitant rates. It appeared as though the natives, having at last been compelled to open their purses, could not rest until their savings had been expended. The local merchants have reaped a rich harvest, but this lavish expenditure by the natives of their cash must inevitably affect the trade of the district for some time to come.

The advent of the railway has placed a different aspect on the condition of affairs in the Northern Protectorate by cheapening the cost of living and affording employment to large numbers of

* COLONIAL OFFICE NOTE: A sum of £11,181 was paid on this account in August 1897.

natives and Europeans. The line has been opened for traffic as far as Mochudi, in the Southern Protectorate, but the rails have passed Palapye, and the contractor brings up such goods and passengers as he is able along the Mochudi-Palapye section.

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The clause in the railway agreement between Khama and the Railway Company by which it was stipulated that no buildings were to be erected within the railway strip except those required for railway purposes only has given rise to some dissatisfaction amongst European traders from the South, who wished to open stores at the railway siding. Khama has granted the necessary permission to local firms, but has refused it to others. Whether he has been wise in thus stifling competition may be doubted, but he has his own reasons for his action, and his right is indisputable.

The four consecutive years of comparative drought have seriously affected the water-supply of the Northern Protectorate, and, unless next rainy season is exceptionally good, it is doubtful whether Khama will be able much longer to maintain a population of from 20,000 to 30,000 persons in one centre such as Palapye. The chief would probably be wise if he were now to considerably reduce the size of his town and scatter his people more about the country; but he will not do this until circumstances actually compel him, as it is evident that his hold over his people is gradually weakening and would be still further endangered by any such process of decentralization.

Attempts to improve the water supply along the main road to the north have resulted in the sinking of six wells, at three of which a good supply of water has been obtained. Two of the remaining wells were abandoned after sinking through hard rock to a depth of about 100 feet, and the third well was not completed at the close of the financial year. The three wells in which water has been found are north of Palapye, and have already proved of inestimable value in facilitating the carriage of goods to Matebeleland.

During the past year an expedition under Major Lugard has been despatched to Ngamiland under the auspices of the West Charterland Company, and is engaged in exploring and developing that part of the Protectorate.

The ten mile strip granted by the Chief Khama to the British South Africa Company along the Eastern border of his country has been marked off as far as the Macloutsi River by Mr. St. Quintin, but the line has not yet been surveyed.

A number of the Baselika, who were driven out of the country by Khama some years ago by force of arms, have gradually returned, and have settled near their old head-quarters in Selika's Mountain. These people have proved troublesome, and were suspected by Khama of stealing cattle and harbouring thieves. For this they had every facility, as they resided near the Transvaal border, and could easily dispose of any stolen property

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by sending it across the Crocodile River to the head-quarters of the tribe in the South African Republic. Moreover, complaints were received through the missionary, as well as from the chief himself, that the heathen rites and ceremonies observed by these people in connection with the circumcision "schools" caused great disquiet among the Bamangwato, and were likely—if left to go on unchecked—to lead to bloodshed. For these and other reasons it was deemed expedient to order the Baselika, who had resettled in the Protectorate without any right or permission, to return to the head-quarters of their tribe in the Transvaal.

A small seam of apparently excellent coal was discovered towards the close of the year at Mopani Pan (about 18 miles from Palapye) at a depth of 80 feet by the white man engaged in sinking the Government well at that place. An experienced geologist was sent from Kimberley to examine the seam and, though he pronounced it to be too narrow to work, yet he considered the general indications extremely favourable to the existence of a coal mine in the vicinity, and it is proposed to take further steps towards the development of this discovery. A diamond drill will, it is hoped, be shortly at work in this locality.

During the year the office accommodation has been greatly improved by the purchase of a suitable house containing a court-room and offices of sufficient size to meet all probable requirements for some years to come. An additional cell has also been built on to the gaol, and the old hut formerly used as a court-house has been handed over to the police.

The administration of justice has been much facilitated by the appointment of Captain Williams and Mr. C. R. Vigers as special justices of the peace—the former with jurisdiction along the railway line, the latter with jurisdiction in the Tati district.

The legislative enactments of the year have referred largely to rinderpest; the liquor law has been amended so as to place the supply of liquor to Indians under greater control.

The civil and criminal work has increased considerably, as is only to be expected with the development of the country.

The prospect is not at present a bright one; but good rains next season, the successful development of the Tati district and the discovery of a payable coal mine near Palapye, are possibilities which would ensure the prosperity of this part of the Protectorate.

J. A. ASHBURNHAM,

Assistant Commissioner.

BECHUANALAND MOUNTED POLICE: ANNUAL REPORT.

The Annual Report of the Bechuanaland Mounted Police for 1896-7 is compiled from 1st April, 1896, to 31st March, 1897.

I.—*Strength.*

The strength of the force on 1st April, 1896, was as follows:—

Distribution	Officers.	N.C.Os. and men.	Total.
N. Protectorate	1	12	13
S. Protectorate	1	4	5
Ngamiland	1	10	11
Mafeking	3	12	15
England	2	2	4
Leave	1	—	1
Total	9	40	49

In April, 1896, the strength of the force was increased to 82, all ranks, which, with 50 special police authorised in March, 1896, made a total of 132.

Two Lieutenants were added to the establishment in February, 1897.

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The authorised strength of the force is 134 all ranks, and the present distribution is as follows :—

Distribution.	Officers.	N.C.Os. and men.	Total.
N. Protectorate	1	32	33
S. Protectorate	1	29	30
Ngamiland... ..	2	14	16
Mafeking	4	32	36
Leave	3	1	4
En route	1	6	7
Absent	—	1	1
Total	12	115	127

II.—*Appointments, Promotions, and Transfer.*

The following appointments, promotions, and transfer have taken place during the year.

Sub-Lieutenant A. B. Phipps promoted Lieutenant 1st April, 1896.

Sub-Lieutenant S. W. J. Scholefield promoted Lieutenant 1st April, 1896.

Surgeon E. C. F. Garraway re-transferred from the British South Africa Company's Police 20th May, 1896.

Lieutenant A. P. W. Williams appointed Captain 1st February, 1897.

Lieutenant T. M. Drew, Leicestershire Regiment, appointed Lieutenant, 15th February, 1897.

Lieutenant C. A. K. Pechell, Kings' Royal Rifles, appointed Lieutenant, 15th February, 1897.

III.—*Deaths.*

I regret to report the following deaths :—

Trooper F. A. Lucas died at Mafeking, 24th October, 1896.

Trooper A. C. Hill was accidentally shot at Palapye, 14th February, 1897.

IV.—*Desertions.*

There have been no desertions during the year.

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V.—*Native Strength.*

The strength of natives on 31st March, 1897, was as follows:—

Mafeking	...	...	...	...	12
Gaberones	...	...	...	...	3
Ngamiland	...	...	...	...	4
With Major Goold-Adams	...	...	...	...	2
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	21

VI.—*Transport Vehicles.*

The transport of the corps on 1st April, 1896, was as follows:—

- 26 Ox wagons.
- 5 Scotch carts.
- 9 Water carts.
- 4 Cape carts.

The present strength is as follows:—

- 16 Ox wagons.
- 3 Scotch carts.
- 6 Water carts.
- 3 Cape carts.

VII.—*Mule Strength.*

The strength of mules on 1st April, 1896, was 30.

The present strength is 28.

VIII.—*Ox Strength.*

The strength of oxen on 1st April, 1896, was 431.

The present strength is 97.

IX.—*Donkey Strength.*

The present strength of donkeys is 4.

X.—*Horse Strength.*

The strength of horses on 1st April, 1896, was 63. During the year 70 have been purchased, 2 which had been lost were recovered and one was born in the regiment. 44 have died, 2 have been sold as unfit for further service, and 6 have been shot for various reasons, including one undoubted and two suspicious cases

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of glanders, and 1 was transferred to the British South Africa Company, leaving the present strength 83, which are distributed as follows :—

N. Protectorate...	...	...	...	28
S. Protectorate ...	...	...	...	19
Ngamiland ...	...	...	...	20
Mafeking ...	...	...	...	16
				—
Total ...	...	...	...	83

XI.—*Armament.*

The armament of the corps at the present time consists of :—

196 M.-H. Rifles.
103 Bayonets.
26 Revolvers.
115,235 M.-H. Ammunition.
3,650 Revolver „

XII.—*Special Employment.*

Nine Troopers have been employed in performing the duties of Customs Officers at Mafeking, Lobatsi, Gaberones, Sequani, Palla, Mahalapsi, Palapye, Palapye railway siding, and Macloutsie.

Sub-Lieutenant Phipps and 8 N.C.Os. and men were stationed in Ngamiland at the beginning of the year.

Lieutenant Scholefield and 9 men left Mafeking on 2nd February to relieve the detachment stationed in Ngamiland.

1 Trooper has been employed as orderly to Major Goold-Adams on the Barotse Commission.

2 Sergeants and 8 Corporals of Orderlies have been employed as under :—

2 Sergeants.

- (1.) Clerk of the Court, Palapye.
- (2.) Driver to H.H. the Resident Commissioner.

8 Corporals.

- (1.) Interpreter to the Assistant Commissioner, Palapye.
- (2.) Orderly to the Government Engineer Officer.
- (3.) Hospital Orderly, Gaberones.
- (4.) Clerk to the Acting Assistant Commissioner, Gaberones.
- (5.) Orderly to A. A. C., Gaberones.
- (6.) „ „ „
- (7.) Relief scheme.
- (8.) Orderly to the Assistant Commissioner, Palapye.

3 men have been employed in the disinfection of animal produce in the Protectorate, according to the rinderpest regulations. BECHUANA-
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A number of men have been employed superintending the burning of rinderpest carcasses.

Several men have been employed on the Native Relief Scheme, distributing grain.

XIII.—*Patrols.*

Constant patrols have been made throughout the area occupied by the police during the year.

XIV.—*Outstations.*

The following outstations have been occupied during the year :—

(Headquarters, Mafeking.)

Northern Protectorate.—Ngami, Tati, Macloutsie, Palapye, Palapye siding, Mahalapsi, Palla.

Southern Protectorate.—Crocodile Pool, Mochudi, Sequani, Gaberones, Lobatsi, Pitsani Pothlugu, Ramathlabama.

XV.—*Arrests and Convictions.*

I attach a statement * of the number of arrests made and convictions obtained by the police during the year.

XVI.—*Health.*

I attach the Medical Officers' reports.

XVII.—*Regimental Works.*

I attach a report of the repairs and improvements effected during the year.

PROTECTORATE NATIVE POLICE.

The Annual Report of the Protectorate Native Police for 1896-7 is compiled from 23rd April, 1896, to 31st March, 1897.

I.—*Strength.*

The corps was established on 23rd April, 1896, the authorised strength being 64 all ranks as under :—

1	Captain.
3	Lieutenants.
4	Sergeants.
5	Corporals.
1	Saddler.
50	Troopers.
<hr style="width: 10%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	
Total	... 64

* Not printed.

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The present distribution is as follows :—

	Officers.	N.C.Os. and men.	Total.
Gaberones	2	37	39
Kanye	1	7	8
Molopolole... ..	1	10	11
Palapye	—	2	2
Total	4	56	60

II.—*Appointments and Resignations.*

Captain F. E. Moony resigned, 6th February, 1897.

Sub-Inspector J. T. Griffith, Basutoland Mounted Police, was appointed Captain, 7th February, 1897.

Lieutenant H. Griffith resigned, 22nd March, 1897.

W. B. Surmon, Esq. was appointed Lieutenant, 25th March, 1897.

III.—*Death.*

Trooper Motetioa died at Kanye, 20th October, 1896.

IV.—*Desertion.*

There have been no desertions during the year.

V.—*Horse Strength.*

There were 67 horses on the strength of the corps on 26th May, 1896.

During the year 20 died of horse sickness, 1 of lockjaw, 1 was shot (broken leg) and 1 was drowned, leaving the present strength 44, which are distributed as under :—

Gaberones	31
Kanye	7
Molopolole	6
Total	44

VI.—*Armament.*

The armament of the corps at the present time consists of :—

M-11. Ammunition ...	10,271 rounds.
„ Rifles	60

VII.—*Special Employment.*

Two troopers have been employed as prison guards at Palapye.
One trooper has been employed as groom to His Honour the Resident Commissioner at Mafeking.

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—

Several men have been employed superintending the burning of rinderpest carcasses.

One man has been employed on the Native Relief Scheme assisting Bechuanaland Mounted Police to distribute grain.

Two men have been employed as prison guards at Gaberones.

VIII.—*Patrols.*

Constant patrols have been made throughout the area occupied by the police during the year.

IX.—*Outstations.*

The following outstations have been occupied during the year :—

(Headquarters, Gaberones.)

Kanye. Molopolole. Kolobeng.

X.—*Arrests and Convictions.*

I attach a statement* of the number of arrests made and convictions obtained by the police during the year.

XI.—*Health.*

I attach reports from the Medical Officers.

XII.—*Regimental Works.*

I attach a report of the repairs and improvements effected during the year.

REGIMENTAL WORKS.

The following repairs and improvements have been effected during the year :—

Gaberones.—All buildings repaired.

Kanya.—New stable built.

Molopolole.—Repairs and extra stabling for five horses provided.

Ramathlabama.—New stable built.

Mafeking.—Repairs.

* Not printed.

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The stables at Ramathlabama and Molopolole are of galvanized iron, in sections, so that they may be removed to other stations if necessary.

When the estimates were framed the subsequent increase in the strength of the corps was not anticipated, and therefore very little money has been available in 1896-7 for Police Works. Nearly all the funds were required for important Civil Works.

SUMMARY.

Owing to the scarcity of transport it has been impossible during the past year to keep up several important out-stations, but law and order has been maintained in a satisfactory manner in all districts within reach of the police.

A comparatively small number of horses, viz. 47 per cent., have died of horse sickness, probably owing to the fact that as many unsalted horses as possible have been stationed in the Southern Protectorate, where the disease is not so virulent as in the Northern.

The discipline of the Force has been most satisfactory when it is taken into consideration that owing to the rinderpest a number of men had to be enrolled with probably no testimonials.

J. A. H. WALFORD,

Capt. Comdg. Protectorate Police.

Mafeking,

1st April, 1897.

SIR,

IN obedience to your instructions of the 15th March, I have the honour to make the following report:—

In May, 1896, I proceeded to Fort Gaberones when I took charge of that station; the Protectorate Native Police, and one N. C. O. and from three to five men of the B. M. Police, being stationed there.

The Station is a very healthy one, and there was little or no illness among the men of the B. M. Police. The Basuto Police, however, being all recruits, and totally unaccustomed to the ration-diet, suffered a good deal at first. This was in a great

manner due to the fact of there being no fresh meat procurable at the time, owing to the rinderpest, and the men coming from Basutoland, where their diet consists entirely of Kaffir-corn and Kaffir-beer, felt the change to tinned corned-beef and coffee considerably. However, there were no deaths among the men at Gaberones, and only one at Kanya, one of their out-stations, from dysentery; this, too, when the natives in the Protectorate were dying by hundreds of scorbutic diseases. The Protectorate Native Police are now thoroughly acclimatized, and not likely to feel the next hot season so severely.

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The water supply at Gaberones has been very scanty for the past eight months. This is owing to the succession of very dry seasons, and also to the fact that the Notwani River has been dammed about ten miles above the Camp by the railway authorities.

The rations during the past year have not been as good as formerly, being chiefly tinned foods, but this was unavoidable, owing to the rinderpest and difficulties of transport.

The hospital equipment at Gaberones is very deficient, in fact there is nothing there except drugs and instruments. Should the number of white police stationed there be increased, this will require to be altered, as the men have neither bed-cots nor a sufficiency of blankets in case of illness.

There was a very severe epidemic of typhoid fever at Gaberones lasting two months. It was confined entirely to the civilian population, thus demonstrating the excellent sanitary condition of the camp. The camp is situated about 200 yards from the stores, where the outbreak took place.

The out-stations of the P. N. Police at Kanya and Molopolole are in excellent condition, and the health of the men has been very good.

Of the B. M. P. out-stations, Sequani and Mochudi have always been healthy enough, though men stationed there are occasionally down with malaria. Palla, however, is a very unhealthy station, and I should strongly recommend that the men stationed there be relieved frequently.

On February 18th, 1897, having handed over the station at Gaberones to Surgeon Holmden, I came down here and took this station over from Dr. Heberden.

The health of the men here has been very good, and their rations are excellent. The old latrines were in a very unsanitary condition, and I have had a new latrine dug, some distance from the barracks.

I am of opinion that bed-cots should be issued to the men, as at present they have all sorts of stretchers, purchased by themselves, and these harbour all sorts of vermin, in spite of every ordinary precaution. Besides, a number of men who have no stretchers sleep on the ground.

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List of sick under my care from May 31st, 1896, to
March 31st, 1897 :—

Gaberones.

Diseases.						B. M. P.	P. N. P.
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	3	18
Scurvy	...	...	...	...	...	—	23
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	1	11
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	2	12
Rheumatism	...	...	...	...	...	—	5
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	21
Conjunctivitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Dyspepsia	...	...	...	...	...	—	29
Earache	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
Adenitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Lumbago	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Catarrh	...	...	...	...	...	—	5
Tapeworm	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
Casualties	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
Total	...	...	...	...	...	8	141
Venereal Disease :							
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
Total	...	...	...	...	...	—	5

Mafeking.

Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Earache	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Conjunctivitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Cystitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Balanitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Lumbago	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Catarrh	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Casualties	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Mafeking total	...	...	...	...	...	18	—
Gaberones	...	...	...	...	...	8	141
Venereal. Gaberones	...	...	...	...	...	—	5
Grand total	...	...	...	...	...	26	146

I have, &c.,

E. C. F. GARRAWAY,
Surgeon, B.M.P.

The Commanding Officer,
Bechuanaland Mounted Police.

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.
1896-7.

Gaberones,

13th April, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Annual Report concerning the health of the various stations under my medical charge from April 1st, 1896, to March 31st, 1897.

The general health of the men in the Northern Protectorate from April, 1896, to February 12th, 1897, was good, and no deaths occurred. The general good health can be attributed to the small amount of rain-fall in the Northern Protectorate during the last year.

The sanitary conditions at Macloutsie are good. At Palapye Stadt, the position of the B. M. P. Camp, for sanitary purposes, is not so favourable, it being near rocks used by natives for various deposits. I do not anticipate any particular danger from this source, unless a large rain-fall takes place in the vicinity.

Southern Protectorate from February 18th, 1897, to March 31st, 1897.

Since I took over medical charge at Gaberones in the Southern Protectorate, the health of the men at that station has been fairly good, and no deaths have occurred.

The sanitary conditions of the barracks occupied by the Protectorate Native Police is satisfactory. I would suggest that the Protectorate Native Police should be instructed to use latrines, as their ordinary use of the veldt is to be deprecated.

Three men of the B. M. P. have lately been sent down from Palla suffering severely from malaria. This is an unhealthy station, and I would advise that the B. M. P. quarters should be inspected with a view to removing them to a more healthy spot if practicable.

I have, &c.,

F. A. H. HOLMDEN,

M.O., B.M.P.

To the Officer Commanding

Bechuanaland Mounted Police,

Mafeking.

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The number of men treated in the Northern Protectorate from April 1st, 1896, to 12th February, 1897 :—

Diseases.	No.	Diseases.	No.
Malaria	7	Rheumatism	1
Diarrhoea	6	Dyspepsia	2
Dysentery	1	Verues	1
Gonorrhoea	3	Veldt-sores	1
Syphilis	2	Cardiac	1
Diseases total		... .. 25	.

The number of men treated in the Southern Protectorate from the 18th February, 1897, to the 31st March, 1897 :—

Diseases.	No.	Diseases.	No.
Malaria	13	Lumbago	3
Dysentery	4	Hepatitis	1
Diarrhoea	3	Tænia	1
Catarrh	5	Abscess	1
Myalgia	1	Pharyngitis	1
Sciatica	1		
Diseases total		... .. 34	

The number of men treated in both Protectorates, 59.

I have, &c.,

F. A. H. HOLMDEN,

M.O., B.P.M.

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REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF THE BECHUANALAND
PROTECTORATE DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST
MARCH, 1897.

Revenue.

					£
Customs	...	...	...	...	8,693
Licences	...	...	...	...	1,438
Revenue stamps	...	...	...	...	463
Posts	...	...	...	...	7,558
Sales of Government property	...	...	...	...	17,441
Sundries	...	...	...	...	11,917
Total					<u>£47,510</u>

Expenditure.

					£
Pensions	...	...	...	...	351
Resident Commissioner	...	...	...	...	2,122
Legal	...	...	...	...	952
District Administration	...	...	...	...	2,416
Posts	...	...	...	...	7,571
Customs	...	...	...	...	297
Police	...	...	...	...	40,102
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	1,587
Public Works Recurrent	...	...	...	...	794
Do. Extraordinary	...	...	...	...	2,903
Medical	...	...	...	...	155
Boundary Commission	339
Rinderpest	4,707
Native Relief	24,152
Total					<u>£88,448</u>

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REPORT OF THE ACTING POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

General Post Office,
Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope,
19th August, 1897.

SIR,

WITH reference to your telegram of the 11th inst., requesting to be furnished with my Annual Report for the year ended 31st March last, in respect of postal matters in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, I have the honour to forward herewith, in duplicate, the Report in question.

I have, &c.,

BEN DUFF,

Acting Postmaster-General.

The Resident Commissioner,
Mafeking.

The annexation of British Bechuanaland to the Cape Colony on the 16th of November 1895 considerably modified the arrangements which previously existed in connection with the post and telegraph administration of that territory, inasmuch as the postal and telegraph business within British Bechuanaland was transferred with the territory to the Cape Colony, the separate postal administration having been continued only as regards the Protectorate, in which territory no change in the postal system, or in the scope of its business, has as yet taken place. I hope, however, to see the issue and payment of Money Orders undertaken at an early date,* and to otherwise have the usefulness of the Post Office extended. The telegraph system, it will be remembered, appertains to the British South Africa Company.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The principal item of revenue is shewn as transit rates received from other administrations for the conveyance of their mail

* COLONIAL OFFICE NOTE: A money order system was to come into force from 1st April 1898.

matter through the Protectorate to Rhodesia, and from the latter country to other South African States and oversea countries, the exact payments to the Protectorate administration by other Governments under this head having been £5,438 9s. 6d.

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As the largest item of revenue was derived from the conveyance of mails through the Protectorate, so the principal item of expenditure was in connection with this service, the sum of £5,994 19s. 0d. having been expended for the conveyance of mails during the year. The salary and administration charges totalled £272 19s. 2d. only.

Conveyance of Mails.—Mafeking to Bulawayo, &c.

The conveyance of the mails throughout the Protectorate was effected during the year under the Agreement entered into in May 1895 with the British South Africa Company, whereby Messrs. Zeederberg contracted to convey the mails between Mafeking and Bulawayo. Through native troubles in the north, and with rinderpest raging within the Protectorate itself, the maintenance of regular mail communication has been no easy task, but I am pleased to be able to report that, notwithstanding all difficulties, the service has been efficiently performed.

It was thought that the railway in course of construction between Mafeking and Bulawayo would have been sufficiently far advanced to allow of the mails being conveyed over the section Mafeking to Palapye (262 miles) from the beginning of March 1897, but it was found possible only to convey the mails by rail beyond Mafeking to Mochudi (124 miles) from the 1st of March. It is, however, anticipated that the line will be through to Bulawayo in November next. The completion of the railway in sections, and the formal taking over of its working, will enable me to gradually reduce the payments made to the mail contractors; indeed, a considerable saving has already been effected in connection with the opening of the railway to Mochudi, although it has thrown upon the Department the responsibility of providing specially for the branch posts, which were served by Messrs. Zeederberg under their mail contract.

With the completion of the railway to Bulawayo, it will hardly be possible to maintain the high rates of transit now obtaining within the Protectorate, and it is to be hoped that my recommendations in this connection, and also with regard to a reduction of the postage rates to and from the Protectorate, will be adopted.

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Branch Posts.

The following Branch Posts are now separately maintained by the Protectorate administration :—

Gaberones station to Gaberones.

” to Molopolole.

Lobatsi to Kanye.

Ramoutsa siding to Ramoutsa.

Communication with Palla, Palapye and Macloutsie was, at the end of March last, still maintained by the mail contractors, but on the opening of the railway to Palapye station, it will be incumbent on the Protectorate Government to undertake the Palla and Palapye services.

Correspondence Posted within the Protectorate.

During the year the total number of ordinary letters posted reached 70,603, of which 5,096 were registered. There were posted, in addition, 7,436 Official Letters, 247 Post Cards, 1,482 Newspapers, 1,092 Ordinary and 2,054 Official Books, and 338 Parcels. Full particulars of the traffic, together with the value, will be found in Appendix.

Staff.

Ten Post Office Agents and Deputy Postmasters were employed within the territory on the 31st of March, and a similar number of Post Offices were open for the transaction of business.

General.

The future of the territory, from a postal point of view, is hopeful, and I have little doubt that, with the railway in operation throughout the Protectorate, trade will be stimulated, and a gradually increasing European population—who will recognise the advantage of, and fully utilise, an organised postal service—will be brought into the country. As, in addition, mails will be conveyed under the railway agreement free of charge between Mafeking and Palapye, I anticipate that, notwithstanding a certain shrinkage in the receipts, which would for a time follow any reduction of transit rates and postage charges, the revenue will, in any case, more than cover the expenditure.

BEN DUFF,

Acting Postmaster-General.

General Post Office, Capetown,

17th August, 1897.

STATEMENT OF CORRESPONDENCE POSTED IN BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1897.

16226-5

Ordinary Letters.						Registered Letters.	Postcards.			Newspapers.	Book and Sample Packets.	Parcels.	Total.					
For Cape Colony, Natal, Orange Free State and Transvaal.		For Protectorate and Rhodesia.		For United Kingdom and Foreign Countries.			No.	Value.										
No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.										@ 1d.	@ 1½d.		
42,081	£701	13,676	£228	9,750	£244	5,096	£169	247	559	£4	1,482	£6	1,092	£18	338	£42	73,983	£1,412

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE POSTED.

Letters.		Books.		Total.	
Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
7,436	£248	2,054	£8	9,490	£256

0

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