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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 517.

BECHUANALAND
PROTECTORATE.

REPORT FOR 1905-6.

(For Report for 1904-5, see No. 479.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

February, 1907.



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN AND SONS, LTD., FETTER LANE, E.C.,
and 32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W. ;
or OLIVER & BOYD, EDINBURGH ;
or E. PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1907.

[Cd. 3285-4.] Price ½d.

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BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

(For Report for 1904-5, *see* No. 479.)

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE

High Commissioner's Office,

Johannesburg,

10th December, 1906.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, in duplicate, the Blue Book of the Bechuanaland Protectorate for the year 1905-6, together with the covering report of the Government Secretary.

I have, &c.,

SELBORNE,

High Commissioner.

The Right Honourable

The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.G., G.C.S.I.,

&c., &c., &c.,

Colonial Office.

REPORT ON THE BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1905-6.

FINANCIAL.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

During the year ended the 31st March, 1906, the revenue collected amounted to £28,653, and the expenditure during the same period to £74,783. The deficiency of £46,130 was partly provided for by an Imperial grant-in-aid of £36,000, and the remainder was met from the balance which had been brought forward from the previous year.

The revenue collected during the past five years is shown in the following table:—

—	1901-2.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.
	£	£	£	£	£
Customs	9,753	12,399	13,355	9,867	9,764
Hut Tax	9,976	9,446	10,566	11,529	11,268
Licences	1,715	1,964	2,497	2,638	2,515
Revenue Stamps	261	195	245	291	246
Posts	4,684	3,533	3,833	3,351	3,387
Sales of Government Property.	43	578	489	617	310
Sundries	1,133	2,816	1,458	2,483	1,163
Total	27,570	30,931	32,443	30,776	28,653

These figures call for little comment. The large decrease under the head "Sundries" is attributable to the fact that the practical extinction of the considerable balance (which for several years has been allowed to be carried forward), in meeting the annual deficiency, has deprived the Protectorate of revenue from interest.

The following table shows the expenditure incurred during the past five years:—

—	1901-2.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.
	£	£	£	£	£
Pensions	778	474	544	513	576
Resident Commissioner	3,067	3,272	3,497	3,789	3,608
Legal	1,331	1,353	1,462	1,785	1,588
District Administration	3,410	3,058	3,081	3,472	3,331
Carried forward ...	8,586	8,157	8,581	9,559	9,103

Expenditure.—cont.

—	1901-2.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.
	£	£	£	£	£
Brought forward...	8,586	8,157	8,584	9,559	9,103
Posts	3,667	2,624	2,613	2,994	2,490
Customs	228	407	407	413	241
Police	45,670	39,760	32,341	34,516	33,325
Miscellaneous	2,017	3,136	3,392	3,802	3,384
Public Works Recur- rent.	926	1,446	1,504	1,717	1,860
Public Works Extra- ordinary.	1,668	1,302	4,502	3,613	1,683
Medical	191	368	497	621	826
Rinderpest	307	398	576	98	—
Railway Subsidy	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Demarcation of Boun- dary.	1,034	988	7,922	123	359
Education	—	—	600	650	823
Despatch Vessels	1,707	4	—	—	—
Census	—	—	—	155	—
Veterinary	—	—	—	—	689
Total	86,001	78,590	82,938	78,261	74,783

Again a reduction in the expenditure from that of the previous year is recorded, and if we deduct the £20,000 paid as railway subsidy, it will, I think, be admitted that the figures prove that the Administration of the Protectorate is carried on with due regard to economy, and with consciousness of the fact that the deficiency has to be met by the Imperial Treasury.

Its very extent is a drawback in this respect; we have to provide for the peace, order, and security of probably about 150,000 human beings, scattered over a territory measuring, approximately, 275,000 square miles.

To the revenue, with the exception of the item "Hut Tax," little material increase is to be anticipated; while, even after the last annual payment of the railway subsidy, which will cease on the 8th of September, 1908, there is little probability, for some time to come, of the expenditure being so reduced as not to exceed the revenue.

It will be noticed that a new head, viz., "Veterinary," appears in the return of expenditure. This includes the salary of a Government Veterinary Surgeon, and also sundry expenses in connection with stock which during previous years it had been customary to charge to "Rinderpest."

To a country like the Bechuanaland Protectorate whose wealth, such as it is, consists almost entirely of cattle, the services of a veterinary surgeon are of the utmost value.

The natives display the greatest readiness to take his advice and to carry out his directions in connection with the various cases of disease—particularly pleuro-pneumonia or “lung-sickness,” as it is called—which occur from time to time, and there can be no doubt that indirectly the gain to the country by the appointment which has been made has been such as to amply justify the expenditure.

In addition to the ordinary duties of his office, the Government Veterinary Surgeon is constantly on the lookout for an appearance of the dreaded disease of East Coast fever, which this Administration has now for so long been successful in keeping out of the Territory.

Every suspicious case of cattle disease is, as soon as possible, investigated by him; should the plague, therefore, unfortunately, cross our borders we should, it is hoped, by this means secure such early knowledge of its presence as might enable us even then to save the country.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

There was on the 31st of March, 1906, a surplus of assets over liabilities amounting to £8,891 3s. 8d.

PUBLIC DEBT.

There is no public debt, as the annual deficiency shown in the estimates is met by an Imperial grant-in-aid, which for the year amounted to the sum of £36,000.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The public works undertaken during the year were not of much importance. A well was sunk on the desert road to N'gami, at a cost of £275. Improvements to the hospital, the Medical Officer's quarters, the gaol, and other buildings at Gaberones cost £585. A stable and wagon shed at Mafeking were erected at an expenditure of £236, and a dipping tank was built on the Protectorate-Cape Colony border at a cost of £100. This was necessary, as the Cape Government insisted upon dipping of all cattle before they were permitted to enter the Colony.

LEGISLATION.

The following Proclamations were issued by the High Commissioner during the year:—

No. 12, 7th June.—Vesting certain lands in the British South Africa Company.

No. 13, 30th June.—Vesting certain lands in the British South Africa Company.

No. 19, 19th December.—Applying the “Railway Regulations Act, 1905, of the Cape Colony.”

EDUCATION.

Expenditure under this head, which amounted to £822 19s. 6d., included a grant of £650 to the London Missionary Society, of which £500 was spent on schools in the Protectorate, and £150 in connection with the Industrial Training Institute at Tiger Kloof near Vryburg in the Cape Colony, where the Society is engaged in imparting an industrial education to the Bechuana tribes.

A sum of £100 was granted to the Dutch Reformed Church which for many years has had missionaries engaged in imparting education to the Bakhatla.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The value of imports, other than articles grown, produced, or manufactured in British South Africa, of which there are no records, amounted to about £70,000. The exports consisted of cattle, small stock, hides, horns, game skins, game horns, firewood, and fencing poles, but the value is not ascertainable.

GENERAL.

The year 1905-6 produced no event of importance in the Protectorate. The season, although the rainfall was inadequate, was sufficiently good to enable the natives to reap their crops in most parts, and there was no actual want. Cattle, almost entirely swept away during the rinderpest in 1896, have gradually increased in numbers until there is once more a surplus over local requirements, and an export trade has begun which, if the introduction of East Coast fever can be prevented, should gradually grow to large proportions.

The natives are happy and contented, and were entirely unaffected by the restlessness which appeared among many of the native inhabitants of South Africa in consequence of the rebellion in Natal.

BARRY MAY,
Government Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

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

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
489	Seychelles	1905
490	Falkland Islands	"
491	Gambia	"
492	Jamaica	1904-1905
493	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1905
494	Ceylon	"
495	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
496	Bahamas	1905-1906
497	Barbados	"
498	Malta	1905
499	British Central Africa Protectorate	1905-1906
500	Colonial Survey Committee	"
501	Grenada	1905
502	Straits Settlements	"
503	Gibraltar... ..	"
504	Trinidad and Tobago	1905-1906
505	St. Lucia	1905
506	Mauritius	"
507	Southern Nigeria (Lagos)	"
508	Somaliland Protectorate	1905-1906
509	Fiji	1905
510	St. Vincent	1905-1906
511	Sierra Leone	1905
512	Southern Nigeria	"
513	Basutoland	1905-1906
514	British Guiana	"
515	British Honduras	1905
516	Northern Nigeria	1905-1906

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone...	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.
31	Northern Nigeria	Cotton, &c.
32	Do. do.	Mineral Survey.
33	Southern Nigeria	Do.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904-5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.