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No. 993.

UGANDA.

REPORT FOR 1917-18.

(For Report for 1916-17 see No. 954.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

May, 1919.



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1919.

No. 993.

UGANDA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1917-1918.*

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The revenue for the financial year 1917-18 amounted to £326,366, the highest figure on record, showing an increase of £10,908 over the amount collected in the previous year, and exceeding the original estimate by £35,879.

2. The actual expenditure during the same period, exclusive of loan services, amounted to £285,389, as compared with £323,988, the amount estimated.

3. The actual expenditure was thus met from the actual revenue, and the Protectorate was enabled for the third year in succession to dispense with a grant-in-aid from Imperial Funds.

II.—TRADE.

4. Owing to the amalgamation of the Customs Department with that of the East Africa Protectorate which came into effect from 1st April, 1917, no separate statistics of the import or transit trade of Uganda for the year 1917-18 are available. The value of domestic produce exported shows that the record total of £637,793 attained in 1916-17 has been surpassed during 1917-18 by the sum of £146,900, which is equivalent to an increase of 23 per cent. This increase is due chiefly to the present enhanced value of various raw materials as compared with the price in the previous year, but also in certain cases to substantial increases in the amount exported.

5. The principal increases were cotton, £188,203, ivory, £34,992, and hides £24,014, while there were decreases (due to the lack of shipping) in coffee, £74,378 (28,762 cwt.) and chillies, £8,742. Plantation rubber showed an increase from 71,995 lbs. to 144,772 lbs.

III.—AGRICULTURE.

6. Climatic conditions have been unfavourable during the past year, and both food and commercial crops have suffered from the heavy rains which prevailed from April to October, and still more from the drought, which set in early and continued until the end of March.

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914-15, No. 873: [Cd. 7622-64].

7. Owing to the heavy rains, which prevented the land being opened up for planting, the sowing of the cotton crop was greatly retarded. The young plants suffered from various epidemic diseases which were probably accentuated by the excessive moisture, and when the hot season set in the drought remained unbroken till the plants were finally uprooted. Such unfavourable weather conditions resulted in a small yield from the cotton areas.

8. At one time it was feared that lack of shipping would discourage the ginning firms from buying the cotton for which loading space might be unavailable and that the crop would be left on the hands of the growers. Legislation fixing the prices was therefore introduced to enable the ginners to buy at a reasonable rate, but subsequent events proved that such a measure was unnecessary. The crop though small was of good quality both in colour and staple, and eagerly bought up.

9. A most interesting feature in the development of the industry is the increasing importance of the Indian merchants, who seem likely to become the dominating factor in the cotton trade. The great bulk of cotton which they buy is shipped to Bombay, where there is an increasing demand, while Japan is a ready buyer of any surplus from the Bombay market.

10. This year has witnessed great increase in the erection of cotton ginneries. There are now thirty-three ginneries built, fourteen new ones are in process of completion. The erection of these ginneries greatly facilitates the buying, storing, and transport of the cotton crop.

11. Coffee is at present the principal crop of the European planter. The output was, however, very disappointing as great damage was caused by the Variegated Bug (*Antestia orbitalis*, Westw. var. *faceta*, Germ) and other insect pests. *Hemilea vastatrix* has not been so destructive as in previous years.

12. Cocoa, which has been extensively planted under diverse conditions, is not proving satisfactory. During the year it has suffered severely from die-back and canker.

13. Para rubber is now being regarded by European planters as probably the best permanent crop. The results from the areas originally planted are most encouraging; though of comparatively slow growth, the trees suffer little from insect and fungoid pests, and its export shows a favourable yearly increase.

14. The experimental planting of tea, wheat, rice, and sugar is being encouraged in suitable localities, all of which crops are likely to develop. Local demands, however, will probably for some years absorb such crop as may be produced, and no considerable quantity will be available for export in the near future.

BOTANIC GARDENS.

15. At the beginning of the year these gardens were taken over by the Department of Agriculture from the Chief Forestry Officer. Experiments in rubber-tapping are being carried out continuously, and records taken of the yield of individual cocoa trees. Suitable trees, seeds, and plants have been distributed to the administrative centres.

METEOROLOGY.

16. The headquarters of the meteorological work in the Protec-

The customary variation at stations of close proximity was again noticeable. The highest recorded rainfall was at Hoima, 82·23 inches, the lowest at Butiaba, 32·88 inches. In Entebbe, 55·58 inches were registered, as compared with 50·73, the annual average rainfall there for the last 17 years.

The climate of the Protectorate shows considerable local variation, and the rainy seasons are by no means well defined.

LIVESTOCK.

17. The number of horned cattle in the Protectorate is estimated at 664,717, and the number of sheep and goats at 1,120,971. These estimates do not include the large number of livestock in the unadministered territories of the Eastern and Northern Provinces, for which figures cannot be given.

The value of hides exported during the year was £76,707.

Rinderpest, which has been prevalent in the Eastern and Northern Provinces, has caused havoc in the cattle areas.

At the end of the year it was spreading southwards through Buganda, and is now threatening the fine cattle districts of the Western Province. The cattle in Buganda have suffered from Trypanosomiasis, and cases of East Coast Fever have occurred in the Teso District. In Masaka, Bukedi, and Kigezi goats have suffered severely from scab.

GOVERNMENT PLANTATIONS.

18. At the five Government Plantations experiments are now carried out in the cultivation of indigenous and exotic crops; here also the important work of improving and selecting the cotton seed is being carried out, and from these centres plants and seeds of all kinds are distributed for cultivation to the various administrative districts.

IV.—FORESTRY.

19. The Forestry Department has now become a separate organisation, as it was considered advisable to place the Botanical and Scientific Departments under the control of the Director of Agriculture.

Suitable natives were selected and trained as foresters, and as many of these men show considerable ability, their inclusion in the forestry staff should help to secure an effective supervision of the Protectorate's forests.

20. An Arboretum was established near the Lake shore at Entebbe, and the teak trees (*Tectona grandis*, Linn.) planted therein shew exceptional progress.

960,480 trees were raised and planted during the year by and through the agency of this Department.

21. Every effort is being made to encourage the use of indigenous timber instead of imported wood, and so to enable the country to derive the greatest benefit from the economic use of the produce of its forests; and due regard is being given to the maintenance of future supplies.

V.—LAND AND SURVEY.

(a) SURVEY.

22. *Topographical.*—No further progress was made with the general topographical survey of the Protectorate, and no maps of importance were published during the year.

23. *Cadastral.*—Theodolite observations in connection with the survey of the native estates in the Buganda Province were completed over an area of 305 square miles, compared with an area of 260 square miles in 1916-1917. Detail survey was completed over an area of 20 square miles, compared with 295 square miles in the previous twelve months. The total area within which all native-owned land has been surveyed up to 31st March, 1918, is about 6,733 square miles.

24. No staff was available for the survey of Crown Lands, and the total area surveyed was only 1,369 acres. The only township survey carried out during the year was that of a new Asiatic bazaar at Jinja.

As a large portion of the Survey Staff was seconded for military duties, the output of the Departmental work was affected accordingly.

(b) LAND.

25. The number of grants and leases of land issued during the period under review was eighty-four, of which sixty-eight were leases and sixteen grants, as compared with a total of one hundred and thirty-eight in the previous year.

26. The area of Crown land sold for agricultural purposes was 3,247½ acres, the average price realised for this land being eight shillings and three pence per acre, as compared with four shillings and seven pence for the previous year. In addition 11,524·64 acres of Crown land were leased at an average annual rental of four pence and a farthing per acre.

VI.—COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) GENERAL.

27. Limited funds and the absence on active service during the greater part of the year of a considerable portion of the supervisory staff of the Public Works Department restricted the improvement of internal communications, and work was confined mainly to the maintenance of existing transit facilities.

(b) RAILWAYS AND MARINE.

28. Both railway lines were well maintained during the year and no serious accidents took place.

29. The Busoga Railway Marine service was again hampered by the abnormally high level of Lake Kioga.

Albert Marine Transport Service.

30. The revenue returns of passenger traffic show an increase of Rs.9,701.09 over those for 1916-1917, but this is entirely due to the large number of King's African Rifles recruits carried from the West Nile Depôt. The cargo returns show a small decrease, compared with those of the previous year, due to the sudd blockage in Lake

Kioga, which prevented the large amount of materials now awaiting transport to the Congo at Masindi being carried during the past year. Otherwise the revenue from cargo would have exceeded all previous returns.

(c) WHEELED TRANSPORT.

31. The fleet of twelve Government motor vans was employed on the following routes:—

- (a) Kampala-Entebbe.
- (b) Kampala-Bombo-(military Headquarters).
- (c) Kampala-Matiri, a point 161 miles on the road to Fort Portal (Western Province Headquarters).
- (d) Masindi Port (Lake Kioga), Masindi (Northern Province Headquarters), and Bukumi road head, seven miles from the port of Butiaba on Lake Albert.

The freight carried by the Motor Service showed a slight decrease, which was due to the impossibility of maintaining the fleet in continual running order, owing to the shortness of the staff and the difficulty of obtaining the essential stores and materials for repairs.

32. Private motor passenger vehicles ply between Jinja, Kampala, Entebbe, and Bombo, and also on the Mbale-Mjanji road, and supplement the Government service on the Mubendi road.

Heavy vans are also maintained by the Belgian Government on the Masindi road for the purpose of dealing with the transport of material for the Kilo gold mines in the Congo.

33. The resumption of normal conditions on the termination of the War should show a marked increase in the use of motor vehicles for transport purposes. Motor vehicles, hamali carts and ox transport are gradually replacing human portorage on the main roads of the Protectorate, and the introduction of these modes of transport sets free an annually increasing number of men for productive labour.

(d) ROADS.

34. During the year twenty miles of new roads were constructed in the Eastern Province, as compared with six miles completed during 1916-1917. All existing metalled roads were kept in a state of good repair. Two important bridges have been erected, one a twenty-nine feet span masonry bridge with steel joists on the Mbale-Kumi road; the other, a bridge with two arches of eight feet span each on the Soroti-Chulu road.

On the Masindi-Butiaba road the Escarpment Bridge, 102 feet long and 50 feet high was practically completed at the end of the year, in spite of the difficulties in transporting the materials.

Elsewhere in the Western and Buganda Provinces lack of staff and funds prevented the extension of any new road work.

VII.—POPULATION AND HEALTH.

(a) POPULATION.

35. The population of the Protectorate in March, 1918, was estimated at 3,360,439. This total includes 570 Europeans, of whom 257 are females, and 3,467 Asiatics comprising 2,622 males and 845

females. The native population in those areas where it is possible to obtain accurate statistics has been returned at 1,421,098 males and 1,785,982 females or a total of 3,207,080, to which must be added 150,000 the estimated population of the Rudolf Province and the unadministered areas of the Eastern Province. The total native population is therefore 3,357,080, compared with 2,840,469, the aggregate calculated at the census in March, 1911.

(b) PUBLIC HEALTH.

36. In the calendar year 1917, the number of cases treated in Government Hospitals and dispensaries amounted to 70,236 cases with 967 deaths, as against 75,202 cases with 552 deaths in 1916, and 77,467 cases with 206 deaths in 1915. Cases treated at the Military Hospitals at Entebbe, Bombo, and Gulu are not included.

37. The total number of European officials resident during the year was 378, among whom there occurred 359 cases of illness and two deaths. In 1916 there were 480 cases and one death. Of the total admissions to Hospital 112 were due to malaria and 11 to dysentery. There were no cases of black-water fever among the officials.

Eight European officials were invalided from the Protectorate during the year, which brings the total number during the last seven years to 30. The causes of invaliding were general debility, neurasthenia, tuberculosis, and neuritis.

38. *Malaria*.—The number of cases treated at European and Native Government Hospitals decreased from 5,679 with 20 deaths in 1916, to 4,414 cases with 6 deaths in 1917; 49 cases of black-water fever were treated of which 8 were fatal, compared with 46 cases and 10 deaths in the previous year.

The diseases which call for special attention in connection with the native population are cerebro-spinal meningitis, sleeping sickness, plague, smallpox, and venereal diseases.

39. *Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis*.—Cases have been far more numerous during 1917 than in the previous years. The admissions into Government Hospitals for the last three years have been as follows:—

1915	..	..	..	4 cases with	3 deaths.
1916	..	..	..	71	„ „ 42 „
1917	..	..	..	469	„ „ 347 „

Besides these, numerous deaths have taken place all over the country, cases having been reported in every district except Masaka. The disease has been particularly severe in the northern and north-eastern parts of the Protectorate. It is estimated that not less than 5,000 deaths took place from this disease in the districts of Gulu and Kitgum, whilst in the Arua District of the West Nile it is considered that 3,000 natives have died from this cause. The rapid spreading of this disease and the great number of deaths is due, first to the abnormal collection and movements of natives for military purposes, and secondly to the shortage of the medical staff.

40. *Smallpox*.—Epidemics of smallpox also occurred throughout the Protectorate, the Nile Districts and Lango being specially affected, and towards the end of the year the mortality was severe.

41. *Plague*.—Admissions of cases of plague to hospital show a decrease from 321 cases with 283 deaths in 1916 to 171 with 143 deaths in 1917; and the native returns show a slight decrease in

the number of deaths compared with the previous year. Unfortunately the returns for the last two months of the year for the Teso and Lango Districts showed a very considerable increase in the number of deaths reported, compared with the rest of the year.

(c) SANITATION.

42. The local sanitary boards are working in the various townships with satisfactory results, and the anti-malaria measures improve the conditions of the more important stations.

43. The Township of Butiaba and parts of Namasagali and the other lakeside townships have been submerged during the great part of the year by the abnormal rise of the level of Lakes Albert and Kioga.

44. Considerable areas of swamp-land have been reclaimed and planted in Kampala and Soroti; in the former town the experiment of putting in a contour drain with porous pipes has proved highly successful in carrying away the underground water, and is a considerable improvement on the system of open drains.

VIII.—JUDICIAL.

45. The number of criminal cases brought before the High Court and the British Subordinate Courts amounted to 1,284, as compared with 1,014 in 1916. The number of persons involved in the charges was 1,923, which shows an increase of 508 on the corresponding figures for the preceding year. Of the persons charged, 1,591 were convicted, 298 acquitted, and 33 discharged for want of evidence.

46. Civil cases dealt with by British Courts aggregated 523, which shows a decrease of 6 below the total for the previous year. Cases of serious crime fell from 113 in 1916 to 91 in 1917.

47. Certain alterations were made by proclamation in the jurisdiction of Native Courts in Buganda.

Amongst other matters, the trial of all crimes punishable by death was transferred to the British Courts.

IX.—EDUCATION.

48. No Government Schools have yet been established, and the three Missionary Societies which undertake the education of the native, receive only limited financial support from Government funds.

The Elementary Schools have been carried on during the year; but both they and the higher-grade schools have suffered from lack of supervision, owing to the shortness of the European Staff, due to the War.

The High Schools of the different Missions have supplied recruits for the Native Army and Native Medical and Mechanical Transport Corps, and these men have performed most satisfactory service, and have won the approval and praise of their Commanding Officers. Throughout the country there is a steady demand for educated boys to act as interpreters, clerks, and office boys, both in Government

Service and in the employ of the commercial firms. Many of these boys seek employment as Chief's clerks, a class which it may be hoped will eventually develop into a Native Civil Service.

49. *Technical Education.*—The various Missionary Societies have maintained their courses of instruction in agriculture and handicrafts. Carpentry, weaving, brick-making, and masonry are among the subjects taught and though progress in many cases appears to be slow, the training of a large number of intelligent natives cannot fail to help forward in the most practical way the development and civilisation of the country. The introduction of the boot-making industry at Kisubi and the establishment at Namirembe of a Medical School for the training of dispensers, have been notable innovations of the year.

50. *Government Subsidies.*—The Government Grant of £1,250 for educational purposes is allocated as follows —

Church Missionary Society	£850
White Fathers of Algeria (Roman Catholic) ..	£300
Mill Hill Mission (Roman Catholic)	£100

Of these contributions, the two last-named are granted for the purpose of primary education, and for similar work the Church Missionary Society received a grant of £300. £150 is allocated to the Church Missionary Society for technical education, and a considerable portion of this is spent on the encouragement of the weaving and spinning industry. £300 provides ten Government Scholarships at the King's School, Budo, and a grant of £100 is made to assist in the training of native teachers.

51. An Educational Conference was held during the year at Kampala, at which delegates from the Protestant and Roman Catholic Missions were present to meet the Government representatives, and various important matters were discussed and agreed upon.

X.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

52. The past year has been one of steady progress throughout the Protectorate despite the adverse conditions resulting from the War.

53. The various native tribes have continued to display a spirit of loyalty and contentment, and the absence of unrest and disaffection, even in the remoter parts of the Protectorate, is a proof of the appreciation felt by the native population for the security of life and property and the other benefits of British administration.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

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

No.	Colony, &c.	ANNUAL.	Year
962	Ashanti		1917
963	Falkland Islands		"
964	Seychelles		"
965	Weihaiwei		"
966	Fiji		"
967	Solomon Islands		1917-1918
968	Grenada		"
969	Turks and Caicos Islands		1917
970	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast		"
971	Ceylon		"
972	Hong Kong		"
973	Zanzibar		"
974	St. Helena		"
975	Malta		1917-1918
976	British Guiana		1917
977	St. Vincent		1917-1918
978	Bahamas		"
979	Gambia		1917
980	Jamaica		1917-1918
981	Gibraltar		1917
982	Bermuda		"
983	Swaziland		1917-1918
984	Trinidad		1917
985	Mauritius		"
986	Cyprus		1917-1918
987	Bechuanaland Protectorate		"
988	East Africa Protectorate		1916-1917
989	Barbados		1917-1918
990	Sierra Leone		1917
991	Straits Settlements		"
992	Leeward Islands		1917-1918

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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