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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 883.

NYASALAND.

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REPORT FOR 1914–15.

(For Report for 1913–14 see No. 832.)

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

*April, 1916.*

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A map will be found in the Report for 1912-1913, No. 772 [Cd. 7050-13].

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No. 883.

NYASALAND.

(For Report for 1913-14 see No. 832.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,  
Zomba, Nyasaland,  
14th February, 1916.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit the usual copies of the Statistical Blue Book of the Protectorate for the year 1914-15, together with a Report on it which has been prepared by Mr. A. M. D. Turnbull, Assistant Chief Secretary.

I have, &c.,

G. SMITH,  
Governor

The Right Honourable  
The Secretary of State for the Colonies,  
&c., &c., &c.

## REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1914-15.

## I.—FINANCIAL.

## REVENUE.

The revenue of the Protectorate from all sources for the year under review was £118,523, as against £124,849 in the preceding year. Of the various heads, Customs (£16,449) showed a decrease of £1,043; Port, Harbour, and Wharf Dues (£6,307) an increase of £351; Native Hut Tax (£71,755) an increase of £1,945; Land Tax (£7,976) a decrease of £109; Licences, Excise, &c. (£5,232) a decrease of £443; Fees of Court or Office, &c. (£1,420) a decrease of £1,734; Post Office (£4,100) a decrease of £2,913; Rents of Government Properties (£3,357) an increase of £292; Interest (£765) a decrease of £449; and Miscellaneous (£1,162) a decrease of £1,858. There was no revenue from Land Sales, as compared with £365 in the previous year.

It will be seen that the revenue decreased under all heads with the exception of Port, Harbour, and Wharf Dues, Native Hut Tax, and Rents.

The Native Hut Tax continues to show a satisfactory increase, which would undoubtedly have been larger than £1,945 but for the state of war existing in North Nyasa District. The number of hut taxes paid rose from 314,579 to 317,308, an increase of 2,729, to which most districts contributed, the only serious deficit being 4,299 taxes in North Nyasa District.

## EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the year, exclusive of loan expenditure, was estimated at £150,364, while the actual expenditure amounted to £143,161. The most important variations from the estimates occurred under the following heads:—Governor and Legislature (£3,283), excess £316; Secretariat (£4,316), saving £763; District Administration (£26,791), saving £978; Treasury (£4,008), saving £770; Judicial and Legal (£2,433), saving £338; Lands (£1,378), saving £355; Prisons and Lunatic Asylum (£2,221), saving £615; Medical (£9,965), saving £1,018; Scientific Commission (£3,466), excess £977; Transport (£2,097), saving £1,001; Public Works Extraordinary (£7,848), saving £1,758; Railway Extension (£18,087), excess £1,787.

CURRENCY AND BANKING.

The currency of the Protectorate consists of British coin; gold, silver, and bronze.

There is no note circulation.

The amount of coin in circulation among non-natives is estimated at £89,286.

The total values of specie declared as imports and exports during the past 18 years are as follows:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
Gold .. .. .	12,400	219,094
Silver .. .. .	79,870	46,546
Bronze .. .. .	2,727	21
	<u>£94,997</u>	<u>£265,661</u>

As explained in the previous report, the great excess of exports over imports is due to the exportation by the banks of the accumulation of coin introduced into the Protectorate by natives on their return from employment in the Transvaal and in Rhodesia, in regard to which no reliable statistics are available, the probability being that gold coin thus introduced into the Protectorate nearly approximates to the value exported by the banks. During the year under review (1914-15) the value of gold thus exported was £38,213.

SAVINGS BANK.

The amount deposited in the Savings Bank during the year ended 31st December, 1914, was £5,629, as compared with £4,331 in 1913. The withdrawals amounted to £2,991, as against £3,692.

One hundred new accounts were opened during the year, whilst 60 were closed. On 31st December, 1914, there were 268 active accounts as compared with 228 on the same date in the preceding year, the average amount standing to the credit of each depositor being £26 17s. 8d. (a total of £7,205) as compared with £20 0s. 8d. (a total of £4,568) at the close of the previous year. European accounts increased from 60 to 86 in number and from £1,880 to £4,689 in total amount.

The rate of interest payable on deposit account is 2½ per cent. per annum, and the interest earned by depositors during the year amounted to £133 11s. 2d.

The Savings Bank has now been in existence for three and a half years, and it is hardly to be expected that the number (now 116) of native depositors will increase until the system has been in force for some years and they begin to realise its benefits and the value of thrift.

## II.—TRADE AND SHIPPING.

## TRADE.

The gross receipts from Customs duties during the year reached the sum of £22,756, or a decrease of £692, as compared with the amount collected in the previous year, and are made up as follows:—

	£
Export duty .. .. .	35
Import duty and registration fees ..	16,415
Road and river dues .. .. .	4,232
Wharfage .. .. .	1,957
Landing charges at Chinde .. .. .	117
	<hr/>
	£22,756
	<hr/>

The external trade (import and export), excluding goods in transit and specie, amounted in value to £363,800 as against £389,935 in the previous year—a decrease of £26,135. Particulars for six years are appended.

Year.	Imports. £	Exports. £
1909-10 .. .. .	111,783	97,504
1910-11 .. .. .	193,490	148,176
1911-12 .. .. .	236,628	151,460
1912-13 .. .. .	272,889	174,650
1913-14 .. .. .	189,201	200,734
1914-15 .. .. .	181,387	182,413

Trade naturally suffered from the abnormal conditions consequent on the war, but the net result has been a loss of only £692 in revenue as compared with the previous year.

It is of interest to note that imports from Germany decreased from £17,194 in 1913-14 to £8,451 in 1914-15. On the other hand, exports to that country rose from £8,925 to £24,123. This is all the more remarkable when it is remembered that the trade routes to Germany were open for four months only. The increase is accounted for by the abnormal shipments of tobacco to the German markets. From the 1st April to the 30th September 2,309,800 lbs. of tobacco were exported, and of this quantity Germany took 765,240 lbs., or 33 per cent.

## IMPORTS.

The value of goods imported for home consumption (excluding specie) amounted to £181,387, which represents a decrease of £7,814, or 4 per cent., when compared with the previous year.

The decrease is more or less general under all headings, but textiles, which form the bulk of the imports, show a decrease of

£303 only. The prospects during the first four months of the year were very favourable, and the falling off in trade is entirely attributable to the war.

As the result of the growing importance of motor vehicles for transport purposes kerosene and petrol show an increase of £1,475, equal to 71 per cent., and vehicles £1,083, or 24 per cent.

Of the total imports 71 per cent. came from the United Kingdom, 8 per cent. from British possessions, and 21 per cent. from foreign countries.

#### EXPORTS.

In the year under review the exports show an increase, as compared with the year 1913-14, of 585,477 lbs. in weight, or an increase of 6 per cent., but a decrease in value of £18,389, equal to 9 per cent.

Exports, excluding specie, to the United Kingdom fell from £183,425 to £152,769, and to British possessions from £3,301 to £2,312. Exports to foreign countries rose from £14,008 to £27,332.

As compared with the previous year, the export of tea increased by 50,174 lbs. in weight, and £1,254 (43 per cent.) in value. The export of this product has steadily risen from 42,042 lbs. in 1910-11 to 166,248 lbs. during the period under report.

The exports of cotton increased from 2,401,142 lbs. in 1913-14 to 2,648,508 lbs., a rise of 247,366 lbs., and it is estimated that 200 tons of the season's crop were still unshipped at the end of the year under review.

An abnormal quantity of cotton seed was exported, viz., 1,177,384 lbs., as against 194,255 lbs. in the previous year, but it is not anticipated that this gain will be maintained.

Fibre of all kinds rose from 36,960 lbs. in 1913-14 to 69,644 lbs. in 1914-15.

The exports of tobacco receded from 3,763,014 lbs. to 3,308,948 lbs., a decline of 454,066 lbs. The difficulty experienced in obtaining ocean transport since the outbreak of war is accountable to some extent for this shortage.

Beeswax and groundnuts show decreased exports, the former declining by 13,813 lbs., the latter by 320,285 lbs. The closing of the German markets has affected the export of these two products, especially beeswax of which the bulk was consigned hitherto to Germany, that country having absorbed 73 per cent. of the total quantity exported during the last five years, and 83 per cent. of the shipments in the year under review before the outbreak of hostilities. In the case of groundnuts 44 per cent. of the quantity exported in the past five years went to Germany, and it is probable that a considerable proportion of the shipments consigned to ports in the United Kingdom and France found their way to the German markets.

In the four months of the year 1914-15 preceding the war Germany received 70 per cent. of the groundnuts exported.

The gradual abandonment of coffee cultivation is responsible for a falling off of 92,599 lbs. in the amount exported, and it is of interest to note that the exports of this product have dropped from 2,148,160 lbs. in the year 1899-1900 to 99,477 lbs. in the year now reported on.

Rubber exports have decreased from 65,083 lbs. to 36,707 lbs., mica from 19,248 lbs. to 10,903 lbs., and sesame oil seed from 14,563 lbs. to nil in comparison with the year 1913-14.

Miscellaneous and unclassified goods, which consist principally of stores and textiles, exported from the Protectorate to neighbouring territories, have declined in value from £10,822 to £5,439. This decline is accounted for by the partial closing of certain trade routes owing to the war.

The direction of the export trade was in the following proportions:—To the United Kingdom 84 per cent., to British Possessions one per cent., and to foreign countries 15 per cent.

#### SHIPPING.

Communication between Port Herald, the principal port of the Protectorate, and Chinde, the ocean outlet in Portuguese East Africa, has again depended on river transport, the traffic having been carried out by the river steamers belonging to the African Lakes Corporation and the British Central Africa Company.

Although the usual difficulties were encountered as the dry season advanced, there was no congestion of traffic. The opening of the railway from Port Herald to Chindio on the Zambesi, which is nearing completion, will, it is hoped, materially increase transport facilities.

With the outbreak of war ocean transport became somewhat disorganised and produce has been detained as a result at Chinde and Beira. At the conclusion of the year a large quantity remained in the hands of growers and merchants, who preferred to await more favourable conditions.

The number of vessels that cleared inwards from Chinde was 139, as against 117 in the previous year. The outward clearances numbered 140 vessels, as compared with 165 vessels in the previous year.

The number of steamers plying on the Zambesi and Shire rivers is 25. Of these vessels 11 are under the British flag and 14 under the Portuguese. The number of vessels on the shipping registers is 147 as against 138 in the year 1913-14. Of these 7 steamers and 28 other vessels are on the Fort Johnston register and ply on Lake Nyasa. All the shipping on Lake Nyasa is now under the British flag, the one German steamer having been destroyed.

The Upper Shire river has ceased to be a navigable waterway for barge traffic, and cargo from the south for Lake ports is now consigned overland to Fort Johnston for shipment there.

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### III.—AGRICULTURE.

The principal crops grown for export are cotton, tobacco, tea, and rubber. The total acreage under European cultivation amounted to 45,479 *as* against 55,085 in the previous year. The decrease is mainly accounted for by a reduction in the area under cultivation in the North Nyasa District consequent on the existence of hostilities on the Anglo-German frontier; by the gradual abandonment of Ceara rubber; and the employment of some planters on military service.

The feature of the year has been the extension of the tea-growing industry in the Mlanje District, where the prospects continue to be promising, several consignments of this product having realized the satisfactory price of 1*s.* per lb. on the home market, which compares favourably with a similar grade of tea from the established estates of the East.

#### COTTON.

Cotton still maintains its position as the most extensively cultivated crop. Except in the Mlanje district and the Luchenza section of the Blantyre district, where abnormal storms in March and April, 1914, caused much damage, the season proved favourable on the whole. The quality was of a satisfactory standard, considerable improvement being recorded in the cotton produced in the Lower Shire, Ruo, and Chikwawa areas.

After exhaustive trials it is now recognised that the culture of Egyptian cotton is unprofitable owing to its sensitiveness to climatic variations and susceptibility to bacterial blight.

There was an increasing demand for good quality cotton on the home markets until the commencement of the war, prices averaging from 6*d.* to 9*d.* per lb. On the outbreak of hostilities it became unsaleable, but in October, when the market partially reopened, a large proportion of the crop was sold at prices ranging from 4*d.* to 5*d.* per lb. Since then no cotton in any quantity has been sold at a higher price than 6½*d.* per lb., which, with the increased freight and insurance charges, leaves little or no profit to the producer.

The exported crop in bales of 400 lbs. lint, amounted to 6,621 *as* against 6,003 in the previous year, the area under European cultivation being 26,407 acres *as* compared with 25,697 in 1913-14.

The local valuation of the crop was £72,068, or an increase of £6,581 on that of the preceding year.

The acreage, under European cultivation, of the crop now approaching harvest is estimated at 24,006 acres.

#### NATIVE-GROWN COTTON.

It is not anticipated that any large expansion of the native cotton-growing industry can take place until the railway system is extended to Lake Nyasa.

The bulk of the native crop is produced in areas in reasonable proximity to the railway, and more particularly in the Mlanje, Ruo, and Lower Shire districts.

The total native crop for the year under review shows a decrease of 331 tons of seed cotton, which is equivalent to a decrease in lint of 501 bales of 400 lbs. each. The conditions obtained in the Mlanje and Ruo districts were responsible for this decline. In the former the crop, which was approaching harvest, was practically destroyed by unprecedented storms in March, 1914, whilst in the latter the flooding of the river levels from the same reason caused the gardens to suffer so severely as to render fresh issue of seed necessary.

Government markets for the sale and purchase of native cotton, which were instituted originally in the year 1912-13, were held at various centres from May to November with results which fully justify the system.

The valuation of the native crop compares favourably with that grown on European estates, and it is satisfactory to record that no adverse reports with regard to grading have been received from the brokers during the year.

#### TOBACCO.

At the commencement of the planting season rain was erratic and scarce in certain parts of the Blantyre and Zomba Districts, where the greater part of this crop is produced, but a great improvement in climatic conditions took place as the season advanced. The leaf proved remarkably free from the diseases encountered in the preceding year.

The Nyasaland crop is grown from seed intended to produce bright, semi-bright or mahogany tobacco. There is great diversity of opinion at present as to the varieties most suitable for cultivation.

The yield per acre in this country gives disappointing results as compared with the United States, fertilisers, owing to high freights, not having been utilised to any extent. Suggestions for the more extensive use of manures obtainable locally were published during the year by the Agricultural Department.

The results of the investigation into the position of Nyasaland tobacco on the home markets were similarly published. These pointed to the fact that tobacco suffered considerably through delay in transit and exposure to sun, frequently arriving in too brittle a condition to handle. This defect will, it is hoped, be remedied to some extent on the opening of the railway from Port Herald to the Zambesi.

The acreage under this crop for the year under review was 9,534 acres as compared with 10,499 in the previous year. The export amounted to 3,308,948 lbs., valued locally at £82,735, being a decrease of 454,066 lbs. in weight and £11,432 in value on the figures for 1913-14. These figures are not a true indication of the relative

production, as owing to high freights and war insurance a considerable quantity remained unexported at the end of the year and it is believed that the actual crop exceeded that of the previous year.

The crop now being harvested is estimated to cover an area of 9,042 acres.

#### TEA.

The export of tea for the year amounted to 166,248 lbs. as against 116,074 lbs. in the preceding year, the local value being £4,156 or an increase of £1,254. The acreage increased from 2,870 to 3,303.

An interesting development of the tea industry, which has been confined hitherto to south-east Mlanje, is its successful cultivation on the Bandanga estate of the Blantyre and East Africa Company in the Cholo section of the Blantyre district, where the rainfall varies from 65 to 70 inches.

As a result tea is now being planted on an experimental scale in other parts of the country similarly situated as regards rainfall and elevation.

During the whole year there has been a record demand on the home market for the commoner grades of tea, and excellent prices have been obtained.

#### RUBBER.

With the low prices prevailing during the past year little interest has centred in rubber, and most of the estates in the Shire Highlands have ceased tapping, or abandoned cultivation.

The harvesting of wild rubber has practically ceased, and at the present prices there is little likelihood of any quantity of Ceara and wild rubber being exported from Nyasaland. The Para rubber planted in the West Nyasa district is giving indications of satisfactory development.

The value of the exported crop amounted only to £3,423 as compared with £9,598 in the previous year, showing a decrease of £6,175.

The area under cultivation dropped from 10,562 acres to 5,936.

#### OTHER PRODUCTS.

The cultivation of coffee, chillies, and capsicums has greatly decreased during the last few years, and although satisfactory prices were obtained there is no indication of any revival in cultivation. This is due to the fact that the chillie and capsicum market is so easily flooded, whilst the coffee plant is too speculative a crop to be attractive.

The exports of coffee amounted in value to £2,487 as compared with £4,802 in the preceding year, whilst the acreage dropped from 1,976 to 1,559.

The native rice crop, which is grown for the local market, amounted to 717 tons.

During the year an attempt was made to encourage the cultivation of ground-nuts by natives in the Lower Shire district, and the measure of success attained indicates the possibility of further developments in this direction.

#### EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

Namiwawa.—57 acres were planted with various varieties of cotton, and for the first time the cultivation of tobacco was undertaken.

Experiments were also made with various other crops. The buildings erected during the year included a dairy, poultry houses, a tobacco barn, and several cattle kraals.

Nyachipere.—The scheme of planting for the year was designed to secure a final test of the relative values of Nyasaland Upland and Egyptian varieties of cotton, and the result has been conclusively to prove that Egyptian cotton is unsuited for cultivation in the Protectorate and cannot compare even under the most favourable conditions with Nyasaland Upland.

#### LIVE STOCK.

The precautions against rinderpest adopted in the previous year were continued, and it is satisfactory to record that there has been no sign of the disease in the Protectorate.

Systematic dipping is becoming recognised as a necessity for successful cattle raising and the prevention of tick-borne diseases. Such diseases as occurred during the year were confined for the most part to stock not regularly dipped. The spraying machine, which was erected by the Government in 1913 at Zoraba, has been extensively made use of by herd owners in the vicinity, and a marked improvement in the general health of the animals has resulted. It is hoped to extend similar facilities to native cattle owners in the Mombera district with a view to counteracting the mortality caused by East Coast fever which, although absent from the Shire Islands, is endemic in certain parts of the northern districts of the Protectorate.

With a view to the improvement of the local breed of sheep, good representatives of merino and Suffolk breeds were imported by the Government from South Africa.

Demodectic mange, which was first diagnosed in 1912 and was found to have established itself firmly in herds throughout the southern districts of Nyasaland, was made the subject of an energetic campaign by the veterinary authorities, and is being stamped out effectively by the slaughter-out method of all infected stock in conjunction with the regular and systematic dipping of "in-contact animals."

FORESTRY.

The main afforestation work undertaken during the year was, firstly, the extension of the areas of Mlanje cypress (*Widdringtonia whytei*) on the plateau of Zomba and Mlanje mountains with a view to maintaining the supply of timber for local requirements, which at present is cut from the natural forests of this species on Mlanje plateau; and secondly, the establishment of fuel plantations in certain populous native areas to remedy the extensive deforestation which has taken place during the past ten years.

On the Likabula plateau, Mlanje, an area of 25 acres of cypress forest, which was felled during the year, was replanted, and steps were taken to commence the gradual clearing and planting up with cypress of an area of about 150 acres on the Lichenya plateau.

The eucalyptus plantations at Zomba were extended by 30 acres and now aggregate 180 acres, whilst the Mlanje cypress plantations on Zomba plateau cover an area of 280 acres.

In the nurseries at Zomba and Blantyre there were raised 150,000 and 100,000 eucalyptus plants respectively, it having been found that this species is undoubtedly the best fuel tree for Nyasaland.

The eucalyptus plants raised at Blantyre were all issued to natives residing on Crown land in the Soche area of Blantyre district, where it is reported that the natives are realising the importance of planting up small areas in the vicinity of their villages for the production of fuel and poles for their domestic needs.

From the Zomba nursery over 100,000 eucalypts were distributed to natives, whilst at Chiradzulu sub-station of the Blantyre district 40,000 plants were raised for a similar purpose.

Small nurseries for raising plants for issue to natives in selected areas are being opened up at all stations south of Lake Nyasa.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.

Special attention was devoted to insect pests affecting the main crops of Nyasaland and to an investigation of the measures of insect eradication most suited to local conditions in view of the fact that the cost of insecticides is regarded by many as prohibitive to their general use.

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IV.—INDUSTRIES AND MINES.

INDUSTRIES.

During the year under review, the trade and business of the Protectorate presented no noticeable features, no new trades having been introduced.

The soap manufactory at Blantyre is still in the experimental stage. Tests are now being made with croton seed, which is indigenous, castor oil and ground-nut seeds having proved unsuitable for making a marketable soap from local products.

### MINES.

Apart from the deposits of limestone which are worked to meet local building requirements, operations have been confined exclusively to the mining of mica in the Dedza District and there are no signs of developments in any other direction. The quantity of mica exported during the year amounted to 10,903 lbs., as compared with 19,248 lbs. in 1913-14. The results obtained have proved disappointing up to the present.

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### V.—EDUCATION.

Education is carried on in the Protectorate by means of the schools which are controlled and maintained by the various Missionary societies, ten of which participated in the annual Government grant of £1,000 in aid of education.

At the end of the year under review the number of Mission schools numbered 2,093 as against 1,952 in the previous year. The total enrolment in these schools was 78,341 boys and 54,547 girls, the average attendance being 50,365 boys and 34,102 girls.

The native rising in January, 1915, has necessarily directed attention to various questions connected with native education. These questions are forming the subject of investigation by the Commission appointed to inquire into the rising.

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### VI.—JUDICIAL, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

#### POLICE.

The authorised establishment of the native police on the 31st March, 1915, was 385, an increase of 25 as compared with the previous year. The increase was mainly due to the strengthening of the police units in the districts affected by the native rising. It is encouraging to note that on the outbreak of the rising the force remained loyal and, more particularly at Chiradzulu and Mlanje, faced a difficult situation in a most praiseworthy manner. To the Mlanje police belongs the credit of having tracked down and shot the fugitive leader of the revolt, whilst the Chiradzulu police saved the lives of two Europeans by a timely warning and played a useful part in the operations against the rebels. When it is remembered that at the latter station the European officer was absent at the time, the initiative shown by the native police was the more striking.

#### CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The number of persons tried criminally in the High Court was 146, as against 7 in the previous year. This increase is almost entirely attributable to cases arising out of the native rebellion.

In addition cases involving 116 persons came up from subordinate Courts for confirmation by the High Court, as compared with 67 in 1913-14.

The number of offences reported to the Police or Magistrates was 3,740, as compared with 3,264 in 1913-14.

In connexion with these offences 4,511 persons were apprehended by the Police or summoned before the Magistrates, 146 of whom were committed for trial in the High Court.

#### CIVIL STATISTICS.

The number of civil cases tried in the High Court was 53, as against 88 in 1913-14.

The civil cases tried in District and Sub-District Native Courts tend to increase year by year. This is due to the increasing confidence placed by natives as a whole in the judgments of the magistrates.

#### PRISONS.

Natives sentenced to terms of imprisonment exceeding six months are confined in the Central Prison at Zomba, European prisoners being detained, as a rule, in the Central Prison at Blantyre. Asiatic prisoners serve their sentences in either of these two gaols, according to circumstances.

The issue of a more varied scale of rations to native prisoners, which was commenced during the preceding year, came into full operation in April, 1915. The system has proved eminently satisfactory, having resulted in a general improvement in health and in greater efficiency of the convict labour.

Gardens of native foodstuffs are cultivated by the convicts themselves, who by this means contribute largely to the cost of their maintenance. A similar system is in force at District prisons wherever suitable land is available, and its institution has effected considerable economy.

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### VII.—POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

#### POPULATION.

The number of Europeans resident in the Protectorate, comprising officials and non-officials, was 587 males and 244 females, or a total of 831, as compared with 540 males and 259 females, or a total of 799, in the previous year. The Asiatic population amounted to 410, as against 408 in the preceding year.

The native population is estimated at 1,088,057, being approximately 486,908 males and 602,390 females.

## BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES.

There were 32 European births and 12 deaths during the year, as against 26 and 7 respectively in 1913-14. These figures show a birth-rate of 38·38 and a death-rate of 14·44 per mille.

Six European marriages were celebrated during the year.

Native Christian marriages celebrated under "The Christian Native Marriage Ordinance, 1912," numbered 441.

## VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

## GENERAL.

During the year under review the health of the Protectorate has in all respects been satisfactory, and there has been no outbreak of disease in epidemic form.

Owing to the employment of so large a proportion of the staff on purely military duty, there was a falling off in the number of cases treated in 1914 as compared with previous years.

Investigations during the year were confined entirely to sleeping sickness; but here again, owing to their suspension at the end of July in the Marimba, Dedza, South Nyasa, and Upper Shire districts, there has been a considerable decline in the number of cases returned.

This falling off in the returns was further accentuated by the illness in October of the Medical Officer who was engaged in investigating the sleeping sickness area of the Dowa district, so that the cases reported from this locality cover a period of nine months only of continuous investigation.

It would be misleading, therefore, to compare the number of cases of sleeping sickness found in 1914 with previous years, and to base any conclusions thereon as to the progress or otherwise of the disease.

Thirty-nine cases of sleeping sickness were notified during the year, as against 64 in 1913, 46 in 1912, and 38 in 1911.

The distribution of these cases was as follows:—23 in the sleeping sickness area of the Dowa district, 13 in the Marimba district, 1 in the Dedza district, 1 in the South Nyasa district, and 1 from the Mombera district diagnosed at Zomba.

Of the cases diagnosed 25 were males and 14 females, the proportion of approximately two males to one female continuing to be noticeable.

Death has supervened as a rule in from three to five months from the probable date of infection, all the cases having proved fatal.

The Entomologist of the Imperial Bureau of Entomology who arrived in the Protectorate in October, 1914, is engaged at present in carrying out experiments to test the feasibility of eradicating *Glossina*

*morsitans* within a given area by a direct attack upon the flies themselves, and is also testing the actual effects on the fly of clearing undergrowth. Preventive measures have been limited to the establishment and maintenance of clearings around villages in infected areas, and to educating natives as to the origin and nature of the disease and the precautions which can be taken to reduce the danger of infection.

The number of cases which have been discovered in the Protectorate up to the end of 1914 totalled 211.

Of diseases in the infective group, malaria furnished the largest number of cases, and gave rise to 6.7 per cent. of the total admissions.

In order of frequency, other infective diseases were dysentery, syphilis, gonorrhoea, pneumonia, chicken-pox, whooping cough, and yaws.

Under the head of general diseases, rheumatism accounted for practically all the admissions; rheumatism, muscular rheumatism, myalgia, myositis, fibro-myositis, all being included in this term.

Injuries and ulcers furnished, as usual, a large proportion of the cases treated; and next in order of frequency were digestive and bowel complaints, bronchitis, conjunctivitis, and diseases of the connective tissue.

#### HEALTH OF EUROPEAN OFFICIALS.

The health of the European officials has not been as satisfactory as in the previous year, seven having been invalided in 1914 as against none in the preceding year.

There were 151 cases treated, with no attendant mortality, as compared with 170 cases and one death in the previous year.

The falling off in the number of cases treated during the year under review was due, not to less sickness, but to the withdrawal of Medical Officers from some of the out-stations for employment with the troops.

Of the total admissions 31 were due to malaria, that is to say, a proportion of about 20 per cent.

#### HEALTH OF GENERAL EUROPEAN POPULATION.

It must be borne in mind that, as many of these are attended to by mission doctors, only a varying proportion come under the treatment of Medical Officers.

There were 240 cases treated in 1914, as against 305 during the preceding year.

This decrease is due to the same reason as is assigned in the case of European officials, and is not attributable to any actual decrease in sickness.

There were four deaths among the general European population in 1914 as against five in the preceding year.

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## IX.—COMMUNICATIONS.

### RAILWAYS.

The railway from Port Herald to Blantyre, 113½ miles in length, is owned and managed by the Shire Highlands Railway Company. The passenger train service consists of two up and two down trains per week, in addition to which special goods trains are run to meet traffic requirements.

The construction of the Central Africa Railway, which is to connect Port Herald with Chindio on the Zambezi river, in Portuguese East Africa, a distance of 60½ miles, was continued, and at the conclusion of the year was sufficiently advanced to enable it to be used for the carriage of goods. The opening of this line will, it is hoped, remove some of the more pressing transport difficulties which the Protectorate has had to face in the past.

### MARINE TRANSPORT.

Up to the outbreak of the war the Government steamers on Lake Nyasa ran regularly in accordance with traffic requirements. On the commencement of hostilities steamer sailings were suspended until the command of the Lake was established by the disablement of the German gunboat "Hermann von Wissmann" on the 14th August, 1914.

### ROAD TRANSPORT.

Commercial firms still rely on ox-wagons, hand carts, or native portage, but the Government motor lorry service, which has now been maintained for several years between Zomba and rail-head for the transportation of Government stores and passengers, amply demonstrates the feasibility of mechanical traction on metalled roads.

The Albion lorry ran 8,188 miles during the year, transporting 381 tons of cargo, 205 European and 277 native passengers. The Wolseley lorry, which is no longer serviceable, performed nine journeys only. The necessity for a third lorry had been foreseen but in consequence of the war the manufacturers were unable to supply it.

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**X.—PUBLIC WORKS.**

The total expenditure on public works was £16,595, as compared with £21,638 in 1913-14. As compared with the previous year, the outlay on new roads and bridges decreased by £4,370 and on machinery by £1,615. On the other hand, the provision for new public buildings increased by £1,359.

**BUILDINGS.**

The principal works at Zomba comprise an annexe to Government House, the commencement of new offices for the Agricultural Department, and an extension to the lunatic asylum. Offices for the Lands Department and a native hospital were erected at Blantyre. At Port Herald a double-storey house and a new post office were erected.

**ROADS.**

*Loan Works.*—The loan of £803,000 granted to the Protectorate by the Imperial Treasury includes a sum of £156,000 for the improvement and extension of road communications in Nyasaland. The road work undertaken in this connection during the year consisted of the completion of the bridging and metalling of the Luchenza-Lichenya road, 22½ miles in length, which places the plantations in south-east Mlanje in communication with Luchenza railway station. These plantations have been increasing steadily in importance as a result of the expansion of the tea industry. The average cost per mile amounted to £249, which was considerably below the estimate. The bridges constructed on the route numbered six, one being of steel, one of timber with steel truss, and the remaining four of timber only.

The total expenditure on loan works amounted to £6,142.

*Other Roads.*—The ordinary expenditure on road work amounted to £2,437, made up as follows:—

Maintenance and repairs of main roads and bridges ..	£697
Maintenance and repairs of other roads and bridges ..	£974
New roads and bridges .. .. .	£766

The road running from the Shire river to a point three miles beyond Neno station, a distance of 29 miles, was widened and made fit for cart traffic with the object of improving the means of communication between the plantations around Neno and rail-head.

Considerable reconstruction work was effected on the road between Lunzu and Blantyre.

At Mikalongwe the bridge over the Luchenza river, which was commenced in the preceding year, was completed, thus providing a ready means of access for the plantations in the vicinity to the railway.

A new bridge over the Likangala river on the Zomba-Blantyre macadam road was commenced, but, owing to shortage of staff, the work could not be completed before the close of the year.

The provision of special funds enabled the road between Zomba and Fort Johnston to be kept open for light motor traffic throughout the rainy season.

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## XI.—POST AND TELEGRAPHS.

### POSTAL.

The postal service consists at present of 19 Post Offices and 7 Sub-Post Offices.

The revenue amounted to £4,100 as compared with £7,012 for the previous year, a decrease of £2,912,

The expenditure was £224 in excess of the previous year, being £5,688 as against £5,464. This increase is due to the cost of the carriage of mails beyond the Protectorate having risen from £572 to £923.

There was a considerable decrease in the number of postal orders issued and paid. This is mainly attributable to the introduction of an inland money order service which is now extensively used by Indian traders in preference to the postal order service.

The total value of money orders issued amounted to £12,811, as against £7,781 in 1913-14. On the other hand, the value of money orders drawn on the Protectorate receded from £6,183 to £3,299, the decrease being due mainly to a fall in sums remitted from the United Kingdom and countries in Europe.

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## XII.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

*Native Administration.*—The system of native village administration, to which reference was made in the report for the year 1913-14, was further extended during the year under review by its introduction in the Fort Manning area of the Lilongwe district and the Liwonde area of the Upper Shire district.

No difficulties have arisen in carrying out the concentration of scattered collections of huts into organised villages under the charge of a village headman. The system is still in its infancy and progress must necessarily be slow. None the less the results already achieved are encouraging.

*Taxation.*—Notwithstanding the disturbance which had to be quelled by armed force, the collection of the Native Hut Tax presented no difficulty. Some loss of revenue had to be faced in the North Nyasa district consequent on the existence of hostilities, but in the areas more particularly affected by the rising the adverse effects on taxation were small. Considering the abnormal conditions, the increase of £1,945 in the hut tax revenue on the previous year's figures may be regarded as satisfactory.

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### XIII.—GENERAL.

The declaration of war between Great Britain and Germany involved the Protectorate in hostilities with German East Africa. The main features of the operations have been the successful attack on the 14th of August, 1914, by H.M.S. "Guendolen," on Sphinxhafen and the disablement of the German gunboat, "Hermann von Wissmann," by which the command of Lake Nyasa was assured; the gallant defence of Karonga against a greatly superior enemy force and its relief on the 9th of September; and, later in the day, the complete defeat of the German forces at Kasoa. Since then it is gratifying to record that, while there have been outpost affairs, the forces of the Protectorate have successfully maintained its defence.

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## 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:—

### ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
849	Bahamas .. .. .	1914-1915
850	Gibraltar .. .. .	1914
851	Sierra Leone .. .. .	"
852	Grenada .. .. .	1914-1915
853	Bermuda .. .. .	1914
854	Malta .. .. .	1914-1915
855	Ceylon .. .. .	1914
856	Hong Kong .. .. .	"
857	Bechuanaland Protectorate .. .. .	1914-1915
858	Basutoland .. .. .	"
859	Gold Coast .. .. .	1914
860	Jamaica .. .. .	1914-1915
861	Gambia .. .. .	1914
862	Straits Settlements .. .. .	"
863	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast .. .. .	"
864	Ashanti .. .. .	"
865	Cyprus .. .. .	1914-1915
866	Swaziland .. .. .	"
867	Somaliland .. .. .	"
868	British Honduras .. .. .	1914
869	British Solomon Islands .. .. .	1914-1915
870	Tongan Islands Protectorate .. .. .	"
871	Barbados .. .. .	"
872	Falkland Islands .. .. .	1914
873	Uganda .. .. .	1914-1915
874	British Guiana .. .. .	"
875	Mauritius .. .. .	1914
876	Leeward Islands .. .. .	1914-1915
877	Trinidad and Tobago .. .. .	"
878	Nigeria .. .. .	1914
879	Cayman Islands .. .. .	1914-1915
880	St. Lucia .. .. .	"
881	East Africa Protectorate .. .. .	"
882	Imperial Institute .. .. .	1914

### 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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