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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 919.

NYASALAND.

REPORT FOR 1915-16.

(For Report for 1914-15 see No. 883.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty
March, 1917.



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No. 919.

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(For Report for 1914-15 see No. 883.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,

Zomba, Nyasaland,

27th November, 1916.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit the customary Report on the Statistical Blue Book of the Protectorate for the year 1915-16, which has been prepared by Mr. G. B. Anderson, Acting Assistant Chief Secretary. The report has been reduced in accordance with the instructions contained in your Circular Despatch of the 30th of September last.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

G. SMITH,

Governor.

The Right Honourable,

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

I.—FINANCIAL.

REVENUE.

The total revenue of the Protectorate for the year under review was £137,911 as against £118,523 in the preceding year. Of the various heads, Customs (£21,571) showed an increase of £5,122 ; Port, Harbour and Wharf Dues (£6,705), an increase of £398 ; Native Hut Tax (£76,679), an increase of £4,924 ; Land Tax (£8,072), an increase of £96 ; Licences, Excise, &c. (£9,690), an increase of £4,458 ; Fees of Court or Office, &c. (£5,366), an increase of £3,946 ; Post Office (£3,835), a decrease of £265 ; Rents of Government Properties (£3,001), a decrease of £356 ; Interest (£507), a decrease of £258 ; Miscellaneous (£1,808), an increase of £646 ; and Land Sales (£677), an increase of the like amount, there having been no land sales during the year 1914–15.

A satisfactory increase in the Native Hut Tax is again shown and is mainly attributable to the more systematic collection of the tax rendered possible by the concentration of villages in certain districts under the District Administration Native Ordinance. 340,377 taxes were paid as against 317,308 in the preceding year, an increase of 23,069.

The increase shown under the head Licences, Excise, &c. is almost entirely due to the infliction of fines, £2,250 under the Trading with the Enemy Ordinance and £2,000 under the Collective Punishments Ordinance in the districts principally concerned in the native rising.

Under the head Fees of Court or Office, &c., the increase of £3,946 is mainly due to a large payment of estate duty on probate granted on the will of a rich Indian merchant.

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the year, exclusive of loan expenditure, amounted to £125,666, which represents a saving of £24,698 on the sanctioned estimate of £150,364. Of this net saving a sum of £7,654 is in reality a liability to the Central Africa Railway Company in respect of the guaranteed interest on capital for the half year ended 31st December, 1915. Direct economies were effected under the general votes for Passages, £5,477 ; Personal Emoluments, £5,049 ; Travelling Expenses, £1,493 ; various works, etc., deferred on account of military exigencies, £2,635 ; while a sum of £2,772 under the head Military is a set off against War Expenses in respect of pay, rations, etc., of Native Troops.

In only four instances do heads of expenditure show totals in excess of the estimates, and these excesses are not of sufficient importance to call for comment.

II.—TRADE.

The external trade (import and export), excluding goods in transit and specie and military stores imported by the Government, amounted in value to £436,254, as against £363,800 in the previous year, an increase of £72,454 or 19.91 per cent.

IMPORTS.

The value of goods imported for home consumption, excluding specie but including Government imports except military stores, amounted to £238,077, which represents an increase on the previous year's imports of £56,690, or 31.25 per cent. "Food, Drink and Tobacco" showed an increase of £19,062; "Raw Materials," £290; "Manufactured Articles," £55,750; "Miscellaneous and Unclassified," a decrease of £18,412, as compared with the preceding year.

Of the total imports (excluding specie) the United Kingdom supplied 65.5 per cent., British possessions 16.8 per cent., and Foreign Countries 17.7 per cent.

EXPORTS.

In the year under review the trade exports exceeded those of the previous year by 1,146,421 lbs., in weight and £15,722, equal to 8.62 per cent., in value.

Exports, excluding specie and goods in transit, to the United Kingdom rose from £152,769 to £186,321, to British possessions from £2,312 to £5,767, while exports to Foreign Countries fell from £27,332 to £6,085, as compared with the year 1914-15.

Exports under the classification, "Food, Drink and Tobacco," showed an increase of £16,259; "Miscellaneous and Unclassified," £5,086; while the export of "Raw Materials" declined by £5,623.

The output of tea continues to increase steadily, the quantity exported during the year under review being 288,341 lbs., valued at £8,585, as compared with 166,248 lbs., valued at £4,156, in the previous year.

As compared with the previous year the export of tobacco increased by 397,255 lbs., in weight and £9,922 in value, the total weight exported was 3,706,203 lbs, valued at £92,657, as against 3,308,948 lbs., valued at £82,735 in the previous year, an increase in value of 12 per cent.

The exports of cotton showed an increase of 416,740 lbs. (15.7 per cent.), but a decreased value of £3,482, owing to the depressed state of the home market during part of the year and consequent fluctuation of the locally assessed valuations, but it is estimated that 100 tons of the season's crop had not been shipped at the end of the year under review.

Fibre rose from 69,644 lbs., valued at £623, in 1914-15 to 233,482 lbs. valued at £2,501, in the year under review; cultivated rubber rose from 33,685 lbs. in 1914-15 to 46,002 lbs., valued at £3,809, in 1915-16.

Beeswax and groundnuts continued to show decreased exports, the former declining by 9,972 lbs., or 13 per cent., and the latter 325,272 lbs., value £2,128, or 56 per cent. These decreases are due to the closing of the Continental markets to which these commodities were in former years consigned.

Owing to the reduced ocean shipping facilities and high freight rates the export of cotton seed, a low priced product, has dropped from 1,371,639 lbs. in 1914-15 to 561,753 lbs. in 1915-16, a decrease of 809,886 lbs.

The direction of the export trade was in the following proportions :—
To the United Kingdom 94·2 per cent., to British possessions 2·9 per cent., and to Foreign countries 2·9 per cent.

III.—AGRICULTURE.

The principal crops grown for export are cotton, tobacco, tea, chillies, groundnuts, maize and rubber. The total acreage under European cultivation amounted to 51,208 as against 45,479 in the previous year.

Cotton.—The exported crop in bales of 400 lbs. lint amounted to 7,663 as against 6,621 in the previous year, the area under European cultivation being 24,006 acres as compared with 26,407 in 1914–15.

The local valuation of the crop was £68,585 as compared with £72,068 for 1914–15, a decrease of £3,482 in value, although the output was greater by 416,800 lbs. This decrease was due to the depressed state of the cotton markets during the first half of the year under review, when a large proportion of the crop was sold at about 5*d.* per lb. During the latter half of the year, however, the markets improved and good cotton sold at 8*d.* to 8½*d.* per lb., and choice lots, during the last quarter of the year, fetched 9*d.* to 9½*d.* per lb.

The acreage under European cultivation of the crop now approaching harvest is estimated at 29,580 acres, the largest area yet planted in the Protectorate.

During the year under review there was a slight decrease in the production of native-grown cotton, 815 tons of seed cotton having been gathered as compared with 867 tons in the preceding year, or a decrease in lint of 78 bales of 400 lbs. each.

The largest crops were produced in the Lower Shire, Upper Shire, and Mlanje Districts, while the Ruo and West Shire crops proved a failure through drought.

Tobacco.—Owing to the War and consequent heavy freight rates amounting to £14 15*s.* 2*d.* per ton on tobacco, local buyers, including the Imperial Tobacco Company, found it impossible to purchase the crop to the same extent and at the same rates as in former years and a considerable proportion of the crop was, for a time, left on the hands of the local planters. Towards the end of the year, however, owing to the prohibitions on imports of tobacco into the United Kingdom from America and improved facilities for the export of this commodity from Beira the local industry was much revived and a great part of the crop, which during the earlier part of the year was unsaleable locally, was sold at satisfactory prices in the home markets.

The acreage under this crop for 1915–16 was 9,042 acres as compared with 9,534 in the preceding year. The export amounted to 3,706,203 lbs., valued locally at £92,656, being an increase of 397,255 lbs. in weight and £9,921 in value over the figures for the preceding year.

The crop now being harvested covers an area of approximately 7,484 acres.

The average export per acre for 1915–16 is 410 lbs., as compared with 358 lbs. and 347 lbs. for the two preceding years.

Tea.—The export of tea for the year amounted to 288,341 lbs., as compared with 166,248 lbs. in the previous year, the local value being £8,585 or an increase of £4,429. The acreage increased from 3,303 to 4,141 acres.

Taking into consideration the greatly increased local consumption of Nyasaland tea, owing to the presence of troops from South Africa, it will be seen that the output of tea from local plantations was practically doubled during the year under review. The bulk of the crop was sold on the London market at from 8d. to 1s. per lb., which may be considered a very satisfactory price when the comparatively low cost of production is taken into consideration.

Other Products.—During the year the acreage under cultivation of chillies and capsicums was 357 as compared with 43 in the previous year and a correspondingly larger crop was harvested and exported.

Groundnuts, in common with all oil seeds, have fetched satisfactory prices on the home market, £20 a ton having been paid for some consignments.

The local demand for maize for native troops has been exceptional during the year and a considerable quantity has been exported, mainly to Portugal and Portuguese East Africa.

Coffee, for the first time in five years, shows a slightly increased export but the industry is now of very secondary importance.

The output of wild rubber has decreased steadily until it is now a negligible commodity. Cultivated rubber, on the other hand, is shown to be on the increase, 6,766 acres being under cultivation during the year as compared with 5,936 in the previous year.

The native rice crop grown for the local market amounted to 900 tons as compared with 717 tons in 1914-15

Experimental Farms.—Namiwawa.—The native rising in January, 1915, seriously affected the cultivation of crops and various agricultural experiments connected therewith in process on this farm and, in consequence, the results for the year under review were generally poorer than expected. Cotton, tobacco, maize, wheat and other cereals were grown with varying success and interesting and useful data were collected regarding the yield of manured as compared with unmanured soil and experiments were conducted in regard to the rotation of crops.

In July 1915 a dairy was started at Namiwawa and the total value of the milk and butter sold for cash or supplied free of charge to the Government Hospital from August 1st to March 31st, 1916, was £147. The expenditure on the stock farm for the same period amounted to £154, but of this amount £40 was expended on the purchase of equipment such as incubators, milk testing apparatus, etc., and £50 on the erection of additional buildings and transfers of cattle to the farm account, so that the balance, £64, represents the working expenses of the dairy for the period referred to.

Nyachiperi.—The cotton crop at Nyachiperi in the Lower Shire District was generally good. Experiments were conducted with a view to determine a comparison between the yield of land worked by implements and land worked by the ordinary native method of cultivation. The yields were 300 lbs. and 245 lbs. per acre respectively, showing an advantage of 55 lbs. seed cotton per acre in favour of implement cultivation. Maize, groundnuts, millet, were also grown on this farm.

The buildings erected during the year included a tobacco barn, a sheep house, poultry pens, an entomological store and a seed and implement store at Namiwawa and a seed and implement store at Nyachiperi.

Live Stock.—The precautionary measures taken to repel a threatened invasion of rinderpest from German East Africa have proved effective inasmuch as there has been no sign of the disease in the Protectorate.

No serious outbreak of infectious or contagious disease took place among stock during the year under review.

Sporadic outbreaks of trypanosomiasis were encountered among cattle in the Zomba, Blantyre and Mlanje Districts, involving a loss of 30 animals.

Tick-borne diseases are on the decrease and mostly occur in outlying districts to which dipping facilities have not yet been extended.

Parasitic skin diseases are also on the decrease, which decrease is certainly due to the improved facilities for the regular dipping of stock. An outbreak of demodectic mange which had attained considerable dimensions among stock in the southern districts in the previous year was in the year under review well under control and its recrudescence is not anticipated.

Forestry.—The total number of transplants raised from seed in the nurseries at Zomba, Blantyre, and Mlanje during the year under review was 264,585, principally eucalyptus and cypress.

At Mlanje 15 acres on the Likabula Plateau and 15 acres on the adjoining Lichenya Plateau were replanted with cypress (*Widdringtonia Whytei*) while the cypress plantation on Zomba Mountain was extended by about 25 acres during the year.

The eucalyptus plantations at Zomba were extended by 20 acres and now aggregate over 200 acres.

Experimental nurseries were opened by the District Residents at Ncheu, Liwonde, Neno, Chiromo, and Port Herald ; but, owing to unfavourable climatic conditions, they have not proved very successful.

With the object of ascertaining suitable kinds of trees for planting in the Lake Districts an experimental nursery was started at Fort Johnston and a large number of various kinds of trees were planted out in experimental plots. A large percentage of the plants succumbed to the intense heat and other unfavourable climatic conditions, but it is hoped that valuable information will nevertheless accrue from the experiment.

To remedy the extensive deforestation which has taken place during former years, a large number of eucalyptus have been distributed free to natives for planting up in the vicinity of their villages.

Entomological.—During the year under review experimental investigations (dusting, spraying, simple methods of insect control and trap cropping) were continued although the year was unfavourable for such experimental work. The economic collections were largely increased and a bulletin on the cigarette beetle was issued.

Investigations were in progress with a view to determining whether any definite fly belt or area exists in the Shire Highlands from which trypanosome infection could be brought to cattle engaged on transport work on the Zomba-Blantyre Road and to cattle on estates in that neighbourhood, but a report on the subject has not yet been issued.

IV.—INDUSTRIES AND MINES.

During the year under review the trade and business of the Protectorate presented no noticeable features, no new trades having been introduced. As in the previous year, mining operations have been confined exclusively to the Dedza District, where a mica proposition is located. The quantity of mica exported during the year amounted to 8,176 lbs., as compared with 10,903 lbs., in the year 1914-15.

V.—EDUCATION.

The annual Government grant of £1,000 in aid of education was, as in previous years, divided between ten of the various Missionary Societies controlling and maintaining schools in the Protectorate.

There were 2,067 schools established at the end of the year under review as compared with 2,093 in the preceding year. The total number of scholars in attendance was 78,064 boys and 53,591 girls, the average attendance being 51,409 boys and 33,766 girls.

VI.—JUDICIAL, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The authorised establishment of the native police on the 31st March, 1916 was 387, an increase of 2 as compared with the previous year.

The number of persons tried criminally in the High Court was 17 as against 146 in the previous year and 7 in the year 1913-14. In 1914-15 the large number of cases tried was almost entirely attributable to the native rising in January, 1915. In addition cases involving 110 persons came up from subordinate courts for confirmation by the High Court as compared with 124 in 1914-15. The number of offences reported to the Police or Magistrates was 4,246 as compared with 3,740 in the previous year. In connection with these offences, 4,883 persons were apprehended by the Police or summoned before the Magistrates, 17 being committed for trial in the High Court. The offences most prevalent during the year were larceny, adultery, and assault.

The number of civil cases tried in the High Court was 80 as compared with 53 in the previous year. European cases numbered 61, Asiatic 16, and Native 3.

Long sentence native prisoners are confined in the Central Prison, Zomba, and on the 31st March, 1916, there were 1 Asiatic and 303 Natives serving sentences as compared with 1 Asiatic and 280 Natives on the same date in the previous year.

Natives sentenced to terms of imprisonment not exceeding six months are confined in the district gaols.

VII.—POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The number of European residents in the Protectorate, including officials and non-officials, was 523 males and 262 females, or a total of

785, as compared with 587 males and 244 females, or a total of 831, in the previous year. The Asiatic population amounted to 379 as against 410 in the preceding year.

The native population is estimated at 1,137,572, being approximately 505,121 males and 632,451 females.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES.

There were 21 European births and 13 deaths during the year as compared with 32 and 12 respectively in 1914-15. These figures show a birth-rate of 26·75 and 16·56 per mille.

Thirteen European marriages were celebrated during the year.

Marriages under "The Christian Native Marriage Ordinance, 1912," numbered 20, as against 30 in the previous year.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

GENERAL.

The public health of the Protectorate cannot be said to have been altogether satisfactory during the year under review.

An epidemic of small-pox broke out in the Lilongwe and Dowa Districts and out of 2,768 cases returned in the former district 864 deaths occurred and in the latter district 77 deaths were returned out of 767 cases. The infection has not, however, spread to any of the adjoining districts.

Sleeping sickness investigations were confined entirely to the proclaimed area in the Dowa District during the year under review, a total of 29 cases having been recorded as against 39 in 1914, 64 in 1913, 46 in 1912, and 38 in 1911.

Of these, 25 cases were notified from the proclaimed area in the Dowa District, the remaining 4 having been diagnosed among natives presenting themselves for treatment elsewhere.

The disease, although endemic in the Dowa locality, has shown no signs during the past five years of assuming epidemic proportions.

The Entomologist of the Imperial Bureau of Entomology has determined the breeding places of *Glossina morsitans* and this, with knowledge gleaned in other directions, such as the discovery of predacious enemies and parasites of tsetse flies, may ultimately be capable of being turned to practical account.

There were 621 cases of malaria as compared with 729 in the previous year and 757 in 1913-1914.

As regards other mosquito or insect-borne diseases, there were two cases of blackwater fever, and 29 cases of trypanosomiasis. The total number of cases of sleeping sickness up to the end of the year 1915 was 240.

HEALTH OF EUROPEAN OFFICIALS.

The health of the European officials has not been satisfactory, ten having been invalidated as against seven in the previous year.

There were 188 cases treated, with one death, as against 151 cases and no deaths in the previous year.

Malaria accounted for 41 of the total admissions or 22 per cent., the percentages under this head for the two previous years being 20·5 and 17·6 respectively.

HEALTH OF GENERAL EUROPEAN POPULATION.

It must be remembered that a large proportion of the general European population is treated by Mission doctors and that the statistics appended hereto do not include such cases.

There were 300 cases treated in 1915, as against 240 in the previous year.

In order of frequency the principal diseases treated were malaria, local injuries, and diarrhoea.

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 goods trains are run to meet traffic requirements.

The construction of the Central Africa Railway connecting Port Herald with Chindio on the Zambezi River was completed and the railway was opened for traffic during the year under review and, as was anticipated, the transport of goods both inward and outward was much facilitated thereby.

Routes for a proposed extension of the railway northwards to the south end of Lake Nyasa were partially surveyed during the year.

MARINE TRANSPORT.

Government steamers on Lake Nyasa ran regularly throughout the year and were principally employed in carrying military stores to the north end of the Lake for the forces operating against German East Africa.

ROAD TRANSPORT.

Commercial firms still rely on ox-waggons, handcarts, or native portorage for the transportation of stores, but with the increasing number of metalled roads there is every probability of mechanical traction becoming more general throughout the Protectorate after the War. The Government motor lorry service between Zomba and rail-head for the transport of Government civil stores and passengers was maintained throughout the year.

X. NATIVE AFFAIRS.

NATIVE ADMINISTRATION.

The operation of the District Administration Native Ordinance, 1912, was further extended, during the year under review, to apply to the Dedza and Mombera Districts of the Protectorate.

Under this system of administration the concentration of villages continued and its advantages were made evident by the comparative ease with which enormous numbers of carriers were obtained for the military by the Residents of districts to which the Ordinance had been applied.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

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

A N N U A L .

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
884	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1914-1915
885	Weihaiwei	1915
886	Zanzibar	"
887	Fiji	"
888	Sierra Leone	"
889	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
890	Gambia	"
891	Trinidad and Tobago	"
892	Hong Kong	"
893	Ashanti	"
894	Gold Coast	"
895	Malta	1915-1916
896	St. Helena	1915
897	Seychelles	"
898	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1915-1916
899	Gibraltar	1915
900	Bahamas	1915-1916
901	Swaziland	"
902	Somaliland	"
903	Cyprus	"
904	Ceylon	1915
905	Straits Settlements	"
906	Grenada	1915-1916
907	Falkland Islands	1915
908	Bermuda	"
909	Jamaica	1915-1916
910	British Guiana	1915
911	Basutoland	1915-1916
912	Barbados	"
913	Leeward Islands	"
914	Uganda	"
915	British Honduras	1915
916	Mauritius	"
917	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
918	St. Lucia	1915-1916

M I S C E L L A N E O U S .

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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