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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 996.

NYASALAND.

REPORT FOR 1917-18.

(For Report for 1916-17 see No. 955.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

June, 1919.



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N Y A S A L A N D.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1917-18.*

I.—FINANCIAL.

REVENUE.

The revenue of the Protectorate from all sources, including land sales, for the year under review was £144,239, as against £148,284 in the preceding year.

The chief decrease was in Customs revenue and Native Hut Tax. The decrease of £3,702 in Customs revenue is largely attributable to a drop in the export of local produce due to decreased shipping facilities and shortage of native labour consequent on the War. A decrease of £3,030 is shown under "Native Hut Tax," although 350,154 taxes were issued during the year, as compared with 347,697 in 1916-17, an increase of 2,457. The decrease in the amount collected is entirely due to the calling up for military service of able-bodied natives who thus qualified for the statutory rebate of 4s. per tax.

Increases, which are shown under "Licences, Excise, etc.," "Fees of Court or Office," and "Post Office," are mainly due to the presence of an unusually large white population in the Protectorate owing to the War and to the impetus to trade caused thereby.

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the year, exclusive of loan expenditure, was estimated at £154,830, while the actual expenditure amounted to £143,640, a net saving of £11,190.

The savings were the direct result of the abnormal conditions brought about by the War. They may be summarized as follows:—£7,000 unexpended on salaries owing to vacancies remaining unfilled and through the secondment of officials for service in the occupied territory Administration; £2,790 on passages and travelling; £900 due to certain stores being unprocurable, and £1,500 in respect of works for which labour was not available.

PUBLIC DEBT AND WAR EXPENDITURE.

The Public Debt outstanding at the 31st of March, 1918, amounted to £815,300, made up as follows:—

Imperial Loan for Redemption of Railway Subsidy Lands	£180,000
East Africa Protectorates Loan 1914 Railway and Roads	12,000
War Loan from Imperial Treasury	622,500
	£815,300

* A Map of the Protectorate will be found in the Report for 1912-13, No. 772. [Cd. 7050-13.]

Payments out of the loan for the redemption of subsidy lands amounted to £165,000 up to the 31st March, 1918, and the balance of £15,800 is withheld pending the satisfactory completion of works under the contract for the construction of the railway extension to Chindio on the Zambesi River. Interest on the amount outstanding at the rate of 3½ per cent. is paid to the Imperial Government, plus 1 per cent. for sinking fund.

Up to December, 1917, advances amounting to £772,100 were received from the Imperial Treasury to meet war expenditure, but after that date the War Office assumed liability for all common charges from the commencement of the campaign and contributed advances totalling £913,000 to 31st March, 1918. From these advances a sum of £149,600 was refunded to the Imperial Treasury, thus reducing the war loan to £622,500.

The total war expenditure to 31st March, 1918, amounted to £1,610,036, of which sum Nyasaland assumes provisional liability for £97,499, and the War Office £1,512,537, pending final settlement of war accounts, when the proportion to be borne by Nyasaland will be decided.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

At the close of the year the balance of Assets over Liabilities stood at £62,959, as shown below :—

Balance of Assets over Liabilities at 1st April, 1917		£62,359
Revenue, 1917-18	£144,239	
Expenditure, 1917-18	143,639	600
		<u>£62,959</u>

CURRENCY AND BANKING.

The currency of the Protectorate consists of British coin, gold, silver, and bronze. There is no note circulation.

The value of specie imported during the year was £54,971; exported, £35,599.

The total value of specie imported and exported through the Customs from 1892 to the 31st March, 1918, amounted to £181,146 and £391,002, respectively, as follows :—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
Gold	37,693	331,632
Silver	138,242	59,339
Bronze	5,211	31
	<u>£181,146</u>	<u>£391,002</u>

Portuguese coins exported in transit are not included in the above figures and amounted to £2,238 in 1917-18.

No reliable statistics are available as to the currency in circulation at the end of the year under review.

The banking business of the Protectorate is provided for by the Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited, with a branch at Blantyre, and the African Lakes Corporation, Limited, with branches at Blantyre and Zomba and agencies at Chinde and at all principal stations in the Protectorate.

SAVINGS BANK.

The amount deposited with accrued interest in the Savings Bank during the year ended 31st December, 1917, was £11,479, as compared with £7,607 during the previous year. The amounts withdrawn totalled £7,890, as compared with £4,966 in 1916.

New accounts opened during the year under review were 169, whilst 89 were closed, the net increase for the year being 80. On 31st December, 1917, there were 466 active accounts, as compared with 386 on the same date in the preceding year; the average amount standing to the credit of each depositor being £33 14s., as compared with £31 7s. 8d. at the close of the previous year.

The total amount deposited, with accrued interest since the establishment of the Savings Bank, was £42,395, and the amount withdrawn £26,692, leaving a sum of £15,703 due to depositors.

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 £483 5s. 1d., as against £335 17s. 7d. for the year ended 31st December, 1916, an increase of £147 7s. 6d.

II.—TRADE AND SHIPPING.

TRADE.

The gross receipts from Customs duties during the year amounted to £39,253, a decrease of £3,702, in comparison with the amount collected in the previous year.

The small decrease, as compared with the year 1916–17, is mainly due to a reduction in the importation of private cargoes. The net revenue is, however, larger than that of any former year.

The external trade (import and export), excluding goods in transit, specie, and military stores, amounted in value to £476,531, as against £675,034 in the previous year. The decrease of £198,503 or 29·4 per cent., is entirely accountable for by the lack of transport facilities owing to military priority and not by a decrease in local trade requirements and domestic production.

IMPORTS.

The value of imports, including Government imports but excluding military supplies, specie and goods in transit, amounted to £331,657, representing a decrease of £53,910, or 13·9 per cent.

Of the total imports, the United Kingdom supplied 55·6 per cent., British Possessions, 21·4 per cent., and Foreign Countries, 23 per cent., compared with 67·9 per cent., 18·2 per cent., and 13·9 per cent., respectively, for the preceding year— all exclusive of specie.

EXPORTS.

The valuations of produce for export purposes are fixed quarterly, being varied from time to time according to the prices ruling on the European markets. The value of exports given below does not therefore afford a reliable comparison with that of previous years.

In the year under review the exports, excluding Government exports, show a decrease in value of £144,521, and in weight of 5,640,838 lbs., in comparison with the year 1916-17.

As compared with the preceding year the export of cotton showed the considerable decrease of 2,595,968 lbs.

Tobacco also declined to a great extent, 2,278,792 lbs. less than the amount exported in 1916-17.

The output of capsicums and chillies decreased in weight by 75,004 lbs., though the quantity exported was much larger than in either of the three years preceding 1916-17.

Coffee, after a revival in the previous year, declined considerably, only 2,774 lbs. being exported as compared with 152,267 lbs.

The vigorous progress in the export of tea was slightly curtailed, a decrease of 265,347 lbs. being shown in comparison with the output for the year 1916-17.

61,336 lbs. of rubber were exported in the year under review, a decrease of 8,515 lbs.

There were no shipments of castor and sesame oil seed or of mica, and cotton seed and beeswax decreased in weight 342,394 lbs. and 46,141 lbs. respectively.

The increases of importance were maize and maize flour, 178,857 lbs., fibre (mainly sisal), 52,027 lbs., and strophanthus, 2,776 lbs.

The percentage of the Protectorate produce shipped to the United Kingdom was necessarily smaller owing to the shortage of tonnage, but its ascendancy over all other markets was not greatly affected. The proportions were: United Kingdom, 76·8 per cent.; British Possessions, 2·9 per cent.; and Foreign Countries, 20·1 per cent.

TRANSIT TRADE.

The Transit Trade of the Protectorate increased by £5,699, the combined totals amounting to £34,757, as compared with £29,058 in the previous year.

III.—AGRICULTURE.

The principal crops grown for export remain as before, viz., cotton tobacco, tea, chillies, groundnuts, and rubber. The total acreage under European cultivation amounted to 54,098, as against 52,883 in the previous year. The increase in acreage is probably not as great as appears to be the case, and may be due to a more accurate rendering of statistics consequent upon the passing into law of the Agricultural Statistics Ordinance.

COTTON.

The area under European cultivation in 1917 was 28,372 acres, as compared with 29,850 in 1916, the reduction being due to scarcity of labour in the Shire Highlands. The yield amounted to 15,888 cwts. of lint, or 4,448 bales of 400 lbs. each. This is decidedly low, and is due to poor yields in the Blantyre and Zomba districts, where the yields were only 35 cwts. and 64 cwts. over areas of 12,698 and 5,180 acres, respectively.

NATIVE-GROWN COTTON.

The production for the year under review was 1,070 tons of seed cotton, and is thus the second largest crop yet obtained.

TOBACCO.

The area under tobacco shows a substantial increase over the previous year, 9,516 acres being planted as against 7,484 in 1916-17, the increased acreage being attributable to the high prices prevailing in Europe. The total yield was 42,648 cwts. of cured leaf.

There was a reduction in the area under native-grown tobacco owing to many of the educated natives being employed in various capacities by the military, and the total crop was 324,173 lbs., as against 500,577 lbs. in the previous year.

Owing to the long delay to which the baled tobacco was subjected at Chinde and the consequent serious damage which was liable to occur through the attacks of the tobacco beetle, arrangements were made for all tobacco to be fumigated before shipment. The actual operations were almost entirely carried out by representatives of the Nyasaland Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce, the Government Entomologist conducting scientific investigations, and giving professional advice as requisite.

TEA.

The area under tea was 4,523 acres, and the harvested crop amounted to 5,548 cwts. A large proportion of the acreage is represented by young plantations which have not yet commenced to give a crop.

OTHER PRODUCTS.

The acreage under chillies and capsicums was 650, the same as in the previous year, whilst the value of the exported crop fell from £3,133 to £1,687.

Fibres accounted for an area of 988 acres under cultivation, a slight increase on the previous year, and the local value of the exports rose from £4,056 to £5,194.

There was a reduced acreage under cultivated rubber, viz., 5,580 acres, as against 6,120 in 1916-17, and the local value of the exported crop fell from £6,041 to £5,342.

Maize and millets, groundnuts, beans, wheat, and potatoes were cultivated to a larger extent than usual, and the crops found a ready demand at enhanced prices for supplying military requirements.

EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

Experimental work on the two Government Farms at Namiwawa in the Zomba district and at Nyachiperi in the Lower Shire district was curtailed to a considerable extent in favour of food production, especially on the former farm. Cotton selection work was continued on the latter farm, and experiments with Uganda types of cotton were carried out, but the results obtained were very unsatisfactory when compared with the locally-evolved types.

LIVE STOCK.

The Veterinary staff was chiefly employed throughout the year in combating rinderpest in the occupied territories, and the disease has been confined thereto. One veterinary officer released from the Rinderpest Commission was stationed at Zomba, but his services were almost exclusively utilised in connection with the acquisition of cattle for military supplies, and in safeguarding their transport in order to prevent the spread of disease from one district to another. The health of live stock in the Protectorate has been satisfactory, few cases of epidemic or contagious disease being reported.

FORESTRY.

Consequent upon the heavy military demands for labour, no planting was possible on a large scale, and it was necessary to restrict operations to maintaining young plantations, planting small experimental areas, cutting timber at Mlanje for the Public Works Department, and supplying poles, etc., to the military. From the Zomba and Blantyre plantations about 11,000 large eucalypts were supplied to military free of charge, whilst enormous quantities of native trees were utilised for poles, firewood, etc. At Mlanje 68,928 lineal feet of cypress timber (*Widdringtonia whytei*) were sawn for the Public Works Department.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.

The principal entomological investigations were carried on, the most important being in connection with the freeing tobacco from tobacco beetle before shipment. A satisfactory method of treatment was evolved, and the necessary buildings and plant installed at Chinde. The death of the entomologist in November, 1917, was a serious loss to the agricultural community, and it has been impossible to continue various important investigations owing to difficulty in obtaining a successor.

IV.—INDUSTRIES AND MINES.

No new trades or industries were introduced during the year under review, but towards its close arrangements were made by the Government for the reopening and working of the better-class mica mines in the Protectorate, with a view to the supply of mica to the Ministry of Munitions. Samples of good quality were obtained, and it is expected that considerable quantities of this mineral will be available for export during the coming year.

V.—EDUCATION.

There are no schools for the education of European children in the Protectorate. Native schools are controlled and maintained by various missionary societies, ten of which participated in the annual Government grant of £1,000 in aid of education.

At the close of the year under review there were 2,112 schools established, as compared with 2,054 in the previous year. The total number of scholars on the roll was 71,690 boys and 51,044 girls, the average attendance being 45,441 boys and 32,081 girls.

VI.—JUDICIAL, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The authorised establishment of native police on the 31st March, 1918, was 418, as compared with 410 in the previous year.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The number of persons tried criminally in the High Court was 19, as compared with 16 in the previous year.

In addition cases involving 79 persons came up from subordinate courts for confirmation by the High Court, as compared with 94 in 1916-17.

The number of persons sentenced to death was 6, and 3 of these sentences were carried into effect, the others being commuted to varying terms of imprisonment.

The total number of offences reported to the Police or Magistrates during the year was 3,545, as compared with 3,851 in the preceding year.

CIVIL STATISTICS.

The number of civil cases tried in the High Court was 54, as against 63 in the previous year; a decrease which is attributable to the conditions created by the War.

VII.—POPULATION.

The number of Europeans resident in the Protectorate, including officials and non-officials, but excluding the military, was 463 males and 252 females, or a total of 715, as compared with 474 males and 257 females, or a total of 731 in the previous year. The Asiatic population amounted to 422, as against 391 in the preceding year.

The native population is estimated at 1,227,442, being approximately 559,810 males and 667,632 females.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

GENERAL.

As in the previous year, the health of the Protectorate has not been satisfactory, owing to the extensive movement of natives, into and within the Protectorate, necessitated by the military operations.

Small-pox, which last year was confined to the Dowa and Lilongwe districts, made its appearance in other areas, and was reported from seven other districts. It was found impossible to entirely restrict the movements of natives with a view to checking the spread of the disease, as the increasing military demands for labour had to be met.

Owing to the lack of medical officers, sleeping sickness investigations had to be suspended, there being no officer available for this duty throughout the year.

Twenty-eight cases of plague were reported from Karonga, in the North Nyasa district. Of these eleven were notified in January, eight in February, five in March, and two each in the months of September and October. This outbreak was merely a continuance of the one mentioned in last year's report, when three cases occurred in the month of November, and ten in December. The extermination of rats, inoculation, and other preventive measures which were adopted not only checked the local spread of the disease, but prevented its gaining an entry into other parts of the Protectorate.

As in the case of plague, cerebro-spinal meningitis was also introduced into Nyasaland from German East Africa. It was first observed among the native German prisoners of war who were sent to Zomba for internment. Altogether a total of 67 cases was recorded during the year; the case mortality was high; but of the three Europeans who contracted the disease only one died.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS.

RAILWAYS.

No railway extensions were made during the year under report, but it is hoped that the Central Africa Railway from Chindio on the Zambesi, to Port Herald, and the Shire Highlands Railway thence to Blantyre, will be extended to Lake Nyasa in the near future. Provision has been made for this extension, but the outbreak of war entailed the postponement of its construction. Extensive areas of land bordering the Lake suitable for agricultural enterprise await development owing to the present lack of transport facilities to railhead at Blantyre.

MARINE TRANSPORT.

All vessels on Lake Nyasa were engaged continuously throughout the year in transporting troops and military stores to and from the north end of the lake in connection with the operations against German East Africa.

ROAD TRANSPORT.

The Government Albion motor lorry ran 10,838 miles during the year, transporting 434 tons of cargo, 20 European, and 1,035 native passengers. Military services were separately provided for and large numbers of motor vehicles were imported and employed between Luchenza and Mlanje, Limbe, and Fort Johnston, and forward with the various columns operating in German East Africa.

X.—TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

There are no Government telegraphs. The telegraph service is owned and managed by the African Transcontinental Telegraph Company, and runs from Chikwawa to Blantyre and Zomba, and thence to Karonga via the stations on Lake Nyasa. A branch line connects Domira Bay on Lake Nyasa with Fort Jameson in Northern Rhodesia.

The Shire Highlands Railway and the Central Africa Railway have a telegraph system between Blantyre and Chindio and telegraphic communication with Chinde is maintained by means of a Portuguese line.

Telephones.—The Government telephone system in Zomba was extended during the year to meet military requirements and now totals 26 miles of line. The total number of calls registered was 45,903.

XI.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

The general condition of native affairs within the Protectorate during the past year has been satisfactory.

The exceedingly heavy demands made by the military for porters both for first line work and on lines of communication has continued to be met. The fact that all requirements have been supplied practically voluntarily, and from every district of the Protectorate, without any recourse to force, speaks for the loyalty of the native population and the excellent personal influence of the residents. The military authorities have expressed their satisfaction at the willing way in which Nyasaland natives have carried out the arduous duties assigned to them.

In addition to military transport the Protectorate has supplied, during the year, large numbers of recruits to the King's African Rifles, Maxim gun porters, military road labourers, sanitation gangs, etc.

The absence of such large numbers of able-bodied men from the villages caused a somewhat serious shortage in the native food supply, but the care exercised by the residents to conserve the supply and check waste prevented what might otherwise have developed into a serious famine.

The District Native Administration Ordinance has been applied to the West Nyasa and South Nyasa districts with good results.

The number of Nyasaland natives working in Rhodesia and elsewhere outside the Protectorate has shown a considerable decrease during the past year. This is chiefly due to all emigration having been stopped during the War, but also to a large number of the better-educated natives having returned to obtain clerical work now available in the various military offices.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

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

No.	Colony, &c.	ANNUAL.	Year.
965	Wei-hai-wei		1917
966	Fiji		1917
967	Solomon Islands		1917-1918
968	Grenada		1917
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		1917
979	Gambia		1917-1918
980	Jamaica		1917
981	Gibraltar		1917-1918
982	Bermuda		1917
983	Swazi'and		1916-1917
984	Trinidad		1917
985	Mauritius		1917-1918
986	Cyprus		1917-1918
987	Bechuanaland Protectorate		1916-1917
988	East Africa Protectorate		1917-1918
989	Barbados		1917
990	Sierra Leone		1917-1918
991	Straits Settlements		1917
992	Leeward Islands		1917-1918
993	Uganda		1917
994	British Honduras		1917-1918
995	Gilbert and Ellice Islands		1917

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.