



This document was created by the
Digital Content Creation Unit
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2010

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1204

NYASALAND.

REPORT FOR 1923.

(For Report for 1922 see No. 1162.)



LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
or 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
or through any Bookseller.

1924.

Price 6d. Net.

No. 1204.

NYASALAND.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1923.*

GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL.

BOUNDARIES.

The territory comprised in the Nyasaland Protectorate is a strip about 520 miles in length and varying from 50 to 100 miles in width. It lies approximately between latitude S. 9° 45', and 17° 16', and longitude E. 33° and 36°. The area is roughly 40,000 square miles, or about one-third the area of the British Isles. The most southerly portion of the Protectorate is about 130 miles from the sea as the crow flies.

This strip falls naturally into two divisions: (1) consisting of the western shore of Lake Nyasa, with the high tablelands separating it from the basin of the Loangwa river in Northern Rhodesia, and (2) the region lying between the watershed of the Zambesi river and Shire river on the west, and the Lakes Chiuta and Chilwa and the river Ruo, an affluent of the Shire, on the east, including the mountain systems of the Shire Highlands and Mlanje, and a small portion, also mountainous, of the south-eastern coast of Lake Nyasa.

The Protectorate is divided for administrative purposes into three Provinces, the Southern, Central, and Northern, each of which is in the charge of a Provincial Commissioner. Each Province is subdivided into districts in the charge of residents.

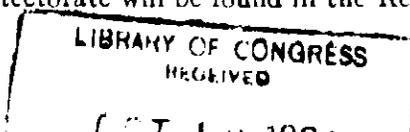
The chief towns are Blantyre, with about 300 European inhabitants, and Zomba, the seat of the Government.

HISTORICAL.

Very little is known of the history of the region now called Nyasaland before the middle of the past century. Jasper Bocarro, a Portuguese, is said to have been the first European to visit Nyasaland; he appears to have travelled early in the 17th century from the Zambesi to the junction of the Ruo and Shire rivers, and thence via Lake Shirwa and the Lujenda river to the coast at Mikandani.

The real history of Nyasaland begins with the advent of Dr. Livingstone, who, after experiencing considerable difficulty

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



in ascending the Shire, discovered Lakes Shirwa and Pamalombe, and on 16th September, 1859, reached the southern shore of Lake Nyasa. Livingstone was closely followed by a Mission under Bishop Mackenzie, sent out by the two English Universities. The Mission settled in the Shire Highlands, but, on account of loss of its members by sickness and otherwise, it withdrew in 1862. It was subsequently re-established in 1881 on Lake Nyasa, with headquarters on the island of Likorna, where it still remains.

In 1874 the Livingstonia Mission, named in honour of the great explorer, was founded by the Free Church of Scotland. They were joined in 1876 by the pioneers of the Church of Scotland Mission, who chose the site of the present town of Blantyre, and established themselves in the Shire Highlands, while the Free Church applied itself to the evangelization of the inhabitants of the shores of Lake Nyasa.

The Missions were followed by the African Lakes Corporation, and in 1883 Captain Foote, R.N., was appointed first British Consul for the territories north of the Zambesi, to reside at Blantyre.

A serious danger had arisen in connection with Arab slave traders who had settled at the north end of Lake Nyasa. At the time of Livingstone's first visit he found the Arabs established in a few places on what is now the Portuguese shore of the lake, and at Kota-Kota, on the west side. Arab caravans, trading with the tribes in and beyond the valley of the Loangwa, were in the habit of crossing the lake on their way to and from the sea coast. Opposition of the new settlers to the slave trade carried on by Arab coastmen and natives alike resulted in a conflict with the Arab traders under Chief Mlozi, settled at the north end of Lake Nyasa, which spread to the Yao chiefs, who were under their influence.

In the summer of 1889 Mr. Johnston (now Sir H. H. Johnston, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.) arrived at Mozambique as H.B.M. Consul, and proceeded to travel in the interior to inquire into the troubles with the Arabs.

Treaties having been concluded with the remaining Makololo chiefs and with the Yaos round Blantyre, Mr. Johnston proceeded up Lake Nyasa, leaving Mr. John Buchanan, Acting - Consul, in charge, who, after the first encounter between Major Serpa Pinto and Mlauri, a powerful Makololo chief, proclaimed on 21st September, 1889, a British Protectorate over the Shire districts.

In 1891 an Anglo-Portuguese convention ratified the work of Mr. Johnston, Mr. Sharpe (now Sir A. Sharpe, K.C.M.G., C.B.), and other pioneers of British Central Africa, and in the following spring a British Protectorate over the countries adjoining Nyasa was proclaimed. The Protectorate of Nyasaland, under the administration of an Imperial Commissioner, was confined to the regions adjoining the Shire and Lake Nyasa; the remainder of

the territory under British influence north of the Zambesi being placed, subject to certain conditions, under the British South Africa Company.

On 22nd February, 1893, the name of the Protectorate was changed to "The British Central Africa Protectorate," but the old name "Nyasaland Protectorate" was revived in October, 1907, by the Order in Council which amended the Constitution.

CLIMATE.

The climate of Nyasaland in its essential features is similar to that of the rest of Eastern Africa within the tropics.

The climate is necessarily diversified in various districts, owing to variations in latitude, altitude and general configuration of the terrain, presence or absence of rivers, forests, etc., but, as a large proportion of the Protectorate lies at an altitude of 3,000 feet or more, the heat is not generally excessive. The monsoon commences to blow strongly in September, in conjunction with the sun's increase in southerly declination, and the first rains may be expected any time after mid-October. From their commencement to the end of December it is usual to experience violent thunderstorms and heavy precipitation in a few hours, followed by an interval varying from one to fifteen or twenty days of intense heat. With the return of the sun from its southern limit of declination, the thunderstorms diminish in intensity and frequency, and are replaced by steady rain—January, February, and March being usually the wettest months as regards duration of rainfall as well as actual amount. After March the frequency and intensity of rainfall diminishes rapidly, and from May to September the climate is comparatively cool and dry.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Sir George Smith, K.C.M.G., who had been Governor of Nyasaland since 1913, retired on the 1st of December, and Sir C. C. Bowring, K.B.E., C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Kenya Colony, was appointed to succeed him.

The European population at the end of 1923 was returned at 1,421, showing a decrease of 78 compared the previous year. The Asiatic population decreased by 49 to 613. The Native population was estimated at 1,173,808 on the 31st of December, 1923.

The native food crop harvest in the year under review was exceedingly abundant and the stocks depleted by the famine of the previous year were adequately replaced. Except for a local shortage in the Kasungu District, due to the removal of certain villages from an area threatened with Sleeping Sickness, the native population had ample supplies of their staple foodstuffs.

During 1923 the British Concession at Chinde was abandoned, following on the opening of the Trans-Zambesia Railway in the previous year, and the Agent of the Nyasaland Government was withdrawn. Certain formalities with the Portuguese Government remain to be completed before the lease of the Concession is actually cancelled; but British interests in the Port of Chinde have practically ceased to exist.

Investigations were renewed in the coal fields which have long been known to exist on the Lower Shire; but even if the coal proves to be of commercial value—and there appears to be every likelihood that it will—the successful working of the mines must await the construction of a bridge across the Zambesi to connect the Central Africa and Trans-Zambesia railways whose respective termini lie on opposite banks of the river at Muraca and are at present connected by a steamer ferry.

On the whole, the year 1923 would appear to mark the beginnings of a definite return to prosperity in the Protectorate after the unfortunate period of depression which followed the optimistic outlook induced by the boom of 1920.

HEALTH.

The general health of the Protectorate during 1923 was good. In the early part of the year there was an extensive outbreak of influenza but the mortality was comparatively low. The native population was at the time suffering from famine and this no doubt caused a higher mortality than would otherwise have been the case.

There was a small outbreak of a mild type of smallpox in the Mlanje area; thirteen natives contracted the disease. Isolation was carried out immediately and contacts were as far as possible vaccinated and kept under surveillance, and the outbreak soon died out.

Three cases only of sleeping sickness were reported amongst the native population; all three died.

There were a few cases of paratyphoid fever occurring amongst Europeans in Blantyre.

During the year there were treated at the Government Hospitals and Dispensaries 635 Europeans and 99,522 natives as against 522 and 41,633 respectively in 1922.

The increase in the numbers of Europeans is due to the outbreak of influenza; and in the natives the increase is due to the establishment of rural dispensaries which treated 61,650 new cases during the year as compared with 14,600 in 1922.

IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION.

The number of Europeans admitted to the Protectorate during 1923 was 596, of whom 145 were in transit to Northern Rhodesia, Portuguese East Africa and Tanganyika Territory. 319 Asiatics

entered, including 92 transmigrants. The numbers who left the country were 615 Europeans, of whom 124 were in transit ; and 270 Asiatics, of whom 100 merely passed through on their way to Portuguese East Africa.

Indians pass in and out of the Protectorate so continuously on business visits to neighbouring territories that it is difficult to say definitely how many of them may be regarded as permanent settlers.

No reliable statistics are obtainable as to native migration, as there is a continual stream passing to and from neighbouring countries without passing through the official places of entry.

AGRICULTURE.

The year 1923 may be regarded as a moderately good one for European agriculture, although the profits did little more, on the whole, than repay a portion of the loans which had been advanced by the banks to the planters, many of whom had been almost ruined during the years 1921 and 1922. Stocks of tobacco on hand in England continued to be reduced owing to the brisker demand, and this fact, too, helped to alleviate the situation. There was little money available, however, for increasing the capital employed in European agriculture.

The most remarkable prosperity was evinced in the tea industry owing to a sudden increase in the demand for this commodity with its consequent effect in sending up the price. Unfortunately, tea is not one of the principal crops of the Protectorate and its cultivation is practically confined to a small area in the Mlanje district, so that an increased prosperity among the planters does not have the widespread beneficial effect that follows a similar activity in the tobacco industry.

As mentioned in last year's report, the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation lent the services of two cotton specialists to the Protectorate for a limited period, and during 1923 they added to this staff an entomologist and an agriculturist to take charge of the experimental farm it was proposed to inaugurate. There can be no doubt that the local cotton industry will derive great and lasting benefit from the services of these specialists.

The development of the cotton industry here as elsewhere must mainly follow the lines of production by natives as peasant proprietors, each cultivating his small patch and selling the proceeds to middlemen. While the native is by no means ignorant of market fluctuations and the effect of supply and demand on the prices of commodities, it is certain that he dislikes those extraneous influences. The native is not a speculator and likes to know in advance just what he is going to get for his time and labour. He is, too, for the most part in a position to retire from such a business as cotton growing whenever the element of

chance becomes too large for his wishes. Neither human nor economic laws compel him to labour beyond the minimum necessary to supply his modest primitive needs and his 6s. hut tax.

With the end in view of encouraging the native to become an independent producer, an agreement was made with the British Cotton Growing Corporation to which reference was made in the report for 1922. The primary object was to fix in advance the price at which the Corporation would purchase all native grown cotton in the districts covered by the agreement, so that natives would be in no doubt as to the amount they would receive. The arrangement has commended itself to the native population, and the amount of seed cotton purchased from native growers increased from 387 tons in 1922 to 747 tons in 1923.

There has been a gratifying demand for seed for the new crop, and, subject to normal conditions of climate and the absence of serious ravages by insect pests, there is no reason why the native cotton crop should not in the coming year exceed the 1,000 tons which was averaged in 1916 and 1917. There is undoubtedly a bright future awaiting the native cotton industry in Nyasaland if only funds and staff can be made available for propaganda and instruction.

There was also a considerable increase in the native tobacco growing industry during 1923, and there is no reason why, with encouragement and instruction, there should not be a continuous development of this industry among the more intelligent classes of the native community. It appears to be an attractive occupation to the more educated types such as clerks, capitaos and teachers.

TRADE.

It is interesting to observe that despite the world-wide trade depression of the last few years, both the import and the export trade of Nyasaland during the five years from 1919 to 1923 show a remarkable increase over the pre-war year 1913. Even after allowing for the rise in prices, the average value of imports since 1919 has risen by 53 per cent. over the figures for 1913, and the quantity of domestic exports by 15 per cent. Taking the year 1923 alone, the increase of exports taken by quantity is 34 per cent. as compared with 1913. Making due allowance for their higher cost, trade imports, as compared with those of 1913, have advanced by 69 per cent. in 1923. Cotton goods for native trade have increased by 67 per cent.

The following tables show the values of imports and exports, excluding specie, transit trade, and Government stores, during each of the past five years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	£	£	£
1919	608,788	483,251	1,092,039
1920	507,573	670,072	1,177,645
1921	637,567	416,404	1,053,971
1922	522,119	442,164	964,283
1923	462,284	425,181	887,465

The trade of an agricultural country such as Nyasaland depends almost entirely upon the success or failure of its principal crops, which in their turn are greatly influenced by climatic conditions. The drought of 1922, followed as it was by famine conditions, diverted much of the money in the hands of natives to the purchase of foodstuffs to the consequent detriment of the import trade. The weather conditions of the 1923 season were also adverse, owing to excessive rains at one period, and, although larger acreages of economic crops had been planted, the yield, especially of tobacco, was actually lower than that of the previous year. Fortunately, the market was firmer and sales were effected not only of the year's crop, but also of a great proportion of the stocks remaining on hand on the home markets. "Boll worm" also affected the cotton crop, and but for the large increase in native-grown cotton due to the guaranteed prices, there would have been a serious decline in the exports of that product. The purchase of the large native cotton crop put considerable sums of money into circulation and thus helped to stimulate the import trade. The consequence was that trade prospects had materially brightened towards the end of the year under review.

Of the imports, 57·3 per cent. came from the United Kingdom ; 19·07 per cent. from British possessions ; and 23·63 per cent. from foreign countries. The United Kingdom took 98·8 per cent. of the exports, measured by value.

The quantities of the principal products exported during each of the last three years were :—

	1921.	1922.	1923.
	lb.	lb.	lb.
Cotton	1,475,232	2,227,674	2,182,537
Tobacco.. ..	4,945,169	6,330,808	5,158,326
Tea	208,255	737,165	963,309
Fibre	243,742	1,129,476	1,673,762
Rubber	44,910	91,242	127,141
Coffee	90,412	95,277	92,216
Capsicums and Chillies	Nil.	14,258	25,216

The most noticeable feature in the figures quoted above is the marked progress which has been made in recent years in the production of tea and fibre. The demand for these commodities which now exists in the home markets holds out the promise of still greater development in this direction. It is noteworthy that the percentage of native-grown cotton to the total exports of that commodity increased from 13 per cent. in 1922 to 22 per cent. in 1923.

LABOUR.

The shortage of money among the native population following upon the famine of 1922 impelled natives to seek paid employment for the purpose of replenishing their stocks of clothing and so on, and there were few reports received during 1923 as to shortage

of labour. Nor did the remarkable increase in the growth of economic crops, especially cotton, by natives appear to have any adverse effect on the labour market. The fact is, that those natives who can be induced to grow economic crops for themselves chiefly belong to the class that would otherwise be content to lead an undisturbed village life, with few needs and but little compulsion to seek employment with Europeans in order to satisfy those needs. For this reason, there would appear to be no justification for the fear expressed in some quarters that the Government policy of encouraging natives to grow such products as cotton and tobacco will ultimately lead to shortage of labour for the European planting community. Improved methods of cultivation, by which labour will be saved, are now being observed by many European planters. During the three years 1921 to 1923 the imports of agricultural machinery and implements amounted to a total value of £65,000.

It is hoped that many of the thousands of Nyasaland natives who seek employment outside the Protectorate will be induced to remain and cultivate cotton and tobacco.

CRIME.

The strength of the police force on the 31st of December, 1923, was 13 officers and 457 native ranks, and the area under its jurisdiction about 40,000 square miles. The estimated cost of the force for 1923 was £13,616.

The reorganisation of the Police in certain districts of the Southern Province is having a beneficial effect, as serious crime has not increased to the same extent as it did immediately after the War.

The prisons of the Protectorate consist of a Central Prison at Zomba in which are confined all prisoners with sentences exceeding 6 months, and 20 district prisons situated at the headquarters of each district. The strength of the Prison Staff on 31st December, 1923, was 2 European officers (Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent) and 106 Native Warders. Four of the district prisons are under the charge of European Police Officers and the remainder under the Residents. Prison Warders are only provided at 9 of the most important prisons, the police acting as Warders at the remainder.

The estimated cost of the Prisons for 1923 was £4,291.

The total number of persons committed to the prisons in 1923 was 3,941 of whom 1,077 were for safe custody pending trial and 2,864 on sentence to imprisonment. The daily average number of persons in the prisons during 1923 was 668·19.

FINANCE.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure during each of the past five financial years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
	£	£
1919/20	186,927	217,659
1920/21	267,970	261,813
1921/22	259,117	305,495
1922/23	247,347	312,302
*1923/24	278,500	297,000

* Estimated.

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st of March in the above years was :—

1920	£ 69,674
1921	75,831
1922	29,453
1923 (excess of liabilities)	35,498
1924	44,000*

* Estimated.

The public debt, exclusive of war loans, for the same years was as under :—

1920	£ 211,890
1921	209,288
1922	306,328
1923	390,163
1924	429,761

The public debt as at the 31st March, 1924, was made up of a loan of £223,986 from the Imperial Treasury to meet the liabilities of the Protectorate under the Trans-Zambesia Railway Guarantee; £161,663 remaining unpaid of the £180,800 advanced for the redemption of the Shire Highlands Railway subsidy lands; and £44,112 representing the balance due in repayment of the instalments totalling with unpaid interest £45,348 on account of the East African Protectorates Loan, 1914, for railways and roads.

LAND.

No decision has yet been reached on the report of the Lands Commission which sat during the year 1920, and the policy of Government in the matter of land tenure and native settlement remains for the present unchanged.

The fairly successful season enabled many planters who would otherwise have been forced to abandon their estates to carry on for another year in the hopes of a turn in the tide of their fortunes, and fewer surrenders of Government leases were accepted, although the arrears of rent for which it was not considered desirable to press too harshly in the circumstances amount to a fairly large sum.

During the year 1923, some 3,000 acres were leased for new agricultural holdings, as against 2,280 acres in 1922 and 14,420 acres in the previous years.

NATURAL RESOURCES.

FORESTRY.

The question of the conservation of the forests of Nyasaland in connection both with its effect on the climate and with the future timber and fuel supplies of the country is one of urgency. Subject to the limitations of the staff and funds available, the utmost efforts are being made to deal with the problem. The most pressing need is to prevent the denudation of forest areas by natives whose inherited habit is to cut down ruthlessly all the timber in their neighbourhood for fuel and building purposes, and then to move to fresh areas. The effects of this process on the soil and climate of a country are fully recognised, and the immediate policy of the Government is directed to the creation of forest reserves in all parts of the Protectorate. The ultimate aim is to conduct a campaign of re-forestation combined with the gradual education of the natives in the effects of denudation, and the necessity of planting up forest areas in the neighbourhood of their villages which will serve as a source of future supplies.

VETERINARY.

There is little of importance to report under this heading during the year 1923. No outbreak of East Coast Fever occurred in its epidemic form, and the precautions against rinderpest were effectively maintained.

It is still impracticable to find any suitable market for native cattle beyond the limited local demand for slaughter purposes, and an attempt by an Indian to build up a ghee industry was only moderately successful, although there are possibilities in this direction.

During the year it was decided to dispose of the Government herds of cattle and to close down the Naniwawa dairy farm.

FISHERIES.

Establishment of fisheries on a commercial basis has not been found possible in Nyasaland, and the fish of many kinds abounding in the lakes and larger rivers are exploited only as food for the natives living in their vicinity. A limited quantity of fish is used by Europeans who live near Lake Nyasa.

WATER POWER.

In recent years there has been noted an increased activity on the part of planters and others to make use of the water power of streams and rivers for running machinery in connection with various agricultural and kindred operations. The Government electric light, workshops and printing plants in Zomba are worked by water power.

MANUFACTURES.

Nyasaland is primarily an agricultural country, and manufactures on a large scale as understood in Europe are non-existent. The Imperial Tobacco Company has a factory at Limbe, and there are cotton ginneries and tea factories in various parts of the country. Native industries flourish to the extent necessary to supply the limited local demand for furniture, curios, mats, etc.

BANKS.

The Standard Bank and the National Bank, both of South Africa, continued to be the only banks providing for the needs of the European and Asiatic communities. The Post Office Savings Bank maintained its efforts to encourage thrift among the native population ; but has not yet attained any degree of success owing to the general poverty of the ordinary natives. At the end of 1923 the number of accounts, including those of Europeans and Asiatics, had increased by 10 to 427, and the amount standing to the credit of depositors was increased by £230 to £6,527.

LEGISLATION.

The only Ordinances of importance enacted during the year under review were the Native Marriage (Christian Rites) Registration Ordinance which permitted the celebration of Christian marriage between natives and the registration thereof provided that such celebration shall not alter or affect the status of the parties to the marriage or the consequences of any prior marriage under native law or custom or involve any other legal consequences whatever.

The Christian Native Marriage Ordinance, 1912, and the Christian Native Marriage (Amendment) Ordinance, 1913, were repealed during the year, as was also the Missions Ordinance, 1922.

EDUCATION.

No change was made in the system under which the various Missions operating in Nyasaland provide practically all the educational facilities in the Protectorate. A sum of £2,000 is provided by Government in the form of a grant-in-aid which is divided between the Missions, as a contribution towards the cost of maintaining their educational activities. A boarding school for European children is conducted at Limbe by the Marist Fathers.

During the year an Advisory Committee on Native Education in the British Tropical African Dependencies was instituted at the Colonial Office to advise the Secretary of State on any matters of native education in the British Colonies and Protectorates in Tropical Africa which he may from time to time refer to them, and to assist him in advancing the progress of education in those Colonies and Protectorates. The secretary to the Committee will, among his other duties, pay visits to the various dependencies as occasion arises.

COMMUNICATIONS.

The steamer services between Beira and England are gradually reverting to normal pre-war conditions, although the ordinary steamers, as apart from mail steamers, do not travel to a rigid time-table, and in consequence it is difficult to ascertain in advance the exact dates of their arrival at or departure from Beira. Passengers are still frequently delayed a whole week in Beira awaiting a connection ; but the railway companies propose to start a twice-weekly service between Blantyre and Beira, and if this is done the delays at that port will be greatly lessened.

During the year the Union-Castle Line abolished the distinction between first and second class on their intermediate steamers, which now carry first and third class passengers only.

TRANSPORT.

Mechanical transport has now practically superseded carriage by native porters in all but the remote parts of the Protectorate, and every encouragement is being given to this mode of transport. In a country situated like Nyasaland, with expensive railway freights to the coast and high charges on the ocean, it is essential that local transport should be as cheap and efficient as possible if economic products are to be put on the markets with an adequate margin of profit to the producer. In order to help towards this desirable end, vehicles destined for commercial employment, together with their component parts and accessories, are exempt from import duties.

POSTAL.

There were 26 Post Offices conducting business during 1923, the office at Neno having been temporarily closed down for administrative reasons. Of these offices 18 issue and pay money orders.

During 1923/24 the money orders issued amounted to a total value of £20,931 as compared with £22,222 in the previous year. The value of money orders paid was £9,187 as compared with £12,315 in 1922/23. The continued decrease in this class of business appears to be due to the declining inclination on the part of Nyasaland natives resident in Southern Rhodesia to contribute large sums towards the support of their friends and relatives who remain at home, and to an increased use of South African bank notes as a means of remitting money. During the last two years there has been a fall of about £6,500 in money orders issued in Rhodesia for payment in Nyasaland.

The postal orders issued in 1923/24 amounted to £8,066 as against £7,279 in the previous year, and the value of orders paid was £17,289 as compared with £19,518 in 1922/23. The fall in value of postal orders paid out has amounted to about £6,600 over a period of two years for reasons explained above in regard to money orders.

The amount of mail matter handled during the year showed a further decrease of about 50,000 articles, principally due to the decline in native correspondence to and from Rhodesia and South Africa, but, in part, no doubt to the high rate of postage on internal correspondence which must be a heavy tax on the ordinary native.

TELEPHONES.

During the year no new telephone system was installed, and the only system of importance in existence is that operated by the Government in Zomba connecting the various offices and the Camp.

TELEGRAPHS.

The African Transcontinental Telegraph Company owns and works the trunk line telegraphs in Nyasaland. The Protectorate is directly connected with Salisbury in Southern Rhodesia, and with Fort Jameson and Fife in Northern Rhodesia, as well as with Tukuyu in Tanganyika Territory. The various stations of the Shire Highlands and Central African Railway are connected by the private lines of the railway companies, which work in conjunction with the African Transcontinental Telegraph Company's system.

PUBLIC WORKS AND ROADS.

The financial position again precluded the possibility of providing funds for any Public Works of importance, although a considerable amount of normal work was undertaken. Several buildings begun in 1922 were completed during the year under review, and three new official quarters were erected in Zomba and one at the Police Camp just outside the township. The new native hospital at Zomba was also completed under contract. The central staircase and the council chamber in the Government offices were also completed. A house for the Resident at the new district station, Cholo, was built, but little other building work was undertaken away from headquarters.

As regards roads, a realignment was carried out on the Lunzu-Lirangwe section of the Blantyre-Fort Jameson road, and the ascent of Ncheu hill, which increased heavy traffic had rendered somewhat dangerous, was further improved, and some additional permanent culverts were laid down. The realignment and construction to a four-ton standard of the Dedza-Lilongwe section of the same road was begun, and the Lintipe bridge on this section was almost completed. The Bua diversion was also finished, and a realignment survey undertaken on the Lilongwe-Namitete section. A four-ton bridge was built at Nsipe on the Liwonde-Ncheu road to replace the one that was destroyed in the floods of the previous year, and the steel bridge over the Napere stream on the Blantyre-Katungas road was completed during 1923. Improvements, remetalling, and the laying of permanent culverts were undertaken in other parts of the Protectorate but the financial stringency hindered the completion of the full programme for the year.

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., 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, etc.	Year.
1171	Fiji	1922
1172	Ceylon	"
1173	Gibraltar	"
1174	British Guiana	"
1175	Barbados	1922-1923
1176	Basutoland	"
1177	St. Vincent	1922
1178	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1922-1923
1179	Mauritius	1922
1180	Swaziland	"
1181	British Honduras	"
1182	Uganda	"
1183	Federated Malay States	"
1184	Unfederated Malay States	"
1185	State of Brunei	"
1186	Straits Settlements	"
1187	Falkland Islands	"
1188	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	"
1189	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1922-1923
1190	Jamaica	1922
1191	Seychelles	"
1192	Bahamas	1922-1923
1193	Somaliland	1922
1194	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1922-1923
1195	Leeward Islands	"
1196	Turks and Caicos Islands	1922
1197	Nigeria	1923
1198	Weihaiwei	"
1199	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1922-1923
1200	Ashanti	"
1201	Gambia	1923
1202	Bahamas	1923-1924
1203	Hongkong	1922

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.	Subject.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island.. .. .	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.