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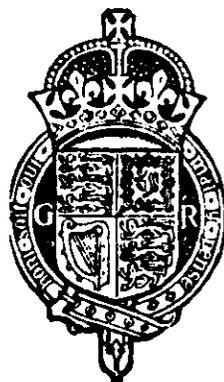
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1296.

NYASALAND.

REPORT FOR 1925.

*(For Report for 1923 see No. 1204, and for Report for 1924 see No. 1257,
(Price 6d. each)).*



LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Aldstral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1;
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1926

Price 6d. Net.

No. 1296.

NYASALAND.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1925.*

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. $9^{\circ} 45'$ and $17^{\circ} 16'$, 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 Luangwa 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 four Provinces, the Zomba, 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, Limbe near Blantyre, 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 in ascending the Shire, discovered Lakes Shirwa and Pamalombe,

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

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 Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. 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 Likoma, 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 Luangwa, 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 Mlōzi, 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 diminish rapidly, and from May to September the climate is comparatively cool and dry.

General Observations.

The two Commissions, the East Africa Commission and the Phelps-Stokes Education Commission, whose visits were mentioned in last year's report, published their reports* during 1925.

The recommendations made by the latter Commission will be considered by the Director of Education whose appointment has now been approved.

The recommendations of the East Africa Commission are receiving careful consideration both by the local Government and the Colonial Office, more especially as regards European and Native land tenure. Arising out of the visit of the Commission, it was decided that a conference of the East African Governors should be held at Nairobi in Kenya Colony early in 1926.

During the year it was arranged for a census of the whole population to be taken in April, 1926, and the usual estimate of the population was accordingly deferred. At the end of 1924, the European population was estimated at 1,462, the Asiatic population at 669, and the Native population at 1,210,344.

* For the Report of the East Africa Commission see Cmd. 2387, April 1925.

Owing chiefly to excessive rainfall in parts of the Protectorate, there was a certain shortage of foodstuffs in some areas in the Central and Southern Provinces, but although the Government was compelled to purchase and resell considerable quantities of food, there was no necessity to import any, and there was nothing in the nature of general famine relief measures at public expense.

The Government Geologist made a discovery of bauxite deposits on Mlanje Mountain and samples were sent to the Imperial Institute for examination and report. The actual extent and the commercial value of the deposits have not yet been definitely ascertained.

The number of Provinces was increased from three to four by constituting a Zomba Province out of three districts, Zomba, Upper Shire, and South Nyasa, which hitherto formed part of the Southern Province. The Provincial Commissioner, Zomba, is stationed at Headquarters and has a seat on the Executive and Legislative Councils.

The prosperity of 1924 appears to have been maintained during 1925 and there was a slight increase in the value of imports, although the value of exports decreased by about 3·19 per cent. as compared with the previous year. A notable feature was the increase in the quantities of cotton and tobacco grown by natives.

Health.

The admissions of Europeans to hospital were 192 in 1925 as compared with 147 in the previous year, whilst 451 were attended as out-patients as compared with 559 in 1924. There were 3,539 natives admitted to hospital and 115,690 treated as out-patients as compared with 2,842 and 114,043 respectively in 1924.

Two cases of sleeping sickness in natives were admitted to hospital and both died.

There were no cases of plague reported, and only one case of smallpox.

There were no serious epidemics during the year.

Immigration and Emigration.

During the year, 769 Europeans and 225 Indians were admitted to the Protectorate. These figures include 148 Europeans and 5 Indians who were in transit through the Protectorate to surrounding territories.

The numbers of emigrants were 588 Europeans and 213 Indians, of whom 92 Europeans and 7 Indians were transmigrants from neighbouring territories.

Exclusive of transmigrants the net result is 621 European immigrants and 496 emigrants, showing an increase in the European population of 125 as compared with 33 in the previous

year. The returns for Indians show that 220 entered, and 206 left the Protectorate during the year, a net increase of 14, as compared with an increase of 105 during the previous year.

The returns taken at Port Herald show that 2,805 natives left the Protectorate during the year by rail, and that 2,625 returned to the Protectorate by that route.

As large numbers leave, and return, to the Protectorate by other overland routes, of which no data can be obtained, it is not possible to give reliable figures as to the emigration and immigration of natives.

Trade.

The external trade of the Protectorate reached a total of £1,294,301, showing an increase as compared with last year of £15,894.

Under their respective heads the values entered are tabulated below in comparison with those of the preceding year:—

	1924	1925
	£	£
Imports	548,156	591,654
Exports	583,555	564,926
Transit Imports ..	61,773	48,187
Transit Exports ..	84,923	89,534
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£1,278,407	£1,294,301
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Imports for home use, in comparison with those of last year, show an increase of £43,498 = 7.94 per cent.

Domestic exports show a decrease of £18,629 = 3.19 per cent.

The value of imports for home use exceeded the value of domestic exports by £26,728.

The following table shows the values of imports and exports excluding transit trade, Government imports and Specie, during each of the past five years.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1921	637,567	416,404	1,053,971
1922	522,119	442,164	964,283
1923	462,284	425,181	887,465
1924	548,156	583,555	1,131,711
1925	591,654	564,926	1,156,580

Imports from the United Kingdom were valued at £295,844, or 50 per cent. of the total value of domestic imports. Last year the United Kingdom supplied 57.7 per cent. of the total imports, valued at £316,288.

British Possessions supplied 23.5 per cent. of this year's imports as compared with 18.2 per cent. supplied last year.

Imports to the value of £156,482, equal to 26·5 per cent., were shipped to the Protectorate during the year from foreign countries. Last year the imports from foreign countries were valued at £132,249, or 24 per cent. of the imports for that year.

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

	1923	1924	1925
	<i>centals</i>	<i>centals</i>	<i>centals</i>
Cotton	21,825	22,293	22,918
	<i>tons</i>	<i>tons</i>	<i>tons</i>
Tobacco	2,302	3,145	3,088
Tea	430	472	516
Fibre	747	800	785
Rubber	57	78	71
Coffee	41	22	9
Capiscums and Chillies	11	16	10

The total weight of domestic exports, 6,432 tons, shows a slight decrease, 63 tons, or 99 per cent. as compared with last year. In spite of what was regarded as an unfavourable season for tobacco, the shipments of that commodity show a decrease, as compared with the previous year, of only 56 tons or 1·8 per cent.

Cotton shipments for the year amounting to 1,023 tons show an increase of 28 tons on last year's exports. The crop for the past year is estimated at over 2,000 tons.

Of the total value of domestic products, the United Kingdom absorbed 98·6 per cent. British Possessions took 23 per cent, and foreign countries 1·17 per cent.

Labour.

There is no change in the general position as regards native labour as set out in last year's report. The production of economic crops by natives increased enormously in 1925, and labour is undoubtedly more difficult to obtain. This difficulty will doubtless lead to the improvement of the conditions under which natives are employed and to an increase of wages. Statistics are not available to show whether the growth of economic crops is having any effect on the emigration of natives to Rhodesia.

Crime.

The strength of the Police Force on 31st December, 1925, was 13 European Officers and 459 African ranks and the area under its jurisdiction about 40,000 square miles. The estimated cost of the force for 1925 was £14,801.

Crime in the more important districts of the Southern Province, which were affected by the influx of troops during the late War, still shows a tendency to decrease; in the other districts there is very little serious crime.

The prisons of the Protectorate consist of a Central Prison at Zomba for long-sentence prisoners at which various trades are taught, and district prisons situated at the headquarter stations of each district, for short-sentence prisoners. The strength of the Prison Staff on 31st December, 1925, was 2 European Officers and 112 African Warders. District Prisons are under the charge of Administrative or Police Officers, and where no warder staffs are provided the police perform such duties.

The total number of persons committed to the prisons in 1925 was 3,612 of whom 863 were for safe custody pending trial and 2,749 on sentence to imprisonment.

The daily average number of persons in the prisons during 1925 was 661.49.

The estimated cost of the Prisons for 1925 was £4,909.

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>
	£	£
1921-22	259,117	305,495
1922-23	247,347	312,302
1923-24	281,044	282,800
1924-25	293,055	295,481
1925-26	305,015*	308,480*

*Estimated.

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

1922	£	29,453
1923 (excess of liabilities)		35,498
1924		7,704
1925 (excess of assets)		5,970
1926		8,535*

* Estimated.

The public debt of the Protectorate as at 31st March, 1925, was as follows :—

	£
East African Protectorates (Railways and Roads) Loan, 4 per cent. ..	10,236
East African Protectorates (Railways and Roads) Loan, 6 per cent. ..	32,809
Shire Highlands Railway—Redemption of Subsidy Lands Loan	158,879
Trans-Zambesia Railway Guarantee Loan	289,298
Famine Relief Loan	19,600
Total	<u>£510,822</u>

Land.

The question of land tenure and settlement has not yet been decided, and pending a decision being arrived at no change has been made in the methods of alienating Crown Land.

Owing to heavy and continual rains the planting season was only moderately successful, and planters as a result have not been able appreciably to improve their financial positions.

During the year there was not a large demand for new agricultural land, and the European population may be said to have remained stationary.

Natural Resources.

AGRICULTURE.

The figures given below show the acreages of exportable crops grown by Europeans in 1925 as compared with 1915 and 1924 :—

<i>European Agriculture.</i>					
<i>Crop.</i>			1915.	1924.	1925.
Coffee	..	..	1,331	424	875
Cotton	..	..	29,578	26,120	17,541
Fibres	..	..	420	5,902	4,813
Rubber	..	..	6,766	1,795	1,203
Tea	..	..	4,141	5,093	5,435
Tobacco	..	..	7,484	20,590	22,415

Unfavourable weather conditions were responsible for lower yields per acre of tobacco and cotton as compared with the yields in 1924. Tobacco prices were good but there was a sharp decline in the market value of cotton. The sound position of the tea industry was maintained and further expansion of the area under this crop may be expected in the near future.

There was a marked increase in the acreage planted to cotton and tobacco by natives, and the production for the year was 2,909 tons of seed cotton, as compared with 1,369 tons in 1924, and 1,177 tons of tobacco leaf as compared with 525 tons in 1924.

VETERINARY.

Trypanosomiasis of cattle was the main cause of losses throughout the Protectorate during 1925. The considerable extensions of the areas infested by tsetse fly has further reduced the available country in which cattle can be kept safely. Deaths of cattle from this disease have occurred in every Province of the Protectorate. The details of the application of a comprehensive scheme to stem the advance of the tsetse fly in Angoniland during the next few years is under consideration and the results of the experiment are awaited with interest.

There were no outbreaks of East Coast fever in the Southern and Zomba Provinces and the only outbreaks of other tick-borne diseases were in areas where dipping facilities are not yet available. In the Central and Northern Provinces East Coast fever and other tick-borne diseases have caused a certain number of deaths, but the death-rate has not usually been high.

The seasonal gastro-enteritis of cattle (grass sickness) was less virulent throughout the Protectorate than in recent years.

Demodectic mange and streptothricosis of cattle were mainly confined to areas in which there were no dipping facilities, and a few outbreaks of anthrax and blackquarter were diagnosed during the year.

Towards the end of the year rinderpest had spread in Tanganyika Territory and had reached the neighbourhood of this Protectorate necessitating an augmentation of the normal precautionary measures.

The approximate percentage increase in the numbers of livestock in the Protectorate during the past decade are cattle 61 per cent., sheep 200 per cent., goats 40 per cent. and pigs 100 per cent.

FORESTRY.

Attention was concentrated on the formation of forest reserves, their demarcation, protection, and the examination of new tracts with a view to reservation. At the end of 1925, twenty-three reserves had been proclaimed with an approximate area of 2,631 square miles. Many of these areas are important watersheds, and have been reserved mainly with the object of regulating, maintaining, and improving water supplies. Some, however, contain forest of a slightly better quality than the poor type general to the Protectorate. Proposals for four new reserves were under consideration at the end of the year.

A District service of Native Foresters was established after a course of instruction had been given to carefully selected natives. This is considered an important step in forest conservation.

150 acres in forest reserves were planted up under planting plans.

Over a quarter of a million plants were issued gratis to natives for village planting.

Departmental exploitation for supplying timber for public works was continued, and adequate stocks of seasoned sawn timber are in hand.

Forest revenue continues to increase, the yield from plantations being particularly gratifying.

No timber was exported, the only export of forest produce being 18,390 lb. of beeswax, and 17,723 lb. of strophanthus seed.

An Ordinance to prevent the reckless or careless use of grass fires was passed, and a new Forest Bill was under consideration at the end of the year.

Legislation.

The principal legislation enacted during 1925 was an Income Tax Ordinance based on a model ordinance and repealing the 1921 Ordinance. The rates of tax remained unchanged; an Ordinance to prevent the reckless or careless use of grass fires was passed to remedy an admitted evil. No other legislation of any importance was passed during the year.

Education.

No change was made in the educational system of the Protectorate. The Government grant of £2,000 was, as usual, divided between the various missions in the form of a grant-in-aid towards the cost of their educational activities. Government takes no direct part in the education either of European children or of the natives.

The Marist Fathers' Mission conducts a boarding and day school at Limbe for European children, and a similar school has been opened at Blantyre by the Rev. W. W. Wratten.

The appointment of a Director of Education has now been approved, and Mr. R. F. Gaunt has been selected for the post.

Communications.

The steamer services between Beira and the United Kingdom still leave much to be desired, and passengers are frequently kept waiting at Beira for a week or more owing to the uncertainty of the sailing dates of all steamers except those of the British India Line, which maintain a regular fortnightly or monthly mail service.

It has not yet been found possible for the railway company to run a twice-weekly service, except during a part of the year, but when they are in a position to do so it may be hoped that much of the present inconvenience and delay will be avoided.

The time taken between Beira and England is from five to six weeks by intermediate steamer, and about thirty days by the all-sea mail route.

TRANSPORT.

Except in the remote areas, carriage by native porters has been almost entirely replaced by mechanical transport, and every encouragement by means of the exemption from import duty of commercial vehicles and the provision of suitable roads, as funds permit, is given to this means of transport. Notwithstanding this assistance the cost of local transport is high, especially from places remote from the railway. From Beira the charges are a great handicap to the development of the Protectorate's resources, but until both imports and exports increase in bulk to a very considerable extent these charges are not likely to be materially reduced, as the net railway revenues are insufficient to provide for interest and sinking fund charges on the capital expended.

POSTAL.

There are now 28 post offices conducting business ; of these 18 both issue and pay money orders, 3 pay only, and 7 transact no money order business.

The money orders issued in 1924-25 amounted to £26,762 and the amount of money orders paid amounted to £21,222. Money orders issued on the United Kingdom show a considerable increase, mainly due to the growing popularity of the C.O.D. business.

Postal orders issued in 1924-25 amounted to £12,089, and the value of postal orders paid was £18,966, an increase of £4,023 and £1,577 respectively.

Postal articles have increased both in the numbers posted and in those delivered, probably due to the improved mail service.

The travelling post office is still running successfully on the Shire Highland's Railway. Inward parcel mails are dealt with for Customs assessment at Zomba and Limbe, and all outward parcel mails are despatched from Limbe. The motor mail service with Northern Rhodesia has given great satisfaction and has maintained exceptionally good time in spite of an abnormally wet season.

TELEPHONES.

Some alterations have taken place, aerial cables having been substituted for aerial wires. The number of calls during the year exceeded 20,000.

TELEGRAPHS.

Negotiations were completed during the year by which Government acquired as from 1st January, 1926, the whole of the telegraph system in Nyasaland which the African Transcontinental Telegraph Company owned and which is directly connected with Salisbury in Southern Rhodesia, with Fort Jameson and Fife in Northern Rhodesia, and with Tukuuyu in Tanganyika Territory. The railway stations are linked up by private systems of the railway companies, which work in conjunction with the trunk lines acquired from the African Transcontinental Telegraph Company.

Public Works and Roads.

The principal works undertaken in Zomba were :—The erection of two detached and two semi-detached Junior Quarters and the commencement of a four-roomed house ; a stationery store at the Printing Office ; a four-compartment furniture store for storing the effects of officers while on leave ; Geological Laboratory extension ; an additional bedroom at the Attorney-General's house ; two garages ; isolation blocks at the General Prison and extended accommodation at the Lunatic Asylum ; Native Staff quarters at the African Hospital, and numerous minor works.

Improvements were effected at Government House and grounds. The thatched roof of a house on Gymkhana road was replaced by iron, and an old double quarter house near the transport office was reconstructed.

The increase in the use of cars necessitated certain improvements to dangerous corners of the township roads, but much remains to be done in this respect.

At Blantyre, a four-roomed house was erected, and the Police lines transferred to a new site.

At Kasungu, a new district station, the temporary buildings were replaced by a permanent Resident's house, office, and prison. A Court House and Native lines were constructed.

At Fort Johnston, the Assistant Resident's house was reconstructed, improvements effected at the Residency and cement floors put into other houses.

At Cholo, the Assistant Resident's house erected last year was given an iron roof and a Court House was built.

Minor works were carried out at other stations. Many improvements were carried out on the main roads, the most notable event being the arrival in Fort Jameson early in the dry season of the first 2-ton lorry (4 tons gross weight). On this road the Namitete bridge was opened, but it still needs certain work on the approaches and decking. The abutments of the Sinde bridge were put in and bricks were burnt for the Namilone bridge (temporarily crossed by a pole structure).

Between Ncheu and Dedza and Mkanda a brick arch bridge was built and a deviation was put in cutting out a great part of the Portuguese section besides giving a drier line. Between Dedza and Lilongwe new culverts were built and improvements effected, as also on the Blantyre Ncheu section where foundations and preliminary work for a permanent bridge over the Lunzu river were begun.

A further three miles section of the Cholo road was metalled.

The proposed drift over the Mudi at Blantyre was not built pending further consideration of the question of a bridge.

On the Liwonde Ncheu road the Luawazi dambo was much improved, and a new deviation on a ridge alignment was completed from there to Balakas. A loop route round the Balakas dambo was cleared and formed.

The North road was carried on from the Lombadzi river to the Bua, and for a few miles beyond towards Kasungu—some 40 miles of new road being cleared and formed, but not permanently bridged or culverted. The brick arch bridge over the Lingadzi river, near Lilongwe, was completed.

Rough work was done on the Dowa-Kasungu-Mzimba-Livingstonia road which enabled light motor traffic to reach the Mission in the dry season. Much of this was, however, not of a permanent nature.

On the Fort Johnston roads floods at the end of last rainy season had swept away half of the Shire bridge at Liwonde, and the Mwai and Nkasi bridges further on, increasing the width of the latter two rivers from 90 feet and 100 feet wide to 300 feet and 150 feet respectively. The Mpale bridge was also destroyed. It was hoped that such rains were exceptional and the maximum that might be allowed for. The openings of the Shire, Mwai and Nkasi were therefore bridged with steel joists and timber decking on brick piers in 30 feet spans.

A beginning was made on sinking wells for native use in dry areas.

Non-arrival of the plant delayed the completion of the proposed electric light extension, and the Fort Johnston ferry equipment.



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