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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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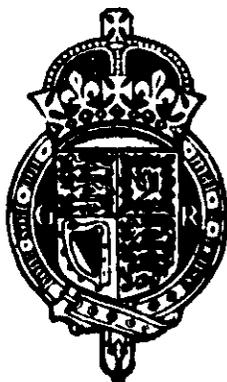
No. 1211.

SWAZILAND.

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REPORT FOR 1923.

(For Report for 1922 see No. 1180.)



LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

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ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1923.\*

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I.—SITUATION AND AREA.

Swaziland lies between the eastern slopes of the Drakensberg Mountains, which form the eastern border of the Transvaal, and the low-lying lands of northern Zululand and Portuguese East Africa.

It is bounded on the north, west and south by the Transvaal, and on the east by the Portuguese Territory and Tongaland, now part of the Natal Province, and is about the size of Wales, its area being 6,678 square miles. A little more than one-third of the Territory is native area and the remainder is owned by Europeans.

DESCRIPTION.

The Territory is divided geographically into three longitudinal regions of roughly equal breadth, running from north to south, and known locally as the high, middle, and low or bush veld. The high veld portion adjoining the eastern Transvaal consists of mountains, part of the Drakensberg Range. These mountains rise in parts to an altitude of over 5,000 feet.

The middle veld is about 2,000 feet lower, while the bush veld, bounded on the east by the Ubombo Mountains, has a height of from 300 to 1,000 feet, rising on the Ubombo Mountains to 1,500 feet.

II.—HISTORY.

The Swazis are akin to the Zulu and other tribes of the south-eastern littoral. Up to about 100 years ago they occupied the country just north of the Pongolo River, but a hostile chief in their vicinity forced them farther north and, under their Chief Sobhuza, they then occupied the territory now known as Swaziland. This Chief, who died in 1839, was succeeded by Mswazi II. The further order of succession has been Ludonga, Mbandini and Bhunu, whose son, Sobhuza II, was installed as Paramount Chief in 1921, after a long minority, during which his grandmother, Labotsibeni, acted as Regent.

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\* In this Report the Financial Statements which are for the year ended 31st March, 1924, are preliminary and not completely audited. All other details are for the calendar year 1923.

The many concessions granted by Mbandini necessitated some form of European control, notwithstanding that the independence of the Swazis had been guaranteed in the Conventions of 1881 and 1884, entered into between the Government of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria and the Government of the late South African Republic. In 1890, soon after the death of Mbandini, a Provisional Government was established representative of the Swazis, the British and South African Republic Governments. In 1894, under a Convention between the British and South African Republic Governments, the latter was given powers of protection and administration, without incorporation, and Swaziland continued to be governed under this form of control until the outbreak of the Boer War in 1899.

In 1902, after the conclusion of hostilities in the Transvaal, a Special Commissioner took charge, and, under an Order in Council in 1903, the Governor of the Transvaal administered the Territory, through the Special Commissioner, until the year 1907, when, under an Order in Council (1906), the High Commissioner assumed control and established the present form of administration. Previously to this, steps had been taken for the settlement of the concessions question by the definition of the boundaries of the land concessions and their partition between the concessionaires and the natives. The boundaries of the mineral concessions were also defined and all monopoly concessions were expropriated. Title to property is therefore now clear.

In 1912, a Special Court was established with an Advocate of the Provincial Division of the Transvaal as President. The other members of the Court consist of the Resident Commissioner, the Deputy Resident Commissioner, and the Assistant Commissioners of the various districts. The Court holds sessions twice a year. All cases are dealt with by three members sitting without a jury. The Court has jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases.

An elected Advisory Council, representative of the Europeans, was established in 1921, to advise the Administration on purely European affairs.

### III.—GENERAL EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

During the year there were 117 European emigrants and 143 immigrants, the latter being permanent settlers.

According to the census held on the 3rd May, 1921, the European population was 1,239 males, 996 females, total 2,235 persons, representing an increase of 103·6 per cent. since the 1911 census. The native Bantu population was 52,761 males, 57,534 females, total 110,295 persons, representing an increase





The National Bank of South Africa, Limited, has branches at Mbabane and Hlatikulu. The amount on deposit at 31st March, 1924, at the Mbabane Branch was £21,023 as compared with £22,825 in 1923.

The Bank also conducts savings bank business. The number of savings bank depositors at 31st March, 1924, at the Mbabane branch was 110, with a total credit of £2,311 as compared with 136 and £2,229 for the previous year.

At the various post offices in the Territory Post Office Savings Bank business is conducted. At 31st March, 1924, the depositors numbered 200, with a total credit of £1,847 as compared with 172 and £2,249 for the previous year.

At the Post Office Savings Bank interest at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. was allowed on ordinary accounts and 4 per cent. on certificate accounts. Interest was allowed at 4 per cent. for 12 months and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for six months on fixed deposits at the savings bank of the National Bank.

#### AGRICULTURE.

The principal crops are maize, kafir corn, tobacco, cotton and beans.

The maize crop was above the average. The price was the lowest for years, being 17s. 6d. per 200 lb. during the winter and 26s. in the spring. A very good class of maize is being produced, chiefly the "Hickory King" variety, and as a result of the advice of experts being followed, the maize is of a very high standard.

The crop of kafir corn was quite up to the average. The tobacco crop was also up to average. The returns show that 322,350 lb. of tobacco were grown.

The cotton crop has greatly increased. The amount handled in Durban on behalf of Swaziland growers was approximately 47,000 lb. lint, the average price realized being  $16\frac{3}{16}$  pence per lb.

Mr. G. F. Neatinge, C.I.E., who was deputed by the British Empire Cotton Growing Corporation to report on the prospects of South Africa as a cotton-producing country, visited Swaziland in the early part of the year. He was very much impressed with the prospects in Swaziland and reported that in his opinion the annual crop should increase up to 30,000 bales.

The principal varieties of cotton grown are "Griffin," "Watts Long Staple," "Improved Bancroft," and "Zululand Hybrid." The main crop is "Griffin," the original seed having been imported by the Government in 1921. This variety with proper selection and acclimatization is giving excellent returns.

The following is the record of the Swaziland cotton crop for the year 1923:—

Of the total crop, 71 per cent. was graded "Fully good middling"; 87 per cent. was  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inch or over, whilst 69 per cent. was sold in Durban at 16*d.* per lb. and over.

All classes of sub-tropical fruit do well in the lower parts of the Territory. The Government horticulturist of the Transvaal reported very favourably on the prospects of fruit-growing, and he was particularly impressed with the suitability of the climate and soil for citrus fruits and mangoes.

The Territory is well watered, and the numerous large rivers provide an inexhaustible supply of water and constitute an immensely valuable asset for the development of power and for the purposes of irrigation. It is favourably situated midway between the coast and the principal markets of the Transvaal, but, until a railway is built and funds are available for making good roads, the development of the Territory is bound to be retarded.

#### STOCK.

Swaziland, especially the bush veld, is one of the finest cattle-raising centres in South Africa.

It is reported by old residents that in the very early days, before the invasion of rinderpest in 1894, the country teemed with cattle.

Rinderpest in 1894 and 1897 and East Coast Fever in 1902 caused great mortality, and at the census held in 1911 there were only 57,601 cattle in the Territory. Since 1911 the campaign against East Coast Fever has been most successful, and cattle have increased rapidly. Dipping is compulsory everywhere, and Europeans and natives alike have realized its value. The census held during the year 1921 showed that the Europeans owned 63,749 cattle, while those in the possession of natives numbered 146,542. It is estimated that at the present time there are approximately 250,000 head of cattle in the Territory.

The introduction by the ranchers and farmers in Swaziland of pure-bred bulls of the principal breeds is rapidly improving the class of cattle in the Territory, and in spite of the unsatisfactory state of the meat market very fair prices were obtained during the year for slaughtered cattle exported. In all, 4,200 head were exported through Komati Poort and 810 head through the new port of exit at Mahamba, a total of 5,010 head exported as against 5,179 for 1922. The campaign against East Coast Fever has again occupied most of the time of the Veterinary

Department. Four new outbreaks of this disease occurred during the year and there was a recrudescence of the disease in two old infected areas.

The following table shows the number of outbreaks of East Coast Fever, herds infected, and deaths during the last six years :—

<i>Year.</i>			<i>Infected Areas.</i>			<i>New Herds Infected.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
1918	..	..	2	..	Nil	..	1
1919	..	..	3	..	86	..	61
1920	..	..	1	..	29	..	10
1921	..	..	4	..	125	..	361
1922	..	..	6	..	63	..	708
1923	..	..	9	..	33	..	253

At the end of the year there were 69 Government dipping tanks, and 54 private tanks, six of which are under Government control.

Quarter Evil was not so prevalent; 5,800 doses of vaccine were issued for the inoculation of cattle, chiefly in the Hlatikulu district.

Two outbreaks of Anthrax have occurred in the Hlatikulu district and two head of cattle died. All the cattle in contact were inoculated and there have been no further cases.

The disease known as Sweating Sickness is spreading and is causing a great loss in the percentage of increase of cattle. Investigation of this disease does not appear to make much progress.

Horse Sickness was very prevalent.

The Annual Agricultural Show was held at Hlatikulu, the Union Government kindly providing the judges. No show was held at Bremersdorp.

#### LAND.

Title to land in Swaziland is freehold, subject to the mineral rights which are in some cases owned by concessionaires and in others by the Crown.

During the year, 21,742 morgen of Crown Lands were sold at an average price of 7s. 8d. per morgen for unencumbered land. The area sold included 3,022 morgen of Crown Land encumbered by grazing servitudes, for which £1,352 was realized.

Unencumbered Crown Land sold in the Territory is subject, before title is issued, to beneficial occupation, or, in the low veld areas, to stocking with breeding cattle. The purchase

price is payable in ten equal yearly instalments, outstanding balances bearing interest at 5 per cent. per annum.

Encumbered Crown Land, that is land subject to prior-dated servitudes of grazing or land rights, is sold to the registered holder of the servitude, and the purchase price is payable in four equal yearly instalments; there is no condition of beneficial occupation. All land is sold subject to existing mineral servitudes. (A morgen equals 2.11654 English acres.)

Private land transactions during the year were few. Prices for freehold land varied between 20s. and 40s. per morgen.

#### MINING.

Mining is conducted under mineral concessions granted by the late King Mbandini, and under the Crown Minerals Order in Council. No new deposits were discovered during the year.

The mineral properties of the Swaziland Tins, Limited, were disposed of during the year, the Company having been voluntarily liquidated, and are now being worked by private owners.

The cassiterite produced during the year amounted to 150.76 tons (metallic content 71 per cent.) valued at £29,240, and gold amounted to 92.78 oz. valued at about £417, as compared with 200 tons of cassiterite and 427 oz. of gold produced in 1922.

Gold mining was carried on for some years at the Piggs Peak and other mines, but, owing to the increased cost of this class of mining, all work has ceased. The Crown owns a few mineral areas, and legal provision has been made for the exploitation of these by the public in the event of payable minerals being discovered. Considerable quantities of gold have been recovered from the Forbes Reef and Piggs Peak mines in the past and there appears to be no reason why further exploitation of this known mineralized area should not take place at an early date in the future. Large deposits of coal exist in the bush veld, but beyond prospecting operations nothing has been done to exploit them.

Arrangements are in progress whereby it is hoped to facilitate prospecting and mining on concessions generally, and during the year the Swaziland Mineral Development Commission was appointed. The report of the Commission has not yet been published.

#### VI.—LEGISLATION.

The most important Proclamations issued during the year were :—

Proclamation No. 5 of 1923, amending the Swaziland Poll Tax Proclamation, 1921.

Proclamation No. 11 of 1923, amending the Official Secrets Proclamation, 1922.

Proclamation No. 15 of 1923, restricting the importation of spirituous liquor.

Proclamation No. 27 of 1923, amending the Swaziland Income Tax Proclamation, 1921.

Proclamation No. 34 of 1923, amending the tariffs of Customs and Excise Duties Proclamation.

#### VII.—EDUCATION.

Government primary schools for European children have been established in the Territory, and, at Mbabane, one for primary and secondary education.

The average attendance at these schools during the last three years was as follows :—

1921	...	...	...	...	283
1922	...	...	...	...	311
1923	...	...	...	...	314

At Zombode, the kraal of the Chief Regent, there is a school for natives. The average attendance at this school during the last three years was as follows :—

1921	...	...	...	...	77
1922	...	...	...	...	93
1923	...	...	...	...	100

Archdeacon Watts, M.A., the founder of the school for Europeans at Mbabane, also opened a school for coloured children at Mpolonjeni, where the average attendance during the last three years was as follows :—

1921	...	...	...	...	65
1922	...	...	...	...	65
1923	...	...	...	...	58

This school receives a Government grant, as well as another school for coloured children at the Florence Mission in the Hlatikulu district, the average attendance at which was 27.

Boarding or transport bursaries at the rate of 4s. per child per week are paid by the Government for all European pupils whose parents are in poor circumstances and who reside three miles or more from a school.

In addition to the above, the various missions conduct schools and classes in connection with their mission work for natives. During the year the grant made to mission societies for this purpose was £1,000, as compared with £1,000 for 1922. The average attendance at these mission schools during the last three years was as follows :—

1921	...	...	...	...	2,300
1922	...	...	...	...	2,329
1923	...	...	...	...	2,400

A number of the more advanced native pupils, both boys and girls, are sent out every year to be trained in the Union, at Lovedale, Tiger Kloof and other Institutes. The cost of tuition and board for these pupils, who number about 30, is paid from the Swazi National Fund, which was created, with the concurrence of the Swazi Chiefs, for the purposes of direct benefit to the natives. Each native taxpayer is required by law to pay 2s. per annum to the Fund, the expenditure from which is under the control of the Government. Apart from the regular schools, the natives receive religious instruction from 14 religious bodies carrying on work in Swaziland at about 186 different centres. The average attendance at these centres during the last three years was as follows:—

1921	...	...	...	...	7,576
1922	...	...	...	...	7,143
1923	...	...	...	...	8,273

#### VIII.—CLIMATE.

The climate of the high veld has been likened to that of the south of France. The air is bracing and invigorating; light frosts are prevalent during the months of June and July. The mean temperature in winter is about 60° Fahr. The summer is pleasantly warm, the mean temperature being about 75° Fahr. The rainfall is good, the average recorded at Mbabane over twenty years being 51.18 inches.

The middle veld is well watered by streams rising in the ranges on the west. Lying as it does some 2,000 feet below the mountains, the summer temperature of this area is warm and humid, but in winter is cool and refreshing. The mean temperature in summer is 80° Fahr. and in winter 65° Fahr. Frost at times occurs in the valley streams, but it is seldom found elsewhere. The rainfall recorded at Bremersdorp over twenty-one years averages 34.59 inches.

East of, and parallel to, the middle veld lies the bush veld, about 20 miles in width and running north and south through the whole area of the Territory. Many streams come down from the high veld and Drakensberg Range. These streams converge in the bush veld into five rivers. But for these this area is not well watered. The rainfall recorded at Natalia Ranch over nine years averages 25.85 inches.

The high veld is free from malaria, which is, however, prevalent in the low veld, and in a slight degree in the middle veld during some of the summer months. The malaria is not of a virulent type, and is easily avoided by taking the precautions ordinarily considered necessary in any sub-tropical country.

## IX.—COMMUNICATIONS.

## ROADS.

There are good roads to Mbabane from Ermelo, 96 miles, Breyten, 85 miles, and Carolina, 82 miles, and there is a fairly good road from Mbabane to the Portuguese border, from which point to Delagoa Bay the road is very good. This route is largely made use of by motorists from the Transvaal during the winter months. The main port of entry for the southern portion of Swaziland is from Piet Retief, whence roads extend to Hlatikulu and Mankaiana. The main ports of entry for the northern portion of Swaziland are from Ermelo and Carolina, via Oshoek, Barberton (by bridle path), Hectorspruit, Komati Poort and Goba. The main roads have been improved by the introduction of piped culverts, but much remains to be done for the betterment of existing roads and improvements in communications generally, for which adequate funds have not been available.

## POST, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

These services are now, by agreement, under the control of the Postmaster-General of the Union, but are paid for from Swaziland funds.

*Post Offices.*—Proclamation No. 29 of 1916 extended to Swaziland, with certain exceptions, the provisions of the Post Office Administration Act, 1911, of the Union of South Africa. At 31st March, 1924, there were 18 post offices in the Territory, and the following is a summary showing the number of offices in the different classes :—

Money Order, Savings Bank, Telegraph and Telephone Offices ... ..	18
Postal Order Agencies ... ..	4
Telegraph and Telephone Offices ... ..	7

*Mail Services.*—The following is a list of mail services in operation at 31st March, 1924 :—

<i>Route.</i>	<i>Times Weekly.</i>	<i>Time Hours.</i>	<i>Conveyance.</i>
Carolina — Bremeersdorp via Oshoek, Mbabane and Ezulwini .. .. .	2	9½	Motor.
Ezulwini—Malkerns .. ..	2	4	Foot.
Bremeersdorp—Stegi .. ..	1	30	Pack-donkey
Bremeersdorp—White Mbuluzi .. ..	2	6	Foot.
Stegi—Portuguese border .. ..	3	6	Foot.
Mbabane—Forbes Reef .. ..	2	4	Foot.
Barberton—Pigg's Peak .. ..	3	14	Foot.
Amsterdam—Sandhlana .. ..	1	16	Foot.
Piet Retief—Mankaiana .. ..	2	12	Foot.
Piet Retief—Hlatikulu .. ..	2	5	Motor.
Hlatikulu—Mooihoek .. ..	2	4	Foot.
Dwaleni—Berbice .. ..	2	4	Foot.
Mhlotsheni—Berbice .. ..	2	4	Foot.
Hluti—Mhlotsheni .. ..	2	9	Foot.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

No extensive public works were undertaken during the year. A telephone line has been opened connecting Hlatikulu with Piet Retief.

B. NICHOLSON,  
*Government Secretary.*

Mbabane, Swaziland,  
*June 30th, 1924.*

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## 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.
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	Faikland 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
1204	Nyasaland .. .. .	1923
1205	Cayman Islands .. .. .	1922
1206	Cyprus .. .. .	1923
1207	Gold Coast .. .. .	1922-1923
1208	Trinidad and Tobago .. .. .	1923
1209	Zanzibar Protectorate .. .. .	"
1210	Bechuanaland Protectorate .. .. .	1923-1924

### 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.