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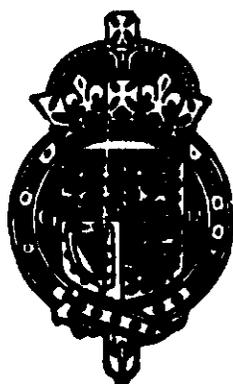
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1261.

SWAZILAND.

REPORT FOR 1924.

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1925

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No. 1261.
SWAZILAND.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1924.*

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.

* In this Report the Financial Statements, which are for the year ended 31st March, 1925, are preliminary and not completely audited. All other details are for the calendar year 1924.

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 the South African Republic Governments. In 1894, under a Convention between the British and the 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 148 European emigrants and 200 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 of 5·34 per cent. since the 1911 census. Of this total 5,990

natives were recorded as being absent at labour centres outside Swaziland. Coloured and other races other than Bantu had increased from 143 to 308 over the same period.

The general health of the Territory has been fairly good. There was considerable malaria during the year and a quantity of quinine was distributed. Cases of dysentery and enteric were rare. Syphilis continues to be a troublesome disease amongst the native population. Every effort is being made to deal with it. An extra building has been added to the hospital for treating cases of this disease. Only a few cases of influenza—of a mild type—occurred during the year. Cases admitted at the hospital numbered 178; there were 6 deaths. The number of out-patients treated was 5,008. Considering the size of the native population the medical services are inadequate to requirements. The Swazis, however, are very conservative and generally prefer their own native doctors. Free treatment is taken advantage of to some extent, but a private medical practitioner could not make a living from native practice. Infant mortality is large owing principally to the methods of feeding. An extension of the medical service is desirable, especially in the provision of further free dispensaries in the districts, but with this there should also be provided more general teaching for the rising generation. Further provision under these heads is, however, at present beyond the resources of the Administration and the Mission Societies operating in the Territory.

Natives desiring to enter into contracts as labourers on mines in the Union continued to take advantage of the deferred pay system, the sum of £11,893 being paid out as compared with £16,137 during 1923. The number of passes issued was 5,741 to recruited labourers and 5,326 to those desiring to travel outside the Territory.

IV.—Government Finance.

The total Revenue for the year amounted to £89,710, being £3,510 in excess of the Estimates, and the total Expenditure to £87,597, showing a decrease of £603 on the Estimates.

Ordinary Revenue and Expenditure for the year amounted to £80,467 and £79,639 respectively, as compared with £80,156 and £85,682 respectively in 1923–1924.

The Extraordinary Revenue and Expenditure during the year amounted to £9,243 and £7,958 respectively.

Public Debt.—This amounted to £55,000 made up as follows :—

- (1) The Swaziland Consolidated Loan of £72,500 was reduced during 1923 by the repayment of a sum of £37,500. The Loan now amounts to the sum of

£35,000, bearing interest at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum and repayable, through the medium of a Sinking Fund, within 19 years from the 1st April, 1924.

(2) The Swazi Nation Trust Fund, £20,000, bearing interest at 4 per cent. per annum.

Assets and Liabilities.—On 31st March, 1925, liabilities exceeded assets by £24,951 11s. 10d.

V.—Progress of Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

TRADE.

During the year under review the volume of trade, except in grain, was very small. The native crops were fair. Sales of land were effected at fair prices.

No statistics of imports or exports are kept, as, by an agreement with the Government of the Union, Swaziland is treated, for Customs purposes, as a part of the Union. Payments due to Swaziland are assessed on a fixed proportion of the total Customs collection of the Union in each year. The amounts so received by Swaziland during the last three financial years were as follows:—

| 1922. | 1923. | 1924. |
|---------|---------|---------|
| £10,172 | £12,788 | £13,500 |

The above amounts include collections in Swaziland during the last three financial years, in respect of spirits and beer manufactured in the Union, as follows:—

| 1922. | 1923. | 1924. |
|--------|--------|--------|
| £1,156 | £1,284 | £1,024 |

The imports consist principally of flour, sugar, groceries, hardware, clothing, boots, spirits, oils farming implements, mining machinery, tools and general kaffir truck. Most of these goods are imported from wholesale dealers in the Union.

The following is a summary of the principal articles exported from Swaziland during the last three years:—

| | Quantities in lb. | | | Value. | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1922. | 1923. | 1924. | 1922. | 1923. | 1924. |
| Cassiterite Tin | 400,448 | 337,713 | 539,907 | £16,420 | £29,240 | £59,082 |
| Cotton (unginned) | 142,148 | 171,000 | 373,370 | 2,013 | 3,056 | 6,221 |
| Cotton (ginned) | — | 73,800 | 72,850 | — | 5,175 | 3,640 |
| Cotton (seed) .. | — | — | 43,144 | — | — | 445 |
| Hides | 37,590 | 37,000 | 33,644 | 1,147 | 1,054 | 1,298 |
| Slaughter Oxen | 2,884,250 | 3,000,000 | 4,478,400 | 41,432 | 45,000 | 64,688 |
| Bullion | 427 oz. | 92·78 oz. | 376 oz. | 1,926 | 417 | 1,693 |
| Specie | — | — | — | 8,214 | 2,090 | 2,164 |

CURRENCY AND BANKING.

The currency is British coin and coins of the late South African Republic, which are of similar denominations to the British. All such British and Transvaal coins are legal tender—in the case of gold coins, for payment of any amount; in the case of silver coins, for payment of an amount not exceeding forty shillings; and in the case of bronze coins, for payment of an amount not exceeding one shilling.

The National Bank of South Africa, Limited, has branches at Mbabane and Hlatikulu. The amount on deposit at 31st March, 1925, at the Mbabane branch was £37,133 as compared with £21,023 in 1924.

The Bank also conducts savings bank business. The number of savings bank depositors at 31st March, 1925, at the Mbabane branch was 90, with a total credit of £827 as compared with 110 and £2,311 for the previous year.

At the various post offices in the Territory Post Office Savings Bank business is conducted. At the 31st March, 1925, the depositors numbered 248, with a total credit of £1,553 as compared with 200 and £1,847 for the previous year.

At the Post Office Savings Bank interest at 3½ 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 3½ 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 average price was 21s. a bag of 200 lb. A very good class of maize is being produced, chiefly the "Hickory King" dent variety, and as a result of the advice of experts being followed the maize is of a very high standard. Growers in the bushveld are trying white flint varieties owing to these varieties requiring a shorter season. Crops of dent varieties are often a failure in the low country owing to insufficient rain at the beginning of the season.

The crop of kafir corn was quite up to the average. The tobacco crop was also up to the average. The returns show that 278,500 lb. of tobacco were grown.

The cotton crop was greatly increased, approximately 8,000 acres were under this crop at the end of the year. The amount handled in Durban on behalf of Swaziland growers was approximately 100,000 lb. lint, the average price realized being 15 pence per lb. This is the crop reaped from that sown in 1923.

Mr. Milligan, 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 July. He was very much impressed with the prospects in Swaziland.

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. "Improved Bancroft" is also very largely grown as it appears more resistant to attacks of the Jassid insect on account of the hairy condition of the leaves. Of the crop, 83 per cent. was grade $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. and over.

Many swarms of flying locusts invaded the country from the Union, and it was expected that breeding on a large scale would occur, but for some unaccountable reason this did not happen and hatching was reported from two parts only. These young swarms were destroyed. Supplies of poison and spray pumps to deal with the young locusts are distributed throughout the Territory.

All classes of sub-tropical fruits 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 in 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 slaughter cattle exported. In all, 4,976 head were exported through Komati Poort, as against 5,010 for 1923. Owing to an outbreak of East Coast Fever in the Hlatikulu district the port of exit at Mahamba was closed and no cattle were exported from the Hlatikulu district; this accounts for the number exported being reduced. It is also due to the Union Government restricting the importation to cattle weighing 800 lb. live weight. 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 quarantine was removed from four previously infected areas. The new outbreaks adjoin old infected areas and are ascribed to the excessive rains which prevented the dipping operations being properly carried out.

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> |
|--------------|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1919 | 3 | 86 | 61 |
| 1920 | 1 | 29 | 10 |
| 1921 | 4 | 125 | 361 |
| 1922 | 6 | 63 | 708 |
| 1923 | 9 | 33 | 253 |
| 1924 | 7 | 20 | 274 |

At the end of the year there were 70 Government dipping tanks, and 56 private tanks, 8 of which are under Government control.

Quarter Evil is still prevalent; 17,210 doses of vaccine were issued for the inoculation of cattle, chiefly in the Hlatikulu district.

One outbreak of Anthrax occurred in the Ubombo district and 28 head of cattle died. All the cattle in contact were inoculated and there have been no further cases.

All the sheep and goats in those districts where sheep from the Union are sent for winter grazing were dipped twice under European supervision. Very little scab exists in the Territory.

Horse sickness was very prevalent.

The Annual Agricultural Shows were held at Hlatikulu and Bremersdorp, the Union Government kindly providing the judges.

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, 5,656 morgen of Crown Lands were sold at an average price of 6*s.* 10*d.* per morgen for unencumbered land. The area sold included 3,026 morgen of Crown Land encumbered by grazing servitudes, for which £947 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 20*s.* and 40*s.* 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 cassiterite produced during the year amounted to 241·03 tons (metallic content 70 per cent.) valued at £59,082, and gold amounted to 376·13 oz. valued at about £1,693, as compared with 150·76 tons of cassiterite and 92·78 oz. of gold produced in 1923.

Gold mining was carried on for some years at the Pigg's 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 Pigg's 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 in 1923 the Swaziland Mineral Development Commission was appointed. The report of the Commission is still under consideration.

VI.—Legislation.

The most important Proclamations issued during the year were :—

The Swaziland Consolidated Loan (Amendment) Proclamation No. 6 of 1924.

Contracts and Debts of Natives—Proclamation No. 14 of 1924.

The Grass Burning Proclamation No. 21 of 1924.

The Swaziland Locust Destruction Proclamation No. 44 of 1924.

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 :—

| | | | | | |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1922 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 311 |
| 1923 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 314 |
| 1924 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 329 |

At Zombodæ, 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 :—

| | | | | | |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1922 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 98 |
| 1923 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 100 |
| 1924 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 92 |

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 :—

| | | | | | |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| 1922 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 65 |
| 1923 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 58 |
| 1924 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 60 |

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 28.

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, the same as for 1923. The average attendance at these mission schools during the last three years was as follows :—

| | | | | | |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 1922 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,329 |
| 1923 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,400 |
| 1924 | ... | .. | ... | ... | 2,532 |

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 :—

| | | | | | |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 1922 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7,143 |
| 1923 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8,273 |
| 1924 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9,743 |

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-one years being 52·11 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-two years averages 34·64 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 ten years averages 25·36 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, 1925, there were 17 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 | 17 |
| Postal Order Agencies | 4 |
| Telegraph and Telephone Offices | 7 |

Mail Services.—The following is a list of mail services in operation at 31st March, 1925:—

| <i>Route.</i> | <i>Times Weekly.</i> | <i>Time Hours.</i> | <i>Conveyance.</i> |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Carolina — Bremersdorp via Oshoek, Mbabane and Ezulweni | 2 | 9½ | Motor. |
| Ezuiwini—Malkerns | 2 | 4 | Foot. |
| Bremersdorp—Stegi | 1 | 30 | Pack-donkey. |
| Bremersdorp—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 | 6 | 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. At three low veld drifts cement weirs were constructed.

B. NICHOLSON,
Government Secretary.

Mbabane, Swaziland,
21st July, 1925.

COLONIAL OFFICE ANNUAL REPORTS.

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|---|--|
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