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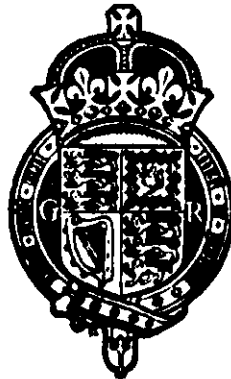
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1459.

# SWAZILAND.

## REPORT FOR 1928.

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# SWAZILAND.

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1928\*.

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### PREFACE.

#### *History and Geography.*

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 Bhumu, whose son, Sobhuza II, was installed as Paramount Chief in 1921, after a long minority during which his grandmother, Labotsibeni, acted as Regent.

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

\* In this Report the Financial Statements, which are for the year ended 31st March, 1929, are preliminary and not completely audited. All other details are for the calendar year 1928.

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 (1903), the Governor of the Transvaal administered the territory, through a local officer, until the year 1907, when under an Order in Council (1906) the High Commissioner assumed control and established the present form of administration. Prior 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 this connection a case brought by the Paramount Chief was dismissed, on appeal, by the Privy Council (1926).

An elected Advisory Council, representative of the Europeans, was established in 1921, to advise the Administration on purely European affairs. The Fourth Council was elected in October, 1928.

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 Portuguese territory and Tongoland, now part of the Natal Province, and is about the size of Wales, its area being 6,701 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 7,000 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.

Both the rainfall and the temperature vary considerably with the altitude of the meteorological stations, which are under the control of the Chief Meteorologist of the Union Government. The average rainfall at two stations was :

Mbabane (3,800 feet), 52.54 inches over 25 years ;  
 Bremersdorp (1,800 feet), 31.14 inches over 26 years.

The mean summer and winter temperatures were 75 Fahr. and 60 Fahr., respectively.

The three principal languages are English, Afrikaans, and Swazi. British, Transvaal, and Union of South Africa currencies are in circulation. Imperial weights and measures are in use, and Cape land measure.

#### I.—GENERAL.

In October His Honour T. Ainsworth Dickson, M.C., Resident Commissioner of Mombasa, Kenya, assumed duty as Resident Commissioner of Swaziland as successor to Mr. de S. M. G. Honey, C.M.G., transferred as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Seychelles.

In December, Mr. H. J. E. Dumbrell, B.A., was appointed joint Inspector of Education of Swaziland and the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

The relations between Europeans and natives continued to be excellent.

European immigrants numbered 201 and emigrants 84.

The last census of population was held in May 1921; the total number of Europeans then was 2,235 and is estimated now at 2,530. The native Bantu population in 1921 was 110,295, the number of females being a little in excess of males.

#### II. FINANCE.

##### REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue for the financial year ended on the 31st March, 1929, amounted to £96,325, which is £4,992 more than the revenue for the preceding year and £3,650 more than the estimate.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £130,809, which is £27,156 more than the expenditure for the preceding year and £5,344 less than the estimate.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure for the past five years :—

	<i>Revenue.</i>				
	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.
	£	£	£	£	£
Ordinary	89,817	87,813	87,216	85,116	91,767
Extraordinary	9,213	22,319	5,413	6,217	4,558

*Expenditure.*

	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.
	£	£	£	£	£
Ordinary ... ..	79,669	85,975	85,512	86,631	104,088
Extraordinary ... ..	7,955	11,995	26,619	15,922	26,721

Parliamentary Grants-in-aid amounting to £32,500 were received during the year in respect of the deficit.

## PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt amounted to £55,000, consisting of :—

(1) The Swaziland Consolidated Loan amounting to £35,000, bearing interest at 3½ per cent. per annum, and repayable by a Sinking Fund in 19 years from the 1st April, 1924. The amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Fund on the 31st March, 1929, was £7,227.

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

## ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

On the 31st March, 1929, liabilities exceeded assets by £65,283 18s. 4*d.*, inclusive of the Swazi Nation Trust Fund mentioned above, an increase of £1,983 15s. 10*d.* during the year.

## INCOME TAX.

The receipts from Income Tax amounted to £3,033 8s. 1*d.*

The following shows the classification of the sources of the incomes subject to the tax :—

	<i>Per cent.</i>
Mining ... ..	47
Trading and farming ... ..	32
Civil Servants ... ..	17
Professions... ..	4

## III.—PRODUCTION.

## (i) STOCK.

At the end of the year there were approximately 71,000 European-owned cattle in the territory and 296,000 native owned. Total 367,000; an increase of 61 per cent. since 1921.

6,066 head of cattle were exported to the Union for slaughter purposes. Of this number, 3,860 went to the Johannesburg abattoirs and the remainder—2,206—via Gollol and Zululand to Durban.

No serious stock disease outbreaks occurred. As in the past, the work of the Veterinary Department was directed against the spread of East Coast Fever, and the position in regard to this disease is more favourable than it has been for many years. At the beginning

of the year there were two infected areas, which were released subsequently from quarantine. Two new outbreaks occurred and 31 head of cattle died out of 747. Early measures and short interval dipping are the secrets of success in dealing with East Coast Fever.

*Anthrax.*—Only one case of this disease occurred. Prompt inoculation of all cattle in contact prevented further deaths.

*Black Quarter.*—The disease was not so prevalent as in former years due, probably, to the re-inoculation of all infected herds every nine months.

*Heartwater.*—This disease causes a small mortality amongst the locally-bred cattle every year, but with consistent dipping it will become less virulent.

*So-called Sweating Sickness of Calves.*—This affection was not prevalent during the year.

*Horsesickness.*—This disease was not severe.

The cattle-dipping tanks in commission throughout the year numbered 157, and in the western half of the territory there are several tanks in which all sheep and goats were dipped from March to May as a prevention against scab. Seven cases of scab were reported during the year. Approximately 385,000 sheep came in from the Union for winter grazing.

The Union Government Laboratories continued to render much valuable assistance in the examination of blood smears, and in many other directions.

#### (ii) AGRICULTURE.

Crops were good. Maize, kaffir corn, beans, and groundnuts yielded good returns.

*Cotton.*—This crop shows an improvement each year and, although the acreage under cultivation has decreased, returns are greater, due to the improved type of seed and especially to the jassid resistant varieties introduced by the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation. As more of the improved seed becomes available, larger quantities will be grown.

*Tobacco.*—Those who have followed the advice of the Tobacco Specialist have been rewarded for the sacrifice of quantity for quality.

*Dairying.*—An improvement in this industry is indicated. The road motor-service affords means of exporting cream. In time, better dairy herds will be established.

The usual Agricultural Shows were held at Bremersdorp and Hlatikulu with fair success.

Three Native Agricultural Demonstrators were engaged to teach better methods amongst the natives.

## (iii) FORESTRY.

The thickly-bushed low yield areas and isolated small mountain forests contain little timber of any commercial value. The boom in wattle bark subsided, but a fair quantity was exported and reasonable prices were realised.

## (iv) MINING.

Mining is conducted under mineral concessions granted by the late King Mbandini and under the Crown Minerals Order in Council.

Tin-mining continued in the vicinity of Mbabane and gold-mining on a small scale at Pigg's Peak, but there was no exploitation of importance elsewhere. Two Crown mineral areas near Pigg's Peak were thrown open in May to the public for prospecting and mining. A large number of base-metal claims are still held in Crown Mineral Area No. 2 near Mbabane but a shortage of water prevents extensive mining.

The following is a summary of the products, quantities (in pounds) and values, exported during the five years ended the 31st December, 1928 : —

*Slaughter Cattle.*

		1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
lb.	...	1,178,400	4,681,600	3,334,200	1,767,000	3,649,600
£	...	61,688	36,759	11,456	63,560	51,594

*Tobacco.*

lb.	...	240,500	250,100	780,000	1,262,500	1,283,250
£	...	7,900	6,981	22,750	36,825	37,428

*Cotton (unginned).*

lb.	...	373,370	430,000	565,000	316,000	566,210
£	...	6,221	7,013	4,400	7,000	9,437

*Cotton (ginned).*

lb.	...	72,850	69,725	132,100	73,500	91,863
£	...	3,610	2,984	4,500	3,370	4,348

*Hides.*

lb.	...	33,614	38,360	135,000	243,770	368,100
£	...	1,298	1,038	3,940	10,157	13,047

*Metallic Tin.*

lb.	...	539,907	621,600	424,507	343,934	416,438
£	...	59,082	67,722	52,947	42,776	39,706

*Wattle Bark.*

lb.	...	—	—	—	1,194,000	1,232,000
£	...	—	—	—	6,576	4,920



## IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

By an agreement with the Government of the Union of South Africa, dated 30th June, 1910, Swaziland is dealt with for customs purposes as 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. No statistics of imports are therefore kept.

The amounts received by Swaziland under the Customs Agreement during the last three financial years were as follows :—

1926-1927.	1927-1928.	1928-1929.
£15,667.	£16,298.	£17,069.

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

1926-1927.	1927-1928.	1928-1929.
£1,293.	£1,145.	£1,284.

The imports consist principally of maize, flour, groceries, wearing apparel, kaffir truck, hardware, machinery, building material, &c., most of which are imported from the Union of South Africa through wholesale firms established there. The principal exports are enumerated under section III above.

The cotton is exported to the United Kingdom, tin through the Union to the Straits Settlements, and all other commodities to the Union of South Africa.

The volume of trade was small during the year under review. Average native crops were reaped. Farmers obtained fair prices for their maize. In a season when the native crops are poor a considerable trade in maize is carried on.

The prices of foodstuffs were comparatively high owing to distances from railheads, but not higher than usual.

## V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

There are no railways in the territory, but early in 1928 the South African Railway Administration established motor transport services on the main routes in Swaziland. These are proving of great benefit to the territory, enabling farmers not only to export their produce at a lower cost but to import fertilizers and other requirements such as fencing material, &c., at a considerably reduced rate.

There are 373 miles of main roads and much has been done in the past few years to maintain these in fair condition.

Branch roads, which present very little difficulty for motoring in the dry season, cover about 435 miles.

The postal services are, by agreement, controlled by the Postmaster-General of the Union of South Africa, but are paid from Swaziland funds. The only telegraph office is at Mbabane, connecting with the Transvaal. By the end of the year there were 277 miles





At the two schools for coloured children there were 60 pupils, as against 54 in 1926 and 69 in 1927, and at the Zombode Native School the average attendance was 97, as against 150 in 1926 and 146 in 1927.

In addition the various Missions conduct schools and classes of an elementary nature in connection with their mission work for natives, the attendance in 1928 being 4,200, and a Government grant of £2,250 was contributed proportionately to attendance. In 1926 and 1927 the attendances were 4,065 and 3,458 respectively.

#### X. —LANDS AND SURVEYS.

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.

Land registration is effected in the Swaziland Deeds Office under the charge of the Registrar of Deeds for the Transvaal, and surveys are controlled by the Surveyor-General for the Transvaal, also at Pretoria. All land and mineral concessions and the native areas were surveyed during the years 1904 to 1908, and since then many sub-divisional surveys of private and Crown lands have been carried out.

Only about 27 acres of unencumbered Crown land were disposed of during the year, in small plots adjoining townships.

At the five townships, Mbabane, Bremersdorp, Hlatikulu, Goedgegun, and Stegi, several *ereca* were sold for residential and trading purposes.

No surveys of importance were undertaken, nor has there yet been any geological survey of the territory.

#### XI.—LABOUR.

Labour, though generally not plentiful, was adequate for farming, mining, road-making, and domestic purposes, on reasonable scales of wages. A few farmers, who grow cotton fairly extensively, experienced a little difficulty in engaging a sufficient number of native women and girls for cotton-picking at the required time.

Natives desiring to enter into contracts as labourers on the mines in the Union continued to take advantage of the deferred pay system, the sum of £7,704 being paid out, as compared with £9,344 in 1927. The number of passes issued was 4,942 to recruited labourers, and 7,832 to those desiring to travel outside the territory, generally to seek work on farms.

## XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

No important legislation was promulgated during the year.

Minor legislation consisted of the following Proclamations :—

- (1) No. 1/1928, The Lunacy Proclamation (Amendment) ;
- (2) No. 2/1928, The Swaziland Medical Inspection of Schools Proclamation ;
- (3) No. 12/1928, Amending the Swaziland Superior Courts Proclamation, 1912 (Reviews and Appeals in Civil and Criminal Cases) ;
- (4) No. 29/1928, The Liquor Licensing Further Amendment (Swaziland) Proclamation.

B. NICHOLSON,  
*Government Secretary.*

MBABANE, SWAZILAND,  
*9th July, 1929.*

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