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**SWAZILAND.**  
**REPORT FOR 1929.**

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# SWAZILAND.

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1929.\*

### CONTENTS.

	<b>PAGE.</b>
<b>PREFACE—</b>	
<b>HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY</b> ... ..	2
<b>DESCRIPTION</b> ... ..	3
<b>I.—GENERAL</b> ... ..	4
<b>II.—FINANCE</b> ... ..	5
<b>III.—PRODUCTION...</b> ... ..	6
<b>IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS</b> ... ..	8
<b>V.—COMMUNICATIONS</b> ... ..	9
<b>VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISON</b> ... ..	9
<b>VII.—PUBLIC WORKS</b> ... ..	11
<b>VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH</b> ... ..	11
<b>IX.—EDUCATION</b> ... ..	11
<b>X.—LANDS AND SURVEYS</b> ... ..	12
<b>XI.—LABOUR</b> ... ..	12
<b>XII.—MISCELLANEOUS</b> ... ..	12

### 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, Mbandeni, 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.

\* In this Report the Financial Statements, which are for the year ended 31st March, 1930, are preliminary and not completely audited. All other details are for the calendar year 1929.

The many concessions granted by Mbandeni 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 Mbandeni, 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 forms 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 Tongaland, now part of the Natal Province, and is about the size of Wales, its area being 6,704 square miles. A little more than one-third of the territory is native area and the remainder is owned by Europeans.

#### **D**escription.

The territory is divided geographically into three longitudinal regions roughly of 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), 53.54 inches over 26 years.

Bremersdorp (1,200 feet), 31.33 inches over 27 years.

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

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

#### I. GENERAL.

Mr. W. P. Murray, Surveyor General of the Transvaal, who acts in a similar capacity for Swaziland, retired on pension. He was succeeded by Mr. W. Maxwell Edwards.

A number of mineral concessions in the Mankaiana District were thrown open for prospecting under the Mineral Concession Areas Proclamation, 1927, but no important mineral discoveries have been made on them.

Statistics of the value of minerals produced in Swaziland show that prior to 1902 the production of gold was valued at £522,000. From 1902 to the end of 1929 the value of gold produced was £508,857. The value of tin produced since 1902 was £1,104,397.

During the financial year a sum of £6,000 was received from the Secretary of State for loans under the Land and Agricultural Loan Fund Proclamation, 1929. Sums amounting to £1,800 were paid out in loans and further applications are under consideration.

A road motor service of the South African Railways was opened between Dwaleni and Hlati (31 miles) and is proving of considerable benefit to farmers and others.

Two bridges over the Little Usutu river on the new road to Bremersdorp were completed.

Negotiations were started with the McCreedy Tins, Limited, for the supply of electric current to the Mbabane Township.

A good average percentage of candidates from Swaziland European schools passed the Transvaal Standard V and VI examinations and a number of candidates from St. Mark's school passed the Matriculation examination.

A bi-annual conference of missionaries held at Bremersdorp was inaugurated, when matters affecting the education of natives are reviewed and definite policies laid down in consultation with the Inspector of Education.

Arrangements were made for monthly meetings at headquarters with the Paramount Chief and for monthly meetings between Assistant Commissioners and native chiefs for the discussion of matters of interest or importance to the natives, also for bi-annual meetings at headquarters of Assistant Commissioners and senior officials.

The formation of committees to represent the views of the educated natives and coloured persons was approved, and, in addition to any other advice they may tender, these committees have bi-annual meetings at headquarters where matters affecting them are discussed.

The appointment of a Native School Supervisor has been made. He visits Government and Mission schools, reports on the work being done and assists teachers to improve their methods of teaching.

Committees were elected to advise the Administration on matters affecting the various townships and their assistance has been of great value.

During the year 56 trade marks and 5 patents were registered.

The relations between Europeans and natives continued to be excellent.

European immigrants numbered 205 and emigrants 107.

The last census of population was held in May, 1921. The total number of Europeans then was 2,235 and is estimated now at 2,610. The Bantu population in 1921 was 110,295, the number of females being a little in excess of males; the Bantu population is estimated now to be 119,500.

## II. FINANCE.

### Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the financial year ended on the 31st March, 1930, amounted to £111,087 which is £14,728 more than the revenue for the preceding year and £14,237 more than the estimate.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £119,404, which is £12,626 less than the expenditure for the preceding year and £526 more than the estimate.

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

		<i>Receipts.</i>				
		<i>1925-26.</i>	<i>1926-27.</i>	<i>1927-28.</i>	<i>1928-29.</i>	<i>1929-30.</i>
		£	£	£	£	£
Ordinary	...	87,813	87,216	85,116	91,767	102,998
Extraordinary	...	22,319	5,113	6,217	4,592	8,059
		<i>Expenditure.</i>				
		<i>1925-26.</i>	<i>1926-27.</i>	<i>1927-28.</i>	<i>1928-29.</i>	<i>1929-30.</i>
		£	£	£	£	£
Ordinary	...	80,076	80,512	88,631	104,088	109,486
Extraordinary	...	11,933	9,311	13,077	7,313	9,918

Parliamentary Grants-in-aid amounting to £32,000 were received during the year.

#### 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, 1930, was £8,905.

(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, 1930, liabilities exceeded assets by £42,788 5s. 4d., inclusive of the Swazi Nation Trust Fund mentioned above, a decrease of £23,683 3s. 1d., during the year.

#### Income Tax.

The receipts from Income Tax amounted to £1,596 5s. 0d.

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

	Per cent.
Mining ... ..	15
Trading and farming ... ..	58
Civil Servants ... ..	14
Professions ... ..	13

### III.—PRODUCTION.

#### (i) Stock.

At the end of the year there were approximately 74,000 European-owned cattle in the territory and 306,000 native-owned, total 380,000; or about one head per 11 acres.

13,312 head of cattle were exported to the Union for slaughter purposes. Of this number 8,843 went to the Johannesburg abattoirs and the remainder, 3,469, via Golliel and Zululand to Durban.

As in the past the work of the Veterinary Department was directed against the spread of East Coast Fever. At the beginning of the year there were two infected areas one of which was released from quarantine. Two new outbreaks occurred and 72 head of cattle died out of 8,200. Early measures and short interval dipping as well as hand dressing are the secrets of success in dealing with East Coast Fever.

*Anthrax.* No cases of this disease occurred.

*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.

*Sweating Sickness.*—This affection is still prevalent.

*Horsesickness.*—This disease was not severe.

The cattle dipping tanks in commission throughout the year numbered 164 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. 54 cases of scab were reported during the year. Approximately 365,000 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.

*Cotton.*—This crop shows an improvement each year, and although the acreage under cultivation was less, returns were greater, due to the improved type of seed and especially to the jassid-resisting varieties introduced by the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation. As more of the improved seed becomes available larger quantities will be grown. Climatic conditions were not unfavourable and insect pests were markedly less.

*Tobacco.*—An area of 1,870 acres of tobacco was planted with a considerable improvement in quality.

Maize, kaffir corn, beans and ground nuts yielded fairly good returns.

*Dairying.*—This industry is improving and extending. The road motor service affords means of exporting cream. Better dairy herds are being established.

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

Five Native Agricultural Demonstrators are employed to teach better methods amongst the natives. Results have been satisfactory.

#### (iii) Forestry.

The thickly bushed low yield areas and isolated small mountain forests contain little timber of any commercial value.

#### (iv) Mining.

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

Tin mining continued in the vicinity of Mbabane and gold mining on a small scale at Piggs Peak. An important discovery of asbestos occurred on the north western border. Little development took place on Crown Mineral Areas.



The following is a summary of the products, quantities in pounds and values, exported during the five years ended the 31st December, 1929 :—

		<i>Slaughter Cattle.</i>				
		<i>1925.</i>	<i>1926.</i>	<i>1927.</i>	<i>1928.</i>	<i>1929.</i>
lb.	...	4,681,600	3,334,200	4,767,000	3,639,600	5,500,000
£	...	36,758	44,456	63,560	54,594	85,000
		<i>Tobacco.</i>				
lb.	...	250,190	780,000	1,262,500	1,283,250	1,068,400
£	...	6,981	22,750	36,825	37,428	35,613
		<i>Cotton (unginned).</i>				
lb.	...	430,000	565,000	316,000	566,210	1,997,421
£	...	7,013	9,400	7,900	9,437	29,129
		<i>Cotton (ginned).</i>				
lb.	...	59,725	132,100	73,500	94,863	207,164
£	...	2,984	4,500	3,370	4,348	8,832
		<i>Hides.</i>				
lb.	...	38,360	135,000	243,770	368,400	434,840
£	...	1,038	3,940	10,157	13,047	7,250
		<i>Metallic Tin.</i>				
lb.	...	621,600	424,507	343,934	416,438	415,693
£	...	67,722	52,947	42,776	39,706	38,692
		<i>Wattle Bark.</i>				
lb.	...	—	—	1,194,000	1,239,000	Nil.
£	...	—	—	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 the proportion which the average of the collections for the three years ended 31st March, 1911, bears to 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 :

<i>1927-28.</i>	<i>1928-29.</i>	<i>1929-30.</i>
£15,153	£15,785	£15,738

Collections in Swaziland in respect of spirits and beer manufactured in the Union, are as follows :—

<i>1927-28.</i>	<i>1928-29.</i>	<i>1929-30.</i>
£1,145	£1,284	£1,396

The imports consist principally of maize, flour, groceries, wearing apparel, kaffir truck, hardware, machinery, building material, etc., 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 Strait 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, etc., 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 284 miles of telephone lines in operation, mostly along main routes, and with the exception of Mankajana, all district offices are now connected up. Iron poles were substituted for wooden poles on the Geedgegung-Hluti line.

There is no public wireless service, but a few individuals have established wireless receiving sets.

#### VI. JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

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. This

Court has jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases. When it is not in session the Resident Commissioner or the Deputy Resident Commissioner in his capacity as a member of the Court has power to exercise the civil jurisdiction of the Special Court in all motions and applications and in all actions for provisional sentence. Reviews of criminal cases tried in the Courts of Assistant Commissioners and appeals from those Courts in civil and criminal cases are dealt with by the President of the Court or, if so deputed by him, by the Resident Commissioner or the Deputy Resident Commissioner.

Death sentences can be carried out only upon the special warrant of the High Commissioner. There is a right of appeal to the Privy Council against any final judgment of the Special Court when the matter in dispute is of the value of £500 or upwards. Courts of Assistant Commissioners with jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases were established under the Swaziland Administration Proclamation, 1907.

Appeals lie from these Courts in all cases, civil and criminal, to the Special Court of Swaziland.

The Paramount Chief and other native chiefs continue to exercise jurisdiction according to native law and custom in all civil disputes in which natives only are concerned. Appeal lies to the Resident Commissioner whose decision is final.

In 1929, in the Special Court, 27 persons were convicted and in the Assistant Commissioners' Courts 2,986 persons, of which 2,065 were convicted for offences against Revenue and Pass Laws, etc., and for minor offences.

The convictions in the Special Court were for the following crimes :

Murder	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Attempted murder	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Culpable homicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Rape	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Offences against property	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other crimes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

The Swaziland Police Force was established under the Swaziland Administration Proclamation, 1907.

The personnel consists of :

European—1 Staff Officer, 1 Sub-Inspector, 23 Non-Commissioned Officers and men.

Native—1 Native Officer and 141 Non-Commissioned Officers and men.

The principal prison is at Mbabane and there are prisons at Hlatikulu, Mankaiana, Stegi, Bremersdorp, and Piggs Peak. All available convict labour is used on the roads.

## VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department is under the control of a Government Engineer, and he is assisted by the Assistant Commissioners, who carry out road inspections in their districts so far as possible.

No extensive building operations took place during the year. No new roads of importance were made but an average of 10 to 12 road parties were employed in repairing and improving existing roads. Concrete causeways were built over the Great Usutu river at Mawelawela (220 feet), and the Black Mbuluzi river at Croydon (180 feet). Two girder and concrete bridges were completed over the Little Usutu river between Mbabane and Bremersdorp.

## VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health of the community was good. Malaria was fairly severe in the bushveld, following the unusually late rains. Typhoid was not so prevalent as in the previous year and very few cases occurred. The usual mild type of scurvy was prevalent amongst the natives. The increasing numbers of natives who are treated for syphilis might lead one to think the disease was more widespread than was believed in the past, but it is more likely that this increase is due to the greater facilities that are now in existence for the treatment of syphilis in this Territory and to the increasing confidence of the natives in European methods of treatment.

Five doctors were practising in the territory at the end of the year. There are Government hospitals at Mbabane and Hlatikulu and a Government dispensary at Mankaiana. Mission hospitals at Bremersdorp and Mahamba and Mission dispensaries at the Peak and Stegi, are subsidized by the Government. 901 in-patients and 13,055 out-patients were treated at the four hospitals during the year.

## IX.—EDUCATION.

There is one school, St. Mark's, Mbabane, for secondary education and 11 Government primary schools in the districts. The average attendance during the last three years was as follows :—

1927	...	...	...	...	...	445
1928	...	...	...	...	...	499
1929	...	...	...	...	...	502

At the two schools for coloured children there were 163 pupils as against 69 in 1927 and 60 in 1928, and at the Zombode Native School the average attendance was 111 as against 146 in 1927 and 97 in 1928.

In addition, the various Missions conduct schools and classes of an elementary nature in connection with their mission work for natives, the attendance in 1929 being 6,018 and a Government grant of £2,250 was contributed proportionately to attendance. In 1927 and 1928 the attendances were 3,458 and 4,200 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 7 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 *erven* 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 £7,774 being paid out, as compared with £7,704 in 1928. The number of passes issued was 4,630 to recruited labourers and 7,785 to those desiring to travel outside the territory, generally to seek work on farms.

## XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The most important item of legislation was the promulgation of the Land and Agricultural Loan Fund Proclamation No. 34 of 1929.

Minor legislation consisted of the following Proclamations:—

- (1) No. 19 of 1929, Swaziland Noxious Weeds Proclamation.
- (2) No. 33 of 1929, The Swaziland Conveyancing Tariff Proclamation.
- (3) No. 38 of 1929, The Swaziland Medical, Dental, and Pharmacy Proclamation.

B. NICHOLSON,

*Government Secretary.*

MBABANE, SWAZILAND.  
24th July, 1930.

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