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BASUTOLAND

REPORT FOR 1927

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BASUTOLAND.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1927.*

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PREFATORY NOTE.

History and Geography.

Basutoland, which is a native territory in South Africa, is bounded on the west by the Orange Free State, on the north by the Orange Free State and Natal, on the east by Natal and East Griqualand, and on the south by the Cape Province. Its area is 11,716 square miles. It lies between 28° 35' and 30° 40' south latitude, and between 27° and 29° 30' east longitude.

The altitude varies from 5,000 feet to 11,000 feet above sea-level, and the climate is, on the whole, healthy. The Maluti Mountains in former years were used entirely as cattle posts, but owing to the increase in population the Basuto have found it necessary to migrate there and build villages and cultivate the land, so that to-day the more or less inaccessible area is gradually becoming as thickly populated as the low-lying country to the west. In favourable seasons the Territory produces wheat, maize, and kaffir-corn, also

* The financial information given in this Report is for the year ended the 31st March, 1927. Other details are for the calendar year 1927.

horses, cattle, and sheep; the export of wool for this year amounting to 12,906,789 pounds weight.

In 1818 the first Paramount Chief of Basutoland, Moshesh, gathered together the remnants of various tribes which had been scattered about South Africa during the wars waged by Moselekatse, and thus founded what to-day has become the Basuto nation, consisting of upwards of 540,000 souls.

A series of wars took place, from 1856 onwards, between the Basuto and the inhabitants of the Orange Free state, and it was not until 1868, when Moshesh was hard pressed by the Boers, that he appealed to the British Government for help and the recognition of his people as British subjects. This was carried into effect in March, 1868. In 1871 the Territory was annexed to the Cape Colony, and, after various disturbances, the Government of the Cape, in April, 1880, extended the provisions of the Cape Peace Preservation Act of 1878 to Basutoland, which included a clause providing for the general disarmament of the Basuto. The Basuto refused to accept the terms, and, after a war lasting nearly a year, an agreement was arrived at by which the Act was repealed and certain fines inflicted on the tribe.

Although outwardly peace has been restored, there still remained several chiefs who would in no way accept the terms, and it was eventually decided by the Government of the Cape Colony to hand over the administration to the Imperial Government. This took effect on the 13th March, 1884. Since that date the Territory has been governed by a Resident Commissioner under the direction of the High Commissioner for South Africa.

The principal languages are English and Sesuto.

The coin in circulation in the Territory is mainly South African, but late South African Republic coins are occasionally met with. Central Reserve Bank notes are brought into the Territory, but the local bank only re-issues the notes of Joint Stock Banks. Gold coin is unlimited, but the demand is practically negligible. £17,000 in gold and £2,000 in silver coin was exported during the year by the Maseru Branch of the Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd.

The amount of coin in circulation at the end of 1927 was between £40,000 and £50,000, and notes between £100,000 and £125,000.

The Imperial Coinage Act, 1920, is in force in the Territory (High Commissioner's Notice No. 63 of 1920).

The weights and measures in use in Basutoland are the British Imperial, but the Colonial ton of 2,000 lb. is also used.

1.—GENERAL.

No serious faction fights occurred during the year. Friction continues to exist in the Leribe District.

Basutoland Council.

The twenty-second session of the Basutoland Council was held from the 8th to the 15th October, 1927. The following were the more important matters discussed :—

- (1) Administration of justice in Native Courts.
- (2) Increase of export duty on wool and mohair from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. to $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb.
- (3) Prohibition of the introduction of Persian and bastard sheep into the Territory.
- (4) Soil erosion—ploughing up of mountain slopes.
- (5) Education.
- (6) Basutoland Government Industrial School.
- (7) Stock theft.

2.—FINANCE.

The revenue for the financial year ended the 31st March, 1927, amounted to £274,404 and the expenditure to £272,627, an excess of revenue over expenditure of £1,777.

The balance of assets in excess of liabilities at the 31st March, 1927, was £94,135.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure during the past five financial years :—

	REVENUE.				
	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
	£	£	£	£	£
Native Tax	121,284	134,669	127,532	139,776	132,072
Customs and Excise ...	62,011	71,043	76,765	84,196	87,352
Posts and Telegraphs...	7,522	8,038	8,520	8,428	7,648
Licences	7,097	7,585	7,928	7,766	8,758
Fees of Court or Office	814	784	906	1,084	933
Judicial Fines ...	1,305	2,009	1,991	3,022	1,911
Income Tax	3,755	6,773	12,996	13,759	10,784
Fees for services rendered.	2,605	1,366	1,484	1,386	1,278
Interest	2,550	2,341	1,735	1,819	2,158
Wool Export Duty ...	—	14,128	17,189	15,421	17,141
Miscellaneous	3,645	3,857	3,962	4,915	4,369
Totals	£212,538	£252,613	£261,008	£281,572	£274,404

EXPENDITURE.

	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
	£	£	£	£	£
Resident Commissioner	12,554	13,758	13,692	13,629	13,811
District Administration	12,934	12,670	12,790	13,091	13,690
Police	35,647	36,189	36,756	37,507	39,164
Posts and Telegraphs	10,043	10,437	10,118	10,458	11,676
Administration of Justice	9,116	9,806	11,078	11,659	11,194
Public Works Department	5,811	6,526	5,665	5,616	5,218
Public Works Recurrent	20,371	20,990	22,153	23,778	25,669
Public Works Extraordinary	2,385	3,661	2,383	8,820	6,872
Medical	20,443	20,575	22,795	21,548	22,617
Education	34,681	34,813	35,836	40,113	41,412
Government Industrial School	2,323	2,437	2,429	2,486	2,508
Audit	738	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Agriculture	9,984	21,806 (b)	22,927 (b)	28,780 (b)	27,659 (b)
Allowances to Chiefs	11,290	12,448	12,324	11,994	11,691
National Council ...	1,880	1,950	2,193	2,037	1,909
Lepet Settlement ...	20,845	20,036	19,077	19,306	19,401
Pensions	5,259	6,681	6,812	7,599	10,080
Miscellaneous	4,868	5,656	6,955	9,455	6,076
Expenditure from Surplus Balances.	3,480	1,230	4,214	—	2,080
Totals	£224,547	£241,669	£250,197	£268,076	£272,627

(a) Provided for under "Resident Commissioner."

(b) Includes cost of measures taken for eradication of scab.

Income Tax.

The rates of normal and super tax remained the same as during the preceding financial year, and were imposed by the Basutoland Income Tax Proclamation, 1925. The Basutoland Income Tax Proclamation, 1926, amended the Income Tax Proclamation, 1920, as amended, in so far as the abatement allowable in the case of a taxpayer who was (1) married or (2) a widower or (3) divorced, but who, in the case of (2) and (3) maintained during any portion of the tax year a child of his own or a step-child who was, or would have been had he lived, under 18 years of age. This abatement was increased from £300 to £400 a year. The total collection of Income Tax was made up as follows:—

Arrear Normal Tax ... ..	...	...	...	...	£ 202
Current Tax—					
Normal Tax ... ..	...	...	...	...	9,013
Super Tax ... ..	...	...	...	...	1,569
Total					£10,784

The following table shows the sources from which taxable incomes were derived and the amount of tax paid from each source :—

General Traders	...	...	...	...	...	£ 6,815
Civil Servants	...	...	...	...	...	1,174
Employed persons	...	...	...	...	...	676
Others, including Bank	...	...	...	...	...	549
Non-residents	...	...	...	...	...	1,570
Total						£10,784

The number of incomes assessed for current tax in the various categories were :—

Number.	Category.	Total of Taxable Incomes. £
50	£500 and under	18,853
50	£501 to £750	31,266
23	£751 to £1,000	19,720
30	£1,001 to £1,500	34,498
10	£1,501 to £2,000	16,906
7	£2,001 to £4,000	16,562
6	Over £4,000	48,149
176	Total Taxable in- come of persons assessed for current tax.	£185,954

3.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculture.

Locust Destruction.—There were no fresh outbreaks of *voet-gangers* during the year and no flying locusts were observed in Basutoland. There was an exceptionally bad outbreak of "the Elegant Grasshopper" on the Maseru Reserve. These insects were responsible for a great deal of damage to gardens and to native crops on the Reserve. A campaign against these insects was carried on with prison labour and native school children.

Agricultural Shows.—An amount of £500 was provided for Agricultural Shows which were held at Leribe, Teyateyaneng, Maseru, Quthing, and Qacha's Nek. Whilst the shows were, on the whole, a success, the attendance was not as good as usual. Exhibits by the Agricultural Demonstrators at Maseru and Quthing proved a source of great interest to the natives attending the Shows at these places.

Tree-planting and Donga Prevention.—The Vote for tree-planting and donga prevention was £1,200. At the close of the year there were some 357,650 trees in the various Government Nurseries. During the year, 61,155 trees were issued and 4,707 planted on the various Reserves.

Seed Wheat Bounty.—The sum of £432 was set aside as a bounty on seed wheat. The bounty was confined to imported seed.

Agricultural Demonstrators.—There are now eleven demonstrators employed in various parts of the Territory. Great interest continues to be taken by the natives in the demonstrations and there is now evidence that the natives are beginning to realize the benefits of improved agriculture and to act on the advice given them by the Demonstrators.

General.—The maize and kaffir-corn crops were particularly good in the northern districts. In the midlands the crops were fair, and in the southern districts bad. The wheat crop in the north of Basutoland was very good, and in other parts of the Territory fair.

Forestry, Fisheries, and Mining.

There are no natural forests in Basutoland and no fisheries. No mining operations are carried on

4.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The following is a return of the imports into, and the exports from, the Territory by general traders during the calendar year 1927, the figures for 1926 being given for purposes of comparison :—

IMPORTS.

	1926.		1927.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
Merchandise	—	£ 593,929	—	£ 780,470
Livestock—				
Horses, Mules, &c.	70	239	127	490
Cattle	768	2,147	2,747	6,947
Sheep and Goats	264	400	598	1,059
Grain—				
Wheat and Wheat-meal	4,741	8,395	5,925	9,506
Maize and Maize-meal	55,892	39,607	46,602	34,155
Kaffir-corn	25,256	19,766	8,452	9,631
Other Produce	—	541	—	685
Totals		£665,014		£842,893

EXPORTS.

	1926.		1927.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
Livestock—		£		£
Horses, Mules, etc.	37	264	21	95
Cattle	2,848	12,896	1,981	9,620
Sheep and Goats	458	890	867	569
Grain—	<i>Muids.</i>		<i>Muids.</i>	
Wheat and Wheat-meal	108,402	111,694	108,568	115,455
Maise and Maise-meal	5,561	8,092	37,512	17,668
Kaffir Corn	2,825	2,277	22,082	20,020
Oats	98	40	55	23
Barley	45	24	67	35
Beans and Peas	2,081	1,560	3,458	3,521
Wool and Mohair—	<i>Lb.</i>		<i>Lb.</i>	
Wool	12,181,574	427,047	12,906,789	508,687
Mohair	2,156,603	121,098	2,132,907	139,226
Hides and Skins—				
Hides	350,084	10,275	492,626	18,289
Skins	202,786	5,229	217,351	5,356
Miscellaneous	—	1,564	—	598
Totals		£696,950		£839,097

OTHER STATISTICS.

Government imports during the year amounted to £51,562, as compared with £45,061 in 1926.

The total exports of wool and mohair during the year amounted to 16,130,144 lb., of which 15,039,696 lb. were exported by general traders.

General.

All imports by traders are made through wholesale houses in the Union of South Africa, and all exports are to the Union of South Africa. It is therefore impossible to give the origin of goods imported or the ultimate destination of goods exported.

With the exception of fuel, soap, motor oil and petrol, which are purchased in the Union, all Government imports are made through the Crown Agents for the Colonies, London.

5.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Railways.

There is only a small branch line from Marseilles (on the Bloemfontein-Natal main line) to Maseru, and only one mile of this is in Basutoland.

Roads.

During the year the organisation for the maintenance of roads, which previously had been sub-divided according to districts under the Assistant Commissioners and the Public Works Department, was handed over to the Public Works Department and the Assistant Engineer placed in sole charge.

An exception to this was made in the case of the Qacha's Nek District, which was considered too inaccessible to be controlled by the Assistant Engineer whose Headquarters are in Maseru.

The reorganisation included the replacement of four Road Overseers by two men having more suitable qualifications, who were provided with motor transport; and the territory on the west of the mountains was divided into two road districts, north and south. In addition, provision was made for the employment of four native overseers to supervise the gangs under the direction of the two Inspectors of Roads.

A schedule of roads has been prepared, in which each road is placed in a class A, B, or C according to its importance, and various standards of width and degree of passability were laid down.

The reorganised control has been in operation for the latter half of the year, during which abnormally heavy rains have kept all gangs busy in making repairs, so that, although it can be reported that the organization is working efficiently, it is too early to report definite improvement.

During the year work was started on a much-needed bridge across the Telle River on the Quthing-Cape Province border. This bridge is being built by the Public Works Department of the Union of South Africa, the Administration of Basutoland bearing half the cost.

Postal.

All districts in Basutoland are linked up with Maseru by telegraph and telephone lines with the exception of Qacha's Nek, which is connected by telegraph and telephone with Matatiele in East Griqualand. The systems are owned by the Basutoland Government. Both telegraph and telephones are used by the general public and public telephone call offices are attached to each Post Office.

There are nine telegraph offices in the territory and 154 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles of telegraph wire. During 1927, telegraph messages numbering 24,726 were dealt with.

There are nine central telephone offices with 123 telephones in service. The length of local exchange telephone wire is 75 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles and long-distance wire 486 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The net postal, telegraph, and telephone revenue for the year ended the 31st March, 1927, amounted to £7,648, as compared with £8,428 for the year 1925-6.

The expenditure amounted to £11,676, as compared with £10,458 for 1925-26.

The following table shows the number of deposits in, and withdrawals from, the Post Office Savings Bank for the last two years :—

	<i>Deposits.</i>	<i>Withdrawals.</i>
1925-26 ...	1,752, value £8,052.	615, value £7,736.
1926-27 ...	1,587, value £6,925.	923, value £7,404.

The following comparative table shows the number and value of money and postal orders issued and paid during the past two years :—

	<i>Issued.</i>	<i>Paid.</i>
1925-26 ...	29,154, value £26,971	34,172, value £38,513.
1926-27 ...	32,225, value £28,611	65,457, value £74,003.

6.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

During the year under review 3,185 crimes were reported or known to the police, the number of persons proceeded against being 2,456. Convictions in magisterial courts numbered 2,080 and in the Resident Commissioner's Court 95, as compared with 1,946 and 166 respectively in 1926.

The following table shows the number of convictions for various crimes and offences during the last four years :—

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
IN MAGISTERIAL COURTS :—				
1. Offences against the person	258	125	97	287
2. Offences against property	137	327	244	272
3. Offences against the liquor laws	76	48	52	37
4. Other Crimes	951	1,446	1,409	1,484
IN THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER'S COURT :—				
1. Murder	6	4	6	1
2. Culpable Homicide	26	18	38	24
3. Attempted murder	—	—	—	1
4. Rape	—	2	2	—
5. Unnatural crime	—	1	—	—
6. Other offences against the person	11	13	11	4
7. Offences against property with violence to the person.	33	84	298	48
8. Other offences against property	—	28	41	15
9. Other crimes	4	1	1	—

Police.

The Police force consists of native non-commissioned officers and men under European officers.

Prisons.

There are seven gaols and three lock-ups in the Territory, and, during the year, 2,401 prisoners passed through them, as compared with 2,494 in 1926.

7.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Buildings.

All the works carried out during the year were of minor importance.

Water Works.

Elevated tanks to hold a supply of 2,400 gallons of water have been erected at Maseru.

A new scheme for increasing the water supply at Qacha's Nek was commenced and four miles of 2-inch piping have been laid. The remaining three miles of piping will be laid next year. It is estimated that the new scheme will augment the water supply by 15,000 gallons per diem.

8.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

During the year, 2,593 patients were treated in the various hospitals of the Territory—showing an increase of 306 over the number for the previous year. There were 148 deaths. Of the hospital patients, 90 were Europeans, the majority of whom came for surgical assistance.

After considerable delay, the Qacha's Nek hospital was opened towards the end of the year, and the number of patients received into it, in a short time, showed how badly needed it was in that remote district.

The dispensaries continue to do most excellent work and the yearly increase of patients continues. During the year, 63,061 patients received treatment, being an increase of 1,259 over the number for 1926.

21,870 persons were vaccinated, and the revenue collected in hospital and dispensary fees was £2,438 5s.

The following table gives the above statistics arranged according to district :—

District.	In-patients.	Out-patients.	Vaccinations.	Revenue.		
				£	s.	d.
Maseru ...	968	13,275	--	639	0	3
Leribe ...	483	12,695	3,763	534	17	6
Mafeteng ...	500	10,115	9,109	373	2	0
Mohale's Hoek...	332	7,350	7,051	280	6	3
Quthing ...	234	9,130	1,200	309	7	9
Qacha's Nek ...	69	3,231	—	82	7	6
Teyateyaneng ...	7	7,031	737	219	3	9
Mokhotlong ...	—	234	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	2,593	63,061	21,870	£2,438	5	0

The health of the Territory, on the whole, was fairly good, and there is little of interest to record. The rainfall was less than usual and the winter was comparatively mild. There was no serious outbreak of epidemic disease. The following cases were reported: influenza 663, no deaths; pneumonia 216, with 8 deaths; bacillary dysentery 122, with 5 deaths; smallpox 28, 5 deaths; typhus 88, with 13 deaths; cerebrospinal meningitis 3, with 1 death. Fevers of the enteric group were more numerous than usual; 200 cases were seen, with 8 deaths. There were limited outbreaks of diphtheria in two districts, but prompt measures by the Medical Officers prevented a general spread. Sporadic outbreaks of measles, whooping cough, mumps, and chicken-pox were reported from all the districts.

The dispensaries, as usual, had their full quota of patients seeking relief from venereal, gastro-intestinal, respiratory, genito-urinary, and skin diseases.

The health of the police and prisoners was good and the condition of the gaols was found satisfactory.

The rodent destruction gangs in Maseru, Leribe, and Mafeteng continue to operate along the border.

Sanitary measures in the various Government Reserves continue to be introduced, but financial stringency allows of little being done at a time.

Leper Settlement.

At the 31st December, 1926, the numbers of the male and female inmates were equal, viz., 247, making a total population of 494. At the 31st December, 1927, the numbers were 237 males and 259 females, making a total of 496.

The following table indicates the various sources of increase and diminution in the population throughout the year:—

1927.	Admissions.	Re-Admissions.	Deaths.	Desertions.	Discharges.
Males... ..	51	12	36	23	14
Females	54	7	18	12	19
Totals	105	19	54	35	33

The corresponding table for the previous year, 1926, is reproduced for comparison:—

1926.	Admissions.	Re-Admissions.	Deaths.	Desertions.	Discharges.
Males... ..	43	5	18	7	4
Females	41	2	24	1	4
Totals	84	7	42	8	8

There is a remarkable increase of 21 in the number of admissions as compared with that in 1926. This indicates one or both of two suppositions (1) the disease is increasing in the Territory, or (2) the chiefs and headmen in the past have not been satisfactorily doing their duty in reporting cases of leprosy in their wards and villages. The large percentage of fairly advanced cases recorded in the Medical Officer's report seems to indicate the second of these suppositions as the predominating one.

There is also a large increase in the number of re-admissions; these, being re-admissions of deserters, depend upon the number of desertions.

It will be observed that the deaths among the males have been doubled, while those among females have been reduced by 25 per cent. The large increase in the death-rate among males, and the considerable diminution among females, is a fortuitous circumstance which does not admit of any special explanation.

There has been a very large increase in the number of desertions. This is partly explained by the fact that on two occasions a number of children and juveniles left in search of adventure. The fact that adults who desert are automatically deprived of their piece of cultivated land, and find them occupied by others on their return, acts as a strong deterrent in their case. The punishment of children for desertion is a difficult matter. Corporal punishment and imprisonment have to be avoided.

The number of discharges of patients as arrested cases, viz., 33, is very satisfactory. Not all who receive certificates of discharge, or who have been pronounced to be arrested cases, can be discharged. It is necessary that there should be at their villages relatives able and willing to support such of them as are disabled.

9.—EDUCATION.

Generally speaking, the year has been rather an unusual one. Besides the appointment of three new Inspectors and one new Native Supervisor of Schools, preparations have been made and the machinery constructed for the new system which is to begin in January, 1928.

In the new system an attempt is being made to solve the problem of making a fair compromise between an elementary education for the majority and an intermediate education for the few who can afford to continue their studies.

Hitherto the tendency has been for schools to attempt more than they could carry out, having regard to the limited knowledge of English which the teachers possessed and the primitive accommodation and equipment provided for the schools.

The new Regulations represent an attempt to draw more clearly the line between the type of instruction which every child requires

for his daily life and the further instruction which can of necessity only be available for the comparatively few. They provide for centralised intermediate schools which will relieve the elementary schools of work which ought not ordinarily to be undertaken by them. The removal of the higher classes will give the teachers time for proper instruction of the purely vernacular classes; while staffs suitable for giving education in the higher classes will be concentrated at the intermediate schools.

Under the new system schools are divided into three classes :—

(1). Elementary Vernacular Schools which are prohibited from going beyond Grade VI (roughly corresponding to Standard III);

(2) Intermediate Schools including all classes up to Standard VI;

(3) Institutions.

It is expected that it will be possible to inspect each school at least once annually and that the present staff of Inspectors will be in a position to enforce the carrying out of the syllabus in the elementary vernacular schools and to help those in charge of intermediate schools to make the best of the opportunities they may have of giving instruction in practical subjects as well as in book-work.

The institutions for the training of teachers have their standard set for them by the Education Department of the Cape Province, which for many years past has given most valuable assistance to Basutoland and, by means of inspection and examination, has set before the institutions a definite standard which is recognised throughout South Africa and Rhodesia.

Bursaries will be granted to a few of the pupils going from Intermediate Schools to institutions and from institutions to the South African Native College at Fort Hare. As the elementary vernacular schools are widely spread and the intermediate schools are more or less within reach of anyone willing to make an effort, any boy of outstanding character and ability will have a fair chance of continuing his education, even if his parents are extremely poor. As the Inspectors get to know their districts, they will find out not only those who are the brightest pupils but they will learn from their own observations and from teachers' statements those who are the best pupils and most likely to make good use of further education. The institutions should also benefit by receiving each year a certain number of selected pupils.

Statistics.

The average attendance of pupils in schools and institutions is now 34,134, while the number of scholars on the roll is 46,945.

The following table shows the average attendance of pupils during the last ten years :—

TABLE 1.

Year.	Average Attendance.	Increase	Decrease.
1918	21,160	391	—
1919	22,556	1,396	—
1920	23,479	923	—
1921	22,586	—	893
1922	23,424	838	—
1923	26,124	2,700	—
1924	29,267	3,143	—
1925	30,006	739	—
1926	38,074	8,068	—
1927	34,184	1,060	—

During this period there has been an increase of about 13,000 units of average attendance. After the exceptionally large increase in 1926, the increase this year is slightly below the average annual increase.

TABLE 2.

Grants to Missions for elementary schools for the year ending the 31st December, 1927, were as follows :—

	£
Paris Evangelical Mission Society	20,002
Roman Catholic Mission	6,648
Church of England Mission	3,212
	£29,862.

TABLE 3.

Elementary schools according to size and denomination.

Mission.	Over 300.	150 to 300.	100 to 150.	70 to 100.	60 to 70.	45 to 60.	25 to 45.	20 to 25.	Under 20	Total.
P.E.M.S. ...	6	20	52	59	34	55	86	30	16	358
B.C. ...	2	9	9	15	14	12	35	11	7	114
C. of E. ...	0	1	7	10	8	8	17	7	3	61
Totals ...	8	30	68	84	56	75	138	48	26	533
	-8	+1	+8	-19	+9	-18	+9	+12	+3	+2

The increases and decreases as compared with 1926 are given under each column. The table shows that two-fifths of the elementary schools in the Territory come under the classification of "one-teacher schools." Two new schools appear to have been added to the list since last year, but these are schools which were closed temporarily and were reopened this year. According to the agreement with the Missions, no new schools are to be started until the standard of those already existing has been improved.

TABLE 4.
Enrolment of pupils in elementary schools.

Mission.	No. of Pupils on Roll, September, 1926.			No. of Pupils on Roll, September, 1927.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
P.E.M.S.	10,558	20,805	31,358	10,652	21,892	32,544
R.C.	2,074	6,329	8,403	2,145	6,825	8,970
C. of E.	1,494	2,997	4,491	1,507	3,178	4,685
Totals	14,121	30,131	44,252	14,304	31,895	46,199

The increase is 1,947, as compared with an increase of 2,400 in 1926. The proportion of girls as compared to boys continues to increase.

Except in the mountains there are now no large areas of grazing veld, and, as the cattle have to graze on the narrow strips of grass lying between the cultivated lands, each herd of cattle requires several herd boys to look after it. Boys are keen on education, and there are few who would not attend school if they had the chance, but they cannot be spared. As further land is broken up, more herd boys are wanted, and the tendency is for the proportion of girls to boys to increase rather than to even up. The above figures show that the proportion of girls to boys is over 2 to 1.

TABLE 5.
Enrolment of pupils in institutions.

Mission.	Institution.	No. of Pupils on Roll, September, 1926.			No. of Pupils on Roll, September, 1927.			Grant.
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
P.E.M.S. ...	Morijsa (Normal & Agric.)	139	—	139	138	—	138	£ 2,100
P.E.M.S. ...	Th. Morena (Normal & Indus.)	—	38	38	—	69	69	600
P.E.M.S. ...	Cana (Indus.)...	—	25	25	—	31	31	350
P.E.M.S. ...	Lelocaleng (Indus. & Agric.)	53	—	53	56	—	56	800
R.C. ...	Roma (Normal, Indus. & Agric.)	118	248	361	141	307	548	800
C. of E. ...	Masite (Normal Indus. & Agric.)	26	—	26	30	1	31	450
C. of E. ...	Maseru (Indus.)	—	37	37	—	36	36	150
Totals		331	348	679	365	444	809	£5,250

The figures given for Roma include a considerable number of day scholars who attend the boarding schools for boys and girls at Roma. In the other Missions only boarders are enrolled in the institutions.

TABLE 6.

Average attendance of pupils in elementary schools.

<i>Mission.</i>	<i>Year ending September, 1926.</i>			<i>Year ending September, 1927.</i>		
	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
P.E.M.S....	7,258	15,477	22,735	7,404	15,958	23,362
B.C. ...	1,496	4,956	6,452	1,540	5,181	6,721
C. of E. ...	1,032	2,220	3,252	1,033	2,334	3,367
Totals...	9,786	22,653	32,439	9,977	23,473	33,450

The total average attendance in elementary schools of 33,450 is 1,011 more than last year.

European Schools.

The eight European schools with a total attendance of 115 pupils received a grant of £1,900. These schools have good buildings and are well equipped. They provide only elementary education and prepare pupils for schools outside Basutoland.

10.—LABOUR.

The following figures give the number of passes issued to natives to leave the Territory for labour purposes during the past two years :—

	<i>Mines.</i>	<i>Railway Construction.</i>	<i>Agriculture.</i>	<i>Miscellaneous Labour.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1926 ...	34,504	659	19,217	61,484	95,864
1927 ...	24,880	173	9,507	23,407	57,967

11.—VETERINARY.

ANTHRAX.

Twenty-eight outbreaks of anthrax occurred during the year, being twelve less than last year.

The policy of keeping all transport oxen inoculated on the western roads has been enforced, and altogether 41,039 animals have been inoculated. Most of these inoculations have been carried out by the Police Force, and the ready co-operation of Assistant Commissioners and Police Officers in this matter has been much appreciated.

The importance of burying anthrax carcasses intact is being better understood by cattle owners.

No anthrax has been diagnosed amongst equines and ovines.

EQUINE MANGE

There is every evidence that very considerable progress has been made in the eradication of equine mange, and it is hoped to stamp out this disease in the near future.

Energetic propaganda work has been carried out during the past 12 months, and every effort has been made to impress upon horse owners the necessity of reporting and bringing their animals for early treatment.

During the year, 14,202 animals were treated, but it is thought that a number of these were not true cases of sarcoptic mange, native dip supervisors treating all cases of skin troubles as mange.

All evidence goes to show that the position in the mountain area has improved immensely, but reports have come to notice of abandoned mange-infected horses, and every effort is being made to have these destroyed or collected by the chief and brought to a tank for treatment.

SCAB.

Excellent progress is being made in the eradication of this disease.

The simultaneous tank inspection during the early summer of 67 protected areas, involving 846,293 sheep and goats, gave results better than could have been anticipated. All these sheep and goats were put on a table and subjected to a thorough hand inspection and only 82 sheep and goats, representing 36 flocks, were found to be infected with scab.

During the year not less than 2,118,319 sheep and goats were dipped. Most of this dipping was done at non-protected tanks and in dealing with moving sheep.

The prevalence of scab in the mountains where no tanks have been operating is an education and negatives the theory that there is little or no scab in the mountains. During the year the Thaba Putsoa tank in the Maseru district was opened. This tank is 9,000 feet above sea-level and taps a very thickly-populated sheep country. In subjecting these flocks to a simultaneous dipping it was found that 65 per cent. of them were infected and in some of them over 50 per cent. of the sheep were scab infected. An experience of this sort clearly demonstrates the importance of pushing tank erection as quickly as possible, as with such centres and the constant movement of sheep it can easily be seen in what jeopardy the protected areas stand.

The financial position became very serious this year, and it was quite apparent that unless more money was forthcoming there

was little hope of carrying on the work to its final issue. It is very gratifying to report that the Basutoland Chamber of Commerce and the National Council unanimously agreed to a suggestion that the duty on wool and mohair exported from the Territory should be increased from $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. and as a result it is hoped by practising economy ultimately to build tanks throughout the mountain areas and so give every sheep-owner proper facilities for dipping.

It is estimated that about 75 more tanks are required in the Territory, and it is hoped to complete this building scheme in about four years. The building of tanks is a slow process and in view of the climatic difficulties, all material having to be transported on pack animals, together with the human factor, there are many setbacks. The work is, however, becoming better understood and with a stronger financial position it is now possible to give the work to a better class of workman.

Before the end of the summer it is hoped that the whole of the Quthing District will be tanked, and it will be interesting to observe the result of the dipping in a completely tanked district.

During the year, 17,732 sheep and goats were exported; 12,684 of these went to East Griqualand via Qacha's Nek.

On the whole it is thought that the native staff have been more satisfactory than last year, but the necessity of giving these men constant European supervision is continually demonstrated.

The experiment of appointing native Scab Inspectors is still in progress, but it is too early to give an opinion on the result. It is proposed to increase these Inspectors considerably during the next financial year.

The European Scab Inspectors have had a very strenuous year; the picking of sites and organising the work connected with new tanks has in many instances considerably added to their scab work.

Wool Industry.

There is abundant evidence that the propáganda against the bastard and Persian ram is bearing fruit. In some wards all bastard rams have been castrated, and there is a general tendency to kill these sheep for food in preference to the Merino. Scab Inspectors are continually preaching against the bastard sheep and trying to educate the sheep-owner accordingly. Some of the traders are also carrying out useful work in this direction and they are, of course, in a better position to do this than is the Veterinary Department as they are constantly purchasing the wool of the country.

As a result of this campaign, sheep-owners are now clamouring for better facilities to substitute their castrated bastards with good

Merino rams. A bounty of £500 has now been provided on imported Merino rams of approved type and excellent results are anticipated.

Stud.

The stud season owing to drought has been a very unfavourable one, and there was a general absence of green grass right up to the end of the year. This reacted on the milk supply for foals and the favourable conditions necessary for early pregnancy.

General.

The usual outbreaks of strangles, gallsickness, and biliary fever have been successfully treated.

During the year, 2,066 professional visits and attendances were made by the Principal Veterinary Officer.

12.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Legislation.

The following proclamations were promulgated during the year:—

- (1) No. 2.—Further Appropriation (1925-26) Proclamation, 1927.
- (2) No. 5.—Radio Proclamation, 1927.
- (3) No. 13.—Education Fund Proclamation, 1927.
- (4) No. 14.—Sheep and Goats Importation Restriction Proclamation, 1927.
- (5) No. 15.—Further Amending the Basutoland Stock and Produce Theft Repression Proclamation, 1921.
- (6) No. 18.—Amending in certain respects the Obscene Publications (Basutoland) Proclamation, 1912.
- (7) No. 23.—Amending the Basutoland Motor Vehicle Proclamation, 1926.
- (8) No. 25.—Amending the Basutoland Trading Proclamation (No. 30 of 1918) so as to permit native residents in Basutoland to trade in certain articles without a licence.
- (9) No. 26.—Insolvency Proclamation, 1927.
- (10) No. 33.—Income Tax Proclamation, 1927.
- (11) No. 34.—Appropriation Proclamation, 1927.
- (12) No. 36.—Customs Management and Tariff (Amendment) Proclamation, 1927.
- (13) No. 43.—Increasing the rate of duty imposed on wool and mohair from one farthing to one half-penny per pound.

R. M. BOSWORTH SMITH,
Government Secretary,
Basutoland.

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