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No. 661.

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SWAZILAND.

REPORT FOR 1909-10.

(For Report for 1908-9, see No. 627.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty,
November, 1910.



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No. 661.

SWAZILAND.

(For Report for 1908-9, see No. 627.)

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

High Commissioner's Office,
Pretoria,
17th October, 1910.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to enclose a copy of a despatch from the Resident Commissioner of Swaziland transmitting the Annual Report on that Territory for the year ended March 31st, 1910, together with a copy of my reply.

I have, &c.,
GLADSTONE,
High Commissioner.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

Resident Commissioner's Office,
Mbabane, Swaziland,
10th September, 1910.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Annual Reports of the Resident Commissioner, Government Secretary, the Assistant Commissioners, and other Officers, for the year ended March 31st, 1910.

I have, &c.,
R. T. CORYNDON,
Resident Commissioner.

The Right Honourable
Viscount Gladstone, P.C.,
High Commissioner for South Africa.

REPORT OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER FOR SWAZILAND FOR THE YEAR 1909-10.

The important work of the demarcation of the native areas was completed during the year under review by the Special Commissioner, Mr. G. Grey, and the position was explained to the Chief Regent and Council, who, on the whole, accepted the demarcations with less hostility than may have been expected. Both European concessionaires and the natives made appeals for the alteration of certain details in this connection, and the High Commissioner, Lord Selborne, came to Swaziland to personally hear and determine the appeals. At the same time His Excellency met the Chief Regent and Council at Mbabane and explained to them the effect of the Union of the South African Colonies. It is satisfactory to note that the natives, who have now had time to understand the settlement of the land question, and undoubtedly the chiefs do understand it, have not, since Lord Selborne's decisions, evinced any desire to re-open the matter. The surveys of the areas demarcated for the natives are now being completed and the position is that the boundaries of all land, mineral, and grazing concessions, as also of the native areas and Crown Lands, are known. Title is thus secure and the agricultural and mining development of Swaziland will not be retarded, as in the past, by the vagueness of the rights held under concessions.

Legislation has been enacted for the concurrent exercise of rights on areas in regard to which both land and mineral concessions were granted, and a Proclamation providing for the control of public streams has also appeared.

East Coast fever was unfortunately present in many parts. Active steps have been taken for the eradication of this disease by means of branding, fencing, and in some cases slaughter, of cattle, and by the engagement of stock inspectors and extra cattle police; and I am advised that the steps taken will most probably have the desired effect within a period of about two years from now.

The efforts to introduce trout into Swaziland have, I am glad to say, met with a measure of success.

I attach a list* of the legislative enactments which have appeared during the year.

The reports of the Government Secretary and of the District and other Officers are submitted with this report.

R. T. CORYNDON,

Resident Commissioner.

Mbabane,

August 15th, 1910.

* Not printed.

REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR, 1909-10.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue and expenditure for the year have been as follows:—

| <i>Revenue.</i> | | <i>Expenditure.</i> | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---|----------------|
| | £ | | £ |
| Licences | 1,600 | 1. Establishments ... | 9,202 |
| Native Tax | 25,602 | 2. Police | 14,422 |
| Native Pass Stamps... .. | 479 | 3. Transport | 898 |
| Fines, Court Fees, &c. | 1,140 | 4. Posts and Tele- graphs | 1,887 |
| Revenue Stamps | 419 | 5. Customs | 409 |
| Transfer Dues | 1,045 | 6. Administration of Justice | 3,306 |
| Import Dues | 6,187 | 7. Public Works | 3,183 |
| Posts and Telegraphs | 1,406 | 8. Medical | 1,504 |
| Concession Rents | 5,111 | 9. Education | 1,403 |
| Base Metal royalty | 258 | 10. Veterinary | 969 |
| Miscellaneous | 710 | 11. Allowances to Native Chiefs | 1,027 |
| | | 12. Pensions | 681 |
| | | 13. Interest | 3,027 |
| | | 14. Refunds of Revenue | 130 |
| | | 15. Miscellaneous | 1,017 |
| | | 16. Sinking Fund | 1,078 |
| | <u>43,957</u> | | <u>44,143</u> |
| <i>Abnormal Revenue.</i> | | <i>Abnormal Expenditure.</i> | |
| Crown Lands Leases, &c. | 761 | 17. Concessions Com- mission | 5,720 |
| Loan from Basuto- land | 10,000 | 18. Partition | 3,631 |
| | | 19. Water | 723 |
| | <u>£54,718</u> | | <u>£54,217</u> |

The following tables show the revenue and expenditure since the 1st July, 1904:—

Revenue.

| Revenue. | 1904-5. | 1905-6. | 1906-7. (9 months.) | 1907-8. | 1908-9. | 1909-10. |
|-----------------|---------|---------|------------------------|---------|---------|----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Normal | 40,747 | 46,018 | 44,922 | 39,529 | 46,484 | 43,957 |
| Abnormal | — | — | — | — | — | 761 |
| Total | 40,747 | 46,018 | 44,922 | 39,529 | 46,484 | 44,718 |

Expenditure.

| Expenditure. | 1904-5. | 1905-6. | 1906-7. (9 months.) | 1907-8. | 1908-9. | 1909-10. |
|--------------|---------|---------|------------------------|---------|---------|----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Normal ... | 20,608 | 23,072 | 22,334 | 39,474 | 41,253 | 44,143 |
| Abnormal ... | 3,875 | 23,209 | 52,511 | 18,094 | 49,874 | 10,074 |
| Tota ... | 24,483 | 46,281 | 74,845 | 57,568 | 91,127 | 54,217 |

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports.—The imports for the year were valued at £44,309, as against £47,310 for the year ended March 31st, 1909, and £37,850 for the year ended March 31st, 1908.

The following statements show the heads under which this amount is arrived at; they are compiled from the statistics supplied by the Department of Commerce and Industries of the Union of South Africa:—

| | Value South African produce. | Value. Produce other than South African. | Total. |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Animals, living ... | 54 | — | 54 |
| Articles of food and drink ... | 10,393 | 7,304 | 17,697 |
| Raw material ... | — | — | — |
| Manufactured articles ... | 2,702 | 22,312 | 25,014 |
| Total merchandise ... | 13,149 | 29,616 | 42,765 |
| Government stores ... | — | 544 | 544 |
| Specie ... | — | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Grand Total ... | 13,149 | 31,160 | 44,309 |

Exports.—Exports for the year were valued at £90,348, as compared with £56,206 and £63,148 for the corresponding period of the years 1908-9 and 1907-8 respectively. The following table shows the heads and values for the year under review:—

| South African Produce | Quantity. | Value. £ |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Apparel ... | — | 9 |
| Fruit—fresh ... | — | 6 |
| Gold, raw (ozs.) ... | 11,604 | 44,499 |
| Haberdashery ... | — | 1 |
| Hides, ox and cow ... | — | 54 |
| Skins, sheep and goats ... | — | 6 |

| South African Produce | Quantity. | Value. |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| | | £ |
| Horns | — | 5 |
| Boots and shoes | — | 1 |
| Tin ore (tons) | 473 | 41,768 |
| Total value South African produce | | 86,339 |
| Imported goods re-exported | | 9 |
| Specie re-exported | | 4,000 |
| Grand Total | | £90,348 |

MINING.

There are five gold mines (excluding a few small alluvial workings) and four alluvial tin mines in operation. No Crown mineral areas have yet been thrown open for mining, and only one portion has been leased. The Administration has under consideration a new law to govern mining and prospecting on Crown lands which it is hoped to promulgate within the next few months.

The following tables give the total output of tin and gold for the last three years:—

Cassiterite Tin:—

| | Tons. | Valued at. |
|----------------|-------|------------|
| | | £ |
| 1909-10 | 446 | 28,368 |
| 1908-9 | 526 | 42,005 |
| 1907-8 | 535 | 49,568 |

Fine Gold:—

| | Ozs. | Valued at. |
|----------------|--------|------------|
| | | £ |
| 1909-10 | 11,202 | 46,707 |
| 1908-9 | 6,749 | 28,669 |
| 1907-8 | 3,108 | 13,203 |

LABOUR ON MINES.

The monthly average number of coloured persons employed on the mines was 2,017; and during the year £22,805 was earned by coloured employees on the mines. The monthly average number of white persons employed on the mines was 74.

LOCUSTS AND CROPS.

Owing to the absence of locusts it was not found necessary to incur any expense under this head. During the past two years the country has been visited by large flocks of the locust-eating stork (*Cinconia alba*), and to their presence the absence of locusts was to some measure attributed.

Generally speaking, the crops have been good and an improvement on the two previous years. The natives are poor agriculturists, however, and do not cultivate sufficient grain for their own requirements. From two to three million pounds weight

of mealies and mealie meal are imported annually, in addition to the whole of the wheat and flour supply. Consequent on the more settled land tenure, Europeans are commencing farming operations on a larger and more scientific scale than heretofore.

RAINFALL.

The average rainfall for the various districts during the year was 49.68 inches as compared with 60.59 inches and 38.90 inches respectively for the two previous years. So far as records show, the 1908-9 rainfall was exceptional, and that for the year under review well above the average. As nearly all of the meteorological stations are situate in the hills, the return does not show an accurate average for the whole of the territory—more rain falling in the hilly districts than in the low veld.

JUDICIAL.

Criminal.—The following schedule shows the number of criminal cases and persons dealt with during the year under the various heads of crime; also whether the accused were white or coloured and whether they were convicted or acquitted.

| | No. of Cases. | Persons. | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| | | Convicted. | | Discharged. | |
| | | White. | Coloured. | White. | Coloured. |
| Offences against the State | 8 | 3 | 6 | — | — |
| " " Administration of Justice | 22 | 2 | 20 | — | 4 |
| " " Public Peace | 32 | — | 131 | — | 9 |
| " " Public Order | 10 | — | 19 | 1 | — |
| " " Person | 222 | 4 | 253 | 1 | 53 |
| " " Property... .. | 103 | 3 | 121 | — | 26 |
| Statutory Offences : | | | | | |
| Native Tax | 848 | — | 1,373 | — | 18 |
| Master and Servant | 30 | — | 30 | — | 11 |
| Stock Diseases | 54 | 3 | 58 | — | 5 |
| Game Law | 18 | 4 | 20 | 2 | 2 |
| Native Pass Regulations | 48 | — | 58 | — | 4 |
| Witchcraft | 12 | — | 9 | — | 2 |
| Liquor Law | 15 | — | 20 | — | 9 |
| Drunkenness | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Grass-burning | 5 | 1 | 5 | 1 | — |
| Vagrancy | 5 | — | 4 | — | 1 |
| Revenue Law | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Forest Law | 2 | — | 3 | — | — |
| Native Labour Regulations | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Births and Deaths Registration | 2 | — | 1 | — | 2 |
| Town Regulations | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Gaal | 7 | — | 5 | — | 2 |
| Swaziland Police Regulations... .. | 2 | — | 2 | — | — |
| | 1,449 | 21 | 2,141 | 5 | 148 |
| | | 2,162 | | 153 | |

Of the above number sixteen cases and twenty-eight persons were dealt with by the Court of Resident Commissioner.

Civil.—Thirty-eight civil cases and applications were heard in the Court of Resident Commissioner and in the Special Court.

GAOLS.

Exclusive of the persons summoned before the Courts and not received into prison, 1,933 persons were received into the various gaols during the year, and were disposed of as follows:—

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Convicted | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,535 |
| Acquitted or discharged | ... | ... | ... | ... | 315 |
| Remanded to other Courts | ... | ... | ... | ... | 71 |
| Awaiting trial | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Civil debtor | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Detained as witnesses | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Escaped | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| | | | | | 1,933 |

PUBLIC WORKS.

No new works were undertaken during the year. The Court House at Mbabane was completed.

The following schedule gives the details of expenditure during the financial year:—

| | |
|--|--------|
| | £ |
| Valuation of Assistant Commissioners' houses | 25 |
| Court House, Mbabane | 361 |
| Lock-up—Peak | 63 |
| Police Officer's quarters—Stegi | 122 |
| Repairs to Hospital, Mbabane | 35 |
| Alterations—Residency | 115 |
| Repairs to District Offices | 78 |
| Repairs to Police—all stations | 138 |
| Repairs to Government Houses | 184 |
| General repairs and additions | 80 |
| General repairs to Gaols—all stations | 43 |
| | 1,244 |
| Making, repairing roads, &c. | 625 |
| Payments towards purchase of official residences occupied by Assistant Commissioners | 400 |
| Purchase of residence for Assistant Commissioner, Mbabane | 696 |
| Survey of additional plots, Mbabane Township | 218 |
| | £3,183 |

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES.

The births and deaths of natives are not registered. The following are the number registered among Europeans:—

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Births | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| Deaths | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Marriages | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |

Forty marriages according to European custom were contracted amongst coloured persons.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt of Swaziland on 31st March, 1910, was £90,000.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

Liabilities on 31st March, 1910, exceeded assets by £86,086.

TRADE.

The following licences were issued:—

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| General traders' | 74 |
| Hawkers' | 3 |
| Kaffir eating houses' | 3 |
| Agents and auctioneers' | 12 |
| Commercial travellers' | 16 |
| Billiard table | 1 |
| Arms and ammunition | 3 |
| Liquor | 19 |
| Bank | 1 |

All reports show a general, though slight, improvement in trade. The spending capacity of the European population is very small; and the natives, with the exception of the few who work on the mines or live in towns, spend little except on food.

TRAVELLING PASSES.

During the year 9,580 passes were issued to natives going out of the territory; 5,517 of this number were taken out by natives going to work, principally on the mines in Johannesburg, and the balance of 4,063 by natives visiting, &c., in other territories.

In the year 1907-8, 7,906 passes, and in 1908-9, 6,044 passes were issued to natives in search of work. The cause of the decrease is due to a good harvest and to the fact that work can now be more easily obtained in Swaziland. Sixty-two labour agents' licences were issued.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

Revenue under this head amounts to £1,406, while the expenditure was £1,887.

D. HONEY,
Government Secretary.

Mbabane,
August 1st, 1910.

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, HLATIKULU, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1910.

POLITICAL.

There is little of a political nature to record. The partition of the land continues to absorb the attention of the natives, practically to the exclusion of all other political questions. The Union of the South African States has been comparatively unnoticed by them.

His Excellency the High Commissioner visited Swaziland in May last, and heard certain protests lodged by concessionaires and natives against the partition proposed by the Special Commissioner in his various reports. Those lodged by the natives were not of importance, but they evinced the desire of the chiefs to treat the native areas as land belonging to themselves and not to the Swazis collectively. The partition suggested by the Special Commissioner was, with slight modification, approved by the High Commissioner.

STATE OF DISTRICT.

Roads.—The principal roads in the District are in better condition than they were last year. Considerable improvements have been effected to the main road from Mahamba to Hlatikulu and from Hlatikulu to Rathbone's Road, which has also been improved.

The small amount of traffic passing over these and other roads does not, however, justify a large expenditure on their upkeep.

Crops.—There was a good crop of mealies, particularly along the Transvaal-Swaziland border from Mahamba to Hluti.

The crop of Kaffir corn was equal to, if not better than, that of last year. In the bush veld the yield of corn was very great. The natives, however, are very improvident, and seldom put aside a reserve stock of grain. No attempt is made by them to irrigate their fields, and their methods of cultivation show no improvement.

The crops of Europeans were on the whole good.

Locusts.—There were no locusts in the District during the year.

Rainfall.—The rainfall was above the average; 53·94 inches fell on 136 days.

For the last four years the rainfall has been:—

| | | | |
|---------|-----|-----|---------------------------|
| 1906-7 | ... | ... | 49·15 inches on 169 days. |
| 1907-8 | ... | ... | 36·72 " 147 " |
| 1908-9 | ... | ... | 60·04 " 144 " |
| 1909-10 | ... | ... | 53·94 " 136 " |

Stock.—Cattle have increased considerably during the year.

There are only now about eight areas infected with East Coast fever, and there have not been many deaths amongst the cattle in them. Amongst the herds where East Coast fever has broken out the disease appears to have been milder in its effect than in former years.

Native Labour.—The recruiting of natives for work on the mines in the Transvaal has been carried out more systematically by labour agents, and natives have shown more inclination to be engaged by them than in former years.

Health.—Provision was made for an additional Medical Officer for this District. Malarial fever, except in the low-lying parts, was not so severe as last year. A supply of quinine was obtained and distributed amongst Europeans and natives.

Education—Europeans.—The attendance at the three schools has increased, and practically all the European children of a teachable age are now attending.

For the year the average attendance was as follows:—

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Ferreira's Station | ... | ... | ... | 42 |
| Hluti | ... | ... | ... | 23 |
| Paradys | ... | ... | ... | 19 |

Education—Native.—There are about eighteen schools for natives in this district; only one school received Government aid. The attendance is about the same as last year, namely, 300.

Postal.—During the year a post-cart service from Piet Retief to Mahamba was instituted; this Government contributes about half the cost. As there is no bridge over the Mkondo River this service was not of much use during the summer months, as the cart was unable to cross the swollen rivers except at irregular intervals, and in consequence there were numerous delays in despatching and receiving mails.

Game.—Wild dogs continue to kill much game in the game reserve. Kudu and mpala have increased.

Forestry.—During the year about fifteen acres of trees, principally eucalyptus, were planted. Four native chiefs obtained seedlings of blackwood from the nursery at Hlatikulu, and each planted about an acre. In addition about twenty-five pounds of black wattle seed was supplied by the Government and was planted by the chiefs and headmen to whom it was distributed. In most cases results have been good.

State of Trade.—Trade during the year was very poor. There were nineteen general dealers' licences issued.

The prices of cattle ranged from £3 to £6 per head; goats from 5s. to 15s.; sheep at £1, and pigs from 5s. to 35s.

Very little produce was offered for sale.

The price of mealies per 200 lbs. ranged from 13s. to 25s. according to locality.

The price of Kaffir corn was 20s. per 200 lbs.

B. NICHOLSON,

Assistant Commissioner.

Hlatikulu,

April 1st, 1910.

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, PEAK DISTRICT, FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31st, 1910.

POLITICAL.

There has been very little of political importance to report. In May His Excellency the High Commissioner came down to enquire into the appeals against the decisions of the Special Commissioner in the allotment of land. There were few appeals, and no dissatisfaction occurred as the result of them.

STATE OF DISTRICT.

Roads.—During last winter road parties were placed on the principal wagon road, Pigg's Peak to Hector Spruit, which was put into fair order, but, as is usual during the rainy season, this road has again got into a slight state of disrepair in places. This will be put right during the winter. The footpath from Devil's Bridge to Pigg's Peak was repaired and still remains in good order.

Crops.—Taking the District as a whole the crops of mealies and Kaffir corn should be good this season; especially is this the case with Kaffir corn.

Locusts.—There has been an immunity from this pest during the year under review.

Rainfall.—50.98 inches of rain fell during the year under review, as compared with 74.16 inches during the year ending 31st March, 1909.

Stock.—A fence has been put up along the general course of the Komati River from the north-east border to Balegane Drift. In this way it is intended to prevent East Coast fever from getting into the country on the east side of the district. This disease is still prevalent in many parts of the district.

No other disease of any importance has occurred among stock recently.

A total of 9,500 head of sheep, 250 goats, and 50 horses were brought into this district from the Transvaal for winter grazing.

Native Labour.—Practically no labour has been recruited in this district except for the local mines.

Mining.—During the year the increase in the output of gold was considerable. The total gold exported during the year under review amounted to 8,189 ozs. bullion valued at £35,467, as compared with 4,630 ozs. bullion valued at £17,591, exported during the previous year. The Pigg's Peak Development Company, Mr. Andrews at the Horo, and Mr. Wills at the Gordon Mine, have been the regular producers.

Health.—Except for the prevalence of malaria in the low veld the health of the district has been very good.

State of Trade.—There has been a very slight improvement under this head. The opening of new mines should increase the trade of the district, though difficulty of communication between outlying stores and a market tends to hamper enterprise.

Price of Stock, &c.—Live Stock: The average prices during the past year were:—

| | £ |
|--------------------|-------|
| Horses | 25-30 |
| Cattle—Oxen | 8 |
| Cows | 5 |

Produce: Mealies and Kaffir corn averaged about 22s. 6d. per muid to 25s.

White Immigrants and Emigrants.—Five Europeans entered the district and two left during the year.

Payment of Native Tax.—The native tax has been paid very well and willingly by the natives in this district. The number of tax defaulters prosecuted shows a decrease in comparison with previous years.

B. H. WARNER,

Acting Assistant Commissioner.

Pigg's Peak, Swaziland,
9th May, 1910.

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER,
MBABANE DISTRICT, FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st MARCH, 1910.

POLITICAL.

Both white and native inhabitants have been considerably concerned about the prospects of incorporation in the Union of South Africa. They appeared to be greatly relieved after His Excellency the High Commissioner's speeches to them on the subject in May, 1909. It is very certain that the natives desire to continue to be governed by the Imperial Government through the High Commissioner, and are still apprehensive that their condition under the Union will not be so satisfactory to them.

There has been no unrest amongst either whites or natives; the behaviour of both has been orderly.

STATE OF DISTRICT.

Roads.—Existing roads have been maintained, but on account of the heavy rains it has not been possible to do more than make them passable. It has only been possible to undertake two new roads; one—the deviation over the high range between Mbabane and Darkton on the main road to the Transvaal—has absorbed most of the available labour and is nearing completion. When completed it will considerably reduce the transport difficulties. The other, partly a road and partly a bridle path for six miles south-west, opens up a hitherto untouched portion of the district in the neighbourhood of the Albu and Davis tin diggings.

Crops.—There is a good crop of mealies and Kaffir corn. The fruit crop has been average.

Locusts.—They have not visited this district.

Rainfall.—53·47 inches of rain fell during the year.

Stock.—East Coast fever is still present in the district, but appears to be gradually dying down. The measures lately undertaken will, it is hoped, clear the district of this disease within the next two or three years.

Horse Sickness.—No reports of deaths have reached me this year.

Native Labour.—There has been considerable activity lately and fairly good returns. Most of the labour in the district is absorbed by the local tin mines. After that Barberton and Johannesburg follow in the order given.

Mining.—There has been little change since last year. The Swaziland Tin, Limited, continues to make a large output of tin ore.

The Forbes' Reef and Avalanche Gold Mines continue to produce gold in payable quantities.

Health.—The general state of health has been good. Towards the close of 1909 an epidemic of measles was prevalent and many severe cases occurred in European adults.

Education.—A new school, Government aided, has been started in Mbabane by the Rev. C. C. Watts. It appears to be making good progress, as are also the other schools in the district.

State of Trade.—There has been little or no improvement. The purchasing power of the public continues to be small.

Prices of Stock, &c.—The prices of stock and produce are as follows:—

Horses from £10 to £40.

Cattle full grown from £4 to £8.

Goats full grown from 10s. to £1.

Sheep full grown from 6s. to 30s.

Mealies per 200 lbs. from 15s. to 25s.

Kaffir corn per 200 lbs. from 20s. to 35s.

Potatoes from £2 to £3 per 200 lbs.

A. G. MARWICK,

Assistant Commissioner.

Mbabane,

19th April, 1910.

REPORT OF THE RESIDENT JUSTICE OF THE PEACE,
MANKAIANA SUB-DISTRICT, FOR YEAR ENDING
MARCH 31st, 1910.

POLITICAL.

There is nothing much of a political nature to report. The Chief Regent called several meetings at the Zombode Kraal for the purpose of discussing the planting of black wattle seed, and the dog tax.

Most of the chiefs are under the impression that when the Paramount Chief Sobuza comes of age the question of the survey of native areas and other rights will again be raised.

STATE OF DISTRICT.

Roads.—Very little work has been done on the roads, there having been insufficient prisoners available, and the roads at present are in need of repair.

Locusts.—No locusts have been reported.

Rainfall.—40·20 inches have been registered during the year. The heaviest rains were in the months of December, January, and February.

Stock.—East Coast fever is still prevalent in certain parts of the district. Natives have lost a lot of small stock from heartwater and bluetongue.

Crops.—Crops are promising throughout nearly all the district.

State of Trade.—There has been little or no improvement during the year.

Price of Stock, &c.—There is very little stock in the district and prices fluctuate.

J. MABER,

R.J.P., Mankaiana.

April 14th, 1910.

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, UBOMBO DISTRICT, FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31st, 1910.

POLITICAL.

This year has been very peaceable and the natives law-abiding and friendly towards the Administration.

STATE OF DISTRICT.

Roads.—Heavy rains have caused considerable damage to roads, and it has been most difficult to keep them in repair. In last year's report mention was made of the construction of a road from Stegi to the Portuguese border, where it was to join a Portuguese road from Mailana Railway Station. I am glad to report that the Swaziland section is finished and that the Portuguese have commenced their section, which they hope to complete in the course of a few months.

Crops.—Exceptionally good crops of all kinds of cereals will be harvested.

Locusts.—No locusts have been observed this year.

Rainfall.—49·83 inches were recorded on 129 days.

Stock.—A few deaths amongst cattle have been reported; these have invariably proved to be ordinary redwater.

An outbreak of East Coast fever has occurred on the west side of the Lugulu Stream near McNab's. The infected herds have been isolated and clean herds have been removed from the quarantined area. It is hoped that this step will effectually stop the spread of the disease. Native goats and sheep have done well.

State of Trade.—A slight improvement on past years has been reported by merchants; they attribute it to the fair crops reaped by the natives last year.

Prices of Stock, &c.—General prices of stock and produce are as follows:—

- Cattle fully grown from £4 to £10.
- Goats fully grown from 5s. to 15s.
- Sheep fully grown from 15s. to 20s.
- Mealies per 200 lbs. from 14s. to 20s.
- Mabele per 200 lbs. from 25s. to 30s.
- Pumpkins about 10 lbs. in weight 1s. to 2s.

M. W. WHITRIDGE,

Assistant Commissioner.

Ubombo,
April 9th, 1910.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
FOR POLICE, SWAZILAND, FOR THE FINANCIAL
YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1910.

STRENGTH AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE FORCE.

The strength of the Force is as follows:—

Europeans:

- 1 Assistant Commissioner.
- 4 Sub-Inspectors.
- 1 Superintendent.
- 4 Sergeants.
- 4 Corporals.
- 11 Troopers.

Natives:

- 1 Sergeant-Major.
- 5 Sergeants.
- 13 Corporals.
- 151 Constables.

ARMS AND EQUIPMENT.

Europeans.—The European non-commissioned officers and troopers are armed with the Lee-Enfield short rifle, Mark 1, and Webley revolvers, service pattern. All are in good order.

Natives.—In Mbabane, Peak, and Ubombo Districts the native police are armed with 303 M.-L.-E. rifles, and in the Hlatikulu District with Martini-Henry rifles.

JUDICIAL.

During the year 2,381 persons were arrested or summoned for various offences, of whom 2,162 were convicted, 153 were acquitted, the charges were withdrawn against 56, one absconded, and 9 were under remand or awaiting trial on 31st March.

The decrease in number of convictions is practically entirely under the head of native tax, which is sure to be less every year as defaulters are found and made to pay up back years. Several defaulters have come forward voluntarily to pay, recognising evasion to be useless and ultimately more expensive, and consequently have not been charged.

One satisfactory feature of the year is the greater success in obtaining convictions for charges under the head of witchcraft. As many people find that no evil results come from giving evidence in these cases and that the wizards are unable to injure the officials and gaolers they will get more confidence, and this great curse of the Swazis will, I trust, be eventually stamped out.

At the October sitting of the Resident Commissioner's Court, Native Chief Njinjane Dhlamini, a member of the royal family, was tried with two accomplices for the murder of one of his followers named Tshiselwako. An induna of Njinjane's died under natural circumstances, but following the usual Swazi idea that someone had bewitched the deceased, Njinjane put the blame on Tshiselwako and ordered his destruction. The usual fact in these cases of naming a person as a witch was proved, i.e., that Njinjane had for some years nursed a personal grievance against Tshiselwako. The three accused were sentenced to death, but His Excellency the High Commissioner commuted the sentences on the accomplices to imprisonment and confirmed the death sentence of Njinjane. This was duly carried out, the result being a far-reaching effect for good, as the majority of the natives were under the impression that the Government would not dare to hang a member of their royal family.

At the same court Chief Mlokotwa and a man, Nozingwe, were charged with the murder of a woman. At the preparatory examination a youth, Holega, gave evidence that he had held the deceased while the two accused killed her, and a woman, Gwamile, gave corroborative evidence that she had witnessed the crime. At the trial these two persons, who were the chief Crown witnesses, swore they knew nothing about the crime, and under cross-examination swore they had told lies at the preparatory examination at the instigation of the police. Counsel for the Crown withdrew the case and the court acquitted the accused, at the same time directing the arrest of the two witnesses on a charge of perjury. At the trial of the latter charge it was proved that the allegations against the police were false, that the evidence given at the preparatory examination was the truth, and that it was under fear and threats from their people that

they had committed perjury at the trial. The two accused were each sentenced to seven years' imprisonment with hard labour for perjury.

POLITICAL.

Land Partition.—The natives of all classes, including the Zombode party, appear to have accepted the position, and now talk of applying to the Government for title deeds to the areas set apart for them.

No serious question has so far arisen between the concessionaires and natives remaining for the five years on concessionaires' property.

The Native Question, or the usual rumours of unrest, has practically disappeared, and the former practice of the Swazi nation importing outside agents to fight their political cause with the Government has entirely ceased. This, I consider, is due to some finality in the partition of the country and to the status of Europeans and natives being defined by His Excellency the High Commissioner during his visit.

Europeans.—Notwithstanding the cry of "bad times" there are evident signs that on the whole the Europeans are more prosperous; this is especially so with the Dutch inhabitants of Bremersdorp and southern Swaziland.

Union.—The natives were told of the coming Union of South Africa, but with a few exceptions, such as Chief Malunge, they did not appear to understand, or care to understand, the position of Swaziland in case of incorporation with the Union.

The Europeans, on the other hand, held various meetings, with the result that a petition was presented to His Excellency the High Commissioner praying that Swaziland be constituted a Province when incorporated in the Union.

GENERAL.

Attitude of Natives.—The relations between the natives and the police during the year have been of the best. The confidence of the people in the police that the latter are for their protection is greatly increasing, and they now come more freely for advice in their troubles. Natives have continually assisted the police in arresting accused persons in the more serious cases.

C. H. GILSON,

Captain,
Assistant Commissioner for Police.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31st, 1910.

Hospital.—Patients.—During the twelve months under review there were treated:—

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| In-patients | ... | ... | ... | ... | 80 |
| Out-patients | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,360 |

There has been an increase in the number of both indoor and outdoor patients over last year of:—

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| In-patients | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Out-patients | ... | ... | ... | ... | 858 |

Deaths.—Three.

Requirements.—Two more wards are required—a native ward, and an isolation ward. At present there are two native wards, one for native policemen, in which there is room for two patients, and a general native ward which will take six patients. An operating room is required; also surgical instruments.

Malaria.—There have been numerous cases of malarial fever during the summer months, especially in the Pigg's Peak District. Calomel and quinine were sent to all the Assistant Commissioners, but very little has been asked for, the natives preferring their native doctors and native remedies.

Pamphlets on the subject of malarial fever and its cause, prevention, &c., have been distributed amongst the Europeans residing in the fever districts, who have also been informed that the Government is prepared to supply them with mosquito proof wire netting at cost price, for which, however, there have been very few applicants.

Small-pox.—There has been no case of small-pox during the year.

Chicken-pox.—There have been some cases of chicken-pox amongst the natives.

Measles.—There was an outbreak of measles at the Pigg's Peak Mine in December last. All the white children contracted it, and a large number of the native children. There were no deaths amongst the white children, but several native children died.

Syphilis.—It is difficult to say how much syphilis there is amongst the Swazis, owing to the fact that they go to the native doctors for treatment.

Leprosy.—No fresh cases have been reported during the year.

Insanity.—There have been five cases of insanity during the year, all males.

European Births and Deaths.—There were registered during the twelve months the following:—

Births:—Males 11, females 20, total 31.

Deaths:—Males 7, females 5, total 12.

European birth-rate, 34·831 per 1,000.

European death-rate, 13·483 per 1,000.

Native births and deaths are not registered.

L. C. THOMPSON,

Acting Medical Officer, Swaziland.

Mbabane,

April 30th, 1910.

REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT VETERINARY
SURGEON FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH,
1910.

Owing to the great diminution of outbreaks of contagious diseases during the past year my report will be short. As in former years the disease against which we have mostly had to fight is East Coast fever.

East Coast Fever.—As a result of the deliberations and resolutions which were passed at the Pan-African Veterinary Conference held in Pretoria in January, 1909, urging the various Governments to institute strenuous efforts to fight the disease, the Administration in December last were granted the sum of £10,000 towards this purpose. To aid us in forming a scheme for the most beneficial and economical way of fighting the disease, Mr. Gray, the Principal Veterinary Surgeon of the Transvaal Department of Agriculture, visited the territory and made a tour of the middle and bush veld, and as a result a scheme was decided upon. The outline of the scheme is as follows:—

- (a.) Compulsory branding of all cattle.
- (b.) The concentration of all infected herds.
- (c.) The slaughter of calves of immune parents born in infected areas.
- (b.) Fencing off the bush veld which is free of disease.

In my next annual report I hope to show the good results of this scheme.

During the year ninety native kraals have become infected and two farms. The majority of the native kraals which have become infected are, however, in areas within which the disease has been rampant for some years and where practically all the surrounding kraals were already infected. To prevent the spread of the disease southwards a fence has been erected, which runs from the Transvaal border on the north-east, along the Komati River to the Bremersdorp-Pigg's Peak wagon road. For the erection of this fence the natives in the vicinity gave their assistance voluntarily. A European was put in charge of the work and the wire only was supplied. The fence is about eighteen miles in length and has four strands of barbed wire and wooden posts fifteen feet apart. Three native guards regularly patrol this fence, and up to the present no case of East Coast fever has occurred south of the fence.

The bush veld in which the majority of the cattle are located is to-day free of East Coast fever, and no efforts must be spared to keep the disease out of this part of the country as the conditions for the spread of the disease are in every way suitable. All the varieties of ticks known to transmit the disease are to be

found: the brown tick, *Rhipicephalus appendiculatus*, which is the principal carrier of the disease, is found in abundance.

Bovine Redwater.—An occasional case of this disease occurs but does not assume any dangerous dimensions—it being a disease which is now indigenous to the country.

Gall Sickness of Cattle.—Anaplasmosis of cattle. This disease, the causal organism of which has recently been isolated by Dr. Theiler, affects large numbers of cattle at certain times of the year, especially the winter time, in the bush veld and causes great alarm to owners of cattle, but the mortality is very low and is not very serious.

Quarter Ill.—This disease is not unknown in the country, but the natives think so little of it that it is very difficult to discover outbreaks. In this disease the mortality also appears to be very low.

Glanders.—Two cases of glanders have occurred during the year—one at Mbabane and the other at Bremersdorp. The Mbabane outbreak was a donkey, but owing to its early discovery the outbreak did not reach any great dimensions. One donkey clinically affected was destroyed, but none of the animals in contact gave any reaction to the Mallein test. The Bremersdorp outbreak was also limited to one animal, which was destroyed. None other equines were in contact. The stable was also destroyed. Owing to the new regulations of the Transvaal requiring all equines entering that Colony to be submitted to the Mallein test before being allowed to enter, it was necessary to test all the Swaziland animals used for transport purposes to and fro across the border. 336 equines were tested without one animal showing any sign of a reaction to the test.

Horse Sickness.—This assumed during the past year a very mild form—very few horses contracting the disease. Nine mules were immunized against horse sickness, of which one died whilst being immunized. The mules which have been immunized by me have retained their immunity; less than one per cent. have died of horse sickness since being immunized.

Biliary Fever.—Equine piroplasmiasis. This disease has been rather serious, many cases occurring but fortunately with a very small mortality, the treatment with soda di-methyl arsenate being very successful. I have received a supply of trypan blau, but have only been able to try it in one case and with a very satisfactory result. I hope to give this treatment an extended trial during the coming year. Canine piroplasmiasis is also a very common disease in this territory. I also hope to give the trypan blau treatment in this disease a good trial during the coming year; the few cases I have already treated have been very successful, not one having died.

Scab of Sheep and Goats.—As in previous years about 100,000 sheep came into the country for winter grazing, but only four cases of scab were discovered amongst these sheep, and these cases were no doubt contracted on their way down or before they left the high veld farms.

There are a few isolated case of scab amongst the native sheep (hairy variety) and goats, but as the parasite of this disease

of scab (*Sarcoptes*) differs from the scab of the woolled varieties of sheep and is almost entirely confined to goats and hairy sheep it is practically of no danger to the woolled sheep which come in for winter grazing. The Government has allotted a sum of money for the eradication of scab among the native sheep and goats, and a number of portable dipping tanks are to be placed in different parts of the country.

During the year 300 inter-district and 2,749 intra-district cattle removal permits have been issued.

Ninety-three blood smears have been examined, 18 showing East Coast fever, six redwater, 41 negative, and 28 an indefinite diagnosis. The majority of these were kindly examined by Dr. Theiler, which was of great assistance to me.

W. A. ELDER,
Government Veterinary Surgeon.

Mbabane,
April 30th, 1910.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

| ANNUAL. | | | | | | | |
|---------|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| No. | Colony, &c. | | | | | | Year. |
| 623 | Somaliland | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1908-1909 |
| 624 | Mauritius | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1908 |
| 625 | St. Vincent | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1908-1909 |
| 626 | Jamaica | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | " |
| 627 | Swaziland | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | " |
| 628 | Grenada | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1908 |
| 629 | Leeward Islands | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1908-1909 |
| 630 | Southern Nigeria | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1908 |
| 631 | British Honduras | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | " |
| 632 | British Guiana | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1908-1909 |
| 633 | Northern Nigeria | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | " |
| 634 | Basutoland | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | " |
| 635 | East Africa Protectorate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | " |
| 636 | Uganda | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | " |
| 637 | Weihaiwei | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1909 |
| 638 | St. Helena | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | " |
| 639 | Northern Territories of the Gold Coast | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | " |
| 640 | Ashanti | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | " |
| 641 | Gambia | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | " |
| 642 | Malta | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1909-1910 |
| 643 | Seychelles | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1909 |
| 644 | Colonial Survey Committee | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1909-1910 |
| 645 | Falkland Islands | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | " |
| 646 | Turks and Caicos Islands | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1909 |
| 647 | Gibraltar | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | " |
| 648 | Sierra Leone | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | " |
| 649 | Somaliland | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1909-1910 |
| 650 | Bahamas | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | " |
| 651 | Tongan Islands Protectorate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | " |
| 652 | Bechuanaland Protectorate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | " |
| 653 | Ceylon | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1909 |
| 654 | Gold Coast | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | " |
| 655 | Nyasaland | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1909-1910 |
| 656 | Imperial Institute | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1909 |
| 657 | Fiji | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | " |
| 658 | Grenada | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | " |
| 659 | Hong Kong | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | " |
| 660 | Barbados | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1909-1910 |

MISCELLANEOUS.

| No. | Colony, &c. | | | | | | Subject. |
|-----|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
| 64 | Uganda | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Botany and Forestry. |
| 65 | Do. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Sleeping Sickness. |
| 66 | Gold Coast | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Forests. |
| 67 | Southern Nigeria | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Mineral Survey, 1905-6. |
| 68 | Do. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Do. 1906-7. |
| 69 | St. Helena | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Fisheries. |
| 70 | Colonies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c. |
| 71 | Imperial Institute | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Foodstuffs. |
| 72 | Fiji | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Hurricane, 1910. |
| 73 | Jamaica | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Cayman Islands. |
| 74 | Ceylon | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Mineral Surveys, 1906-7 and 1907-8. |