

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 652.

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

REPORT FOR 1909-10.

(For Report for 1908-9, see No. 614.)

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



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No. 652.

**BECHUANALAND PRO-
TECTORATE.**(For Report for 1908-9, *see* No. 614.)

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO THE SECRETARY
OF STATE.

High Commissioner's Office,

Johannesburg,

August 15, 1910.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a copy of a report from the Government Secretary, Mafeking, on the Bechuanaland Protectorate for the year 1909-1910.

I have, &c.,

GLADSTONE,

High Commissioner.

The Right Honourable

The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,

&c.,

&c.,

&c.

REPORT ON THE BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE
FOR THE YEAR 1909-1910.

FINANCIAL.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The total revenue collected during the year ended the 31st of March, 1910, amounted to £49,788 and the expenditure incurred during the same period totalled £65,268. These figures show a closer approximation between revenue and expenditure than has been attained since the establishment of the Administration of the Protectorate.

The following table shows the revenue collected during the past five years:—

—	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.	1908-9.	1909-10.
	£	£	£	£	£
Customs	9,764	9,821	10,534	8,972	10,543
Hut Tax... ..	11,268	11,606	13,526	25,656	29,980
Licences	2,515	2,716	2,375	2,912	2,473
Revenue Stamps	246	232	461	385	367
Posts	3,387	3,350	3,238	3,074	4,879
Sales of Government Property	310	340	231	64	142
Sundries	1,163	982	1,198	987	1,404
Total	28,653	29,047	31,563	42,050	49,788

The large increase in revenue which the figures for the year 1909-10 show may, especially so far as hut tax is concerned, be attributed to the exceptionally good season of the previous year. The possession of grain in excess of their requirements, capable of being changed into money, was an experience which had not been enjoyed by the natives in most parts of the Protectorate for many years, and it is much to their credit that the immediate effect of the windfall should be a large increase in the hut tax paid by them, including a very satisfactory payment on account of arrears. Of the increase under the head "Posts" a sum of £70 is accounted for by growth in the sale of postage stamps, the balance being attributable to increased receipts from transit dues on postal matter in transit to and from the north. In this connection the Postmaster-General states: "The substantial increase in revenue was mainly due to the adjustments of the payments received from other Administrations for the conveyance of mails consequent upon the final acceptance of the statistics taken universally in November, 1907."

Under the head "Sundries" it may be noted that a sum of £193 7s. 7d. was received as transfer duty—at the rate of 2 per cent. on the purchase price—in respect of farms sold by the

British South Africa Company in the three blocks of land held by them as private individuals in the Protectorate. This represents the first direct contribution to the revenue of the Protectorate from the land in question, which aggregates 1,377,670 acres in extent.

The expenditure incurred during to past five years is shown in the following table:—

—	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.	1908-9.	1909-10.
	£	£	£	£	£
Pensions... ..	576	550	565	908	1,092
Resident Commissioner ...	3 608	3,644	3,854	3,854	4,042
Legal	1,588	1,511	1,305	1,720	1,077
District Administration ...	3,331	3,492	3,368	3,584	3,999
Posts	2,490	2,546	2,500	2,492	2,640
Customs	241	240	240	270	218
Police	33,325	35,040	38,580	39,559	37,832
Miscellaneous	3,384	3,416	3,407	5,807	6,119
Public Works Recurrent ...	1,860	1,710	1,839	2,081	2,298
Public Works Extraordinary ...	1,683	1,902	2,753	3,877	1,857
Medical	826	404	354	696	494
Railway Subsidy	20 000	20,000	15,000	8,333	—
Demarcation of boundary ...	359	—	—	—	—
Education	823	813	850	1,000	999
Veterinary	689	721	793	1,039	2,601
High Commissioner's Visit ...	—	1,122	—	—	—
Locust Destruction	—	—	443	581	—
Total	74,783	77,111	75,851	75,801	65,268

With the disappearance of the item "Railway Subsidy," which for long figured largely in the annual statement, the figures for the year 1909-10 may be regarded as representing the normal expenditure of the Protectorate. An item which, from its magnitude, draws attention, and under which some reduction will probably be effected, is "Police," but from its vast extent and the unhealthiness of its climate in the summer months, the territory will always be a difficult and expensive country to police; and the duty of guarding its border against the introduction of east coast fever, which, owing to the successful stamping out of the disease in Matabeleland and in parts of the Transvaal, at one time appeared likely to cease to make the great call it does on the police force, has unfortunately once more assumed a position of paramount importance owing to recrudescence of the plague. The growth of expenditure under the head "Miscellaneous" is accounted for by the fact that the commission of 10 per cent. on hut tax collected, which, under the provisions of Proclamation No. 10 of 1899, and subsequently No. 9 of 1909, is paid to the paramount chiefs, is included in this item.

Of the sum of £2,601 spent under the head "Veterinary" no less than £1,440 was devoted to special measures taken for the eradication of pleuro-pneumonia, which for years has been the great scourge among the cattle of the Protectorate.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The assets of the Protectorate, which on the 31st of March, 1909, exceeded the liabilities by £6,788, increased considerably during the year, and on the 31st of March, 1910, there was an excess over liabilities of no less than £15,463.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Bechuanaland Protectorate has no public debt, the annual deficiency being met by an Imperial grant-in-aid. This grant, which for the previous year had amounted to £39,000 was reduced during the year 1909-1910 to £25,000.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The new works undertaken during the year were neither numerous nor important. They comprised additions to court house, hospital, police barracks, and gaol at Gaberones; additions to gaol and police quarters at Francistown; and additions to police quarters at Kanye. A sum of £1,000 was spent on extending the Protectorate-Transvaal border fence along the Marico River to its junction with the Crocodile. Very considerable difficulties have been met with in the construction of this fence along the river, owing to the nature of the ground, which is cut into numberless ravines running into the Marico, and in consequence of the dense bush which abounds. Unfortunately, too, it has been found that after the fence has been erected it requires constant repair. The large number of native cattle which are found all along the Marico River, in which they are watered through gates erected in the fence at intervals for the purpose, are responsible to a great extent for the damage done, but there are other causes, and among them may be mentioned herds of koodoo, which in places frequently break through the fence.

LEGISLATION.

The following proclamations were issued during the year 1909-10 by the High Commissioner for South Africa.

- No. 14, 6th May, 1909.—Amending the Large Game Preservation Proclamation, 1904.
- No. 22, 23rd August, 1909.—Making provision to regulate the removal of cattle from place to place.
- No. 25, 20th September, 1909.—Prohibiting the introduction, without permission, of cattle, sheep, and goats, from North-Western Rhodesia.
- No. 28, 3rd November, 1909.—Establishing and defining a reserve for the Bamalete tribe.

- No. 35, 8th December, 1909.—Amending Proclamation of the 10th June, 1891, and Proclamation No. 18 of 1897.
- No. 36, 22nd December, 1909.—Removing doubts as to the extent of the application of the laws of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope to the Protectorate under the provisions of Section 19 of Proclamation of the 10th June, 1891.
- No. 2, 20th January, 1910.—Providing for the formation, registration, and management of Co-operative Agricultural Societies.

These Proclamations do not contain legislation of any special interest or great importance, but the utility, from an administrative point of view, of some of the measures is considerable. As regards the establishment and definition of the Bamalete reserve, this does not indicate that a new area has been set aside for the use and occupation of the natives. The Bamalete tribe have always lived on the land comprised in the proclaimed reserve, but its boundaries were not defined pending the settlement of a number of questions which depended upon the actual marking off of certain land concessions bordering the reserve.

On the 10th of January, 1910, an Order in Council was issued vesting in the High Commissioner for South Africa all the land situated within the Protectorate and elsewhere than in the Tati District, except land included in the native reserves the subject of grants already made, and certain forty-one farms held by individual members of the Barolong tribe. The area thus constituted Crown Lands is of immense extent. It comprises nearly half the Protectorate, and contains more than one hundred thousand square miles. The greater portion of it lies in the Kalahari and is waterless, at least so far as surface water is concerned; and vast areas included in it have never been traversed by white men, whose movements have been mainly restricted to the few routes which the presence of water here and there renders passable for wagon transport. "Even by the best known and most used of such routes travelling presents great difficulty, and "thirsts," as stretches without water are locally called, extending to nearly 100 miles are met with. The danger and toil experienced in getting a heavy ox-wagon across a "thirst" of even 80 miles may be imagined, when it is remembered that on a good road the rate of travel does not exceed three miles an hour, and that in the heavy sand which is everywhere found in the Kalahari the speed is scarcely half this. The method adopted is to proceed as far as it is possible to do during two consecutive nights, and then, abandoning the wagon, to drive the oxen back hurriedly to the water. After a rest they are taken back to the wagon and the journey is continued for another stage, when the animals are once more taken back to the water from which they started, or forward to that at the opposite end of the "thirst," if that is the nearer.

And yet, notwithstanding the absence of water, the country is not a desert in appearance. Grass grows luxuriantly during the summer rains, and at all times of the year is abundant, while bush and trees are met with everywhere. The rainfall probably

averages over ten inches a year and, as the country contains no rivers to carry it off there must, it would seem, be stores of underground water which, if successfully tapped, would render the Kalahari capable of carrying stock in large numbers.

EDUCATION.

Education is mainly in the hands of the London Missionary Society, to whom a grant of £500 per annum is made in consideration of services rendered by them. The Dutch Reformed Church some years ago established a Mission in the Bakhatla Reserve and has schools in Mochudi, the chief native town, and at other places in that reserve. The annual grant in aid of education made to this denomination is £150. The Administration also contributes a sum of £150 per annum to the Tiger Kloof Institution, which was established a few years ago by the London Missionary Society, near Vryburg, with the object of imparting technical instruction to the Bechuanas both of the Cape Colony and Protectorate. The idea is to give, in addition to a moderate amount of book learning, a sound practical knowledge of elementary carpentry and masonry to the boys. There is no intention of so equipping them as to make them rivals of European artisans, but to enable them to meet the requirements of their own people, among whom an inclination to substitute buildings of European appearance for the picturesque native huts has for long been noticeable, particularly in parts where they are brought most closely in touch with civilization. In consideration of the grant the Society agreed to accept twelve pupils from the Protectorate free of charge. From the first the Protectorate natives have been alive to the advantages offered them at Tiger Kloof, and there has never been any lack of candidates for vacancies as they occur.

There is an excellent little school for European children at Serowe, Khama's Town, to which the Government makes a grant of £100; and to a Railway School at Artesia a contribution of £30 was made during the year.

By arrangement with the Government of Basutoland the Inspector of Education of that Territory visits the Bechuanaland Protectorate once a year and inspects the various schools.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total value of imports during the year 1909 was £96,096, being an increase of £5,258 over that of the previous year. Of this total no less a sum than £34,904 represents the value of the products and manufactures of South Africa which, with the exception of spirits, are admitted duty free, to the benefit, it is to be hoped, of the consumers, but entailing great sacrifice of revenue. Steady increase in the importation of South African

products accounts for the fact that receipts from Customs have not grown as they should have done in view of the general progress of the Territory during the past few years. Among the articles produced in South Africa imported during the year may be mentioned, candles valued at £203; beer valued at £1,207; brandy £1,034; sugar £2,711; tea £382; wine £216; boots and shoes £1,028; matches £239; soap £865; tobacco of all kinds £1,434; and vehicles £6,540. These items have almost superseded similar dutiable articles imported from oversea.

Exports during the year were valued, according to figures given by the South African Customs Statistical Bureau, at £123,627, but to these must be added the value of 1,900 head of cattle, estimated at £8,000, exported from the Protectorate, in connection with which no returns were rendered to the Bureau. The total value of exports amounts, therefore, to £131,627, being an increase of £42,089 over that of the year before. Among the exports appear, grain valued at £20,625; meat £15,443; hides and skins £5,915; and gold, from the Tati District, £55,619.

AGRICULTURE.

The season of 1909-10 was what has come to be considered a normal one. There were no general persistent rains as during the previous year, but occasional thunder showers preserved the crops from destruction, and in most parts of the country a harvest of some sort was reaped.

Locusts were conspicuous by their absence, and it was unnecessary to spend anything of the sum of £500 provided for their destruction. So far as is known (and reports were received regularly) only one swarm was seen during the year. It entered the Protectorate from the south, and was doubtless soon annihilated by its natural enemies, for it was never heard of again.

The campaign against pleuro-pneumonia or lungsickness, as the disease is generally known in South Africa, to which reference was made in the last annual report, was continued during the year with great energy and with gratifying results. The home of the disease is in the Bamangwato Reserve, particularly in and around Serowe, and it was there that the greatest effort was made to stamp it out by the destruction of infected and the inoculation of healthy cattle. Unfortunately the disease is carried by "lungers" which cannot be detected while alive and may have recovered from an attack many months or even years before. It is accordingly impossible in all cases to guard against infection, which not infrequently occurs at immense distances from any existing outbreak of the disease; but this difficulty, the greatest perhaps in the way of the eradication of lungsickness, will gradually diminish as the old lungers are killed or die, for their places will not be filled—no animals now being allowed to recover from the disease. Thus during the year infection was carried, although in this instance it does not appear that a "lunger" was to blame, from Shoshong in the Bamangwato

country to Molepolole, the chief town in the Bakwena Reserve. It was also taken, undoubtedly by a "lunger," into N'gamiland, where, owing to the prompt measures taken by the Magistrate, who was most warmly supported by the Chief Mathiba, it was fortunately stamped out before obtaining a hold on the country. Subsequently another outbreak also attributable to a "lunger" occurred on the Lake Road, but providentially before N'gamiland was reached. This outbreak caused a great deal of trouble and much loss, owing to the fact that scarcity of water rendered it imperative that all the animals in the vicinity of a pit or water hole should be watered at the same place. The not infrequent appearance of lungsickness among cattle on the way to the Lake is generally thought to be explained by the fact that, should there be a "lunger" in the "span," he is not unlikely to suffer a relapse of the disease, which is sufficient to infect the other animals, owing to the strain involved by the labour of dragging the wagon through the heavy sand. The outbreak at Molepolole was a severe and unexpected blow. It came when the work of dealing with the disease at Serowe was at its height; it meant the re-introduction of lungsickness into the Southern Protectorate, which for two or three years has been entirely free from it; and it threatened to prove formidable, for the disease had acquired a strong hold on the native herds before it was discovered. Immediate steps were taken for its suppression, and so successful were they that within a few months the Bakwena Reserve was once more entirely clean, and there were no lungers to spread infection elsewhere. The cost, including compensation for affected animals destroyed, was approximately £150. This result was in striking contrast with what had occurred a few years before when there was an outbreak of lungsickness in the adjoining Bangwaketse Reserve. On that occasion the Administration proclaimed and maintained a strict quarantine, but within its limits, which were frequently extended, no compulsion was put upon the natives as to treatment of their cattle and, although the advice and assistance of the Government Veterinary Officer were always at their disposal, they preferred to deal with the matter in their own inadequate and unsatisfactory way. In consequence the disease smouldered for two years, destroying several hundred head of cattle, and necessitating the maintenance at great cost of a strong police guard for all that time.

As the result of the year's work it may be asserted that the disease of pleuro-pneumonia has been brought under complete control; and, with the continued co-operation of the Chief Khama and his people, who have most loyally assisted the Administration in its efforts, there is great hope that its total eradication from the Protectorate will in time be effected. For the progress already made great credit is due to Mr. W. H. Chase, F.R.C.V.S., Government Veterinary Officer, to Lieut. Fernleigh, who has devoted his whole time and attention to the matter, and to the various Stock Inspectors and Inoculators who have been engaged in the work.

It is to be regretted that, while one great scourge has thus been successfully attacked, another, and an infinitely greater, the

disease of east coast fever, has assumed a more threatening attitude towards the Protectorate. It is true that it has not succeeded in finding an entrance, but its recent reappearance in Matabeleland, which had for long been regarded as free, and its spread in the Western Transvaal, notwithstanding all efforts made for its suppression, have increased the danger to a material degree. There has appeared, too, in connection with one or two recent outbreaks a feature which causes no little apprehension, viz., the distance of the fresh outbreak from any known source of infection, and the consequent difficulty of accounting for the appearance of the disease by the movement of infected bovines, by which means it was at one time believed that it could alone be carried.

GENERAL.

The health of the inhabitants generally was good during the year 1909-10. There were no outbreaks of serious infectious diseases, while malarial fever, which during the previous year had been so prevalent, reverted in its incidence to normal proportions. The feared appearance of sleeping sickness in N'gamiland referred to in last year's report has not been verified. A native was met with by the Magistrate in the North Eastern portion of the district who had been ill, he said, for eighteen months, and who showed symptoms pointing to sleeping sickness. In particular he appeared to experience great difficulty in keeping awake, falling asleep even while in the middle of a conversation. On the other hand there was no enlargement of the glands of his neck, and a blood smear taken from him was found, on examination by Doctor Moffat, at Bulawayo, to contain no signs of trypanosomes. During the year a considerable number of flies of different kinds, caught in N'gamiland, have been sent to the British Museum, but in no case has a specimen of *glossina palpalis* been found among them. In consequence, however, of the seriousness of the matter authority was granted for the temporary appointment of a Medical Officer at Lake N'gami to fully investigate any cases suspected of being sleeping sickness, and to determine, if possible, the question as to whether or no the disease actually exists in the country. Doctor W. R. W. James, who has served in Uganda and who has had experience of the disease, was selected for the appointment, and is at the present time on his way to N'gamiland.

During March last Lord Selborne visited Mafeking, where he wished to meet the Protectorate Chiefs, who had come here for the purpose, prior to relinquishing the Office of High Commissioner for South Africa. All the paramount chiefs, with the exception of Mathiba of N'gamiland, were present, and they were accompanied by a large number of their headmen. In his address in reply to speeches made by each of the chiefs, His Excellency, after congratulating them on the successful settlement of various questions which on a previous visit had been discussed, and on the noticeable absence of complaints from the

words which each had said, proceeded to put very clearly to them the effect which the Union of South Africa would have on the Protectorate. The High Commissioner explained that the transfer of the Protectorate to the Union Government would not take place in the immediate future, that indeed it was impossible to say how long it might be before the country was handed over, but that in the natural course of things it would take place some day. He said the question was "is it possible that the native territories could be governed by a separate Administration? For the time it would be possible, but would it be possible as a permanency? Each chief could answer this for himself. I ask you what you would say if in your country there were a group of villages under the control of other Chiefs. The Imperial Government thought that for the time being the existing arrangement would be satisfactory, but it could not be so permanently, and the decision which has been come to is this, that it is for the good of the Protectorate and in the interest of South Africa as a whole that your country should take its part in the Union of South Africa." His Excellency then proceeded to explain how their interests had been safeguarded by the provisions contained in the Schedule to the Union.

The Chiefs of the Protectorate and the more intelligent of the people understand the matter clearly, but there is no doubt that they dislike intensely the idea of being handed over to the Union. They are well satisfied with the existing form of administration, which is suited to their simple requirements, and they dread a change which, explain it as you will, they are certain will not improve their position and may, they fear, affect their interests injuriously.

If it be true that "happy is the country which has no history" the Bechuanaland Protectorate has been singularly fortunate during the past few years. Scarcely an event has occurred to disturb the peaceful existence of the people, who, once more rich in cattle, secured for all time in the possession of their Reserves, and ruled as they desire to be in local and domestic matters by the respective paramount chiefs, are happy and contented, and show their appreciation by their undoubted loyalty to the British Crown and their ready obedience to the orders of the Administration.

BARRY MAY,
Government Secretary.

Resident Commissioner's Office,
Mafeking,
23rd July, 1910.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

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