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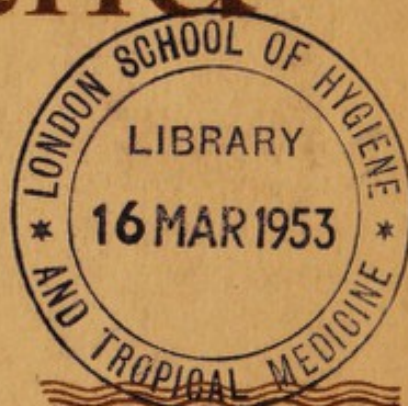
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COLONIAL REPORTS

# Nyasaland

# 1951



LONDON: HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1953

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PROTECTORATE  
NYASALAND  
REPORT ON THE  
FOR THE YEAR 1951

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## PART I

### Review of 1951.

THE year 1951 marked the Diamond Jubilee of the Protectorate and during this Jubilee year the great constitutional change embodied in the proposals for the closer association of Nyasaland with Northern and Southern Rhodesia was the subject of discussion throughout the Protectorate. A Conference of Officials of the three Central African Governments, of the Central African Council and of the Commonwealth Relations Office and the Colonial Office was held in London during March. A Report issued by the Conference in June unanimously recommended that closer association of the three territories should be brought about and that the need for it was urgent. It recommended that this should be done, not by amalgamation, but on a federal basis, and it put forward in some detail a scheme designed to take particular account of the Central African situation, including the self-governing status of Southern Rhodesia, and to provide substantial safeguards for the interests of Africans. Moreover, the proposals in the report reserved to the Territorial Governments and Legislatures all the services which intimately affect African life and development.

In August the Secretary of State for the Colonies (The Rt. Hon. James Griffiths, M.P.) visited Nyasaland for discussions on the Report for Closer Association, and during his short stay was able to exchange views with all sections of the community prior to the joint Central African Conference which was held at the Victoria Falls in September; the Nyasaland delegation to this Conference included three representatives of the African Protectorate Council. This Conference issued a final communiqué on 21st September; it stated, *inter alia*, that points of difference had been found to exist with regard to the principle of federation as well as to the proposals made in the Report of the London Conference, and that it had become evident that further discussions within each territory and exchanges of views between the four Governments would be necessary. The Conference had, therefore, adjourned with the hope of reassembling in London about the middle of 1952.

The Conference agreed that if any form of closer association should eventually be decided upon, certain rights should be enshrined as an integral part of the constitution. The first of these rights was that the protectorate status of the two northern territories should be accepted and preserved. The Conference recorded that this excluded any consideration, now or in the future, of amalgamation of the three territories unless a majority of the inhabitants of all three territories desired it.

The second right was that land and land settlement questions in Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia must remain as at present (subject to the ultimate authority of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom) the responsibility of the Government and Legislature in each territory and not of any federal authority, and that the land rights of the African people in Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia must remain secure in accordance with the existing Orders-in-Council. The third right was that the political advancement of the people of Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia, both in local and territorial Government, must remain as at present (subject to the ultimate authority of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom), the responsibility of the Government and Legislature in each territory and not of any federal authority. On 21st November the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Rt. Hon. Oliver Lyttelton, D.S.O., M.C., M.P., stated in the House of Commons that His Majesty's Government were convinced of the urgent need to secure the closer association of the three Central Africa Territories, and that they believed that this would be best achieved by federation. He said that His Majesty's Government, having studied the statement issued at the conclusion of the Victoria Falls Conference, were in full agreement with it, and endorsed the hope that the Conference would re-assemble in London about the middle of 1952. He also stated the intention of His Majesty's Government to do all they could to help ensure that the intervening period would be used to advantage for necessary discussions in Central Africa.

It was appropriate that the year which marked the Diamond Jubilee of the Protectorate should have produced a bumper harvest of food crops, a harvest which made the severe drought conditions which prevailed in the early months of 1950 a mere unhappy memory yet a timely warning. The food position shows every prospect of further improvement in 1952. The recovery from famine conditions was most marked in the case of maize and beans, the staple food crops of a majority of the African inhabitants of the Protectorate. A record surplus of these crops was available in 1951, and of the 28,550 tons of maize purchased by the Maize Control Board (compared with 10,420 tons in 1950) it was possible to export a considerable tonnage to Southern Rhodesia to alleviate shortages there. Other food crops, including rice, cassava, pulses and groundnuts made a less remarkable but nevertheless a steady recovery.

Throughout the year every effort was made to increase still further the quantity and improve the quality of food crops, insisting all the while on the obvious advantages, both economic and dietetic, of the production of a greater variety of such crops by the African peasant farmer. The adequate weeding of the 1950-51 crops and the early preparation of gardens for the sowing of the 1951-52 crops were also matters which received the close attention of all field staff and with encouraging results. Throughout the Protectorate the preparation of gardens towards the end of 1951 was carried out with alacrity and

there were few farmers who were not ready to set seed at the onset of the rains in December.

The increase in the production of economic crops went hand in hand with that of food crops. The production of some 25 million pounds of fire-cured tobacco constituted a record. Together with 11 million pounds of other varieties the total production for 1951 of 36 million pounds represented a  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent increase over 1950 production which had itself constituted a record. The number of African Trust Land growers decreased by some 10 per cent, a direct result of the extension of the system of registration of growers. The excellent response during 1950 to the propaganda drive for the erection of prototype tobacco pit barns which resulted in the construction of some 70,000, did not unfortunately achieve the hoped for improvement in the standard of curing owing to the speed at which the 1951 crop ripened and the severe demands which were made on curing space as a result. The fall in the auction floor price of fire-cured leaf during 1951 made an improvement in the standard of curing essential and it is hoped that the full benefit of the new pit barns will be felt in 1952. This fall in price and the consequent need to reduce the price to the grower was philosophically received by African Trust Land farmers, and to offset this reduction in their income many tobacco growers, in the areas where cotton soil exists, planted cotton in place of or in addition to their tobacco crop during December.

The year under review closed with a strong drive for the increased production of cotton in all suitable areas. Indications during December were that propaganda was having its desired effect, that the acreage under cultivation in 1952 would increase considerably and that the disappointing 1951 crop of only 2,400 tons of seed cotton (compared with 6,570 tons in 1950 and 9,180 tons in 1948) would be greatly improved upon. The principal areas affected are the Karonga, Kota Kota, Dowa and Dedza lakeshore, the lower lying portions of the Ncheu District and the Lower River area.

The most important marketing development in 1951 was the establishment of a Cotton Marketing Board to handle the African Trust Land cotton crop. The field staff, devoted its activities to increasing the production of Trust Land cotton. A Grading Inspector was appointed for the first time in 1951 by the Tobacco Control Commission; he performed a valuable service in maintaining an improved standard of grading, so vital in the competitive conditions which prevailed in the tobacco market during the period under review.

Production of tea continued to increase during 1951. Exports for the tea year ended 31st March, 1951 totalled 15,947,136 pounds, an increase of nearly two million pounds over the previous year. There were at the beginning of 1951 23,500 acres under tea cultivation. Work on the Tea Experimental Station at Mimosa continued, 50 acres of tea were planted and a further 30 acres were made ready for planting. Additional nurseries were also established. The production of tung is estimated to have declined somewhat during the 1951 season,

but the experimental work at the Tung Research Station continued without interruption.

Investigations were made into the possibility of growing sugar on the Lower Shire plains during 1951, an area of some 25,000 acres at Alimenda being thought suitable. Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell and Company Ltd. were invited to examine the area in question and were sufficiently impressed to draw up plans for the establishment of a large estate. The firm decided to carry out experiments on trial plots.

Extensive maize variety trials were carried out at Chitedzi, the Central Research Station near Lilongwe. Hybridisation of maize was carried one stage further by securing from Southern Rhodesia a promising variety of double hybrid maize. One hundred and twenty acres of this variety will be grown on the Government Food Farm at Rivi Rivi during the 1951-52 season. Preliminary investigations into the possibilities of farming the largely unoccupied plateaux in the Northern Province—the Nyika and the Vipya—revealed that the former is probably more suited to softwood afforestation while the Vipya soils are generally more suited to stock farming on an extensive scale.

1951 was a year of exceptional progress in soil conservation. Increased European staff, the successful regular functioning of Provincial and District Natural Resources Boards and the availability of soil conservation legislation enforceable in the Native Authority Courts all contributed to a successful year in this respect. A total of 15,544 miles of bunds were constructed during the year of which 6,400 miles were in the Northern Province. Native Authority courts worked at full pressure throughout the year enforcing soil conservation legislation, but the number of defaulters may well be expected to decrease next year as the African peasant cultivator becomes more familiar with the standards required and appreciates to a greater extent the absolute necessity of taking immediate steps to preserve his soil for posterity.

The Makwapala Training Centre for African Agricultural Staff functioned successfully throughout the year and a plan was drawn up to run the school as a combined agricultural and veterinary training centre. A portion of the farm was set aside as a demonstration European mixed farm.

The most fundamental object of agricultural policy is to raise the fertility of the soil by evolving a permanent pattern of African farming. With this purpose demonstrations of mixed farming took place during 1951 at Mbawa, Tuchita and Namalange and encouragement was given to pilot group farms in the Northern and Central Provinces. Correct land usage involving the control of the pressure of stock and population, was promoted under the guidance of the various Natural Resources Boards. Thus the funds available under the Colonial Development and Welfare scheme for general agricultural development were well spent during 1951 in preserving and raising the fertility of the soil of what is primarily an agricultural country.

The three Provincial Livestock Centres made good progress during the year. A number of pigs, sheep and poultry became available for distribution to extension centres and to suitable African farmers, while experiments continued towards the selection of better types of cattle. The serious drop in the Protectorate's livestock population revealed by the 1950 census, a direct effect of the drought, was to some extent rectified during the year under review. 1951 was in fact a favourable year for stock, and the census revealed an increase of 6 per cent over 1950 in the cattle population of the Protectorate and of 30 per cent in the sheep population. The demand for meat continued to increase throughout the year and supply consistently failed to keep pace. No major epidemics occurred during the year. Tick-borne diseases were effectively controlled by the weekly dipping of all cattle but the incidence increased somewhat towards the end of the year due to the humid conditions brought about by the early rains. The various development projects began in 1951 to produce results. Of particular interest was the start made with the construction of hide and skin drying sheds throughout the Protectorate. This measure it hoped will serve to secure a high quality product for what is rapidly becoming a considerable rural export industry. The Tanning Unit at Lilongwe extended its activities to cope with the increasing demand on the part of Africans for a cheap supply of leather. In an endeavour to alleviate the shortages of meat in the Southern Province an over-land route for slaughter stock was surveyed from the Northern Province to the railhead at Salima. Excellent progress was made in the construction of the research laboratory at Mpemba, equipment was ordered and a start was made with the recruitment of staff.

The Forestry Department, despite shortage of staff, increased the area under Government plantations from 4,791 acres to 5,890 acres during the first four months of the year. Of this area, 3,016 acres have been planted since the beginning of the development scheme in 1948. Softwood plantings on the Vipya Plateau grew well and a further 25 acres of softwoods were successfully established on Nchisi Mountain in the Kota Kota District. The extraction from Mlanje Mountain of cedar timber, the most important type for the Protectorate's building industry, was taken over in January, 1951, by the Nyasaland Plywood Co. Ltd. Up to the end of October 49,701 cubic feet had been delivered by the Company to the Public Works Department. The Construction and the Investment Co. of Nyasaland Ltd. continued the work of extracting Mlanje cedar from Zomba Plateau, while the Forestry Department produced sawn building timber from Dedza and Zomba Mountain on a small scale. An interesting innovation during 1951 was the erection for the Nyasaland Plywood Co. of an aerial ropeway on Mlanje Mountain to facilitate the extraction of timber. Two Swiss engineers undertook the construction and work was begun on a similar ropeway on Zomba Mountain.

Game, fish and tsetse control are dealt with under a single department. As in previous years, game control activities were, during

1951, mainly confined to the elimination of crop-marauding animals and resulted in the destruction of some 23,400 head, the vast majority of which were pig and baboon. Protection against man-eating lion and leopard and against elephant was given whenever necessary within the limits imposed by shortage of staff. A considerable amount of work was done on realigning and redefining the boundaries of the game reserves, while the Department also began extension work in crop protection by encouraging the Native Authorities to employ hunting and netting teams of their own to maintain the position established after initial drives by the Department's teams.

Fishing, both African and non-African, continued normally throughout the year. Efforts to increase African activity persisted, supported by the bulk sale of good gill-net twine to African fishermen. A considerable increase in this type of fishing resulted. The destruction of crocodiles in defence of the industry continued.

The survey of the distribution and ecology of the tsetse fly in the Protectorate continued throughout the year. This work is financed from the Research Allocation of the Colonial Development and Welfare funds. The greater part of the belts in the Southern Province have now been surveyed, and also the more important agricultural areas in the Central Province.

The lack of accurate vital statistics in respect of the African population makes it difficult to determine the trends taking place. The population is, however, increasing and was estimated to be 2,392,031 at the end of 1951. The proportionate increase continues to be greater among the European and Asian sections of the community due to the maintenance of a high birth rate and to steady immigration. The European population is now 4,073 and the Asian population 5,248.

The tendency of traders to carry heavy stocks, particularly of piece goods and other African consumer items, which was noted in 1950, continued in 1951. Although European trade was moderately buoyant, sales to the African were depressed, mainly due to the steady rise in prices throughout the year and to the reduced prices which the African received for his tobacco crop. Europeans and Asians still handled most of the trade but with the development of the co-operative movement the African is progressively discovering the possibility of participating in the commercial life of the Protectorate.

Trade expansion continued during 1951, though to a lesser extent than in previous post-war years, as a result of heavy tobacco and tea crops and further development by both Government and commercial concerns. The value of imports, including Government imports and excluding bullion and specie, decreased from £7,543,323 in 1950 to £7,293,756 in 1951, while the value of exports, excluding bullion and specie but including re-exports, showed an increase over 1950 of £846,602, standing for the year under review at £5,898,663. Large non-recurrent imports of machinery and equipment for development projects again occurred during 1951 but against this must be set the

increased value of exported agricultural produce, particularly tea, tobacco and maize. Of the total value of imports the United Kingdom provided 48.6 per cent (in 1950 46.2 per cent), the rest of the Commonwealth 23.5 per cent (in 1950 28.6 per cent) and foreign countries 27.9 per cent (in 1950 25.2 per cent).

The cost of living continued to rise steadily throughout the year and Government found it necessary to award a further cost-of-living allowance to its staff. As many consumer goods have to be imported into the Protectorate, and as they are subject to the world price rise, the Protectorate's position is an unhappy one in this respect.

During the year 12 new co-operative societies were registered but an equal number of existing societies went into liquidation. The total number of registered societies remained 71, of which 53 were located in the Northern Province. The 26 dairy societies grouped in two unions in the Northern Province flourished and in mid-year one of the unions reached peak production of ghee at the rate of 4,000 lb. per month. The two coffee-producing societies at Nchenachena and Misuku had a successful year and increased their plantings. A new departure in co-operative development was the establishment at Zomba in November of the first European consumer society.

The most important development in the sphere of communications during 1951 was the coming into regular service on 25th July of the new Nyasaland Railways vessel the *Ilala II*. On 8th October the Universities Mission to Central Africa steamer *Chauncy Maples* celebrated her jubilee by completing 50 years of strenuous lake service. During 1951 the Nyasaland Railways carried a greater tonnage of imports and exports than ever before. The 228,671 tons of goods traffic carried over the section of line served by Nyasaland Railways was nearly four times greater than in 1939 and 20,000 tons more than in 1950.

The severe congestion of shipping at the port of Beira noted last year was alleviated to a great extent during 1951, but excessive rain during December held up the discharge of cargo and once again caused severe congestion which it is not expected will be relieved until the middle of 1952.

The Central African Airways Corporation, jointly financed by the Governments of Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, continued to provide all regional and internal air services. The internal services were expanded in November by the inauguration of a Beaver aircraft service between Chileka and Mzimba. Viking aircraft operated a weekly tourist service between Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, and Salima, and a similar service of Dove aircraft operated on a weekly basis throughout the season between Northern Rhodesia and Salima.

Schemes for the development of aeronautical telecommunications and for the development of a meteorological service were drawn up during the early part of the year. A considerable reorganisation of the aeronautical telecommunications service took place and day-long

radio-telephone communication with Salisbury and other Rhodesian centres was established. With effect from April the Protectorate became responsible for the payment of its meteorological staff and for provisioning major stores items, technical direction of the service remaining, however, with Salisbury.

Road construction under contract, comprising the sections from Limbe to Mlanje, Limbe to Zomba and Blantyre to Chileka, again made disappointing progress during 1951. Some seven miles of full-width tarmac carriageway were constructed and some 12 miles of bituminous-surfaced road. A large programme of such road construction covering the period 1951-55 has been drawn up, financed partly from Colonial Development and Welfare grants and partly from Protectorate funds. The disappointing progress on these roads during 1951 was due not only to a shortage of crushed stone but also to the necessity of deepening the base course over a considerable stretch of road. It is anticipated that better progress will be made now that new plant has come into production. The Colonial Development Corporation entered into a contract with Government for the construction of sections of the Nkata Bay-Kaningina Road in the Northern Province. Work commenced in May, 1951.

During 1951 the Posts and Telecommunications Department made rapid progress. Much of the equipment purchased from development expenditure approved in 1950 was delivered, European staff recruitment was practically completed and as a result the year saw the introduction of new methods, equipment and facilities which combined to improve the extent and quality of services generally. The total value of postal transactions increased by some £200,000 to £1,200,000, a reflection of the steady increase in Post Office business, the issue of a special edition of stamps to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the Protectorate and an increase in the internal postage rates. The Postal Training School at Zomba had a steady complement of some 30 students throughout the year, but the Department still suffered from a shortage of trained African staff. Four new post offices and eleven new postal agencies were opened during the year, and savings bank and money order facilities were extended in all three Provinces. On the engineering side the telephone service between Nyasaland and Southern Rhodesia, opened in November, 1950, was in 1951 extended to the Union of South Africa and to Beira. Additional internal trunk lines were established and a major project was completed in December with the opening of a modern very high frequency radio trunk route between Zomba and Lilongwe. The equipment used for this project is unaffected by tropical storms and is the first of its kind to be used in Central Africa. The quality of transmission is high and conforms to European standards.

The development of electrical services was somewhat hampered by shortage of staff, both European and African. Work began on the new power station for the Blantyre-Limbe electricity scheme and some progress was made on the hydro-electrical scheme to serve the Zomba

Township. The Fort Johnston generating plant arrived during the year and the scheme is scheduled for early commissioning.

Sir William Halcrow and Partners began operations on the Shire Valley Survey in May, 1951, and work proceeded steadily for the remainder of the year. The ultimate objective is the stabilisation of the level of Lake Nyasa and the control of the waters of the Shire River. If this can be achieved, a large-scale hydro-electrical project could be undertaken on the Shire, large areas of land could be reclaimed and other areas irrigated. The outcome of this vital joint hydrological, soil and entomological survey is awaited with considerable interest.

The Department of Geological Surveys continued investigations into the coal deposits at Livingstonia, working in conjunction with a South African firm. Results unfortunately remained inconclusive owing to the coal seams in a key area being out of reach of the Department's drill.

Recruiting permits were again granted in 1951 to the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and the Rhodesia Native Labour Supply Commission. Each company was granted a quota of 8,000 recruits (a reduction of 2,000 in the case of Witwatersrand Native Labour Association's 1950 quota).

The unskilled labour supply during the year continued to be adequate for industrial purposes but the supply of labour for agricultural purposes was insufficient to satisfy all demands. The seasonal shortage at the beginning of the rains was most felt in the tea industry and the general shortage of skilled and semi-skilled labour continued to be increasingly felt during 1951, particularly in the building trades. No stoppages of work of any major importance were reported during 1951. No new trade unions were registered, but further development took place in the formation of works and staff committees.

The number of African workers estimated to be absent from the Protectorate in 1951 was 148,000, some 5,000 more than in 1950. Of these, 90,000 were estimated to be in Southern Rhodesia and 42,000 in the Union of South Africa. Between 3,000 and 4,000 Nyasaland Africans were employed in Tanganyika and some 6,000 in Northern Rhodesia. The total number of identity certificates endorsed for travel abroad increased steeply from 32,081 in 1950 to 42,751 in 1951. This is thought to have been largely due to the fall in the price of fire-cured tobacco mentioned elsewhere. Thus the problem of the number of able-bodied men away from the Protectorate, with its attendant consequence of shortage of labour and the disruption of family and tribal life at home, remained acute during 1951. Opportunities for remunerative employment are undoubtedly increasing within the Protectorate and with the growing competition for labour, wage rates are on the increase. This, together with the implementation of the various development schemes, will, it is hoped, persuade a greater proportion of the population to seek work at home in future years.

The effects of the Inter-Territorial Agreement on Migrant Labour

were increasingly noticeable during 1951. Family remittances came back in larger numbers ; 9,219 first remittances and 5,220 second remittances, each of the value of £1, were received during the year, and in addition 7,511 deferred payments at an average value of £2 each were made to workers returning on the expiration of two years abroad. It was estimated that at the end of 1950 some 37 per cent of employers who should have been making the remittance deductions were in fact doing so. By the end of 1951 this percentage had risen to 44. Many migrant workers send back sums far in excess of the obligatory family remittances, but the fact remains that the social and economic difficulties created by large-scale migration outweigh the advantages accruing from the income derived from this source.

The severe shortage of accommodation during 1951 again meant that much of the Public Works Department's building capacity was devoted to the construction of both European and African houses. Forty-four European houses were constructed during the year and 380 African staff houses. Other building projects completed during the year included the Income Tax and Immigration Office at Blantyre, a temporary air terminal building at Chileka, a Medical Training School at Lilongwe, a European primary school also at Lilongwe and extensive additions to the African hospitals at Zomba and Lilongwe.

Noteworthy progress was made during 1951 in the sphere of African education. General development policy being to increase the facilities provided by existing schools, the implementation of the five year Development Plan was continued by increasing the class-range of 175 assisted Schools ; 64 of these, hitherto village schools, began to operate from Standard I to Standard III, and 13, formerly junior primary schools, opened a Standard IV and will proceed to Standard VI.

The new African Secondary School at Dedza (the third of its kind in the Protectorate) was opened in February and already has 40 students. Unlike the other two secondary schools this school provides both academic and technical courses. It is technically well equipped and has a highly qualified staff including four European teachers. Additional buildings are under construction ; they are largely financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

The results of Government examinations continued to be encouraging. The Jeanes Training Centre greatly expanded its work in teacher training and out of a total of 20 students who obtained the higher grade certificate in 1951, 18 received their training at the Centre. Twenty-three more students were admitted to each of the two courses run by the Centre for higher grade and English grade certificates

It is now estimated that over half the Protectorate's children attend school for short periods between the ages of five and eighteen. Only a small minority, however, pass beyond the lowest classes. In 1951 339 pupils, including 17 girls, passed the standard VI examination (after eight years' schooling) and there were 47 passes in the Government junior secondary school examination taken after two years of

secondary schooling. Age limits of 8 and 14 years for children entering Sub-Standard A and Standard IV were rigidly adhered to in 1951 and there were encouraging signs that the necessity for such age limits was being appreciated by the villagers. Adult education was not neglected. Mass literacy drives were organised, an increasing amount of literature was made available by the Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland Joint Publications Bureau while the weekly publication of *Msimbi*, a newspaper containing articles both in English and the main vernaculars, served to stimulate an interest in current affairs among an estimated total of between 30,000 and 40,000 readers. The Domasi Community Development Scheme, mentioned elsewhere, included successful experiments in the establishment of "hedge schools" giving instruction in the three R's to large groups of children and adults who had otherwise received no formal education. Over-age pupils received instruction at "night-schools" in some seven centres in the Protectorate.

Twenty-one university scholarships awarded by Government were held in 1951, ten by Europeans, nine by Africans and two by Indians. Four of the scholarships awarded by the Secretary of State (under the £1 million C.D. & W. scheme) were held by Africans and three by Europeans. Two scholarships, one the gift of the Government of India and the other of a prominent Indian resident, were also awarded to enable Africans to complete their higher education in India.

Enrolment at the five European primary schools again increased in 1951 from 295 to 330. Boarding facilities are now available at four of these schools. Two hundred and twenty-nine children were at school elsewhere, but the influx of immigrants into Southern Rhodesia made it increasingly difficult to secure places for Nyasaland children in Southern Rhodesian schools. To meet the immediate problem, primary school facilities within the Protectorate were increased and the class range extended to cover the first two years of secondary education.

The standard of instruction at Asian schools was noticeably raised during 1951 with the appointment of an Asian Inspector of Schools, the resultant introduction of an improved syllabus on the Kenya model and an improvement in the technique of the weaker teachers. Two new Asian schools were opened during the year at Lilongwe and Dedza, which brought the total number of such schools in the Protectorate to nine.

The recruitment of specialist medical staff during 1951 showed a marked improvement, but there remained six vacancies for medical officers, only one such appointment having been made during 1951. A senior matron was appointed early in the year to supervise all female nursing staff and to advise on nursing problems and hospital work. The importance of local training of medical auxiliaries has long been recognised, and a step forward in this direction was taken in October, 1951, when a new training school for medical aides was opened in Lilongwe with an initial intake of 20 pupils, which doubled

at a stroke the number of students undergoing such courses ; candidates came forth in large numbers. On the midwifery side, 23 African women completed courses of training which remained largely in the hands of Missions.

The Medical Superintendent took up his duties early in the year at the Mental Hospital, the first four blocks of which were completed by that time. No further building was, however, possible and the old asylum building remained in use. Modern "shock" therapy was applied on selected cases.

At Zomba African Hospital a new out-patients department and a new laboratory were completed during the period under review. A further step in the development of rural health services was taken in June, 1951, with the opening near Dedza of the first Health Unit in the territory, comprising an out-patients section, a dispensary, a small laboratory and small maternity ward and staff quarters. An African hospital assistant was put in charge of the unit and he and his staff spent much time in the field.

Medical extension work in the field was put on a broader basis during 1951 by the introduction of a system whereby medical auxiliaries, on completion of their work at the rural dispensaries, travel out to villages within a 15-mile radius on two or three days each week to carry out simple treatment and to advise on matters relating to village hygiene. It is clearly recognised that the commonest ailments encountered in Nyasaland—malaria, hookworm, schistosomiasis and tropical ulcer—are preventable and will tend to disappear with the improvement in standards of village hygiene. Indeed, these four diseases, although not carrying a high mortality, are probably the greatest impediment to social and economic development inasmuch as, coupled with dietetic deficiencies, they are the cause of widespread debility.

The Protectorate was fortunate in being singularly free of major epidemic disease during the year. The incidence of smallpox fell from 295 cases resulting in 53 deaths in 1950 to 122 cases with 15 deaths in 1951, further evidence of the efficacy of the vaccination campaign undertaken in 1948. The incidence of poliomyelitis was also low. The preliminary work for a yellow fever survey was completed during the year, some 1,200 blood samples being taken from women and children throughout the Protectorate. There is in the Protectorate an estimated total of some 30,000 lepers and as a preliminary step towards supplementing the work of the Missions in this field, an area of some 2,500 acres of land, 11 miles from Fort Manning, was acquired for a new leper settlement which it is hoped to begin building in the near future.

The European establishment of the Nyasaland Police was further increased in 1951 to a total of 29 officers and 23 inspectors and assistant inspectors. The African strength, at the beginning of the year only 598, was increased to 735 and for the first time in many years the Force was up to its full establishment. Only personnel who had

reached Standard V or above in school were recruited and the standard of literacy steadily improved. A better standard of permanent housing, both at headquarters in Zomba and on other stations throughout the Protectorate, together with a salary revision served to attract recruits of a high standard. A new departure during 1951 was the training of two teams of motor cyclists to constitute the first mobile traffic unit in the Protectorate. The Immigration Branch of the Force was, for the convenience of the public, transferred to Blantyre in June, 1951. The number of murders reported in the Protectorate during 1951 was only 45 compared with the high total of 80 in 1950 which was largely due to the famine conditions prevalent at that time. Burglaries and kindred offences showed a small but in no way an alarming increase during 1951 and the same can be said of the larceny group of offences and of arson.

The prison population continued to fall during the year under review. During 1951 a total of 2,028 persons were committed to the Protectorate prisons, a reduction of 292 on the 1950 figures. There was likewise a decrease of 149 in the number of recidivists committed during 1951, the total being 304 as against 453 in the previous year. The three prison farms, two in the Zomba area and one in the Dowa District, continued to function satisfactorily as "open" prisons for first offenders only. The standard of discipline continued high and the prisoners responded well to the system of trust on which the camps were run. The Chilwa School for juvenile delinquents developed satisfactorily, the number of boys in the school at the end of 1951 being 24. The reorganisation of the Central Prison at Zomba was completed and the establishment ran smoothly. At the beginning of the year increased rates of pay for African warder staff were introduced and this made it possible to recruit a better type of warder. Only three prisons are directly under the control of officers of the Prison Service, the Central Prison and the two prison farms near Zomba. The remaining prisons are all supervised by officers of the Provincial and District Administration with the exception of three which are controlled by Police Officers. A considerable amount of building was carried out by prisoners at the Central Prison, including extensive repairs to the prison hospital, the completion of new workshops and three new warders' houses.

The Lands Office continued to direct its activities towards providing greater security of tenure to holders and prospective holders of land administered by Government than they have enjoyed in the past, to the improvement of trading layouts and to the better regulation and utilisation of land for agricultural purposes. In addition, appreciable areas of land for African resettlement were acquired during the year. The arrival in 1951 of a Town Planning Officer and a draughtsman from the United Kingdom gave an impetus to work in this sphere; the outline planning scheme for the Blantyre-Limbe area, prepared in 1950, received the approval of the Governor in Council in December, 1951, and action towards its implementation was immediately taken

by way of preparation of detailed layouts in respect of specific areas.

The Department of Surveys completed its second year as an independent organisation. It is now well stocked with modern equipment and the training of African staff progressed well during 1951. Over 200,000 of the 300,000 acres of land required for African land settlement schemes had, at the end of 1951, been surveyed. In addition, a re-survey of Lilongwe was commenced and, with the assistance of the Provincial and District Administration, numerous trading plots were permanently demarcated throughout the Protectorate. Eight hundred and fifty square miles of triangulation control and 44,000 acres of cadastral survey were completed during the year and the issue of maps and plans of all categories totalled 6,250.

A Royal Air Force squadron, carrying out a programme for the Directorate of Colonial Surveys, recommenced aerial photography and by the end of the year had photographed over a further 11,000 square miles of country. Only 2,000 square miles remain to be completed. Aerial photography was also arranged locally for some 20 small townships in order to produce suitable plans for future town planning.

The African Protectorate Council met twice during 1951, the second meeting being specially convened to give the Council the opportunity of discussing federation proposals with the Secretary of State for the Colonies and to select representatives to attend the Victoria Falls Conference held in September, 1951.

The African Provincial Councils also met regularly and held special meetings to discuss the federation question before and during the visit of the Secretary of State. The constitution of the Southern Province Council during the year was 16 chiefs and 10 non-hereditary representatives, that of the Central and Northern Province Councils being 13 chiefs and 12 commoners. These constitutional revisions, first adopted in 1950, resulted in a better balanced representation and also a marked improvement in the standard of debate.

Considerable progress was also made in broadening the basis of representation on District Councils. Further attempts were made to introduce the committee system ; it is hoped that this will encourage a sufficient number of educated Africans to interest themselves in local government affairs so as to convert these District Councils into genuine local government bodies with wide executive and financial responsibility.

Group Councils were firmly established in many areas. In a number of cases these councils agreed, with the approval of the Native Authority, to the imposition of a local rate to provide funds for work of general benefit to the people which the council represents. In some cases conservatism militated against the inauguration of such councils, which in the majority of areas are non-traditional bodies. It would be true to say, however, that steady but slow progress was made in the formation of these councils during 1951, but in most cases it was necessary to exert steady pressure to get the councils

formed and working. Membership of the councils is widely representative, and they constitute a vital base to the conciliar pyramid and an invaluable link between the chief and his people.

A new departure in 1951 was the establishment in the townships of Blantyre, Limbe and Zomba of African Urban Advisory Committees whose function it is to represent African opinion to the Town Councils and to advise the municipal body on all matters affecting the interests of the African urban population. In Blantyre and Limbe where the committees began their work early in the year, they quickly proved their value by offering some sound criticism and constructive suggestions. In Zomba it is as yet too early to judge the success of the committee.

With few exceptions the Native Authorities again showed themselves willing and eager to co-operate with Government. There was still much room for improvement, but their efficiency slowly increased; too often, however, it depends on the calibre of the chief himself. During 1951 it certainly became evident that the vast majority of Native Authorities were keenly alive to the twin problems of soil conservation and food production. Natural Resources Board orders are invariably supplemented by Native Authority legislation to ensure the early preparation of gardens and the restriction of beer consumption during the vital period of garden preparation. In many cases the Native Authorities afforded all possible assistance in this important sphere against the bitter opposition of their people. Extensive district travelling by the Administrative Officer, often accompanied by the chief or one of his advisers, continued to forge strong and invaluable links between Government, chiefs and people.

A considerable burden was laid on the Native Courts during 1951 as a result of their having to deal with offences against the Natural Resources (Soil Conservation) Rules. With few exceptions they proved themselves equal to the task. Urban Courts were started in Blantyre and Zomba during the year. Each court has a panel of members, from which three are chosen for each sitting of the court. At present they are presided over by a prominent chief until such time as sufficient experience is gained to enable the chief to drop out.

The rate of tax during 1951 was increased from 10s. to 17s. 6d. throughout the Protectorate (with the exception of two small islands in the Lake); 5s. in respect of each tax paid was credited to Native Treasuries as compared with 2s. of the 1950 tax.

The Domasi District was constituted in 1950 for the inauguration of a comprehensive community development scheme. Assistance from the Colonial Development and Welfare funds covers the capital cost of headquarters and equipment together with the salaries of most of the staff. Progress during 1951 was encouraging and the initial suspicion and distrust of the people was rapidly disappearing. The principle of self-help became firmly established, and there was a marked improvement in the attitude of the people to soil erosion control, the better use of soil and water supplies and to better village

hygiene. The key to the improvement does, of course, lie in the presence of a comparatively large and efficient team of European and African instructors, representing all the field departments except Forestry, and the resultant personal contact in what is by far the smallest district in area in the Protectorate. This pilot scheme, which has already provided valuable lessons in Native Administration for adoption elsewhere, is more fully described in Part II, Chapter 12.

The Native Development and Welfare Fund, financed *inter alia* out of the profits of the Native Tobacco Board and the Cotton Marketing Board, continued to provide funds for local schemes for the benefit of Africans which were beyond the resources of the Native Treasuries. Grants were again made largely on the advice of Provincial and District Development Committees for the provision of such amenities as schools, rest houses for travellers, community welfare halls, the improvement of communications and for soil conservation work. In 1951 these grants totalled £12,253 for the Northern Province, £12,288 for the Central Province and £21,700 for the Southern Province (of which it was only possible to spend £15,145).

Steady progress was again made during the year in the resettlement of land acquired by Government as a result of the recommendations of the Abrahams Report and the Land Planning Committee, a total of some 300,000 acres of land having been acquired in the Southern Province for resettlement purposes. This land has been divided into three categories, the first, on which concentrated settlement is possible without regard to the carrying capacity of the soil by reason of the proximity of employment and industry, the second, a small area unsuited to any appreciable increase in settlement, and the third, some two-thirds of the whole, which lends itself to increased agricultural production and the reception of considerable number of new settlers if water and communications are provided. At Chingali water and communications were provided during the year in a 130,000 acre block of third category land and a start was made on the accommodation of new settlers, while at Magomero on a similiar block of 72,000 acres, a start was made on the provision of water supplies.

The year 1951 marked the Diamond Jubilee of the declaration of a British Protectorate over the countries adjoining Lake Nyasa and the occasion was celebrated with due pomp and ceremony on 15th May, 1951. Jubilee Day was in fact the signal for widespread rejoicing and for manifestations of loyalty to King and Empire such as have never before been witnessed. The day was a public holiday which enabled appropriate celebrations to be held throughout the Protectorate. Jubilee medallions were made available to the public, a special issue of postage stamps was made and a Jubilee Exhibition was held. It was indeed an historic occasion, emphasis everywhere being laid on the progress achieved under 60 years of British rule. Tribute was paid in no small measure to the group of early pioneers, Livingstone the most well known, who laid the difficult foundations and so enabled the country to emerge from the twin shadows of the slave trade and

tribal warfare into the present state of peace, prosperity and mutual confidence which will enable it to overcome the formidable hurdles which still lie ahead. The early missionaries and traders rightly came in for their share of praise, and the emphasis in African loyal addresses, which was everywhere laid on the great benefits which Nyasaland had enjoyed under the protection of the British Crown, was most gratifying to those who had the privilege of listening.

The last census of the African population in Nyasaland was taken in 1921. All the field work was necessarily done by African enumerators with little supervision and the census was not deemed to be any more than a rough and ready estimate of the African population. The census returns were taken in 1921, 1926 and 1931 while annual population estimates based on the tax registers, are available dating back to 1901. The substantial fluctuations which occur from year to year indicate that these annual estimates are not very reliable. A system of recording simple vital statistics was introduced in 1947. It is at present restricted to recording births and deaths district by district. Individual details are not recorded, nor are any certificates issued. Returns are to be placed on the African village headman whose duty it is to collect such information in respect of his village for transmission to the Native Authority and on occasion the system breaks down. The registration of African customary marriages is carried out in almost all parts of the Protectorate, but the data available is by no means complete, while details of the birth, death and infant mortality rates are unavailable and likely to remain so for some time to come. It is therefore only possible to speak in general terms of African population trends. The population is increasing steadily, being estimated at the end of 1951 to be 2,392,031. Between 1921 and 1951 the African population had increased by one-third and the 1945 census shows an increase of rather more than one-third on the 1921 figure. Thus the estimated African population had nearly doubled in 25 years, but a considerable proportion of this increase must be attributed to immigration into the Southern Province from Portuguese East Africa. The number of men estimated to be present from the Protectorate during 1951 was 148,000, an increase of 2,000 over 1950, the majority being in Southern Rhodesia. The great majority of these immigrants particularly those in the Klodeni, retort (Kopoli) to their homes and remain in contact with Nyasaland. The European and Asian populations continued to increase. Details of European births and deaths have been kept since 1901, and since 1920 immigration and emigration statistics in respect of Europeans and Asians have been compiled. Registration of all non-African births and deaths is compulsory. The relatively small size of the European population enables accurate estimates to be made. The European population remained fairly stable immediately before and

## PART II

### Chapter 1 : Population

THE last census of the African population in Nyasaland was taken in 1945. All the field work was of necessity done by African enumerators with little supervision and the census was not claimed to be any more than a useful and fairly accurate estimate of the African population. Previous censuses were taken in 1921, 1926 and 1931 while annual population estimates, largely based on the tax registers, are available dating back to 1901. The substantial fluctuations which occur from year to year indicate that these annual estimates are not very reliable.

A system of recording simple vital statistics was introduced in 1947. It is at present restricted to recording births and deaths district by district. Individual details are not recorded, nor are any certificates issued. Reliance has to be placed on the African village headman whose duty it is to collect such information in respect of his village for transmission to the Native Authority, and on occasion the system breaks down. The registration of African customary marriages is carried out in almost all parts of the Protectorate, but the data available is by no means complete, while details of the birth, death and infant mortality rates are unavailable and likely to remain so for some time to come. It is, therefore, only possible to speak in general terms of African population trends. The population is increasing steadily, being estimated at the end of 1951 to be 2,392,031. Between 1921 and 1931 the African population had increased by one-third and the 1945 census figures showed an increase of rather more than one-third on the 1931 figures. Thus the estimated African population had very nearly doubled in 25 years, but a considerable proportion of this increase must be attributed to immigration into the Southern Province from Portuguese East Africa.

The number of men estimated to be absent from the Protectorate during 1951 was 148,000, an increase of 5,000 over 1950, the majority being in Southern Rhodesia. The great majority of these absentees, particularly those in the Rhodesias, return regularly to their homes and remain in close touch with Nyasaland.

The European and Asian populations continued to increase. Details of European births and deaths have been kept since 1901, and since 1920 immigration and emigration statistics in respect of Europeans and Asians have been compiled. Registration of all non-African births and deaths is compulsory. The relatively small size of the European population enables accurate estimates to be made. The European population remained fairly static immediately before and

during the war. In 1931 it stood at 1,975 and in 1945 at 1,948. Since the war, the population has increased rapidly owing to the considerable expansion of the activities of both Government and private commercial concerns and to the re-establishment of staffs depleted during the war years. The implementation of the Development Plan alone increased Government's establishment of European personnel by 504 in the six post-war years and in 1951 the European population stood at 4,073. It is not possible to estimate the numbers in the various age groups, but the European population is a relatively young one. Retirement elsewhere after service in the Protectorate is still the rule, although exceptions are becoming more numerous.

The Asian population, maintaining a consistently higher birthrate, increased from 1,573 in 1931 to 2,804 in 1945 and in 1951 was estimated to be 5,248. By occupation the majority of the men are traders and about one-third are now Nyasaland born.

## Chapter 2 : Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

### OCCUPATIONS

Wage rates in Nyasaland, which is predominantly an agricultural country, do not compare favourably with those in the more highly industrialised countries of Northern and Southern Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa. In order to maintain an adequate labour force within the Protectorate local employers were in 1951 compelled to offer increased incentives. These usually took the form of better housing, recreational facilities, free midday meals, bonuses for regular attendance and sometimes an increase in basic wages. Government likewise took steps to improve the conditions of service of its African staff. The quota of recruits allowed to the two principal recruiting organisations, the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and the Rhodesia Native Labour Supply Commission, varies according to the Protectorate's labour requirements ; each was allowed a quota of 8,000 workers in 1951. The supply of labour during the year for factories and similar work within the Protectorate was adequate. The agricultural labour offering was, however, insufficient to meet all requirements and the usual seasonal shortage at the beginning of the rains was again experienced, particularly in the tea industry in the Mlanje and Cholo Districts. This recurrent shortage of labour for the tea industry was the subject of a special inquiry by the Labour Department during 1951. The findings were under consideration by the employers' organisations at the end of the year. Skilled and

semi-skilled labour continued to be in short supply during 1951, affecting particularly the building and constructional trades. Difficulty was again experienced in the northern areas in obtaining labour for local public works, but the advancement of the Colonial Development Corporation projects in the Northern Province and of the European flue-cured tobacco industry in Kasungu meant that considerably more men were at work in these areas during 1951 than hitherto.

The African labourer is rarely divorced from the land but maintains his own village garden where he grows a proportion, if not all, of his food requirements. Large African townships have not yet grown up and even those employed in townships live for the most part in the surrounding countryside. Thus at the season of the year when vital agricultural operations have to be performed, labour does not offer itself freely. The Nyasaland African generally maintains himself by subsistence agriculture. Apart from the need for a certain amount of money for tax payment, judicial proceedings or the satisfaction of some simple requirement at an Indian store, he is not generally dependent on wage earnings. Unemployment is by no means the evil that it is in more industrialised countries and the African is not in any true sense a wage earner. Limited cash requirements also mean that the usual economic incentives rarely operate in Nyasaland, and such factors account for many of the difficulties in labour supply. The African places a high value on leisure ; he is inclined to work sporadically when it suits him and for a limited purpose of his own. Incentives to work locally are not high. Consumer goods are often in short supply, family ties may prove irksome, wages remain relatively low and, casual work being everywhere plentiful, there remains little inducement to engage in permanent employment with its demands of efficiency and regular attendance. The position is aggravated by the high prices which it is possible to obtain for agricultural produce. A moderately efficient farmer can, during the course of a year, earn much more from his land than he can in the lower grades of paid employment. On the other hand though, an improvement in dietetic standards is a prerequisite to a more efficient output of labour. The lack of an efficient and responsible African supervisory class is likewise a serious obstacle to securing efficient work.

No statistics are available of the numbers employed in subsistence agriculture but the approximate numbers engaged during 1951 in tobacco and cotton production on African Trust Land were 94,200 and 33,000 respectively. It must be remembered that the production of these crops is largely a family affair and that these figures take no account of wives and children who may, and often do, assist in the agricultural operations. The statistics given in the table below relating to the daily labour requirements for the major industries in 1952 and the actual labour force employed in 1951 are compiled from returns supplied by employers at the request of Government. Since the rendering of returns is voluntary the figures cannot be regarded as complete :

Industry	Estimated maximum daily labour requirements for 1952			Number Actually at Work on :					
				31st March, 1951 (Date of peak employment of majority of industries)			15th November, 1951 (Date of minimum employment of majority of industries)		
	M.	F.	Y.P.	M.	F.	Y.P.	M.	F.	Y.P.
Tea .. ..	39,079	5,698	10,666	29,395	4,594	9,566	20,867	2,942	7,681
Tobacco ..	27,472	1,129	11,152	14,358	605	5,709	12,696	236	4,044
Tung .. ..	3,463	510	1,483	2,208	156	1,195	1,721	122	788
Farming									
General ..	5,803	465	2,741	3,315	231	1,676	3,078	162	1,490
Building, Brick Manufacture & Contract- ors .. ..	8,110	64	682	4,540	21	355	5,055	38	463
Store-Keeping ..	2,228	—	52	1,907	7	86	1,945	9	61
Transport (a)	6,783	32	337	5,905	37	250	5,903	17	184
Government Departments and Native Authorities (b)	21,335	381	1,109	25,866	252	1,278	17,006	577	982
Miscellaneous	6,135	343	657	5,122	279	536	5,203	267	508
TOTAL ..	120,408	8,622	28,879	92,616	6,182	20,651	73,474	4,370	16,201

(a) Including railways, road and lake transport.

(b) The figures for Native Authorities are a revised estimate of last year's figures as final returns are not yet to hand.

NOTE: M.—Males over the age of 18 years, i.e. adults liable to pay tax.

F.—Women over the age of 18 years.

Y.P.—Persons of either sex between 14 and 18 years.

Another large group known to be in paid employment is that of domestic servants, mostly males; the group probably numbers between 8,000 and 9,000.

#### MIGRANT LABOUR

Nyasaland has for many years contributed substantially to the labour force in adjoining territories and in the Union of South Africa. Away from home the Nyasalander has an excellent reputation and a range of employment extending from unskilled labour to the highest posts which local conditions permit.

So long as the level of wages offering in other countries remains higher than that prevailing at home, the more ambitious and energetic African will always be tempted to seek employment abroad. Away from home his family and tribal commitments are not nearly so heavy and he is thus able to save more money, another factor which increases the exodus of able-bodied males. Nor can the inevitable lure of strange countries be left out of account. Offsetting to some extent the outward flow of labour is the growing competition within the Protectorate, with a consequent increase in wage rates, and increased opportunities for remunerative employment under good conditions at home. The Police and Prisons Services have, during 1951, offered better conditions of service, and there is now greater scope in the Medical Department for training African staff since the opening in 1951 of the Medical Training School in Lilongwe. These are how-

ever but small steps towards the ultimate goal of retaining within the Protectorate borders as much manpower as Nyasaland needs and is able to support.

Large-scale emigration inevitably results in the disintegration of family life and in a decaying tribal structure, and once traditional social sanctions disappear they are difficult to replace.

The number of Africans absent from the Protectorate in 1951 was estimated to be 148,000, an increase over 1950 of 5,000. Of this total, 90,000 were estimated to be in Southern Rhodesia, 42,000 in the Union of South Africa, 6,000 in Northern Rhodesia and 3,000 to 4,000 in Tanganyika.

The protection of the contracted worker and the interests of his family are secured by a system of carefully controlled recruitment. The Witwatersrand Native Labour Association is the only organisation permitted to recruit Nyasalanders for work in South Africa. The Association engages labour for employment on the Rand and Orange Free State gold mines and during 1951 was allowed a quota of 8,000 as the maximum number permitted to be employed on the mines at any one time. At the end of 1951 the number thus employed in South Africa was 7,828 compared with 7,889 at the end of 1950. Apart from two small companies permitted to recruit a small number of Africans for short seasonal employment, recruitment for work in Southern Rhodesia is in the hands of the Rhodesia Native Labour Supply Commission. During 1951 the Commission was allowed a quota of 8,000 recruits, of whom 3,742 were actually engaged during the year, compared with 1,935 in 1950. Both organisations recruit under a Governor's permit which is renewed annually, their quotas of recruits and the areas from which recruits can be taken being determined by factors which include local labour requirements and the local food supply situation. The planting season is normally a closed season for recruiting. At other times of the year, recruits leave the Protectorate under a contract made in Nyasaland which provides *inter alia* for deferred pay and family remittances while the worker is away, and for his repatriation to the place of engagement on completion of his contract.

Although the number of labourers proceeding abroad under contract is large, the majority prefer to go uncovenanted. The vast majority of these migrants go to Southern Rhodesia, for the Nyasalander is a prohibited immigrant into the Union of South Africa, save in respect of defined areas where he may go for work under a temporary permit valid for six months in the first instance. In 1949 a Migrant Labour Agreement was concluded between the Central African Territories in order to protect the interests of those who proceeded abroad uncontracted. Under the agreement the migrant worker is to return home after two years abroad, a monthly deduction is to be made from his wages, part of which is paid back to him on his return in the form of deferred pay, and part remitted by his employer to his home district where it is paid over to nominated

dependants. Provision is also made for free transport to Southern Rhodesia and back to Nyasaland on his repatriation. In order to avoid excessive disintegration of the family and the difficulties experienced by unsupported women and children who have to fend for themselves while their men-folk are away, migrant labourers are encouraged either to take their families with them to the Rhodesias or to send for them when they are established in their work. In these cases the worker is not bound by the two-year limit and increasing numbers of families are being re-united in this way. The purpose of the agreement is to mitigate where possible the economic and social evils of migration, and in 1951 it was possible to gauge more accurately whether it was in fact having the desired effect.

Family remittances came back to Nyasaland in increasing numbers during 1951; 9,219 first family remittances and 5,220 second family remittances were received (the figures for 1950 were respectively 6,991 and 1,248) each to the value of £1. In addition 7,511 deferred payments, averaging £2 each, were cashed by returning migrant workers. This makes a total of nearly £40,000 received in Nyasaland from migrant workers in the Rhodesias since the inception of the scheme. At the end of 1950 only 37 per cent of the employers who should have been making remittance deductions were in fact doing so. By the end of 1951 the percentage had risen to 44. The above figures take no account of the money sent or brought home by migrant workers over and above the obligatory family remittances. The sum involved here is impossible to assess but is known to be considerable. It does, however, remain evident that the social and economic problems caused by large-scale migration more than outweigh the financial advantages accruing, and it is certain that a greater proportion of the Protectorate's manpower will have to be retained for work at home in order to contribute to its economic development.

No African may leave the Protectorate without an identity certificate. Before issuing such certificates, the District Commissioner or other authorised issuing officer must be satisfied that the applicant is not leaving the Protectorate to evade satisfaction of just debts or other legal obligations. These latter often include Native Authority orders to plant gardens and to make provision for his family during his absence abroad. The issuing officer must also be satisfied that the applicant has normally resided in the Protectorate for a continuous period of not less than six months prior to his application. The official figure of Nyasalanders entering Southern Rhodesia in 1951 was 30,063 as compared with 19,381 in 1950, while the number of identity certificates issued or renewed for travel abroad to all destinations increased from 32,081 in 1950 to 42,751 in 1951. This substantial increase can largely be attributed to the fall in the price of African-grown tobacco and to the bumper harvest during 1951 which served to obliterate memories of the famine period.

Nyasaland recognises its responsibility for those of its people who emigrate and the Protectorate Government maintains representatives

in Johannesburg and Salisbury, both being experienced officers of the Administration. During 1951 the work of these officers continued to increase. They visited many centres of employment and provided Government with regular reports on the conditions obtaining there. Perhaps the most important of their duties is to act as intermediaries for domestic inquiries by the migrant worker or by his family left in Nyasaland. In this respect they fulfil abroad the function of a District Commissioner within the Protectorate and supply a much-felt need on the part of exiled Nyasalanders. Another and valuable link between the migrant worker and his home is provided by the missionary societies who keep in touch with their adherents and maintain, with assistance from public funds, two European labour chaplains. A number of former missionaries and Nyasaland civil servants, retired to the Union of South Africa and to Southern Rhodesia, give voluntary assistance in a similar way. The labour chaplains travel widely, ministering to the spiritual needs of those abroad, and doing invaluable work to maintain links with Nyasaland. They also provide useful information to Government on labour conditions generally.

#### HOURS AND WAGES

During 1951 the hours worked in paid agricultural employment averaged 30 a week in field work, where the task system is often used. Sometimes they fell as low as 24 hours per week. A labourer working in the vicinity of his own home does not usually wish to work longer hours than this, nor will any financial inducement persuade him to do so if it means foregoing his responsibilities in respect of his home and his own crops. Abroad it is a different matter, and economic incentives are more generally applicable there. Piece work is uncommon in the Public Works Department since constant European supervision of all its labour is impossible. The majority of these labourers work a 43-hour week, usually returning to their homes in the afternoons. Crops such as flue-cured tobacco demand irregular working hours, lengthy and often involving a night shift when curing is in progress and the fires have to be kept at an even temperature.

Domestic servants, though they also work irregular hours, have on the whole an easy time as a result of the system of specialisation, copied in the early days from similar conditions in India. Most employers grant them regular time off and they can always expect long holidays when their employers take leave overseas. Wages of domestic servants continue to rise, for demand now exceeds supply, and the rates of food allowances, which inevitably rose at the time of the famine, have shown no sign of returning to their former level.

The cost of living continued to rise throughout the year and with effect from 1st October, Government found it necessary to grant an increase in the cost-of-living allowance to its staff. Rates for African staff now vary between 3s. 6d. and 50s. per month (as opposed to from 3s. to 10s. per month during 1950) according to basic salary. It is assumed that the African is adversely affected by the rising cost of

living, but how much so is impossible to say. As he is often self-sufficient as regards basic foodstuffs, the real value of the increases in wages which he has received since the end of the war is probably appreciably greater than the real value of European salary increases. Specimen monthly wage rates paid to Africans, including food allowance, during 1951 were as follows :

	s.	d.	s.	d.	
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>					
Field Labour	25	0	to	30	0
Overseers	30	0	„	100	0
Factory Workers	28	0	„	40	0
<b>COMMERCE</b>					
Shop Assistants	30	0	„	100	0
<b>LIGHT INDUSTRIES</b>					
Unskilled Labour	22	0	„	28	6
					per 26- or 27-day ticket
<b>BUILDING &amp; CONTRACTING</b>					
Unskilled Labour	1	1	„	1	8
Carpenters, Bricklayers, Plant-operators	2	10	„	3	4
					per day
<b>RAILWAYS</b>					
Unskilled Labour	24	0			per 26-day ticket
<b>TRANSPORT</b>					
Drivers	68	0	„	220	0
Mechanics	30	0	„	150	0
<b>GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS</b>					
Unskilled Labour	10	„		11	per day
Semi-skilled Labour	11	„		1	6
Artisans (casual)	1	3	„	3	0
					per day

In addition bonuses were paid in the tea and tobacco industries and some employers experimented with forms of regularity bonuses in an endeavour to obtain more regular attendances but, as has already been pointed out, the value which the African sets on money is often relatively slight and by no means does he always respond to accepted European economic incentives. The wages of the junior grades of domestic servants average between 17s. 6d. and 25s. per month while senior grades average between 25s. and 60s. per month. In addition a weekly food allowance is given ranging between 1s. 6d. per week in outlying districts to 3s. 6d. in townships. Free quarters and uniforms are invariably provided, in some cases fuel as well.

Unskilled workers are usually employed on a "ticket contract", legally defined as a contract commencing from the date of performance of the first day's work, whereby an employee contracts to work for a

period of 30 consecutive working days (excluding Sundays and public holidays), each day worked being marked daily on a ticket by the employer. Some employers, particularly among the industrial concerns, do not adhere to this system, preferring to pay their labour at the end of each month for the number of days actually worked in that month.

#### LABOUR ORGANISATION

There are three trade unions in the territory, the Railways Asian Union and two others representing workers and employers in the transport industry. Industrial relations remained cordial throughout the year. No new trade unions were registered during 1951 but further development took place in the formation of works and staff committees. The Nyasaland Railways Ltd. now have such committees in all their departments and some Government departments operate a similar system. The workers undoubtedly like this form of joint consultation, which is well suited to their present stage of development and enables the employers to keep in close touch with their aims and aspirations.

The African Civil Service Board, on which two members of the African Civil Service Association sit, advises Government on questions affecting the conditions of service of, and the rules and regulations which apply to, the African Civil Service. It also makes recommendations to Government concerning appointments and promotions to certain posts and to such other posts as may be referred by Government to the Board.

Standing Labour Advisory Boards function in each Province. Members of the Boards include representatives of Government, of employers and of African labour. All provincial labour matters including wage rates, conditions of employment and industrial relations come within their purview and it is their duty to advise Government on such matters. They also consider and advise on any matters concerning labour, including existing and proposed legislation, which may be referred to them by Government or by the Labour Adviser.

Thus machinery exists for the settlement of industrial disputes. Although during 1951 there were none of any consequence, none in fact which lasted for more than one day. If the Nyasaland worker is dissatisfied with his pay or treatment he is after all in the supreme position of being able to move elsewhere and be certain of finding other work ; under such conditions strikes are naturally infrequent. Three minor disputes occurred during 1951, one at a wood-working establishment, one at a tobacco factory and the third in a firm of construction contractors. All were speedily settled by the parties concerned.

#### LEGISLATION

Once again factory legislation operated smoothly, although the Factory Inspector had great difficulty in coping with the many demands

on his services. Nineteen accidents were reported to the Factories Board (32 in 1950). None of these accidents was fatal, and they mostly involved injuries to hands or fingers.

Legislation enacted during the year included the Shipping Ordinance, containing provisions as to the employment of merchant seamen, and the National Service and Registration Ordinances, providing respectively for enlistment and for compulsory registration, each in the event of an emergency. In addition, the rules regarding the constitution of the Southern Province Standing Advisory Board were amended to increase, equally, the number of members representing employers and workers. Close seasons for the recruitment of labour for work abroad were declared between 15th November, 1951, and 15th February, 1952, in the Central and Northern Provinces and between 1st October and 31st December, 1951, in the Southern Province.

There is no legislation providing for insurance against sickness and old age but all employers of African labour are required to provide medical attention for their employees when needed. Some commercial firms have their own dispensaries. Long service is often rewarded by the payment of a gratuity or a small pension on retirement. Tax exemption is granted, either temporarily or for life, according to the circumstances of the case, to elderly and infirm Africans who are without means to pay, while provision is made annually in the Protectorate Estimates for the relief of the needy irrespective of race.

#### LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The staff of the Labour Department at the end of the year comprised nine Europeans and 48 African clerks. Labour Officers are posted at Blantyre (Southern Province) and at Lilongwe (Central Province) in addition to the headquarters staff and the two Nyasaland representatives in Johannesburg and Salisbury. African labour clerks are stationed at all district headquarters, their principal duty being the issue of identity certificates and workbooks to migrant workers proceeding abroad under the Inter-Territorial Agreement. They are also responsible for the payment of remittances under the scheme and for the preparation of statistical returns.

## Chapter 3 : Public Finance and Taxation

### REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The Protectorate's financial year ends on 31st December, and a revised estimate only is given for 1951. Comparative total figures are :

	Revenue	Expenditure
	£	£
1950 (Actual) .....	3,545,763	3,598,195
1951 (Revised Estimate) .....	4,095,854	4,143,300

The main heads of revenue and expenditure are as follows :

REVENUE	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951 <i>Revised Estimate</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Customs & Excise ..	444,476	543,969	893,573	1,149,907	1,145,000
Taxes, Licences, etc.	655,828	801,489	941,267	1,186,392	1,386,720
Fees of Court ..	42,347	43,654	63,506	106,235	102,875
Posts and Telecom- munications ..	70,200	64,497	85,085	80,588	125,000
Electrical Services ..	—	—	—	—	38,000
Rents .. ..	3,942	67,533	35,090	41,529	42,250
Interest (Part 1) ..	7,746	13,656	14,465	17,655	26,710
Miscellaneous ..	76,186	89,945	150,450	162,141	203,034
<b>Total Ordinary Revenue .. ..</b>	<b>1,300,725</b>	<b>1,624,743</b>	<b>2,183,436</b>	<b>2,744,447</b>	<b>3,069,589</b>
Colonial Development and Welfare Act Grants .. ..	65,095	178,126	209,463	545,776	796,503
Interest (Part 2) ..	193,577	200,537	150,704	205,311	181,806
Trans-Zambesia Rail- way Debenture Interest .. ..	62,450	45,326	44,062	50,229	47,956
<b>Total Revenue ..</b>	<b>1,621,847</b>	<b>2,048,732</b>	<b>2,587,665</b>	<b>3,545,763</b>	<b>4,095,854</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Agriculture, Forestry, Veterinary ..	104,731	160,606	232,801	266,554	249,600
Education .. ..	110,448	133,334	160,669	184,579	239,800
Medical .. ..	98,921	142,750	163,321	167,570	253,500
Provincial & District Administration ..	78,037	92,145	112,756	133,429	167,000
Public Works Depart- ment .. ..	249,632	407,009	891,178	1,178,623	1,492,200
Public Debt Charges	212,769	295,234	205,395	203,923	203,000
Other Services ..	501,737	873,815	979,175	1,463,517	1,538,200
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,356,275</b>	<b>2,104,893</b>	<b>2,745,295</b>	<b>3,598,195</b>	<b>4,143,300</b>

An unforeseen fall in revenue from customs duties combined with an expansion of the Public Works Extraordinary programme beyond that originally planned and the general increase in costs of stores and material of all kinds were the principal causes which transformed the 1951 estimated surplus balance of £35,000 into an estimated deficit of £47,446. Ordinary revenue showed an increase of £56,000 over the original estimate and revenue from the Colonial Development and Welfare vote was higher by £40,000 on account of payment due against schemes which expired at the end of 1950 and were replaced by new

schemes under the revised Development Programme : these increases were, however, more than absorbed by the increases in expenditure referred to above. In view of the rising costs throughout the year under review, expenditure under all votes was carefully controlled with a view to securing savings to offset unavoidable increases under certain heads of expenditure.

## PUBLIC DEBT

The public debt amounts to £3,570,000 made up as follows :

East African Guaranteed Loan 4½% 1952-72..	£2,000,000
East African Guaranteed Loan 3% 1954-74..	£1,570,000

## MAIN HEADS OF TAXATION

The main heads of taxation and the yield from each were as follows :

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951 Revised Estimate
	£	£	£	£	£
Import Duties .. .. .	418,059	514,293	581,027	760,102	700,000
Export Duties .. .. .	—	—	274,818	349,771	400,000
Excise Duty .. .. .	26,417	29,676	37,728	40,034	45,000
Fines .. .. .	3,888	7,185	7,617	7,709	8,000
Native Tax .. .. .	196,531	238,869	246,046	295,783	428,000
Income Tax .. .. .	363,341	402,460	586,314	770,641	740,000
Non- Native Poll Tax .. .. .	11,322	12,516	14,315	16,714	18,000
Land Tax .. .. .	2,185	2,553	2,806	2,210	100
Crown Lands Cotton Tax .. .. .	837	1,032	2	—	—
Estate Duty .. .. .	26,346	73,767	10,363	13,664	97,000
Licences :					
Arms and Ammunition .. .. .	416	490	620	582	700
Bankers .. .. .	120	120	125	120	120
Bicycles .. .. .	3,035	4,743	6,077	7,170	16,000
Game .. .. .	530	816	1,359	1,405	1,500
Liquor .. .. .	896	946	919	1,166	1,300
Miscellaneous .. .. .	454	561	809	912	1,000
Motor Vehicles .. .. .	13,857	17,277	22,114	26,887	32,000
Trading .. .. .	23,894	26,078	26,939	27,956	29,000
Other Stamp Duties .. .. .	8,175	12,076	14,842	13,473	14,000

*Import Duties*

Nyasaland being within the region covered by the Congo Basin Treaties and the Convention of St. Germain-en-Laye, 1919, may not grant preference to any country and its customs tariff therefore applies equally to all imports irrespective of country of origin.

The main revenue producing items in the tariff pay a specific duty and include cotton piece-goods, liquors, tobacco, matches, vehicles, cycles, petrol and fuel oil. *Ad valorem* duty is levied on the c.i.f. Beira basis ; goods from contiguous territories are, however, assessed on the cost at the place of despatch. Among articles accorded free entry are machinery, refrigerators, tractors, fertilisers, building materials, medicines and provisions ; *bona fide* personal baggage is also admitted free of duty.

Among dutiable articles are the following :

Salt	..	..	..	..	60s. per ton.
Sugar	..	..	..	..	40s. per ton.
Cigarettes	..	..	..	..	15s. 6d. per pound.
Tobacco, manufactured	..	..	..	..	12s. per pound.
Brandy	..	..	..	..	80s. per proof gallon.
Whisky, gin and rum	..	..	..	..	64s. per proof gallon.
Carpets	..	..	..	..	33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent <i>ad valorem</i> .
Cotton piece-goods	..	..	..	..	3d. or 4d. per yard.
Silk piece goods	..	..	..	..	25 per cent <i>ad valorem</i> .
Artificial silk piece-goods	..	..	..	..	6d. per yard.
Bicycles	..	..	..	..	15s. each.
Cutlery	..	..	..	..	25 per cent <i>ad valorem</i> .
Electrical appliances	..	..	..	..	25 per cent <i>ad valorem</i> .
Vehicles	..	..	..	..	25s. to 35s. per horsepower.
Sewing machines	..	..	..	..	30s. and 40s. each.
Typewriters	..	..	..	..	25 per cent <i>ad valorem</i> .
Wireless	..	..	..	..	5 per cent <i>ad valorem</i> .
Musical Instruments	..	..	..	..	5 per cent <i>ad valorem</i> .
Glassware	..	..	..	..	25 per cent <i>ad valorem</i> .
Petrol	..	..	..	..	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per gallon.
Soap	..	..	..	..	9s. per cwt. or 20 per cent <i>ad valorem</i> .
Boots and Shoes	..	..	..	..	10 per cent <i>ad valorem</i> .
Stationery	..	..	..	..	20 per cent <i>ad valorem</i> .
Perfumery	..	..	..	..	50 per cent <i>ad valorem</i> .

### *Export Duties and Cesses*

Cesses are applied to the export of tea (1s. 4d. per 100 pounds or part thereof), tobacco (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 100 pounds or part thereof) and tung oil (£2 10s. per long ton). The proceeds are credited to separate funds and are devoted to the development and benefit of the tea, tobacco and tung industries through the mediums of the Tea Association, the Tobacco Association and the Tung Board. Export duties are levied on tea (2d. per pound) and tobacco (2d. per pound leaf, 3d. per pound strips) and realised £126,341 and £224,201 respectively in 1950. The collection in 1951 rose to £131,042 and £250,656 respectively.

### *Excise Duty*

The only excise duty so far imposed is that on tobacco and cigarettes amounting to one-tenth of a penny on penny packets containing eight cigarettes, one penny on 3d. packets of two ounces of tobacco and otherwise to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per two ounces of tobacco with a variable rate on cigarettes. In 1950 £40,034 was collected and in 1951 £46,253.

### *Stamp Duties*

Stamp duties are payable on most legal documents as in the United Kingdom. Revenue deriving from this source during 1951 was £9,647 compared with £13,473 in 1950. The number of documents stamped was approximately 2,600 excluding cheque, bill and receipt forms. There was a considerable increase in the number of cheque forms stamped during 1951—538,802 as compared with 296,491 during 1950. Another stamping machine was installed during the year. This was purchased from the Director of Stamping in the United Kingdom having been previously used in Somerest House, London. A set of dies was made for it by the Royal Mint in London for use in Nyasaland and this machine will eventually replace the one at present in use which is some 50 years old.

### *Non-Native Poll Tax*

A non-native poll tax is payable by all non-native males over 18 resident in the Protectorate except those merely on a temporary visit. The tax is £4 for those resident in the country on 1st January or who arrive before 30th June. Those who arrive between 1st July and 31st December pay only £2 in respect of the year of entry. Failure to pay the tax within three months of the date on which it falls due renders the defaulter liable to a double payment. Poll tax for the calendar year in which an income tax assessment year begins is allowed as a deduction from the income tax payable. The estimated yield from the tax for 1951 was £18,000 compared with actual yields in 1950 of £16,714, in 1949 of £14,315 in 1948 of £12,516 and in 1947 of £11,322. These figures give some indication of the way in which the non-native population has increased during the last five years.

### *Native Tax*

A poll tax is also payable by all male Africans resident in Nyasaland over the apparent age of 18 years. It is in no sense a hut tax, since no African is liable to pay extra tax in respect of additional residences. Exemptions may be granted to the aged or infirm who are without means to pay, to immigrants living on private estates with the permission of the owners (provided they do not remain in the country for more than 12 continuous months) and to *bona fide* African visitors, not employed or seeking employment in the country and not remaining for longer than three months. The Governor possesses certain additional powers of exemption. The rate of tax, which is variable, is prescribed by the Governor in Council under the Native Tax Ordinance of 1939. In 1951 the rate was increased to 17s. 6d. throughout the Protectorate (except for two small islands in Lake Nyasa). The rate in 1950 was 10s. Of the new 17s. 6d. tax the Native Treasuries receive 5s. compared with 2s. in 1950. The share of tax continues to form by far the largest single item of the revenue of the treasuries.

An additional local education rate of 1s., payable at the same time as the 10s. Protectorate tax, was levied in 1950, and this revenue also accrued to the Native Treasuries for the provision and extension of educational facilities in their areas. In 1951 the education rate was incorporated in the total tax payment of 17s. 6d. and paid to the Native Treasuries as part of their 5s. share. A further 3d. of the new share is, throughout the Protectorate, credited to a famine relief reserve fund. That the increase in the rate of tax in 1951 was justified is revealed by the establishment of an all-time record in the Southern Province in respect of the numbers of taxes collected and by the establishment of district records elsewhere. A Native Tax (Amendment) Ordinance was enacted in 1951 replacing that section of the principal Ordinance which deals with penalties for non-payment of tax. Hitherto non-payment by 30th September in any year rendered the defaulter liable to a fine not exceeding the amount of the tax plus an amount equal to 100 per cent thereof. Under the new legislation such a defaulter, after 30th September in any year, is liable to pay such amount in addition to the tax as the Governor in Council may specify, provided that in no case shall such amount exceed 50 per cent of the tax. During 1951 the additional amount specified by the Governor in Council was 7s. 6d. for the whole Protectorate (except for the two small islands in Lake Nyasa for which an additional amount of 5s. was prescribed in respect of a 10s. tax). Thus, generally speaking the tax increased automatically to 25s. on 1st October, 1951, in respect of payment for that year and resulted in a rush to pay tax during the month of September. The tax is collected by African tax collectors, working under the direction of the Native Authorities and under the general control of District Commissioners. The estimated yield for 1951 was £428,000 compared with an actual revenue in 1950 of £295,783, in 1949 of £246,046, in 1948 of £238,869 and in 1947 of £196,531. In years previous to 1948 the rates payable varied by districts from 7s. 6d. to 9s., so that the bulk of the increase in revenue from this source since 1948 is due to increases in the rate of tax.

#### *Income Tax*

Income tax is payable by companies, public and private, local or otherwise, at a flat rate of 7s. 6d. in the £. There is no profits tax over and above the income tax.

Individual income tax is paid by non-Africans only. Surtax is assessed with, and on the same basis as, income tax. It is in fact merely an extension of income tax rates. In calculating the chargeable income of an individual, a personal deduction of £500 is allowed to a married man and £250 to a single person. A deduction of £120 is allowed in respect of each child up to a maximum of four (£480); other deductions may be allowed for dependants, life insurance and, in certain circumstances, vacation expenses.

The rate of tax payable by individuals starts at 1s. 3d. in the £ and

rises to 14s. 6d. in the £. Income tax, including surtax, payable by individuals in three different categories, at various income tax points, in the assessment year 1951-52, based on 1950 incomes, was as follows :

Income £	Single Person			Married Man			Married Man with 2 Children		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
300 ..	—			—			—		
400 ..	5	7	6	—			—		
500 ..	13	10	0	—			—		
600 ..	23	10	0	2	5	0	—		
700 ..	35	7	6	8	10	0	—		
800 ..	49	2	6	18	10	0	—		
900 ..	65	7	6	28	10	0	6	0	0
1,000 ..	84	2	6	42	5	0	14	10	0
1,500 ..	187	5	0	131	0	0	86	0	0
2,000 ..	327	17	6	249	15	0	189	15	0
3,000 ..	662	5	0	568	10	0	490	10	0
5,000 ..	1,487	5	0	1,368	10	0	1,266	10	0
7,500 ..	2,718	10	0	2,593	10	0	2,473	10	0
10,000 ..	4,124	15	0	3,968	10	0	3,833	10	0
29,751* ..	17,469	4	6	—			—		
30,001* ..	—			17,469	4	6	—		
30,241* ..	—			—			17,469	4	6

#### Notes.

(i) \*These are the points at which maximum rates of income tax and surtax (i.e. 14s. 6d. in the £) become payable.

(ii) In all the above amounts a deduction of £4 for non-native poll tax set off is taken into account.

The revenue from income tax, including surtax, in 1951 was estimated at £740,000 compared with actual receipts of £770,641 in 1950, £586,314 in 1949, £402,460 in 1948 and £363,341 in 1947. The marked increases recorded in 1949 and 1950 were in part due to a general increase in incomes, in part to the arrival of new residents and the setting up of new businesses and in part to the overtaking of arrears of work in the Income Tax Department.

#### Estate Duty

The payment of estate duty in the Protectorate continued in 1951 to be governed by the Estate Duty Ordinance 1946. On a person's death, estate duty is payable under this Ordinance on all property in the Protectorate beneficially owned by the deceased at the time of his death and, if the deceased was domiciled in Nyasaland at that time, on all personal property so owned by the deceased wherever situated. During recent years there has been a steady increase in

the number of persons becoming domiciled in Nyasaland, and consequently, since the enactment of the Estate Duty Ordinance, considerable sums have been collected by way of duty from the estates of such persons. The Ordinance contains a provision for relief against the payment of "double duty" in the Protectorate and the United Kingdom or British territories with reciprocal legislation, such as Southern or Northern Rhodesia. No duty in the nature of legacy or succession duty is payable. A new schedule of rates of estate duty was laid down in 1950 and the amending Ordinance was confirmed in 1951. The main effect has been to increase the class of exemptions from estate duty and to allow additional relief to a surviving spouse. A slight increase in the rates of estate duty was introduced. Examples of estate duty now payable are as follows :

Estates exceeding	£2,000 but not exceeding	£5,000	£1 per cent.
" "	£7,500 " "	£10,000	£3 " "
" "	£35,000 " "	£40,000	£11 " "
" "	£100,000 " "	£150,000	£23 " "
" "	£500,000 " "	£750,000	£35 " "

The total estate duty revenue estimated for 1951 was £97,000 as compared with £13,664 collected in 1950, £10,363 in 1949, £73,767 in 1948 and £26,346 in 1947. The collection of estate duty is undertaken by the Registrar General as Secretary to the Estate Duty Commissioners.

#### NATIVE TREASURIES

Under the Native Authority Ordinance, Native Treasuries have been established by all Native Authorities. In all except one district, the Native Authorities have voluntarily federated their treasuries on a district basis with a view to strengthening their financial position. Native Treasuries are under the control of the Native Authorities, are directly supervised by the District Commissioner and are run in accordance with standard instructions. Their annual estimates are subject to the approval of the Governor. Financial competence is developing, though it still depends in many cases on the efforts of the District Commissioners. Conditions vary throughout the Protectorate, and as Native Authorities display different degrees of ability, so the degree of responsibility undertaken by them and the degree of control exercised by the District Commissioner varies. Finance committees of the District Councils have in several cases been formed ; in some cases these are efficient ; in others they are still learning and do little more than assist in the preparation of the annual estimates, leaving the day by day running of the treasury to the District Commissioner and the treasury clerk.

There is an awakening, albeit gradual, of the less literate mass of the population to a realisation that the Native Treasuries are indeed their own, that they are in no way financed by Government and that

the various local rates and taxes do not accrue to Government but to the local treasury for expenditure on local administration and development. Few villagers however have as yet any appreciation of the "share of tax" system or realise that it is not only Government which benefits from increased tax collection but also their own treasury. Basically this is due to the fact that the average villager has little comprehension of a money economy. To him, the Government, in the person of the District Commissioner, is the depository of all wealth. The impression is widely current that the resources of Government are unlimited and that money is somehow forthcoming at will. The knowledge that the development of Native Administration must be firmly established on a sound financial basis is however slowly spreading among the chiefs. In most cases they are undoubtedly beginning to seek new sources of revenue for their treasuries, and their increasing efforts to ensure the full collection of fees due under Native Authority legislation are an encouraging sign.

The general principles governing the finances of Native Treasuries are :

- (i) Reserve funds should be 50 per cent of normal annual revenue, although in certain areas subject to periodic famine or floods the reserve should be higher.
- (ii) A 10 per cent margin between recurrent revenue and recurrent expenditure should be maintained.
- (iii) New services and capital works should not be undertaken unless it is clear that future recurrent costs can be met.
- (iv) The allocation of expenditure between personal emoluments and other charges, i.e. services, must be guided by the principle that increases in the former must not be at the expense of existing services and that expenditure should, as far as possible, be devoted to improving and developing the services provided by local government.

The revenue of native treasuries was in 1951 derived from the following main sources :

- (i) A share of tax paid by Africans under the Native Tax Ordinance. Revenue from this source was estimated at £110,507 in 1951, when the share was 5s. out of a 17s. 6d. tax. Actual revenue in 1950, when the share of tax was 2s., was £55,456.
- (ii) Court fees and fines which were estimated to produce £18,208 in 1951. Actual revenue in 1950 was £20,683.
- (iii) Fees derived from the rules to control services, e.g. markets, marriage registration, beer, fishing, canteen, hotel and dog licence fees. The revised estimate of revenue from this source in 1951 was £29,962 compared with actual revenue in 1950 of £24,619.

- (iv) 25 per cent of rentals of African Trust Land, of royalties on forest produce from African Trust Land and of cattle dipping fees and 50 per cent of the sale of ivory. The revised estimate for 1951 of revenue from this source was £9,761 compared with actual revenue of £7,591 in 1950.

In special cases, grants not exceeding £4,000 in any one year may be made by the Governor to Native Treasuries from the Native Development and Welfare Fund. The total estimated revenue of Native Treasuries in 1951 was £177,150 of which provincial totals were Northern Province £21,386, Central Province £65,834 and Southern Province £89,930.

Expenditure by Native Treasuries gives a good indication of the type of services undertaken by Native Authorities. Some items taken from 1951 estimates are :

Personal Emoluments.		Other Charges.	
	£		£
Clerks .. ..	9,506	Stationery .. ..	2,695
Messengers .. ..	10,270	Uniforms .. ..	3,537
Mail Carriers .. ..	837	Transport & Travelling..	3,411
Community Workers	2,099	Roads .. ..	3,898
Market Staff .. ..	2,517	Buildings .. ..	2,401
Ferry-men .. ..	428	Agricultural Shows .. ..	1,665
Health Inspectors .. ..	2,197	Forestry .. ..	537
Forest Guards .. ..	837	Medical Services .. ..	536
Well Inspectors .. ..	426	Council Expenses .. ..	919
Road Supervisors .. ..	459	Water Supplies .. ..	427
Agricultural Instructors & Supervisors .. ..	2,498		

The Native Authorities are responsible not only for the actual collection of African poll tax throughout the areas under their control, but also for the compilation and maintenance of village assessment rolls, on which are entered the names and details of all males liable to pay tax, together with a continuous record of annual payments. It is the legal duty of the village headman to keep the Native Authorities informed of any new settlers of taxable age in his area and of young persons in the villages who reach the apparent age of 18 years. Assessment rolls are also kept at district headquarters, where statistics in respect of tax collection are compiled. The standard of tax collection improved notably during the year though it still leaves something to be desired, and the organisation of drives for closer collection still springs in most cases from the District Commissioners rather than from the Native Authorities, as does propaganda for the more accurate maintenance of assessment rolls. Some Native Authorities, however, have demonstrated their efficiency in these matters.



## Chapter 4 : Currency and Banking

Nyasaland is a member of the Southern Rhodesian Currency Board whose notes in denominations of £5, £1, 10s. and 5s. and silver and cupro-nickel coins are legal tender, as is the coinage of the United Kingdom. At 31st December, 1951, Southern Rhodesia currency on issue to Nyasaland amounted to £2,456,874. Five shilling notes and United Kingdom silver are in process of being withdrawn from circulation.

Two commercial banks, the Standard Bank of South Africa and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) operate in the Protectorate. The former has four branches, at Blantyre, Zomba, Limbe and Lilongwe, and the latter two, at Blantyre and Limbe.

The Post Office Savings Bank considerably increased its business during 1951 and now has 46 branches in the Protectorate. During the year no fewer than 2,298 new accounts were opened and only 484 accounts were closed, raising the total of active accounts at the end of the year to 17,175 as against 15,361 at the end of 1950. The principal amount standing to the credit of depositors at 31st December, 1951, was £564,057. The computation of interest is expected to raise this figure to £577,500, an increase of some £70,000 over the figures for 31st December, 1950. During 1951 deposits amounted to £224,154 and withdrawals to £165,443, an increase of 29 per cent and 27 per cent respectively over 1950.

## Chapter 5 : Commerce

During 1951 trade expansion continued, the result of yet another good tobacco crop, a record tea crop and further commercial and Government development, but not to such an extent as in previous post-war years.

The Railways improved yet again on the 1950 record by carrying 233,083 tons of goods traffic in 1951, 25,000 tons more than in 1950. More locomotives and rolling stock were ordered.

The increase in trade from the Far East was again a noticeable feature in 1951 and the value of imports from Japan and Hong Kong considerably exceeded the value of 1950 imports from these sources. Of the total imports by value, the United Kingdom provided 48.6 per cent, the rest of the Commonwealth 23.5 per cent and foreign countries 27.9 per cent. The corresponding figures for 1950 were United Kingdom 46.2 per cent, the rest of the Commonwealth 28.6 per cent and foreign countries 25.2 per cent.

Imports (including those of Government, but excluding bullion and specie) were valued at £7,293,756 as against £7,543,323 in 1950. Government imports were worth £574,573 in 1951 and £1,230,412 in 1950. Exports, including re-exports but excluding bullion and specie, were valued at £5,898,663 as against £5,052,061 in 1950. The increase in the value of imports and exports was again mainly due to large non-recurrent importations of machinery and equipment for new development, and the increased export of tea, tobacco and maize.

## MAJOR IMPORTS 1950 AND 1951

(excluding Government imports)†

	1950		1951	
		£		£
Cotton Manufactures* .. .. .	—	1,485,066	—	1,576,393
Vehicles and parts .. .. .	—	839,585	—	968,204
Industrial machinery .. .. .	—	496,340	—	410,371
Motor spirits and Oils .. .. .	—	295,586	—	278,621
Iron, Steel and manufactures (tons)	3,385	292,675	3,457	371,612
Cutlery, hardware, instruments, implements .. .. .	—	272,247	—	223,711
Chemicals, drugs, dyes (cwt.) ..	131,789	237,063	117,153	258,767
Railway materials (tons) .. .. .	1,292	235,276	2,018	266,552
Pottery, glassware and abrasives (cwt.) .. .. .	56,166	288,775	166,386	168,535
Apparel, haberdashery and millinery	—	158,800	—	214,301
Sugar (cwt.) .. .. .	148,775	134,070	80,332	72,155
Electrical machinery and goods ..	—	108,085	—	106,984
Tea, tobacco and rubber shooks and battens (cwt.) .. .. .	35,185	107,876	15,587	59,081

†Government imports were almost entirely of manufactured articles the most important of which were : cement £25,130 ; iron and steel manufactures £61,564 ; non-ferrous metals £54,515 ; telephone and telegraph equipment £122,462 ; other electrical goods £49,862 ; chemicals, drugs, dyes £25,329 ; motor and aviation spirit £66,714 ; and rubber manufactures £22,675.

\*Cotton-piece good imports decreased to 10,279,652 yards valued at £1,382,357 in 1951 from 15,876,975 yards valued at £1,290,274 in 1950.

## MAJOR EXPORTS 1950 AND 1951

	1950		1951	
	lb.	£	lb	£
Tobacco .. .. .	24,354,577	2,766,731	27,281,037	2,733,431
Tea .. .. .	15,157,065	1,690,712	15,724,987	2,028,866
Cotton Lint .. .. .	3,450,623	335,073	2,476,907	330,002
Cotton Seed .. .. .	2,162,464	14,561	2,101,251	16,010
Tung Oil .. .. .	770,380	46,431	515,590	64,164
Tea, tobacco and rubber shooks	3,672,134	32,412	2,752,701	24,268
Soya Beans .. .. .	472,706	6,385	977,763	21,303
Maize .. .. .	—	—	29,682,705	359,830

Tobacco and cigarette manufacture again increased slightly and maintained its position as a major local industry. In 1951, 850,996 pounds of local tobacco were used in manufacture compared with 750,000 pounds in 1950. Excise duty collected amounted to £46,253. Soap manufacture decreased slightly from 1,014 tons in 1950 to 985 tons in 1951. A small loofah-growing industry continued to make progress.

Two hundred and thirty-six companies were on the register in 1951, 17 with a nominal capital of £307,600 being incorporated in the Protectorate during 1951 as against 16 with a nominal capital of £386,000 during 1950. During 1951 six new companies with a nominal capital of £1,230,000, incorporated outside Nyasaland, were registered to carry on business within the Protectorate. In 1950 there were five such companies registered with a nominal capital of £1,769,000.

The commercial activity of the community is in part reflected by the number of land transactions. A total of 580 documents were registered in the Lands Registry compared with 546 in 1950 and 402 in 1949. Bills of sale registered numbered 82, an increase of 12 over 1950. The average rate of interest remained 12½ per cent and as before the loans were secured in the majority of cases on vehicles or stationary machinery. There were 17 receiving orders in bankruptcy as compared with 10 in 1950 and a total of 31 for the years 1947 to 1949. In the majority of cases the debtors were Asian traders with one or more small trading stores.

The tendency to carry heavy stocks particularly of piece-goods and other African consumer items, which was noted in 1950, continued, and although European trade continued to be moderately buoyant, sales to Africans were depressed, mainly due to the steady rise in

prices which took place throughout the year and to the reduced prices which the Africans received for their tobacco crop.

Trade continued to be mainly in the hands of Europeans and Asians. The Africans are however slowly learning the possibilities of participating in the commercial life of the Protectorate as a result of the development of the co-operative movement described more fully in Chapter 6.

## Chapter 6 : Production\*

### AGRICULTURE

The efforts made by the Agricultural Department during 1950 to secure the maximum possible production of food, to make up the deficiencies caused by the drought of the previous year, were crowned with success in 1951. The recovery evident in 1950 was more than maintained during 1951 and the food position became stronger than ever before. Towards the end of the year, the field staffs of the Agricultural Department and the Provincial and District Administration were successful in securing early preparation of gardens throughout the Protectorate, and when the rains broke in December there were few Africans who were not ready to plant their seed. At the end of 1951 the prospects for the current season were good.

In order to encourage the production of food, Government continued in 1951 to guarantee the purchase of all surplus maize and beans for sale, and in 1951 the former became one of the principal cash crops of the Southern and Central Provinces, in addition to being a staple food crop throughout the Protectorate. In 1950, the Maize Control Board purchased some 9,800 tons of surplus maize grown on African Trust Land. This constituted a record, but in 1951, no less than 28,550 tons were purchased, of which 10,813 tons (38 per cent) came from the Southern Province and 17,737 tons (62 per cent) from the Central Province. The bulk of the Maize Control Board purchase is being exported to Southern Rhodesia but a reserve is held in the Protectorate until the crop for the ensuing year is assured.

The recovery in the production of minor crops, although not so marked as that of maize, nevertheless proceeded satisfactorily during 1951. Seed stocks following the 1949 famine were practically non-existent, and in order to recover the position, no encouragement was given to growers to market their groundnuts in 1951. Even so, a surplus of 309 tons, of which 284 tons came from the Central Province, was marketed in 1951. The surplus in 1950 was no more than seven tons. Unrecorded sales during 1951 in Portuguese East Africa were also considerable. Sales of pulses amounted to 1,651 tons as against

\* All quantities are in short tons (i.e. 2,000 lb.) except where stated to the contrary.

1,618 tons in 1950 ; 821 tons came from the Central Province, 662 tons from the Southern Province and 168 tons from the Northern Province.

The rice harvest was also better than in recent years. Recorded sales of 1,744 tons however showed no improvement over 1950 sales, but it is known that a considerable proportion of the Southern Province crop finds its way into Portuguese territory, and it is always difficult to estimate the amount which growers hold back for food.

The reserve gardens of root crops, cassava and sweet potatoes, continued to flourish and to increase in number. It was even possible to export a small quantity of cassava, and there are now few Africans who do not realise how essential it is to have such a stand-by garden against a recurrence of drought conditions.

The 1951 production of fire-cured tobacco at approximately 25 million pounds constituted a record crop, and with a further 11 million pounds of other varieties, the Protectorate's total tobacco crop of just over 36 million pounds exceeded the previous best (1950) by over 4 million pounds. Comparative figures for 1950 and 1951 production, together with the average price per pound on the auction floor are as follows :

<i>Type</i>	1950	<i>Average price</i>	1951	<i>Average price</i>
	lb.		lb.	
Fire-cured	24,024,218	15·9d.	25,393,933	11·62d.
Sun/Air-cured	4,421,878	19·36d.	5,348,364	16·07d.
Flue-cured	2,604,915	29·27d.	4,043,027	30·32d..
Burley	806,888	24·63d.	1,354,219	22·83d.
Totals	31,857,899	17·69d.	36,139,543	14·76d.

At the beginning of the 1951 buying season there was a substantial fall in the auction floor price of fire-cured leaf, after which prices remained comparatively steady, although well below the 1950 level. This was accepted philosophically, but undoubtedly led to a certain lack of interest in the remainder of the crop and to subsequent carelessness in harvesting and curing. The poor quality of the African Trust Land crop continued to cause great anxiety, more particularly since, in 1951, it became evident that the demand for heavy dark-fired tobacco was receding. It was thought that the 70,000 pit barns constructed during 1950 would result in a very necessary improvement in the standard of curing, but the speed at which the bulk of the 1951 crop ripened placed a severe strain on all available curing space and quality suffered. It is hoped that the full benefit of the new curing barns will be felt in 1952. Another step which the growers could take to improve the quality of their crop would be to pay greater attention to maintaining the fertility of their soil, which so quickly becomes

exhausted, but the quality of the seed stocks may well be another important factor militating against the production of a high quality leaf. This matter is receiving close attention and the Chief Agricultural Research Officer visited the United States of America towards the end of the year to study this and other problems. In order to improve the quality of the crop and the efficiency of its production, a system of registration of all trust land growers was started in the 1950-51 season in the Southern Province and in the Ncheu, Dedza and part of the Lilongwe Districts in the Central Province. The system proved successful in eliminating the less efficient growers and discouraging cultivation in marginal areas, and at the beginning of the 1951-52 season it was extended throughout the Central Province (except Kasungu District).

Reference was made in the Report for 1950 to the beginning of flue-cured tobacco production by European farmers in Kasungu District. Although the original estimate of the acreage to be cleared and planted was not reached, the season was generally favourable and good yields and prices were obtained. This new venture has made an encouraging start and is now soundly established. Of the 4,043,027 pounds of flue-cured tobacco marketed, the Kasungu Estates provided 345,000 pounds. The Government experimental station at Lisasadzi continued investigations into the growing and curing of the flue-cured leaf.

1951 was another record year for tea production, exports totalling 15,724,987 pounds valued at £2,028,866—an increase of some 500,000 pounds over the 1950 figure, which itself had constituted a record. This satisfactory state of affairs was largely due to the coming into production of an increased acreage and to the greater use of sulphate of ammonia. Favourable climatic conditions, combined with the above factors, resulted in a particularly heavy flush towards the end of the year, which unfortunately coincided with the seasonal shortage of labour referred to in Part II, Chapter 2, and a good deal of leaf could not be plucked. The acreage under tea continued to expand. The latest returns showed the acreage at the end of 1950 to be 23,500 as against 22,660 at the end of 1949.

Interest in tung production continued to decline in favour of tea and tobacco. During the 1950 season the area planted up increased by 1,178 acres, the total area under tung being now 18,116 acres. The 1950 harvest amounted to 2,743,458 lb. showing a slight increase over the 1949 figure of 2,461,848 lb., but figures for 1951 show that the acreage under tung was reduced to 17,801 of which only 13,182 were in bearing during the season; final figures for the 1951 harvest are not available but preliminary estimates show that a corresponding decrease is to be expected.

Unfavourable rainfall conditions meant a poor cotton crop during the 1950-51 season when only 3,884 400-pound bales were produced, compared with 10,408 bales in 1949-50. During 1951 the field staff

of the Agricultural Department and the Provincial and District Administration campaigned vigorously for increased cotton production in the lakeshore areas of the Central Province and in the Lower River area. Towards the end of the year an announcement was made that the price of Grade I cotton would be increased from 4d. to 5d. per pound in 1952, Nyasaland being assured for the next five years of a steady price for its cotton as a result of a contract entered into in 1951 with the Raw Cotton Commission. The drive for cotton production reached its peak in December; given good rainfall conditions, the prospects for 1952 are very encouraging, as the bulk of the crop was planted in December in pure stand and a marked increase in acreage was reported from the Central Province. The 1951-52 Karonga crop is expected to exceed 600 bales as against 504 in the season 1950-51. The past cotton season was notable for the introduction of a new planting regime in the Southern Province in order to contend with the ravages of the Red Bollworm. This regime, adopted with success in Portuguese East Africa, involves pure-stand, early planting and the uprooting of all plants by the end of July. Formerly, plants were not uprooted until the end of October, but the new policy was accepted with commendable co-operation on the part of the cotton growers, even though it entailed the loss of part of their crop (for which, however, they received compensation).

The possibilities of using the fertile plains of the Lower Shire for the production of sugar were thoroughly examined during the course of the year. After a detailed survey of soil and vegetation, an area of some 25,000 acres at Alimenda was selected as being potentially suitable for sugar cane. The firm of Booker Bros., McConnell and Company Ltd. were invited to examine this area and were sufficiently impressed to prepare plans for a large sugar estate with an annual production of 20,000 tons. The firm laid down three four-acre experimental plots on three major soil types in November.

Steady but slow progress was made in 1951 in the development of the coffee-growing industry in suitable areas of the Northern Province. In the main areas the number of growers increased from 76 in 1950 to 117 in 1951, and the Nchenachena Coffee Growers Association purchased and marketed  $6\frac{1}{2}$  tons of Arabica as compared with 2 tons in 1950. Liquoring tests were carried out by the Tanganyika Coffee Board during the year, and Nchenachena Grade I was placed in their Class IV and valued (December, 1951) at £425 per ton of clean coffee.

In an endeavour to safeguard the supplies of staple foods for hospitals and other Government institutions and for its employees and labour engaged in development programmes, Government has established its own farms. These farms, largely mechanised, were successfully cropped in 1951. After the 1951 harvest it was decided that the Kalambe farm was more suited to the production of cotton and groundnuts than staple foodstuffs, and pending consideration of the site as a prison farm, the land was allocated to African growers

for cotton production in the 1951-52 season. The 1950-51 growing season was a difficult one. Ridging equipment was hard to come by and this meant that preparation of the fields was delayed on the farms beyond the optimum time. Then the planting rains were very erratic, and cotton as a result was planted late, which led to low yields. At Kakoma, near drought conditions prevailed, only 18 inches of rain being recorded during the growing season. In all, 1,636 acres were eventually planted up on the four farms compared with 910 the previous season, and approximately 360 tons of grain, 53 tons of seed cotton, 9 tons of tobacco and 26 tons of miscellaneous crops were harvested. A further 300 acres were cleared during the year, making the total area available for cultivation on the remaining three farms 1,681 acres, of which 1,337 acres have been planted up for the 1951-52 season.

In August, 1951, an Ordinance was enacted establishing a body to be known as the Nyasaland Farming Corporation which will be responsible for the control and management of the Government food farms, which have hitherto been under the control of the Department of Agriculture. A chairman and members of the new Corporation were appointed in November, 1951, but at the end of the year physical control of the farms had not been taken over from the Department of Agriculture.

With increased European staff available, outstanding progress was made in soil conservation. Reports from the provinces showed that in 1951 15,544 miles of bunds had been constructed, of which 6,400 miles were in the Northern Province. In this way approximately 150,000 acres of fertile land were protected during the year. Provincial and District Natural Resources Boards continued to function, and on the Native Authority Courts was laid the burden of enforcing comprehensive soil conservation rules. The courts responded excellently, and the increasing co-operation of Native Authorities in the work of soil conservation and their increasing appreciation of the grave issues at stake, were most heartening. The areas in which soil conservation work was concentrated during the past year were the Mlanje massif, the Nkata Bay District, the Dowa, Dedza and Ncheu escarpment areas and the Cholo-Chikwawa escarpment.

Agricultural research continued throughout the year, and included research into tea and tung production, cultural, fertiliser and variety trials on a wide range of other crops, testing the possibilities of local and exotic grasses and endeavouring to evolve a permanent pattern of African mixed farming. These and other research projects are more fully described in Part II, Chapter 12.

The Irrigation Branch of the Agricultural Department devoted the greater part of its time to work in the Shire Valley in connection with the hydrological survey for the Shire Valley Project, the objective being the collection of essential hydrological data. The main survey of the Shire Valley Project is being undertaken by a firm of Consulting Engineers, Sir William Halcrow and Partners, who commenced work

in May, 1951. The survey will investigate the practicability of the control of the flow of the Shire River by means of a barrage at the outlet of the river from Lake Nyasa which will have the effect of controlling the level of the Lake. Control of the river flow will, it is expected, enable hydro-electric power to be generated on a large scale and large areas of land, at present virtually useless owing to annual uncontrolled flooding, to be reclaimed. In addition the provision of hydro-electric power will enable further areas of land to be irrigated. Survey work proceeded steadily and the outcome is awaited with considerable interest.

In the Northern Province the Colonial Development Corporation cleared a further 853 acres for tung of which 808 acres were planted up, making a total of 1,752 acres planted as at 31st December, 1951. Some of the original plantings are now coming into bearing, and a total of 7,275 pounds of air-dried seed was harvested from 344 acres of land bearing trees of three years of age and over. The Corporation also harvested 150 acres of rice in the Limpasa Dambo Farm out of 200 acres sown, 1,600 acres were prepared for sowing in November, of which 800 acres were actually sown. The 1951 crops was a useful one, but the cost of mechanised production was relatively high.

#### VETERINARY AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The livestock position remained satisfactory ; no major epidemics occurred during the year and losses from disease were not high. Towards the end of the year, the incidence of tick-borne diseases increased, notably redwater and heartwater, due no doubt to the onset of the rains and humid tick-breeding conditions. Rabies, except for two localised outbreaks, was not so prevalent as in recent years, and some relaxation of control measures was possible during the year. A limited programme of vaccination against this disease was carried out. Vaccination of susceptible stock in the endemic black quarter areas continued to prove effective in controlling this disease. A recently acquired drug, Nivaquine, was found to be most effective in the treatment of anaplasmosis, but weekly dipping of stock, which is carried out over large areas of the Protectorate, remains the most effective way of controlling tick-borne diseases. This is particularly true of heartwater, where effective dipping, hand picking of ticks and hand dressing of ears and tails controlled outbreaks which might otherwise have caused heavy losses. Spasmodic outbreaks of trypanosomiasis occurred at Cholo and Mlanje in areas which were normally considered to be free of tsetse fly.

○ Livestock census figures reveal that all the major classes of stock have recovered from the population slump in 1950, which was an aftermath of the 1949 drought. The cattle population in 1951 stood at 208,157, an increase of 6 per cent over 1950, the sheep population of 50,560 represented an increase of 30 per cent over 1950 while the number of goats remained fairly steady at 262,061. In addition

there were estimated to be 41,840 pigs, 37 horses and 117 donkeys in the Protectorate in 1951. As meat consumption showed no sign of decreasing, this general increase in numbers reflects the favourable season experienced by stock.

Demand for meat in the Southern Province continued to exceed supply. Meat for labour on large estates was difficult to obtain, and this undoubtedly adversely affected recruiting. Slaughter figures at the larger centres were 6,554 head of cattle, 4,659 sheep and goats and 442 pigs. Accurate figures for slaughter in rural areas are not available, but information from Northern and Central Province dipping centres indicated that some 25,000 head of cattle, 23,000 sheep and goats and 16,000 pigs were slaughtered during the year. A stock route from the Northern Province to the railhead at Salima was surveyed and consideration is being given to an experiment in moving stock on the hoof to relieve the supply situation in the principal meat-consuming areas in the Southern Province.

A project for the construction of hide and skin drying sheds was approved during the year and a large number of these sheds were constructed. Such measures, it is hoped, will secure a high quality product for what is rapidly becoming a considerable rural export industry. During the year some 200 tons of hides and skins were exported, an increase of 245 per cent over 1950 exports.

Tanning of hides and skins in order to provide a cheap leather for African use was continued and the activities of the Tanning Unit at Lilongwe were extended, financed by a loan from the Native Development and Welfare Fund. The demand for leather continued to increase, and it was found necessary to import tanning agents more rapid in their action than the local barks which have hitherto been used for this purpose. The use of local wattle bark as a tanning agent was under investigation in 1951. As in previous years the Lilongwe Unit conducted courses for Africans wishing to set up in business as cobblers.

Ghee production, which in the Northern Province is largely in the hands of African co-operative societies, recovered to a large extent from a bad year in 1950. Efforts to increase production in the Central Province met with some success and a number of new producers, mainly Africans, entered the trade. Production in 1951 amounted to some 23½ tons as against 25½ tons in 1949. Milk supplies were better than in 1950, but butter had to be imported to meet local demands.

An experiment of some interest during the year was the installation of a herd of cross-bred Persian Blackhead/Dorset Horn sheep on Zomba Plateau, with the object of testing the suitability for mutton production of the high altitude areas of the Protectorate.

#### FORESTRY

The total area of forest and woodland in Nyasaland is estimated to be about 7,000 square miles, of which 2,754 square miles is State

Forest Reserve. Owing to a markedly seasonal climate, most of this forest consists of dry, open woodland similar to that which covers a large part of the surrounding territories ; true closed forest is found to a limited extent in the areas of high rainfall, mostly as isolated relic patches on mountain tops and along stream banks. There is no doubt that the character of the forest vegetation has been greatly altered and modified over a long period by almost universal cultivation and burning, and that the present small patches of true forest are only relics of much larger areas. Although their extent is very limited, these forests are rich in useful timber species, notably the conifers Mlanje cedar (*Widdringtonia whytei*), pencil cedar (*Juniperus procera*), of which one small forest still remains in the Nyika Plateau, and yellowwood (*Podocarpus milanjanus*). The Mlanje cedar has provided the bulk of the constructional timber used in Nyasaland ever since the eighteen-nineties. Of hardwoods, the most valuable are mahogany (*Khaya nyasica*), a furniture wood which grows along stream banks and reaches a very large size, its associate Mwenya (*Adina microcephala*), a useful and durable constructional timber, and Mlombwa (*Pterocarpus angolensis*), found in the dry forests and the most valuable furniture wood of Central Africa. Many other useful kinds, including the African blackwood or ebony (*Dalbergia melanoxylon*), used for curios and ornaments, are found in the dry forests, but rarely in sufficient quantity to allow large-scale working by modern methods. Almost the entire production of these hardwood timbers is done by African hand-sawyers.

The most valuable stands of timber in the country are found in the Mlanje Mountain forest reserves and in the Misuku Hills in Karonga District. The latter contain valuable stands of mahogany and other timbers which have so far not been worked owing to inaccessibility.

A wide range of exotic trees can be grown in Nyasaland, including many species of pine, cypress and eucalyptus, all of which show a fast growth compared with indigenous varieties. Eucalyptus plantations are a feature of the landscape in the uplands of the Southern Province where they are extensively grown on private estates for poles and firewood. The Imperial Tobacco Company owns large plantations of *eucalyptus saligna*, which is sawn in the company's mill and used for the manufacture of tobacco hogsheads.

Until recently, planting of the Forestry Department has been on a small scale, its activities being largely confined to experimental work and the investigation of the potentialities of exotic and indigenous species. At the beginning of the year, the total area of Government owned forest plantations was 4,791 acres. Between January and April this was increased to 5,890 acres, located mainly at Zomba, Mlanje, Limbe, Dedza and on the Vipya Plateau in the Northern Province. Afforestation at these and other minor centres is now proceeding at the rate of over 1,000 acres a year. Action is concent-

rated mainly on conifers such as pines, cypresses and Mlanje cedar in order to build up and maintain adequate supplies of all-purpose soft-wood timber, but near the main centres of population fast-growing exotic hardwoods are planted for the production of poles and wood-fuel.

Except in the remotest areas, the local demand for timber and other classes of forest produce generally exceeds the available supply, and this is likely to continue to be the case for a number of years, though it is possible that the extended use of certain forms of mechanical equipment may make available supplies which were hitherto inaccessible.

The production of sawn cedar timber from the Mlanje Mountain forests, which still remain the most important source of building timber in the country, was taken over on 15th January, 1951, by the Nyasaland Plywood Co. Ltd., under an exclusive licence for a period of twenty years. Up to 31st August, the Company had fulfilled their obligation to Government and had delivered 37,690 cu. ft. sawn timber to the Public Works Department against the stipulated quantity of 35,000 cu. ft. From 1st September onwards, however, the Company were required by the terms of their licence to double their rate of supply to Government; they actually supplied 12,000 cu. ft. during September and October. During 1951 the Company installed a Wyssen aerial ropeway from the lip of Chambe Plateau to a point near Likabula Depot which should greatly assist in increasing production, as, since the doubling of the quota, the Company has failed to provide as much timber as required.

Production of sawn timber by the Construction and Investment Co. of Nyasaland Ltd. continued on Zomba Plateau where the Company had been granted a licence to fell 23 acres of Mlanje cedar. The felling and conversion of this block was completed in August when the Company was permitted to purchase a further quantity of timber, the felling of which was required for silvicultural reasons.

In Kanjedza Reserve, Limbe, the clear felling of some further 50 acres of poor quality *Cupressus lusitanica* was carried out with the object of converting the area to pine plantations which have been shown to produce much better growth than cypress on these poor soils. This operation resulted in the production of some 150,000 cu. ft. of cypress sawn logs.

The Nyasaland Plywood Company discovered that box-battens, cut from small diameter pine thinnings and supplied from the Forestry Department's plantations at Limbe and Zomba, are extremely useful in the manufacture of tea chests and other packing cases. They are therefore prepared to purchase large quantities of this type of produce, the estimated output of which in 1951 was 5,000 cubic feet. The Company manufactured plywood throughout the year, mainly from eucalyptus timber of large dimensions, purchased both from Government and from private estates; they supplied plywood packing cases in various forms to commercial firms. The Company holds an exclusive licence

for a period of 50 years for the exploitation of the main source of plywood timber, the *piptadenia* forests in the Ruo Gorge and the "Crater" on Mlanje Mountain. Operations have however not yet commenced owing to difficulties of access and in extraction of the timber. The Company acquired a second aerial ropeway for erection in the "Crater."

The sawmill operating in Massenjere Forest Reserve, Port Herald District, was closed down in 1951 by the licensee owing to the exhaustion of supplies of suitable timber in the area. The Dutch Reformed Church Mission installed a 48-inch circular saw in the Ncheu District and cut 22,000 cubic feet of mahogany timber obtained from private land. A good deal of this timber found its way to the open market.

Production of sawn building timber by the Department continued on a small scale; 4,850 cu. ft. were produced from Dedza Plantations and 7,600 cu. ft., mainly from trees blown down in a cyclone, were sawn on Zomba Plateau. The production of sawn timber at Kaningina had to be closed down owing to a reduction of European staff in the Province. The great bulk of departmental production however consisted of poles, both hardwood and softwood from thinnings in plantations, firewood for supply in townships, and roofing shingles from Mlanje Plateau. At Dedza 6,400 poles were sold from the plantations and in the Limbe area some 10,000. Felling and preparation of eucalyptus transmission poles for the Electrical Services Department was undertaken in Mudi Forest Reserve, on the area which will eventually be submerged as a result of the construction of the Mudi Dam.

Production of sawn timber and other forest produce on African Trust Land continued to increase in all three provinces. The work is mainly in the hands of African sawyers and is carried out under licence. Great efforts were made during the year to tighten up the licensing system, to secure a greater measure of control over the exploitation of the Protectorate's forests and to prevent evasion of the payment of royalties. In the Blantyre/Limbe area notable advances were made in these directions. In 1950 an African timber co-operative society was formed in the Northern Province. It is disappointing to record that the financial position of the society was insecure in 1951, but efforts are being made to re-start it.

Total production of softwood timber in 1951 was 204,900 cubic feet in the round, and of hardwoods 214,600 cubic feet in the round. Exports were again confined to eucalyptus tobacco shooks produced by the Imperial Tobacco Company Ltd. and a small quantity of hardwood railway sleepers. The total value of timber exported was £35,000.

The demand for firewood continued to be high and consequently difficult to meet. Local building and tobacco industries absorbed a vast amount, while the African population consume annually a quantity of wood for domestic use and agricultural purposes which is known to be enormous.

The only minor forest products of any importance are charcoal, burnt by Africans near the main townships where it is in great demand, *strophanthus*, beeswax, and a form of gum arabic obtained from trees of *acacia karroo*. The value of exports of *strophanthus* and beeswax in 1951 was £19,285 and £2,310 respectively. All the gum arabic produced was used locally. Considerable interest has been aroused by a strong demand for gum of the *gum tragacanth* type, which at present commands a very high price in world markets owing to failure of supplies from India. It is thought that gum of suitable quality can be obtained from trees of the genus *sterculia* which occur in some quantity in the Rift Valley. Samples of gum of *sterculia quinqueloba* were collected and forwarded to America for analysis.

Systematic exploitation of bamboos was commenced in Mirali Forest Reserve and enquiries were made regarding the possibility of an export trade in bamboos to Southern Rhodesia for use as tobacco sticks. Planting of bamboos was undertaken in most forest reserves. Vast quantities of bamboos are used annually throughout the Protectorate, and the supply is often insufficient.

The Bata Shoe Co. Ltd. of Rhodesia carried out an investigation during the year into the possibilities of exploiting the wild rubber resources in the Nkata Bay District. It was decided that the collection of rubber on a commercial scale might be a practical proposition.

#### FISHING

Fishing, both African and non-African, continued normally throughout the year; efforts to increase African activity continued with some success as a result of the bulk sale of good gill net twine to African fishermen. This meant some increase in fish supplies without any increased pressure being placed on the slender Tilapia stocks, as these nets chiefly catch other species. The destruction of crocodiles in defence of the gill net industry continued, and a start was made during the year on the construction of cheap but serviceable boats for Africans. Nyasaland Fisheries Ltd., a non-African firm which commenced operations in 1949, went into liquidation in 1951. This firm, in which the Colonial Development Corporation and a South African concern were in partnership, found liver oil extraction to be uneconomic and turned over to more general fishing but with little success. A trout hatchery was opened in the Northern Province following a comprehensive stream survey. Consignments of ova from Kenya and the Union of South Africa were successfully hatched and it should be possible to begin stocking streams in the Northern Province in 1952.

#### GAME CONTROL

Game control activities were again mainly directed towards the destruction of crop-marauding animals and some 23,400 head, of

which 23,000 were pig and baboon, were destroyed during the year. Decisive protection was afforded to the fertile lakeshore plain of the Central Province, and a considerable portion of the Kota Kota lakeshore was virtually cleared of baboons. The success of the campaign against these pests enabled more attention to be devoted during the latter part of the year to dangerous game such as elephant, lion and leopard. Man-eating carnivora were dealt with as required, subject to the limitations imposed by shortage of staff. It was also possible to pay more attention to the preservation of game in suitable areas. Two new sanctuaries were proclaimed during the year and a considerable amount of work was done in realigning and redesccribing the boundaries of the Protectorate game reserves. Extension work in crop protection, enlisting the aid of Native Authorities operating their own teams of hunters and netters, was begun in 1951.

#### CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

There were 71 co-operative societies in the Protectorate at the end of 1951. Twelve new societies were registered during the year, seven of which were dairy producer societies in the Karonga District, three consumer societies elsewhere in the Northern Province and two consumer societies in Zomba. Against these new registrations must be offset the liquidation during the year of 12 established societies. Once again practical development was confined to the Northern Province whose peoples, being less conservative, show greater willingness to co-operate in these ventures and reveal more businesslike propensities. Here the work of consolidation proceeded apace.

In May the Rumpi Co-operative Union, now known as the Northern Co-operative Union, acquired a Bedford lorry to facilitate the supply of consumer goods to its societies. The facilities thus provided in an area where commercial transport is non-existent served to stabilise many of the small consumer societies.

Twenty-six dairy societies have been grouped under the Kasitu Valley Union and the Bulambiya Ghee Producers Co-operative Union and they all carried on successfully during 1951. The latter union reached peak production of ghee at 4,000 pounds per month towards the middle of the year. Both unions reached the stage where they are likely to become independent of loan assistance in the near future.

The Nchenachena and Misuku Coffee-Producing Societies did well and considerable interest was shown in increased plantings. The Misuku Society doubled production in the 1951 season, but both are now faced with a period of waiting until the newly planted gardens come into production.

Towards the end of the year both the Northern Union and the Kasitu Valley Ghee Producers Union commenced the construction of permanent offices and quarters in burnt brick with red-tiled roofs.

In November the first European consumer society was registered,

and started business in Zomba on 1st December. The society is well supported, efficiently managed and has every prospect of success.

#### GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The Department of Geological Surveys continued investigations into the coal deposits at Livingstonia in conjunction with Messrs. Powell Duffryn Technical Services. The results were unfortunately inconclusive because the coal seams in a key area are out of reach of the Department's drill. One hole was, however, completed at 845 feet and disclosed two seams of fair quality of which the core seams were dispatched for analysis to the United Kingdom. Further work on the Tambane corundum deposits was carried out by the Director in collaboration with Professor C. E. Tilley of Cambridge University, and a small tonnage of corundum is being shipped to the United States of America.

## Chapter 7: Social Services

#### EDUCATION

Education is not at present compulsory for children of any race in the Protectorate, but some Native Authorities in the Central Province have made rules for the compulsory attendance of pupils enrolled at certain assisted schools. Prosecutions under the rules are few and the system seems to work well.

There are some 4,600 primary schools for Africans, ranging from unassisted village schools to senior schools which provide an eight-year course up to Standard VI. The teaching of English is begun in the third year of the primary course.

Primary education is still predominantly in the hands of the Christian missionary societies who began teaching before there was any settled Government in Nyasaland, but a few primary schools are now conducted by Native Authorities or by estate owners, with the help of Government grants-in-aid. Similar schools, maintained by local communities with Government help and managed by local committees, have been begun in several areas. The development of these "community schools" is being watched with interest as they are the direct result of efforts made by the people themselves to establish and run schools for their children. All schools are registered by the Education Department and are subject to its inspection. About one-sixth of the total number of primary schools are aided financially by Government, and the aided schools contain about 40 per cent of the total school population enrolled which was in 1951 about 144,000 boys and 97,000 girls. It is estimated that over half the Protectorate's children attend school for periods between the ages of five and

eighteen. Only a small minority, however, pass beyond the lowest classes.

There are three African secondary schools in the Protectorate, the third, at Dedza, having been opened in February, 1951. The schools at Blantyre and Zomba had an enrolment of 130 during the year while at Dedza there are already 40 pupils. Unlike the other two schools, Dedza runs both academic and technical courses ; it is well equipped for technical instruction and has a highly qualified staff including four European teachers. Additional buildings are under construction, and the expenditure is being largely met from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. The academic courses in all these schools aim at the Cambridge Senior School Certificate. A considerable number of Nyasaland scholars attend secondary schools in other territories to which they make their way under the auspices of the Missions or by their own efforts. Correspondence courses for post-primary study are also very popular.

Teacher training, undertaken by both the Missions and by Government, has as its object the obtaining of higher grade, English grade or vernacular grade certificates. In 1951, 20 students from the various training centres obtained higher grade certificates, 85 qualified for the English grade and 150 for the vernacular grade. During the last three years, eight selected African teachers have taken the one-year professional course at the Colonial Department of the Institute of Education in the University of London. One of these, now on the staff of the Universities Mission to Central Africa Training College, took a further course in the teaching of English as a foreign language. The other seven are all employed by Government as Inspectors of Schools. Apart from the Dedza Secondary School, the Jeanes Training Centre is the only permanent educational establishment for Africans under the direct control of the Education Department. Its work in teacher training has expanded considerably and out of the 20 successes in the higher grade course in 1951, no fewer than 18 received training at Jeanes. Seventeen higher grade and 19 English grade students completed their first year of instruction at the Centre, and 23 more students were admitted to each of these courses.

The results of Government examinations continued to show an upward trend. Comparative figures for 1950 and 1951 are as follows :

	1950			1951		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Standard VI .. ..	286	22	308	322	17	339
Standard VIII (Junior Secondary) .. ..	37	1	38	45	2	47
Vernacular grade (Teachers)	117	48	165	121	29	150
English Grade .. ..	31	9	40	70	15	85
Higher Grade .. ..	20	1	21	19	1	20

The standard VI examination is taken after eight years' schooling and the junior secondary examination after two years at secondary school.

In the academic year 1948-49, age limits governing admission to Sub-Standard A and Standard IV of the primary course were introduced; no boy was allowed to enter Sub-Standard A of an assisted school if he was over the age of nine or to enter Standard IV if he was over the age of 15. These limits have now been lowered to eight and 14 years respectively and extended to include girls, with the proviso that no girl previously admitted to an assisted school and whose progress is satisfactory shall be turned out on account of her age. These age limits were strictly adhered to in 1951. Unpopular at first, there were definite signs in 1951 that the people were beginning to appreciate the need for such regulations. These regulations, far from causing a drift from assisted to unassisted schools, have so stimulated the demand for admission to both types of school as to swell the enrolment considerably. It is expected that, with the reduction in wastage caused by over-age pupils leaving school for marriage or to seek employment, the 1945 Standard VI pass list of 113, averaging 20 years old, will be converted by 1955 into a pass list of 1,000 averaging 15 years of age. A corresponding increase is expected to take place in the numbers of pupils passing through the secondary schools, and instead of only one or two proceeding each year to higher studies there should be at least 25.

Since the exclusion of over-age pupils from primary schools, efforts have been made to satisfy their needs and those of other adults by various other means. Periodic mass literacy drives have been organised, particularly by the Dutch Reformed Church Mission, while literature has been supplied in increasing quantities by the Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland Joint Publications Bureau and is now on sale throughout the Protectorate. The bureau maintains a full-time business manager stationed at Blantyre and branches have now been opened at Blantyre, Zomba, Limbe, Lilongwe, Mzimba and seven other centres. Contact with a still wider public has been made through the many stores operated by the African Lakes Corporation and through the bookshops of the Dutch Reformed Church Mission, the Church of Scotland Mission (Livingstonia), the White Fathers Mission and the Universities Mission to Central Africa. Publications are also on sale at all district headquarters. The Public Relations Office is also assisting by producing a weekly newspaper, *Msimbi*, which contains news and articles in English as well as in each of the main vernaculars. During 1951 the circulation of this paper increased from 6,200 to 7,300 and it is estimated that each copy of the paper has at least five readers. Experiments continued at Domasi in providing "hedge schools," giving instructions in the three R's to large groups of children and adults who had otherwise received no formal education, to enable them to read, write and count in as short a space of time as possible. The results already achieved indicate

that the lessons learnt from the scheme are likely to be of great importance for the development of primary education in Nyasaland. In some areas, primary school teachers took classes for over-age pupils in their spare time, and "night schools," providing instruction in the afternoons or evenings, continued to function in seven centres.

The first five-year plan, covering the period 1945-49, aimed at laying the foundation of a ten-year educational development programme. A Protectorate-wide survey, covering existing primary school facilities in every district, was carried out and resulted in the accumulation of vital information, on a local basis, as to what was needed for the development and consolidation of the primary school system. As a result it was possible to draw up an agreed expansion programme for each district, detailing the development to be carried out each year from 1950 to 1954. By 1954 it is anticipated that a stabilised primary system will have been achieved, comprising 235 village primary schools providing a two-year elementary course, 370 junior primary schools providing a five-year course and 86 senior primary schools providing an eight-year course.

During 1951 the recommendations made as the result of the survey were further implemented; 175 assisted schools increased their class range, 64 of these were village schools which will now proceed to Standard III, and 13 were junior primary schools which opened a Standard IV and will proceed to Standard VI. Perhaps the most encouraging development in the field of primary education during the year was the all round increase in enrolment. Particularly satisfying was that in respect of girls, traditionally kept in the village to assist in the preparation of food and in the hoeing of gardens. During 1951 the number of girls in assisted schools rose by 6,118 and the number enrolled in unassisted schools increased by 9,082. The corresponding figures for boys were 1,118 and 5,044. In every district there is now a School Committee on which Missions, chiefs, people and Government are all represented. In these committees the detailed plans for primary school development are discussed and the funds available from District Education Rates are allocated. Much attention was paid during the year to the development of the committees into local education authorities, with a still more widely representative membership and with clearly defined executive responsibilities.

In May, 1951, Dr. F. J. Harlow, Adviser to the Secretary of State on Technical Education, visited the Protectorate and made valuable suggestions which will be put into effect as soon as funds are available. At present technical education in the true sense is confined to the facilities provided at the Dedza Secondary School, where courses are available in carpentry, building and sheet metal work. Practical experience is readily obtainable at Dedza, where the school itself is being built departmentally. During 1951 the existing primary school syllabus was to a large extent revised and it is hoped to be able to adopt the new syllabus at the beginning of the next academic year.



The Governor takes the salute at a March Past of the King's African Rifles during the celebrations of the Diamond Jubilee of the Protectorate.



Villagers dance the "Mganda" with gourds trumpeting the music.



A Survey Team working at the south end of Lake Nyasa in the preliminary stages of the Shire Valley Project.



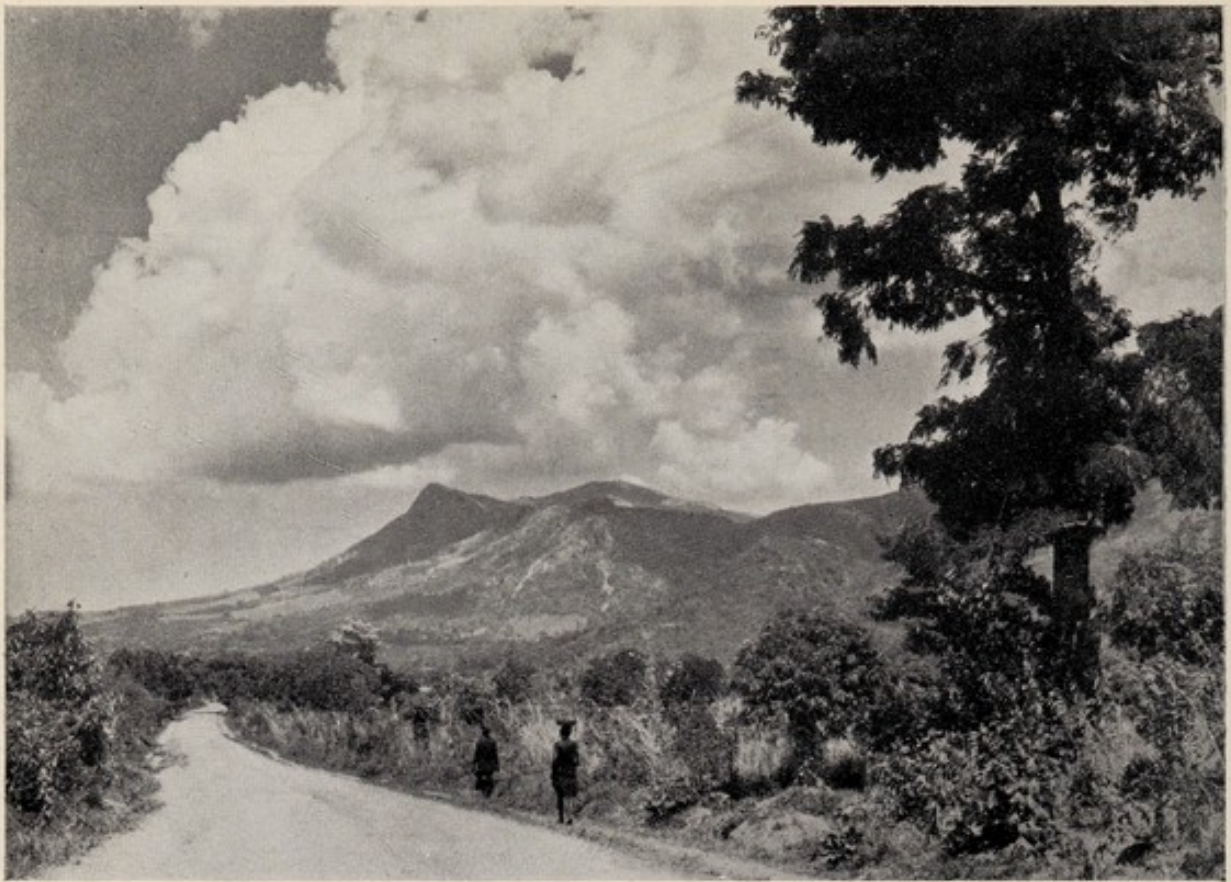
Bringing in the harvest of tobacco leaves on a European Estate.



Time for drill and games at an African School.



A typical Tea and Tung Estate in the Shire Highlands.



Zomba Mountain.  
The capital is built on its lower slopes in the left background.



The lake steamer *Ilala* begins her maiden voyage from Monkey Bay.

Realising the need for as much practical training as possible at the primary school level, the opportunity was taken when drawing up the new syllabus to emphasise its importance. It is proposed to introduce into the Standard VI examination such practical options as carpentry and simple building when the new primary school course is under way.

Supplementing the work of the Education Department in the sphere of technical education, various other departments maintained their own technical courses during 1951. Medical staff received their training in schools at Zomba and Lilongwe and Missions ran complementary courses for the training of medical aides and midwives. The Agricultural Department continued the two-year course at Makwapala for the training of African instructors, and plans were drawn up for incorporating veterinary training in the syllabus. No formal training scheme was operated by the Public Works Department, but informal instruction and guidance was provided on actual works, trainees working with qualified artisans. The Posts and Telecommunications Department maintained its own training courses.

In September a Commission under the leadership of Mr. A. L. Binns, C.B.E., M.C., visited the Protectorate. The Commission had been appointed to study in all East and Central African territories the present position of African primary and secondary education and to consult those working in the field about future progress. The visit of the Commission proved very stimulating; its report and recommendations will be received for consideration in 1952.

European primary education was provided for to an increasing extent within the Protectorate during 1951. Three of the five primary schools, those at Blantyre, Zomba and Lilongwe, are conducted by the Education Department. The other two, at Limbe and Mkhoma, are conducted by Missions with assistance from public funds. At Lilongwe, plans for the establishment of boarding facilities were completed during the year as was the greater part of the new school building. Limited boarding facilities are now available at all the primary schools with the exception of Zomba. In addition to these facilities, correspondence courses are provided free of charge, through the generosity of the Southern Rhodesian Government, for Nyasaland children who are unable to attend schools. It is becoming increasingly difficult to place Nyasaland children in Southern Rhodesian schools as a result of the high rate of immigration into Southern Rhodesia in recent years, and in order to meet the immediate problem, primary school facilities in the Protectorate have been increased to cope with the larger number of children of primary school age, and the class range is being extended to cover the first two years of secondary schooling.

For secondary education, European children continue to go to Southern Rhodesia, the Union of South Africa and overseas. Parents are in fact encouraged to send their children over the age of ten out

of the Protectorate, partly for health reasons, but mainly for the advantages to be gained from mixing in groups of children of their own age in larger and better equipped schools than could be developed in Nyasaland. In 1951, 330 children were enrolled in Nyasaland primary schools, 38 took the correspondence course and 229 were at schools elsewhere in Africa. Grants up to a maximum of £57 10s. 0d. per annum are paid to parents in respect of each child between the ages of 10 and 18 years attending school in South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, Kenya or Tanganyika.

Asian schools are likewise assisted by Government grants; seven such schools, with a total enrolment of 643, received assistance during 1951. There are now nine Asian schools in the Protectorate, two more having been established during the year at Lilongwe and Dedza, so that for the first time Asians in the Central Province have been relieved of the necessity of sending their children to boarding schools far from their homes. The appointment in May of an experienced Asian School Inspector from East Africa made possible the introduction of an improved syllabus, based on that in use in Kenya, and the closer supervision of the work of these schools. Further efforts were made to secure qualified staff from India; a grant of £50 towards the passage of each appointee being paid by Government. The two leading schools are to be re-built, complete with boarding accommodation, on new sites, and the class-room accommodation of the day schools is to be improved. Government will bear up to half the approved cost and the Asian community the rest. Government has also awarded a six-year scholarship at Bombay University to a medical student and a two-year scholarship to a student at Kumbakonam Government College to complete his B.Sc.

The Government Eurafrican school near Blantyre, opened in 1946 with 16 pupils, now has an enrolment of 96, ranging from Sub-Standard A to Standard IV, under an Indian headmistress with two Eurafrican assistants. Bursaries are available for all children in this racial group who attend schools in Rhodesia and South Africa.

Government also provides university scholarships, the value of which depends on the needs of the recipient and the type of university course which he or she attends. In addition to the scholarships awarded to the Indian students, 19 university scholarships were held in 1951, 10 by Europeans and 9 by Africans. Four scholarships awarded by the Secretary of State (under the £1 million C.D. & W. Scheme) were held by Africans and three by Europeans. Two full scholarships were also awarded to enable Africans to complete courses of higher studies in India, one the gift of the Government of India, and the other of an Indian resident.

The Governor is advised on education policy by four separate committees—for African, European, Asian and Eurafrican education respectively. Each committee contains representatives of the section of the community concerned. District school committees advise

the Director of Education on local matters. Policy is implemented under the supervision of the Education Department, which inspects all schools, controls and maintains Government schools, conducts Government and public examinations and controls and pays all local educational grants. The staff of the Department consists of 30 Europeans, 68 Africans, two Indians and two Eurafricans. The total expenditure on education for all races, from public funds, in 1951, amounted to £283,000, of which £258,000 came from Central Revenue (including £21,000 for buildings) and £25,000 from Native Authority Treasuries.

#### HEALTH

In the absence of a full-scale survey, the statistics obtained from Government and Mission hospitals and from dispensaries can provide no more than a limited knowledge of the incidence of disease in the Protectorate, and no more than general trends can be discerned. The recording of vital statistics, of necessity in the hands of Native Authorities, is also imperfect. It is, however, clear that the commonest ailments are malaria, hookworm, schistosomiasis and tropical ulcer. These four diseases, none of which carry a high mortality rate, are nevertheless the cause of widespread debility, and together with dietetic deficiencies, are probably the greatest impediment to economic and social development.

Recent advances in curative and preventive medicine have only served to emphasise the fact that the provision of a first-class preventive service is essential if the incidence of disease in the tropics is to be reduced. All the four diseases mentioned above are preventable and will tend to disappear as a higher standard of environmental hygiene is achieved, particularly if use is also made of the increasing number of highly efficacious drugs.

Health propaganda in the rural areas of the Protectorate has hitherto been limited by a shortage of trained staff. Efforts were therefore made during the year to widen the basis of such propaganda by arranging for medical aides in charge of rural dispensaries to travel to nearby villages, after their morning's work, to give lectures and demonstrations on public health matters.

During 1951 excellent progress was made in the local training of medical auxiliaries, the importance of which has for long been recognised. The African Hospital at Zomba has, for many years, been the centre for the training of male staff, subordinate female attendants and midwives. A school for sanitary assistants is attached. Two categories of male staff are trained at Zomba, medical aides and hospital assistants, but during 1951 a new training school for medical aides was opened at Lilongwe. An enrolment of 20 pupils doubled the number of students undergoing this type of training. Male candidates are not accepted until they have reached Standard VI; they then undergo a two-year course of training with a qualifying examin-

ation at the end of it. Those obtaining distinctions in the qualifying examination are selected for the Hospital Assistant course which occupies a further two years. Certain Missions also undertake the training of African medical auxiliaries.

Maternity and child welfare work is mainly in the hands of Missions which receive assistance from public funds for this purpose. Training of midwives is likewise largely a Mission responsibility, although there is a Government training school at Zomba. The majority of potential midwives are married women. They receive a two-year course, the first year comprising general nursing and the second practical midwifery. A midwifery text book in the vernacular, written by the Medical Officer of the Church of Scotland Mission, Blantyre, and now in the press, should prove of great value to teachers and students alike. During 1951 it was decided as an experiment to admit to the Government training school at Zomba only those pupil midwives who had attended school up to Standard VI, and to carry out teaching in English. The response was disappointing since only three candidates came forward, but as an increasing number of girls achieve a higher educational standard, it should be possible to form in this way a cadre of teachers of practical midwifery, who will be able to give instruction at vernacular training centres elsewhere in the Protectorate. After qualifying, the majority of midwives are attached to Government or Mission institutions, but some take up private practice in rural areas. In order to ensure that standards are maintained, a Supervisory Authority, consisting of two or more persons qualified in midwifery, has been set up in each major district, charged with the general oversight of the work. Of the 6,892 confinements at maternity clinics reported in 1950, 5,266 took place at Mission centres ; the corresponding figures for 1949 were 7,742 and 6,034.

There are 19 Government African hospitals with a total of 1,179 beds. Each hospital has a number of satellite rural dispensaries of which there are 95 in the Protectorate. Many of these dispensaries have rest houses attached to them for the use of patients coming long distances for treatment or for those who require prolonged treatment, although not sufficiently seriously ill to warrant admission to hospital. Eight of the Government hospitals are in charge of European Medical Officers, six are supervised by Asian sub-assistant surgeons and five of the smaller hospitals are administered by African hospital assistants. The various Missions, which pioneered most of the medical work in Nyasaland, continued in 1951 to maintain a number of hospitals, dispensaries and leper colonies. Nine Mission doctors continued work during the year and also a number of nursing sisters, many of whom had the sole charge of a hospital. A doctor was employed by the Colonial Development Corporation in the Northern Province and the Nyasaland Railways also employed a full-time medical officer. Some four or five private practitioners reside in the Blantyre-Limbe area.

An interesting innovation during the year was the opening of the first Health Unit in the Protectorate near Dedza ; it appears to be functioning satisfactorily and is popular with the surrounding people. A young and energetic African hospital assistant is in charge. Facilities provided include an out-patients section, a dispensary, a small laboratory and a small maternity ward and delivery room. Patients travelling from afar are accommodated in a nearby Native Authority rest house. The unit staff travel widely in the surrounding area to advise on health matters.

The majority of Europeans live in the Shire Highlands area of the Southern Province and in the plateau areas of the Central Province ; those living in the Northern Province have considerably increased in number as a result of development in that area and the employment by the Colonial Development Corporation of a large staff engaged in tung planting in the Vipya. Malaria is a common ailment among Europeans throughout the Protectorate, particularly during the rainy season, but the incidence and danger of the more malignant types have been greatly reduced by modern chemo-therapy. Of the 967 cases admitted to the three European hospitals at Blantyre, Zomba and Lilongwe in 1950, 182 were suffering from malaria. The figures for 1949 were 733 and 136 respectively. There were 120 confinements in the European hospitals during 1950 compared with 88 in 1949. Deaths numbered 7 in 1950 and 11 in 1949. In addition to the Government hospitals, the Seventh Day Adventist Mission maintains a small European hospital at its headquarters at Cholo.

Asians are more widely scattered over the Protectorate than Europeans and special wards for their treatment are available in the European hospitals at Blantyre, Zomba and Lilongwe and at the Cholo mission hospital.

The Protectorate was again fortunate in being singularly free of major epidemic disease during the year. The number of small-pox cases again decreased considerably from 295 with 53 deaths in 1950 to 122 with 15 deaths in 1951, additional evidence of the efficacy of the vaccination campaign undertaken in 1948. Calf lymph production recommenced in the Protectorate and sufficient was available for local needs with a small surplus available for sale elsewhere. During 1951 the incidence of poliomyelitis was also low, though certain neighbouring territories were not so fortunate. Relapsing fever continued to show a relatively high incidence, particularly in the Mzimba and Kasungu Districts, and the Medical Officer, Mzimba, carried out some interesting investigations into the probable sources of infection. An outbreak of tick-borne typhus occurred among the European population of Zomba and Karonga during June, July and August. The disease, which is probably endemic throughout the Protectorate, was not severe, and though debilitating, responded readily to modern therapy. During the first six months of the year some 600 people in the Domasi area were examined during a survey

designed to ascertain the incidence of various diseases, principally malaria, syphilis, bilharzia, anaemia, malnutrition and tuberculosis. In addition, the preliminary work for a yellow fever survey was completed during the year, some 1,200 blood samples being collected from women and children throughout the territory and sent to the Virus Research Institute at Entebbe, Uganda, for testing. The leprosy survey of the Protectorate carried out in 1950 by the East Africa High Commission Leprologist revealed an incidence of 14 lepers per thousand of the population, giving an estimated total of 30,000 lepers in the Protectorate. Their treatment is at the moment undertaken in mission settlements under the control of doctors who use drugs of the sulphone group with considerable success. Government have however accepted in principle the recommendations of the Inter-territorial Leprologist that a leprosarium, with a capacity of 1,000 patients, should be constructed. During 1951 an area of some 2,500 acres of land was acquired in the vicinity of Fort Manning for such a purpose and it is hoped to make a start on the buildings at an early date.

The first four blocks of the new Mental Hospital at Zomba were completed by the beginning of the year, but other building priorities in the vicinity delayed further extension. The Medical Superintendent took up his duties early in the year and modern "shock" therapy was undertaken in selected cases.

In addition to the radiological facilities available at Zomba, a machine was installed at Lilongwe, worked from an auxiliary power unit. A portable set was installed at Blantyre for the emergency work occurring in that area. A certain number of African hospital assistants have been trained in simple radiography methods, and one of these is in charge of the apparatus at Lilongwe.

The Government medical establishment includes the Director of Medical Services, his deputy, an assistant director (health), a senior surgical specialist, a medical specialist, two senior medical officers, a pathologist, 22 medical officers, a dental surgeon and mechanic and a pharmacist/storekeeper. The recruitment of specialist staff showed a marked improvement during the year when the posts of assistant director (health), medical specialist and pathologist were filled. The position as regards medical officers remained unsatisfactory, only one appointment was made during 1951; six vacancies still exist. The nursing staff comprises a matron, and 21 nursing sisters, the matron having been appointed early in the year. The sanitary staff consists of a Chief Health Officer and three health inspectors; vacancies for four others exist. There are two Asian senior sub-assistant surgeons and six sub-assistant surgeons.

#### HOUSING

The African population is largely housed in its traditional wattle and daub dwellings of round or oblong design. These are often

extremely primitive, but year by year a steady improvement in the standard of African housing may be noticed. Wattle and daub houses now more frequently contain windows and have a separate kitchen and pit latrine. The more progressive African is clearly influenced by African housing of a permanent pattern provided by Government and large industrial undertakings, and more and more houses are being constructed of burnt brick with wooden doors and glazed windows. The average size of houses is also increasing. European-type bungalows are by no means infrequently found on the outskirts of a traditional wattle and daub village ; they are often tastefully decorated and well maintained.

In the towns, where industrial undertakings are situated, employers often maintain their own workers' settlements which compare favourably with those in neighbouring territories. Employers generally have improved the type of house provided for their workers and the recreational facilities and other amenities provided, but there is no cause for complacency in this respect. During 1951, development by employers of African housing estates in the townships of Blantyre and Limbe was held up to a large extent pending completion of the Town Planning Scheme and the allocation of suitable land.

Once again a high priority was given to the construction of quarters for Government African staff and 380 quarters were completed by the Public Works Department at various stations throughout the Protectorate.

European housing, nearly all of the bungalow type particularly adapted to suit local conditions, made better progress during the year when 44 permanent houses were completed by the Public Works Department and a further 14 were completed under contract in Blantyre.

#### SOCIAL WELFARE

There is no department of social welfare in Nyasaland and the widespread and differing forms of social welfare work which are at present undertaken are included in the activities of various Government departments, Missions and European voluntary organisations. Problems of social welfare are necessarily more complex in the Southern Province with its rapidly increasing African urban population, concentrated to a large extent in the Blantyre/Limbe area. To meet the needs of this urban population a Social Welfare Advisory Committee for the Southern Province was set up in 1950, consisting of officials and non-officials (including three Africans, one of whom is a woman). This committee, which has functioned throughout the year, is charged with co-ordinating the activities of Government and voluntary agents in the field of social welfare ; in addition it acts as an advisory body to Government concerning policy for the area and makes recommendations on any immediate action necessary. District Social Welfare Committees have now been formed in four districts of

the Southern Province. A woman social welfare officer is attached to the office of the Provincial Commissioner, Southern Province, and since 1949 she has devoted herself to the supervision and initiation of social welfare work of various kinds, though her primary work has been among African women and the supervision of African community workers trained at the Jeanes Centre. These selected Africans are trained at the Centre and, on returning to their villages, their duties are to teach their fellow villagers something of the high standard of discipline and social responsibility insisted on at the Centre. Refresher courses for 63 of these ex-Jeanes trainees were held during the year at Fort Johnston, Domasi, Blantyre, Mlanje and Port Herald; at Domasi the community workers were given the opportunity of seeing the many-sided developments in the district. At all the courses talks were given by departmental officers, by missionaries and by representatives of voluntary organisations, emphasis everywhere being laid on the organisation of welfare activities on a community basis, on the need to stimulate self-help among villagers and on the sanctity of marriage ties. In some courses, classes for women were held in sewing and housewifery and games were organised.

Sound character training of youth must undoubtedly come first if any far reaching progress is to be made towards a more general observance of the Christian ethic. In the past, in crowded schools, lacking class age-limits and attendance rules, with an over-academic curriculum and unco-operative parents, teachers have had little time to devote themselves to this fundamental aspect of educational work. Many of these difficulties have now been removed in ways described elsewhere in the Report and much greater emphasis is now laid on character training and the development of an *esprit de corps* in schools. Youth movements are also recognised to have a vital part to play in the development of character, and it is for this reason that the Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements in the Protectorate are financially assisted by Government. Provision is made in the Protectorate estimates for the employment of a full-time Organising Commissioner for Boy Scouts. Scouting and Guiding are becoming increasingly popular with Africans, and during 1951 there was a marked improvement in the quality of the work done by Scouts and Guides. There are now 38 Scout Troops in the territory, with a membership exceeding 1,000, and the first six officially recognised First Class Scouts received their badges during the year. During 1951 a 42-acre block of land was acquired in the Domasi Valley which was developed into an administrative, training and camping headquarters for the Nyasaland Scout movement. Preliminary training courses for African Scout Masters were held at Fort Johnston, Ekwendeni and Domasi. Girl Guides increased in number to some 700, distributed in Guide Companies and Brownie Packs throughout the Protectorate. Enthusiasm among members is not lacking and there is every reason to hope for further rapid development in the near future. An Inter-Territorial

Scout Camp was held on Likoma Island in 1951 and preparations are afoot to enable Nyasaland scouts to attend the forthcoming Central African Jamboree. The Boys' Brigade and its sister organisation, run by the Church of Scotland, continued their excellent work during the year.

A number of European employers and European voluntary societies, such as the Red Cross Society and the Nyasaland Council of Women, undertake social welfare activities in many spheres as part of their normal duties. During 1951 a local committee of the British Empire Society for the Blind was set up, and the work already done for the blind by the South African General Mission is receiving recognition and financial assistance from Government. The Mission maintains at Lulwe a school for the blind which, during 1951, had 27 adults and 29 children under training. The Zambesi Industrial Mission runs an orphanage at Mitsidi in which there were 22 children in residence at the end of the year. Both the blind school and the orphanage received assistance from the Red Cross Society and the Nyasaland Council of Women during the year. Three women's institutes were established in the Southern Province during the year and there are seven such institutes in Domasi District.

Community centres, including reading rooms, large halls and playing fields, have now been established in many districts with financial aid from the Native Development and Welfare Fund. The centres are run by African committees but supervised in most cases by District Commissioners. Service to the community without reward does not come instinctively to the African. It is indeed a latter day development in the most sophisticated of societies, and in a less developed society requires much time and patience in the teaching.

Apart from the activities of the various departments concerned and the grants made by Government to the above-mentioned social welfare organisations, financial assistance is also given to the King's African Rifles Memorial Home, and provision is also made for the relief of necessitous civilian cases. Government contributed half the capital cost and also a proportion of the annual recurrent expenditure of a home for elderly Europeans which was established in 1950. The British Empire Service League as usual watched over the interests of ex-servicemen of all races and was in a position to give financial assistance in cases of need.

## Chapter 8 : Legislation

Forty-four Ordinances were enacted during 1951. The more important include :

The Exchange Control Ordinance (No. 2 of 1951) which is closely modelled on the Exchange Control Act, 1947, of the United Kingdom ;

the Hides and Skins Trade (Control) Ordinance (No. 3 of 1951) which seeks to control the hides and skins industry by providing for the licensing of buying and exportation, and by regulating the methods of grading and preparing hides ;

the Public Land Ordinance (No. 8 of 1951) which consolidates the law relating to the disposal and administration of all lands belonging to Government ;

the Shipping Ordinance (No. 13 of 1951) which consolidates the law relating to merchant shipping in Protectorate waters ;

the National Service Ordinance (No. 15 of 1951) which provides the machinery necessary for enlisting persons for national service in the case of an emergency ;

the Registration Ordinance (No. 16 of 1951) which is designed to enable the registration to be effected of all persons, or of classes of persons, within the Protectorate ;

the Nyasaland Farming Corporation Ordinance (No. 20 of 1951) which establishes a statutory body to take over and manage the food farms started by Government as a result of the 1949 famine and drought ;

the Crocodiles Ordinance (No. 22 of 1951) which is framed to deal with the increasingly profitable business of killing crocodiles for their skins, and which provides for the granting of licences (including exclusive licences) to kill crocodiles ;

the Cotton Ordinance (No. 29 of 1951) which consolidates the law relating to the processing and marketing of cotton and establishes a Cotton Marketing Board to supervise the industry and to purchase and market all cotton grown on African Trust Land ;

the Penal Code (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 31 of 1951) which introduces in the Penal Code a new section declaring participants in the " chain letter " nuisance to be guilty of a misdemeanour ;

the Pensions (Increase) Ordinance (No. 32 of 1951) which recognises the position of pensioners who retired on pensions based on pre-revision salaries, and seeks to improve their lot by increasing those pensions from  $7\frac{1}{2}$  to 15 per cent.

In addition 240 Government Notices, containing notification of appointments and subsidiary legislation in various forms, were made during 1951.

## Chapter 9 : Justice, Police and Prisons

### JUSTICE

The Courts of the Protectorate are of two types ; the High Court, and the Courts subordinate thereto, and Native Courts, the constitution, duties and functions of which are explained later in this section.

The High Court has jurisdiction over all persons and over all matters in the Protectorate. Subordinate courts are nominally of the first, second, third and fourth class with jurisdiction over all persons and varying powers. Courts of the first class are held by Provincial Commissioners and at Blantyre, Limbe and Lilongwe by Resident Magistrates. The second, third and fourth class courts are presided over by District Commissioners, Assistant District Commissioners and cadets respectively in each district.

The Criminal Procedure Code confers on subordinate courts a limited jurisdiction. Courts of the first and second class may try offenders for any offence under the Penal Code or any other law, other than treason, misprision of treason, murder and manslaughter, but any sentence exceeding 12 months imprisonment by a first-class court and six months imprisonment by a second-class court is subject to confirmation by the High Court. The sentences which may be imposed by a third-class court are limited to six months and those of a fourth-class court to one month. The graver crimes are tried by the High Court after a preliminary enquiry before a subordinate court.

In civil matters, courts of the first and second class have jurisdiction in all matters in which the amount or value in dispute does not exceed £200 and £100 respectively. Courts of the third and fourth class have similar jurisdiction to a maximum of £25.

In all cases, civil and criminal, to which Africans are party, the court is guided by native law and custom so far as it is applicable and so far as it is not repugnant to justice or morality and not inconsistent with any Order in Council, Ordinance, or any legislation subordinate to such Order or Ordinance. All such cases are decided according to substantial justice without undue regard for technicalities of procedure and with the minimum delay.

The High Court may call for the records of any case held before a court subordinate to itself, to satisfy itself as to the legality and propriety of the proceedings and the sentence.

Appeals from subordinate courts in civil and criminal matters lie to the High Court. Appeals from the High Court in civil and criminal matters lie to the Rhodesia and Nyasaland Court of Appeal which holds regular sessions at Salisbury, Livingstone and Blantyre.

The Chief Justice of the Protectorate arranges regular circuits three or four times a year, and so far as it is possible fixes the venue

of a trial in or near the district in which the alleged crime was committed. On circuit he also inspects the court books and files of subordinate courts. He is *ex officio* Visiting Justice of the central and district prisons of the Protectorate.

Fifty-nine juveniles came before the courts during 1951 compared with 83 in 1950. Generally speaking, they were charged with petty theft. Ten juveniles were committed to the approved school in 1951 as against 12 in 1950.

The Native Courts Ordinance, 1933, provides for the setting up of Native Courts, under the jurisdiction of the Native Authorities. The courts are constituted in accordance with the native law or custom of the area in which they have jurisdiction, though the Provincial Commissioner may, with the approval of the Governor, prescribe the constitution of any Native Court, or the order of precedence among the members thereof, or the powers and duties of any persons acting as assessors to any court in his Province. In accordance with custom no chief sits alone to hear cases; he is aided by assessors. The assessors either sit by hereditary right or are selected on account of special wisdom or aptitude. The composition of the courts is not laid down in the Ordinance nor in the court warrants. The court assessors receive a fixed salary from the Native Treasury.

The whole country is within the jurisdiction of Native Courts except for proclaimed townships and such areas as the Governor may order. The practice and procedure of Native Courts is regulated in accordance with native law and custom, subject to any rules which may be made by the Governor. Warrants defining the jurisdiction and powers of the courts are issued by Provincial Commissioners.

In general, the jurisdiction of Native Courts is limited to "cases and matters in which all the parties are Africans and the defendant was, at the time when the cause of the action arose, resident or within the jurisdiction of the court." The purpose of the courts is to administer a justice which is understood and appreciated by Africans and is as far as possible in accordance with accepted native customs.

The Native Courts may exercise criminal jurisdiction to the extent set out in their warrants and subject to the provisions of the Ordinance. Such jurisdiction extends to the hearing, trial and determination of all criminal charges and matters in which the complainant and the accused are Africans and the defendant is accused of having wholly or in part, within the jurisdiction of the Court, committed, or been accessory to the committing of an offence. Native Courts have no jurisdiction to try offences in consequence of which death is alleged to have occurred or which are punishable under any law with death or imprisonment for life, nor may they try cases in connection with marriage, other than marriage contracted under or in accordance with Mohammedan or native law or custom, except where both parties are of the same religion and the claim is one for dowry only.

Native Courts have and may exercise civil jurisdiction to the extent

set out in their warrants, and subject to the provisions of the Native Courts Ordinance. Civil proceedings relating to immovable property must be taken in the Native Court within the area of whose jurisdiction the property is situated.

The powers of each court are set out in the warrant establishing it. Courts are divided into three classes, with powers as follows :

- Class A. Fine not exceeding £5  
Imprisonment not exceeding 6 months.
- Class B. Fine not exceeding £3  
Imprisonment not exceeding 3 months.
- Class C. Fine not exceeding £1  
Imprisonment not exceeding 1 month.

In cases of a criminal nature, a Native Court may impose a fine, or may order imprisonment, or both a fine and imprisonment. Orders for compensation may also be made. A Native Court may not impose corporal punishment unless it has power to try the offence under the Penal Code and the Code authorises such penalty, or unless the offence is one against native law and custom and native law and custom of the area concerned recognises corporal punishment as a penalty for that offence.

Provincial and District Commissioners have in the first instance complete powers of review and revision over Native Court cases, and appeals against orders or decisions of the Native Court go either to the Native Appeal Court, where there is one, or direct to the District Commissioners and thereafter to the Provincial Commissioners. Appeals from Native Courts lie ultimately to the High Court.

The Native Courts are very popular with Africans and the noticeable increase in the number of cases coming before the courts is an indication of the confidence placed in them by litigants.

During 1951 African urban courts were started in Blantyre and Zomba. Each court has a panel of members of whom three are chosen for each sitting. These urban courts deal with petty cases in the townships and also with matters involving African customary law. In the case of the Blantyre Court, arrangements have been made for it to sit at Limbe as required.

The burden of dealing with offences against comprehensive Natural Resources Rules in connection with soil conservation fell on the Native Courts during 1951. This involved a considerable amount of extra work as the number of offenders was large, but the vast majority of courts shouldered the extra burden cheerfully and competently, a tribute to the flexibility of the system.

In April, 1951, Mr. R. L. Moffat, the Native Courts Adviser to the Northern Rhodesian Government, visited the Protectorate, spent seven weeks touring the country and subsequently submitted a comprehensive report on the working of the native court system in Nyasaland

together with recommendations for its improvement. The report is still under consideration.

#### POLICE

The European establishment of the Force was again increased in 1951 and now numbers 29 gazetted officers and 23 inspectors and assistant inspectors. Of this total of 52, two posts were unfilled at the end of the year. The African establishment was likewise increased during 1951 from 695 to 735. At the beginning of the year the Force was considerably under-staffed, the actual strength being only 598, but by the end of December this leeway had been made up and the Force was for the first time in many years up to its full establishment. Recruitment was facilitated by the adoption in 1951 of a revised salary scale for African personnel, introducing substantial pay increases and pensionable status, and by the provision in recent years of improved standard staff quarters. One hundred and twenty-two permanent quarters were built during 1951 in various parts of the Protectorate, but the influx of recruits created a housing problem which is not yet solved; only men of Standard V and above are now recruited for service in the Police Force and the standard of literacy has steadily improved. The improved conditions of service likewise served to attract able recruits.

Training programmes were revised and intensified, and those leaving the Zomba training school now have a reasonably good grasp of the more important aspects of police work. An innovation during the year was the training of a mobile traffic section, provided with ten motor cycles. The personnel under training received comprehensive instruction concerning traffic laws and duties, the riding and maintenance of their machines, the investigation of accidents and—under the direction of a qualified surveyor—plan-drawing to scale. They will be the first African mobile traffic police in Central and Southern Africa. The signals section was again handicapped by lack of equipment but mobile radio-telephony stations in police vehicles were operating on an experimental basis during the year in the Zomba District; they have already proved their worth in the investigation of crime. The reorganisation of the Police Band, begun at the end of 1950, was a complete success. Many new instruments were obtained and performances met with unqualified approval. A dance band section likewise proved extremely popular and raised sufficient revenue to make a substantial contribution to the cost of the new instruments.

The Immigration Branch of the Force is responsible for the implementation of the Immigration (Control) Ordinance and the Regulations made thereunder; it is also responsible for all passport control work. For the convenience of the public, the branch was transferred to Blantyre in June, 1951.

An experienced Superintendent of Police arrived in July, 1951 on

transfer from Jamaica and took over control of the Criminal Investigation Division. He will be primarily engaged for some time to come on the reorganisation of this important branch of the force.

The total number of offences dealt with by the Police in 1951 was 12,545, an increase of some 2,000 over 1950. Only 45 murders were reported as compared with 80 in 1950. Figures for burglaries, other breakings, theft and arson all showed a slight, but by no means an alarming increase over 1950. Comparative figures of offences reported and serious crime in recent years are as follows :

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951*
Total offences reported	6,996	8,641	10,521	10,559	12,545
Murders reported ..	—	49	67	80	45
Burglary, House breakings, Storebreakings, etc...	—	887	1,160	1,145	1,248
Theft .. .. .	—	2,065	3,571	3,130	3,195
Arson .. .. .	—	179	209	156	227

\* 1951 figures are not yet final.

Recidivists were again responsible for many of the offences against property. A system of police supervision of known habitual criminals operated throughout the Protectorate.

#### PRISONS

The Central Prison in Zomba and the two prison farms at Mikuyu and Pyupyu are the only prisons in the Protectorate directly under the control of officers of the Colonial Prison Service ; the remaining two second-class and ten third-class prisons are administered by officers of the Police, Administration and Agricultural Department but are staffed by regular prison warders.

The Central Prison takes all classes of prisoners from all parts of the Protectorate ; the second-class and third-class prisons retain only first offenders with sentences of up to two years and six months respectively. All prisons in the Protectorate are under the ultimate control of the Commissioner of Prisons, Zomba.

The authorised establishment for the department during 1951 was eight European officers, 15 African clerks, artisan instructors and messengers, and 230 African subordinate staff. In addition there were six teachers and instructors at the Chilwa School for juvenile delinquents and 12 temporary warders.

Warders training courses continued throughout the year at the Central Prison for new recruits ; refresher and promotion courses for senior warders were also held. Ten literate and ten illiterate warders were enlisted during the year and ten temporary warders were engaged. Fifty warders left the service for various reasons.

A revised salary scale was introduced for all ranks at the beginning of the year. It compares favourably with that of the Police and in many cases is better than the scale in other Government departments. It was, therefore, possible to select men of a much higher standard than before.

During 1951 a total of 3,415 persons were received in the prisons of the Protectorate of whom 2,028 were sentenced to imprisonment ; of these latter 68 were women. These figures show a slight reduction on those of 1950 which were 3,662 received, 2,320 for imprisonment including 99 women.

There was a decrease of 149 in the number of recidivists committed during the year—304 as against the high 1950 figure of 453. As a number of these persons are admitted to prison on more than one occasion during the course of a year, the actual number of individuals concerned is smaller than the figures suggest. The daily average number of male prisoners in all prisons during 1951 was 890.35 and of females 21.26. Prison discipline showed a marked improvement. There were no cases of corporal punishment for prison offences. The general health of prisoners was good, the average daily sick list being only 18.55 as compared with 27.08 in 1950. There were five deaths, all from natural causes. Ten males and one female were executed in the Central Prison after sentence of death had been passed upon them by the High Court.

New workshops were completed and occupied at the Central Prison during the year, making it possible to centralise all the industries. A total of 13,507 articles were produced in the workshops, mainly for other Government departments. Four semi-detached warders quarters, a new prison kitchen and renovations and extensions to the prison hospital were completed at the Central Prison during the year by prison labour.

The three prison farms, Pyupyu and Mikuyu in the Zomba area and Dzeleka in the Dowa District of the Central Province, continued to function satisfactorily. Crops produced were valued at £2,260 ; all were consumed by the Prisons Department. The camps on these farms are all of the open variety and have no surrounding wall or fence. Only at Pyupyu can the doors of the prisoners' accommodation be locked at night, the buildings at the other farms being purely temporary. Only first offenders are placed in the camps which accommodate prisoners with sentences ranging from six months to life imprisonment. The standard of discipline is high and the prisoners respond well to the system of trust on which the camps are run. The farms in the Zomba District provided calves to the Medical Department for the extraction of calf-lymph for vaccine ; Pyupyu Farm also provided butter and eggs for sale in Zomba.

The Chilwa School for juvenile delinquents continued to make good progress ; during the year there were 10 admissions and 12 discharges. The number of boys at the school at the close of the

year was 24. The school troop of Boy Scouts attended several scouting functions in the neighbourhood, including a week's camp in Zomba during Red Cross week, when they conducted a "bob-a-job" campaign and raised over £10 for Red Cross funds. Fifteen boys were sent on short periods of home leave. This privilege does much to keep the boys in touch with their family and home life.

Visiting justices are appointed to all prisons in the Protectorate and lady visiting justices pay frequent visits to the women's prison in Zomba.

## Chapter 10 : Public Utilities and Public Works

### PUBLIC UTILITIES

The only public utility services operated in Nyasaland are the electricity and water supplies of the townships of Zomba and Blantyre, the electricity supply of Limbe and the water supply of Lilongwe.

The Government-owned electricity undertakings in Blantyre, Limbe and Zomba operated satisfactorily during the year within the limits imposed by a shortage of generating plant and of suitable distribution networks.

Loan provision of £880,000 has been made by Government for the development of much needed electrical services and an estimated £44,500 was spent on such development in 1951. In Limbe the supply was improved by the reinforcement of the low-tension distribution, and in all some 75 new connections were made. The staff position improved to such an extent as to allow the posting of an electrical fitter to the area ; the building of a new sub-station and local store was started which will form part of the reorganised distribution system. In Blantyre a new 280 kilowatt diesel generating set was installed and commissioned in March, 1951. This will serve as a temporary expedient to increase generating capacity until the new steam power station is completed in 1953. Site preparation for the new power station began and the first consignments of structural steelwork were received ; considerable progress was made by the Public Works Department in levelling the site for the main power station building and cooling pond. Work was also begun on the 11,000 volt primary transmission system which it is hoped to extend considerably in 1952. A small diesel generating unit was installed to give an evening supply to the Blantyre Grade VI housing estate. In Zomba, progress was made with the hydro-electrical extension to the present undertaking ; the building of the power station and pipe laying were started. A small 24 kilowatt diesel generating plant was also installed in Zomba to supplement the overloaded main plant. In Lilongwe work on the power station building was put in hand, the diesel generating

plant installed and a start made on the high-voltage and low-tension distribution systems. A number of small district plants were commissioned in 1951 to serve the Zomba Grade VI housing estate, Chileka Airport, Domasi District Headquarters, the Tung Station and Lilongwe African Hospital. The Department also carried out considerable maintenance of and improvements and extensions to existing Government installations; in all some 80 houses were wired.

Increased costs of fuel, materials and labour again necessitated the revision of charges in the Zomba and Blantyre areas. In Zomba 2d. per unit is now charged for domestic supplies, in addition to a fixed monthly charge depending on the floor area of the house concerned, and for industrial supplies the charge is 5d. per unit. In Blantyre the domestic supply is 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per unit, with a fixed monthly charge between 7s. and 14s., while industrial charges are now based on a sliding scale from 1s. 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 6 $\frac{1}{4}$  per unit. Limbe charges are also in process of revision.

The Zomba piped water is taken from the Mlungusi River halfway up Zomba Mountain, and is distributed by gravity feed to all parts of the town; the water is neither filtered nor treated but analysis reveals that it is clean and pure. The water rate is 3s. 6d. per month per house.

Blantyre draws its water from a dam on the Mudi River some four miles distant. The water is passed through sedimentation tanks and pressure filters before being chlorinated and gravity fed through a 6-inch main to the township. The storage capacity of the original dam is, however, quite inadequate for present day needs and in 1951 a contract was let for the construction of a new Blantyre/Limbe water supply system incorporating a large earth dam to increase storage capacity. Satisfactory progress was made on this project during the latter months of the year. The present water rate in Blantyre is 2s. 6d. per thousand gallons up to an amount which depends on the rateable value of the property, and 1s. per thousand gallons thereafter. Limbe has no piped water supply but will be served by the new scheme when it comes into operation.

The present Lilongwe supply merely delivers river water to the houses, unfiltered and unchlorinated. The water is pumped from the river to a small service reservoir and thence fed by gravity through the township. A scheme prepared in 1950 for augmenting and purifying the supply having been found to be inadequate owing to the rapid increase in consumption, consulting engineers prepared a new scheme during 1951 and tenders were called for.

The preparation of small schemes to serve some of the smaller townships and district headquarters continued.

Government has made loan provision amounting to £540,000 for the development of water supplies in the Protectorate.

## BROADCASTING

Broadcast programmes are received in Nyasaland from the Central African Broadcasting Station in Lusaka and from the Southern Rhodesian Broadcasting Station in Salisbury; the former transmits African programmes and the latter provides programmes for the European population. Indian stations are easily received in the Protectorate and thus the Asian population is catered for. South African stations also come in strongly.

Material and news for transmission to the European and African communities is telegraphed or airmailed to Salisbury and Lusaka by the Public Relations Department, and during the year a large number of items were recorded by a Lusaka mobile recording unit which toured Nyasaland. Mainly village and folk songs, the recordings are suitable for use at any time, and broadcasts already made have attracted large audiences.

Salisbury broadcasts in English every evening and also on Sunday mornings. Items of special interest to Nyasaland residents are contained in a Central African evening news bulletin while the B.B.C. General Overseas Service news bulletins are also relayed from Salisbury. A weekly feature entitled "Calling the Rhodesias and Nyasaland," relayed from Salisbury, consists of talks by Central African residents who happen to be in the United Kingdom on leave or business.

Lusaka broadcasts in Chinyanja, the principal vernacular language of the Protectorate. These programmes are immensely popular and are listened to regularly by hundreds of African owners of cheap dry-battery receiving sets. A large number of these listeners correspond directly with the station. English programmes are also relayed and are listened to by the more educated element and often by others who have little or no command of English. Sunday morning broadcasts are designed to appeal to educated Africans in all three Central African territories and are wider in their scope than the week-day programmes. Group listening wireless sets have been distributed to various centres in Nyasaland, including African clubs and community halls, while the supply and distribution of the "saucepan" dry-battery set have been organised through commercial channels.

Nyasaland still has no immediate access to the air. The establishment of a sub-station at Zomba, beamed on Lusaka, which will be able to transmit programmes originating in Nyasaland has been agreed upon in principle, but technical problems remain to be solved before the project can be undertaken. Nyasaland's contribution to the Central African Broadcasting Scheme in 1951 was estimated to be £2,775.

## PUBLIC WORKS

There was no increase in the European building staff of the Public Works Department during the year, but a considerable amount of

work was successfully completed. The drawing office staff was brought up to establishment by the appointment on a temporary basis of an assistant architect and an architectural assistant.

Owing to the severe shortage of accommodation a great deal of the building capacity of the Department was again devoted to the construction of both European and African houses. The contract for 24 Grade IV houses in Blantyre made better progress and by the end of the year 14 had been completed and the remainder roofed. A further 44 permanent European houses were completed by the Department during the year.

Three hundred and eighty permanent African staff quarters were completed during 1951 ; these were again mainly of the smallest type of graded house. This design comprises a two-roomed house with a kitchen, store, latrine and bathroom block behind, joined to the house by a walled-in yard. Despite this progress, the increase in the numbers of African staff and the higher standard of accommodation demanded, and recognised by Government to be desirable, still render the housing shortage acute.

Among other buildings completed or nearing completion by the end of the year were the Medical Training School, the European School at Lilongwe, the Veterinary Livestock Disease Survey Laboratory at Mpemba, the Income Tax and Immigration Offices at Blantyre and the Public Works Department Mechanical Workshops also at Blantyre. In addition, a temporary air terminal building at Chileka was completed and extensive additions were made to the African hospitals at Zomba and Lilongwe. The reconstruction of Chileka Airport was completed during the year.

#### TOWN PLANNING

The Town Planning Officer arrived from the United Kingdom in March, 1951, and the staff was brought to full establishment in August by the arrival of a draughtsman.

Work was mainly concerned with the Blantyre/Limbe Planning Area ; it included the investigation of planning applications and their presentation for the consideration of the Town Planning Committee, the implementation of the Committee's decisions and advising the general public on planning matters. Applications for permission to develop resulted in a certain amount of detailed planning by the Town Planning Officer owing to the lack of qualified professional men ; efforts to improve the design of buildings and their environments were not always successful because of the difficulty experienced by applicants in obtaining new or amended drawings. The outline planning scheme for the Blantyre/Limbe Area prepared in 1950 was on public view in April and May, 1951, and received the approval of the Governor in Council in December, 1951. Action is being taken towards its implementation by way of preparing detailed layouts of specific

areas. The outline plan has been prepared on the basis of the amalgamation of the two townships which are at present five miles apart.

The first meeting of the Lilongwe Town Planning Committee was held in September, 1951. A planning scheme for the Central Province headquarters is proposed and detailed layouts of roads and intersections, together with a layout of part of the area zones for high density residential development were prepared.

## Chapter 11: Communications

### SHIPPING

The congestion of shipping at the port of Beira, which was such a serious problem during 1950, was to a large extent relieved in 1951. This was largely due to the activities of the Beira Phasing Secretariat. It was, therefore, a disappointment that excessive rain during December again held up the discharge of ships at the port and once again produced congestion which is unlikely to be relieved until the middle of 1952, despite the immediate steps which were taken to reduce the number of vessels calling and to restrict the cargoes carried by those ships permitted to call.

Internal traffic on Lake Nyasa was continued by the Nyasaland Railways operating a fleet of five tugs, 14 barges of 23-30 tons capacity and the M.V. *Mpasa*, 240 tons. This fleet was augmented in June, 1951, by the coming into service of the new vessel M.V. *Ilala II* which has a displacement of 620 tons, can carry 100 tons of cargo in addition to 9 first-class, 6 second-class and 300 third-class passengers and has considerably improved the lake service. The *Ilala II* maintains a regular service round the lake, the whole voyage taking eight days. The service will be accelerated in 1952 when the navigation lights, now being erected at various points on the lakeshore, are brought into service. Wireless communication was installed during the year by the Railways between their headquarters, lake ports and ships.

The Universities Mission to Central Africa continued to operate a small steamer on the lake, the *Chauncy Maples*, a wood-burning vessel. During 1951 this ship completed 50 years of strenuous passenger service on Lake Nyasa and appropriate jubilee celebrations were held at all her ports of call.

### RAILWAYS

The Nyasaland, Central Africa and Trans-Zambesia Railways provide communication with the sea at Beira and thence with Southern Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa. The companies operate

a 3' 6" gauge line. The line passes over the Lower Zambesi Bridge after leaving Nyasaland ; this bridge with a length of 12,064 feet is the longest railway bridge in the world. The principal station in Nyasaland is at Limbe, but a northern extension to the line reaches to the railhead at Salima. At Chipoka, south of Salima, trains connect with the vessels operating on Lake Nyasa. In recent years there has been a steady increase in both goods and passenger traffic. During 1951 a greater tonnage of goods, both exports and imports, was carried than ever before ; 228,671 tons of goods traffic were carried in 1951 over the section of the line operated by the Nyasaland Railways compared with 208,394 tons in 1950 (corrected figure), this was nearly four times greater than the tonnage carried in 1939. The number of passengers carried during 1951 decreased from 321,653 in 1950 to 285,266. The 1939 figure was 107,000. To deal with the increasing passenger traffic, five new third-class and seven new fourth-class coaches will be put into service early in 1952, and in order to provide faster services two diesel coaches with first and second-class accommodation have been ordered ; two additional first-class coaches and two passenger vans are also expected to arrive in 1952. To cope with the extra freight traffic, orders have been placed for five oil tank cars, 30 covered freight cars, 30 open cars and five brake vans ; two further locomotives are expected to arrive in 1952.

#### CIVIL AVIATION

Development in civil aviation again progressed slowly during the year. As in 1950 difficulties were experienced in the recruitment of qualified staff and there were many delays in obtaining essential equipment from overseas. The greater part of the work at Chileka Airport near Blantyre, was, however, completed during the year, a temporary air terminal building having been opened in November, 1950. Construction of a permanent air terminal building has had to be deferred until sufficient funds are available. The runways and taxi-tracks were completed during the year and a seal bitumen coat was laid on them. First-class facilities have thus been provided at the Protectorate's principal airport for aircraft of medium capacity and, should it ever become necessary, the main runway is capable of being extended to take the largest aircraft.

The Central African Airways Corporation, financed by the Governments of Southern and Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, continued to provide all internal and regional services. A new timetable was introduced in April, 1951. The de Havilland Dove services which previously operated from Blantyre to Lilongwe and Fort Jameson in Northern Rhodesia were replaced by services operated with de Havilland (Canada) Beaver aircraft. Two such aircraft were permanently based at Chileka, one being available for internal charters. The Corporation's excursion programme to Salima on the

lakeshore from both Northern and Southern Rhodesia was somewhat less successful than had been anticipated. Two excursions weekly from Salisbury using Viking aircraft were originally planned but one was sufficient to meet the demand. In addition twice weekly services using Dove aircraft were operated throughout the season from Lusaka and Ndola to Monkey Bay.

In November, the Corporation extended the internal air service in Nyasaland to the Northern Province using Beaver aircraft. The service now operates regularly from Chileka via Zomba, Fort Johnston Monkey Bay, Salima, Lilongwe and Kasungu, terminating at Mzimba. The aerodromes on the route are all "on request" stops with the exception of Lilongwe. Considerable use was being made of the new Beaver service by the end of the year, both for the carriage of passengers and the transport of freight. The service is additional to that provided direct between Chileka and Lilongwe.

Three private pilots licences were renewed during the year and two new licences were issued.

During 1951 no accidents or forced landings occurred in the Protectorate. One private aircraft was reported missing on a flight between Salisbury and Blantyre, but was later located by a Royal Air Force air search party in Portuguese territory where it had made a forced landing on a dry river bed. No injuries were sustained and the aircraft was later flown off the river bed and landed safely at Blantyre.

Statistics are only available for the two main airports, Chileka and Lilongwe ; 1950 and 1951 figures in respect of aircraft movements, passengers, mail and freight are as follows :

	Chileka		Lilongwe	
	1950	1951	1950	1951
Aircraft movements .. .. .	1,488	1,881	804	1,194
Passengers handled (in) .. .. .	2,742	4,227	353	3,696
Passengers handled (out) .. .. .	3,047	3,883	383	4,063
Mail in Kilos (in) .. .. .	28,315	27,568	5,484	8,266
Mail in Kilos (out) .. .. .	9,234	14,785	1,494	2,567
Freight in Kilos (in) .. .. .	122,553	121,873	13,042	13,021
Freight in Kilos (out) .. .. .	23,227	23,858	1,831	6,041

Two schemes, one for the development of aeronautical telecommunications and the other for the development of a meteorological service, were completed during the year, and considerable reorganisation of the telecommunications service took place. Fifteen new radio transmitters and seven new receivers were delivered from the United Kingdom. Five transmitters were installed and gave excellent service. Day-long radio-telephone communication with Salisbury

and other Rhodesian centres was established while air-ground communications were improved. In April the "Joint" Meteorological Service for the three Central African territories was replaced by a "Combined" Meteorological Service. The Protectorate became responsible for paying its own meteorological staff and for provisioning major stores items, technical direction remaining however with Salisbury.

#### ROADS

Nyasaland has a wide network of roads. The spinal column of the system is the route from the Portuguese border on the Ruo River, near Mlanje, northwards through Blantyre, Lilongwe and Mzimba to join the Tanganyika and Northern Rhodesia system at Tunduma. Other roads of importance, with the exception of that from Blantyre via Tete in Portuguese East Africa to Salisbury in Southern Rhodesia, are in effect links between this north-south route, the railway and the Lake. A large programme of road construction has been drawn up covering the period 1951-55, financed partly from the Colonial Development and Welfare Vote and partly from Protectorate funds.

The total road mileage in the Protectorate is 4,765 of which 1,710 miles of main roads and 672 miles of secondary roads are the responsibility of the Public Works Department. The remaining 2,383 miles of district roads are maintained by the Provincial and District Administration; many of these roads are used by light traffic only and are only serviceable during the dry season. The cost of maintaining some sections of main road carrying heavy traffic may be as much as £70 to £80 per mile per annum; maintenance of minor district roads costs no more than £4 to £5 per mile. By the end of 1951 some 11 miles of the main roads were full-width tarmac carriageway (of which 7 miles were new work), 19 miles (10 of which were new work) had been reconstructed with a bituminous surface 12 feet wide, and some two miles (new work) with a similar surface 10 feet wide. Thus only slow progress was made during 1951 on the contract for the reconstruction and bituminous surfacing of the Limbe-Cholo-Mlanje Road, the Limbe-Zomba Road and the Blantyre-Chileka Road. A shortage of crushed stone was among the causes of the delay, but it is hoped that the coming into production of new plant at the quarries will enable better progress to be made in 1952.

A contract was let to the Colonial Development Corporation (Works Division) for the construction of the Limpasa section of the Nkata Bay-Kaningina Road and work commenced in May. A tender from the Corporation for the construction of the next two sections was accepted towards the end of the year.

#### POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

During the year a great deal of the material which was purchased under the Development programme, for which an allocation of

£650,000 was approved in 1950, was delivered and the recruitment of European staff was satisfactory. These two factors enabled steady progress to be made with the introduction of new methods, equipment and facilities which combined to improve the extent and quality of services generally.

The development of the internal trunk service proceeded apace, the internal mileage having been increased with the aid of radio links from 917 to 3,135 miles during the year. Four additional trunk lines were provided from Limbe to Cholo and two from Dedza to Vila Coutinho (Portuguese East Africa) and Lilongwe to Namitete were completed. A major project of unusual interest was completed in December with the opening of a very high frequency radio trunk route between Zomba and Lilongwe using the first commercially produced equipment of this type in Central Africa. It is unaffected by tropical storms and the same radio beam can carry four teleprinter channels. Radio stations had to be located at high points and necessitated the construction of roads to the top of Dedza Mountain and to a ridge on Zomba Mountain. The roads and radio buildings were constructed departmentally. The quality of transmission came up to expectations and conformed to European standards. Similar equipment was in course of installation to provide high quality circuits between Zomba, Limbe and Blantyre. A temporary radio-telephone service was provided between the holiday centres on the Lake, Salima and Monkey Bay, and Zomba. As a result of the extension of radio communications both for telephonic and telegraphic purposes, the Department built and equipped a high frequency radio transmitting station at Mikuyu near Zomba during 1951. Specially designed directional aerial arrays are associated with eight transmitters to provide the most efficient operation of the services concerned.

Teleprinter services were opened between Zomba and Blantyre and all preparatory work was completed for such a service between Zomba and Lilongwe. The Zomba—Salisbury teleprinter equipment was taken out of service with a view to redesign and modification. Radio schedules were maintained with Salisbury in addition to those taking place on the old land line through Tete in Portuguese East Africa. Additional circuits were introduced internally in the Protectorate to speed up services or to supplement line circuits. A high-powered long-distance radio-telegraph system between Zomba and Nairobi was opened in December and proved satisfactory, obviating a circuitous transmission of telegrams via Salisbury or alternatively slow transmission over the land telegraphic line. Preliminary action was taken towards the complete replacement of the old telegraphic system with a view to achieving speedy telegraphic communication throughout the territory.

Automatic telephone exchanges were established at Mlanje and Thornwood and manual exchanges at Salima and Bvumbwe, the first stage in a project which will result in the conversion of six existing

exchanges to automatic operation. The number of telephones in service increased from 932 in 1950 to 1,225 in 1951. Zomba automatic exchange was provided with a 50-line extension, while the existing exchanges at Blantyre and Limbe were doubled in size. The international services, started in 1950 with the Zomba-Salisbury link, were further extended during 1951 to provide for calls to South Africa, Beira and Nairobi.

Four new Post Offices were built during the year, at Chiradzulu, Cholo, Liwonde and Domasi and 11 postal agencies were opened. A great improvement in the speed of handling mails resulted from the opening in 1951 of a spacious central sorting office at Limbe using modern equipment. Internal mail routes were improved upon and transit time decreased, while additional internal and improved external air services considerably speeded up the transmission of air mail letters. It is now possible to post a letter in Blantyre on Friday afternoon for delivery in the London area the following Monday evening. Night sorting was successfully started in Lilongwe. An overall increase in postal traffic of 4 per cent over 1950 was recorded. The overland parcel service between Nyasaland and the United Kingdom attracted an increasing volume of traffic and proved a steady revenue earner. During the year the whole system of telephone and stores accounting was successfully revised, resulting in greater speed, more efficiency and in the elimination of unnecessary clerical work.

Business in general showed the normal annual increase which, together with the introduction of additional services and increased efficiency, resulted in cash revenue, about 14 per cent higher than in 1950. The value of services to other departments also increased and the total estimated revenue from all services during 1951 was £125,000. A special issue of stamps was made to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the Protectorate; it proved extremely popular among philatelists and earned additional revenue of £20,000.

The training school for African staff, opened in 1950, operated satisfactorily throughout the year. Counter work, sorting, morse wireless telegraphy and teleprinter operating were included in the syllabus and 27 Africans qualified for these various duties in 1951. A further 20 telephonists and nine engineering linesmen were trained. Advanced courses will be held after the trainees have spent two or three years in the field.

Recruitment of European staff proceeded satisfactorily although a full establishment was not achieved. Expanding business and new developments call for an increasing number of well educated African staff amenable to training, and recruitment presents a difficult problem.

## Chapter 12 : Research and other Activities

### RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

The principal research activities of the Agricultural Department are carried out at Chitedzi, the Central Research Station near Lilongwe. Building work completed during 1951 included a laboratory office block, a house for the farm manager and extensions to the farm buildings and to the African staff quarters. The 1951 field programme included extensive variety, cultural, fertiliser and maintenance of fertility trials on a wide range of crops. Similar trials were carried out at the other sub-stations, including Lisasadzi, Tuchila and Makanga, presenting differing conditions of soil and climate. Of particular interest were maize variety trials over a wide range of soil and climatic conditions. Seed of the parents of the most promising double hybrid maize was obtained from Southern Rhodesia and will be used for the production of double hybrid maize seed during the coming season at the Rivi-Rivi Maize Farm, where sufficient material has been obtained to grow 120 acres of the double hybrid. For some years the Department has been searching for the best grass or mixture of grasses for local conditions, both for short leys and for permanent pasture. A comprehensive collection of grasses has been maintained at all the principal stations, and these are being tested side by side with a collection of exotic grasses which was introduced into the Protectorate in 1949.

Research on tea continued at the research stations at Mlanje and Mimosa. At Mimosa, a new station, two European staff houses and six blocks of labour lines were completed during the year ; 50 acres of tea were planted and a further 30 acres were in course of being planted, together with the establishment of additional nurseries.

At the Tung Experimental Station, development during the year included the installation of electric light and a piped water supply, the building of additional accommodation for labour, the construction of a cattle dip and the extension of the tung chemist's laboratory facilities by the installation of certain equipment including a spectrophotometer. The scope of the work at this station was extended during the year by utilising the land not under tung experiments for demonstrations of mixed farming with emphasis on the production of beef.

Demonstrations of practical mixed farming were given at Mbawa, Tuchila and Namalanga during the year in addition to those at the Tung Station. At Mbawa, in the Mzimba District, experiments were carried out to find out the best method of farming the thin red soils typical of this area ; these experiments were undertaken with the co-operation of the Veterinary Department with emphasis on the utilisation of stock and stock products. Pilot group-farming of the

mixed variety was essayed at various centres in the Northern and Central Provinces, while correct land usage, involving control of population and stock pressure on the land was carried out on the advice of the various Natural Resources Boards.

The experimental station at Lisasadzi continued investigations into the growing and curing of flue-cured tobacco and previous efforts in this direction were, in 1951, rewarded by the successful season experienced by the Kasungu European growers described in Part II, Chapter 6. Also mentioned in Chapter 6 is the survey of the potentialities of the Alimenda area for cane sugar production and the hydrological survey of the Shire Valley which was commenced during the year.

The results of the preliminary investigations into the possibilities of farming the largely unoccupied Nyika and Vipya plateaux in the Northern Province have shown that the Nyika is probably more suited to soft wood afforestation ; trials with European cereal crops on the Vipya have shown that large crops of oats and barley can be grown on the deeper pockets of soil, but that generally speaking the structure of the soil is poor and must be farmed with great care. Probably the best hope of success would be stock farming on an extensive scale.

Good progress was made at the three livestock improvement centres, and poultry, pigs and young rams became available for distribution to extension centres and to suitable African farmers. At one centre the cattle herd was increased in size sufficiently to enable culling and selection to take place. Weights of young stock and the milk yields of cattle were recorded as an aid to the selection of better types. Pasture improvement methods were investigated, including paddocking and the mowing of and controlled grazing on indigenous pasture. As a result of effective control improvements were noticeable by the end of the year. Suitable varieties of exotic grasses were also introduced, and fodder conservation for dry weather feed was also under investigation during 1951, when it became apparent that elephant grass is one of the most reliable fodders for silage purposes in addition to being economical to produce. The construction of the veterinary research laboratory at Mpemba made good progress during 1951. A start was made on the recruitment of staff in the hope that their arrival would coincide with the completion of the laboratory, and equipment was ordered, some of which has already arrived.

The tsetse survey of the Protectorate, financed by a grant from the research allocation of Colonial Development and Welfare funds, continued, and the greater part of the area in the Southern Province suspected of fly infestation has now been surveyed together with a considerable portion of the more valuable agricultural areas of the Central Province fly belts. This survey, begun in 1950, is designed to obtain precise data concerning the distribution and ecology of the tsetse fly in Nyasaland, and has already provided the basis of a re-settlement scheme in the south-eastern corner of Kasungu District.

Villages were evicted from this area in 1922 as a precaution against the spread of sleeping sickness, a promise being made that they should return when the danger passed. That promise is now being honoured. It was planned to carry out a series of small reclamation schemes, concurrently with the survey, to test the efficiency of methods of fly-clearance accepted elsewhere and to ascertain the cost of clearance in each area. Active reclamation work continued on the Karonga Lakeshore and the scheme began to show results in 1951. Cattle across the border in Tanganyika, where no reclamation work had been done, suffered high mortality from a trypanosomiasis outbreak while the Karonga herds were little affected. It did, however, become clear that regeneration of cleared bush is not easy to control.

The staff of the Fisheries Station at Fort Rosebery in Northern Rhodesia has been assembling during the year, but it has not yet been possible to accommodate the research team at Nkata Bay. When it is installed, the team will conduct a two-year investigation into the natural history of the fish in the area, the fish population, the productive capacity of different methods of fishing, the means by which these may be improved and the maximum sustained yield obtained. The scheme will be financed by a grant from the Research Allocation of Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

#### DOMASI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Much attention has been given in recent years to "community development" in African dependencies. In Nyasaland the view has been taken that work of this sort is part of the normal duties of the Administrative and other field departments, and not a task for specialists. To test this theory a pilot scheme was put into operation at the beginning of 1950 when the Domasi area of the Zomba District was constituted a separate administrative district and staffed with a team of Europeans and Africans, representing all the field departments except Forestry. The officer-in-charge is the District Commissioner. The team works in close conjunction with the staff of the Jeanes Centre, situated in the middle of the district, and with other official and unofficial agencies seeking the same ends. The objects of the scheme are to achieve community development in its widest sense through the willing co-operation of the people living in the area and to learn from experience lessons which can be applied on a larger scale elsewhere.

The district extends over about 100 square miles, of which part is mountain slope and forest reserve. The area at present inhabited and cultivated is about 50 square miles, carrying a population of about 14,000; the density is, therefore, between 250 and 300 to the square mile compared with a Protectorate average of about 60. The people are Yao and Nyanja and many are nominally Mohammedan; social organisation is matrilineal and matrilocal although in the southern half there are a few semi-detribalised Africans occupying holdings larger than the traditional sites. The settled land is now of

poor quality and receives little or no rest. The area contains a few freeholds, but is otherwise African Trust Land or public land. There are few cattle ; maize, millet, cassava, rice and groundnuts are grown.

The first phase of the Domasi scheme ended on 31st December, 1951. Certain lessons of general application have already been learnt, primarily the value of properly organised team work and a stream-lined administrative routine. It has been conclusively proved that a considerable amount of community development can be achieved at district level without the employment of specialists, by ordinary field officers who continue to carry out routine duties. It has been revealed that there is an appreciable number of Africans of all classes who are anxious to make both social and economic progress and that, despite a tradition of spoon-feeding, they are prepared to contribute to such progress in cash or by voluntary work. Experiments in the handing over of responsibility have, however, demonstrated the present limitations of Nyasaland Africans, whether in managing enterprises such as co-operative societies or in undertaking local government duties, and the considerable amount of training still required in this respect.

In the sphere of local government the Council system can now be said to be working satisfactorily, if slowly. Group Councils continue to remain informal bodies for discussion at village level. During 1951 the District Council comprised three elected representatives from each Group Council and three nominees of the Chief ; the former serve for three years, one-third retiring annually by rotation. Among the Council's duties, which were numerous, was the selection of District representatives on the Provincial Council. It established Finance and Education Committees, which at present serve mainly as training grounds for their members, but have certain definite responsibilities, such as preparation of estimates, consideration of emergency applications for funds, internal audit, the siting of literacy centres and planning for educational development. Like the committees of the co-operative societies, these bodies helped to widen the field for public service and to increase the number of people able to undertake such service.

The fundamental problem has, from the outset, been agrarian, and the drive for better land usage and better methods of husbandry continued during 1951, though far from popular. Some 10 square miles were declared to be compulsory conservation areas, and elsewhere some 20 volunteers bunded their gardens under professional guidance. A general improvement in methods of husbandry undoubtedly made a substantial contribution to the doubling of crop yields during the year compared with 1950. Wheat was introduced for the first time and did well ; it also unfortunately proved popular with birds. Cattle owners were persuaded to bring part of their herds up to the foothills, and these remained in good condition ; the owner of one herd undertook supplementary feeding with consequent increased milk yields. The poultry centre distributed its first cockerels

of an improved strain by exchanging one good fowl for two scrub birds. Interest in tree planting steadily increased, and small demonstrations in simple irrigation and market gardening attracted public interest.

The demand for increased educational facilities continued to increase. Plans were made in 1950 for the instruction in the three R's of 1,000 children who had received no formal education. Sites and potential teachers were chosen by the Group Councils and the teachers were given a special two-month course early in 1951 in the running of these "hedge schools." Enrolments amounted to nearly 2,000 and the teachers had the task of dealing with an average of 80 pupils each. Attendance during the first term averaged 75 per cent, and half the enrolment was presented for a test which revealed that two terms' work had been covered in one by some 16 per cent of those tested. A second class, comprising 100 children who had acquired the elements of education at experimental centres in 1950, was also presented for a similar test in which two-thirds were successful. Final results for the year showed that 13½ per cent of the original enrolment (about a quarter of the regular attenders) had successfully completed the first class; of those enrolled in the second class 82½ per cent passed the final test and were ready to enter Standard I.

A medical survey early in the year revealed that the incidence of bilharzia justified the tackling of this disease as a first priority. A short period was devoted to an educational campaign in connection with safe water supplies; in this campaign the Government mobile information unit proved invaluable. Follow-up work during the rest of the year resulted in 23 village waterholes being cleaned out, stoned, and provided with proper drains and covers. The general campaign against bad living conditions in the villages continued and there was a steady improvement in village housing standards, in mosquito control and in general hygiene. The ante-natal and child welfare clinics continued to grow and a second midwife was employed. The number of eye infections treated at the dispensary during the first half of the year was greater than that during the whole of 1950, an indication that the people were becoming more willing to seek European medical assistance in such cases.

Social activities continued to expand. There were at the close of the year seven Women's Institutes in the district, which provide useful opportunities for fostering improvements in homecrafts, dietetics and agriculture as well as much fun for the members. Games for adult women are almost unknown in Nyasaland, but rounders was introduced and proved very popular. Nine villages were equipped with football pitches. The Scouting and Guiding movements forged ahead and the first Brownie pack was established at Domasi during the year. A small district library was founded with the help of the British Council.

The Colonial Development and Welfare funds continued to provide for most of the recurrent costs of the scheme, Protectorate funds

carried most of the cost of the work on land usage and health services, while the Native Development and Welfare Fund financed the experiments in literacy work. The Native Administration's ordinary revenue, which is entirely spent in the district, has grown by 56 per cent since the inception of the scheme; by 1952 it is expected to be double that of 1950 (after allowing for the increase in the share of tax).

## PART III

### Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

The Protectorate of Nyasaland is some 520 miles in length and varies in width from 50 to 100 miles ; it lies approximately between  $9^{\circ} 45'$  and  $17^{\circ} 16'$  south latitude and  $33^{\circ}$  and  $36^{\circ}$  east longitude. It is bounded on the east by Tanganyika and Portuguese East Africa, on the south by Portuguese East Africa, on the west by Portuguese East Africa and Northern Rhodesia, and on the north by Tanganyika. The land area of the Protectorate is about 37,000 square miles, or nearly three-quarters of the area of England ; the southern tip of the country is 130 miles from the sea.

The key to the physiography of the Protectorate is that part of the Great Rift Valley which, running down from the north, traverses Nyasaland from end to end. In this deep trough lies Lake Nyasa, 360 miles long and varying in width from 10 to 50 miles ; the surface of the Lake is 1,500 ft. above sea-level and its greatest depth about 2,300 ft., so that the lowest part of the floor of the trough is over 700 ft. below sea-level. From the south end of the Lake issues the River Shire, which falls to about 120 ft. above sea-level at Port Herald and finally joins the Zambesi 250 miles from the Lake.

The country east and west of the Rift Valley rises in mountains, generally steep and sometimes precipitous, to form high plateaux ; west of the Lake these are generally between 3,300 and 4,400 ft. above sea-level, but in the north the Nyika uplands rise as high as 8,000 ft. South of the Lake lie the Shire Highlands with a general elevation of 2,000 to 3,500 ft. rising to the mountain masses of Zomba (7,000 ft.) and Mlanje (10,000 ft.). In the extreme south the rift, occupied by the lower part of the Shire, is only 200 to 300 ft. above sea-level.

The only other geographical features of any note are the two minor lakes, Chiuta and Chilwa, which lie on the Portuguese border to the east, between Lake Nyasa and the Mlanje range.

On the Lake shore there is a distinctive climate ; the temperature seldom rises above  $100^{\circ}\text{F.}$ , but the proximity of the Lake and the generally heavy rainfall during the wet season create a humid atmosphere which is trying. Elsewhere the climate varies with the altitudes. In the highlands it is equable and healthy, and at altitudes above 3,000 ft. extreme heat is unusual and fires are welcome in the evenings of the cold season ; in the Shire valley the temperature rises to  $115^{\circ}\text{F.}$  in October and November.

The rainfall divides the year into seasons, the dry season from May to October and the wet season from November to April. The first rains are due at any<sup>91</sup> time after mid-October, and from then until the \_\_\_\_\_

end of December there are violent thunderstorms with heavy rain of not long duration, occurring at irregular intervals, these intervals being hot and oppressive. Steady rains should be established in January and continue until about the end of March, often rising to a crescendo of storms in the last week or two of the season ; dry spells of a week or more frequently occur about the beginning of February. After March rainfall diminishes rapidly and from May to September the climate is on the whole cool and dry ; heavy Scotch mists known locally as chiperones (as they appear to come from Chiperone Mountain in Portuguese territory), are common in the highlands in June and July. The country can be divided into some seven zones of rainfall, with annual falls ranging from under 30 in. to over 70 in., and the distribution of the dry season fall determines the areas suitable for certain crops ; it has been suggested, for example, that the limit of the true tea, coffee, and tung areas of the country may be traced on the dry season rainfall map by the 7-in. isohyet.

The small size of Nyasaland and the great variety of physical and climatic conditions within it, greatly though they add to the attractiveness of the country, account together for many difficulties and much of the expense involved in its administration and development.

## Chapter 2 : History

Nyasaland is Livingstone's country. It is true that there are various Portuguese records from 1616 onwards of occasional journeys made across the southern end of what is now the Protectorate, and that in the eighteenth century Portuguese officials and miners penetrated into the neighbourhood of the present Northern Rhodesia border, not far from the site of Fort Jameson ; none of these left any lasting trace. It is also true that from an indefinite date, perhaps the sixteenth century, until almost the end of the nineteenth, there was constant passage through the settlement in Nyasaland by migrating Bantu tribes, but their traditions, as at present known, are too vague to be given the name of history.

The history of Nyasaland can therefore be said to begin with David Livingstone's discovery of Lake Nyasa on 16th September, 1859. In the early sixties the path he had opened was followed, under his guidance, by the pioneers of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa, but in the short time between these expeditions the country had been defaced by tribal wars and slave raids in a way which made a harrowing contrast to the smiling land and people seen earlier by the great explorer. The missionary pioneers retired in the face of disease and death, after suffering heavy and tragic losses, and the Universities' Mission did not return until 1881.

After Livingstone's death, and inspired by it, both the Church of

Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland established missions in 1874-75 as memorials to him, the former at Blantyre, named after his Scottish birthplace, and the latter at Livingstonia, first sited at the south end of the Lake but soon removed to the north. At this period, to quote the Bell Report, "Nyasaland was a whirlpool of migrant tribes, war and slave-raiding, and during the dry season caravans of slaves in chains and slavesticks started from the areas round the mission stations for the coast ports." These constituted a challenge which neither Christianity nor ordinary European humanity could ignore, and it is to the eternal credit of the Scottish mission that next after Livingstone's name in the roll of Nyasaland's great pioneers must be inscribed the names of Robert Laws of Livingstonia and Alexander Heatherwick of Blantyre, to whose services the country largely owes the growth of a Pax Britannica rather than the imposition of a Pax Romana.

At this early period there were no means of obtaining supplies or services except by the exchange of trade goods, chiefly calico, and the missions had perforce to trade. To relieve the missionaries of much of the commercial side of their activities a number of business men, mainly from Glasgow, who were interested in Livingstonia, formed in 1878 the African Lakes Company as a transport and trading concern to work in close co-operation with mission activities; the original heads of the company (now the African Lakes Corporation) were the brothers Moir. One of their objects was to achieve Livingstone's aim of combating the slave trade, rendering it economically unsound in the face of legitimate commerce as well as by the spreading of Christianity.

These pioneers were followed by other Europeans, missionaries, traders, hunters and coffee planters, but not until 1883 did a representative of the British Government appear, in the shape of a Consul accredited to "the Kings and Chiefs of Central Africa"; the second consul established himself at Zomba, now the seat of Government.

By now the first of Nyasaland's nineteenth-century invaders, the Angoni—who are entitled to claim descent from Chaka's Zulu—had almost ended their wanderings, which had taken them in fifty years from Natal to Lake Tanganyika and back to the hinterland of Lake Nyasa; the Yao, starting from somewhere about the headwaters of Rovuma River, on the modern border between Tanganyika and Portuguese East Africa, were still on the move round the south end of the Lake, warring as they went. At the same time the slave-traders at the north end of the country were becoming steadily more inconvenienced by the competition of religion and commerce by which they were now faced, and in 1888 trouble, followed by open warfare, arose between the Arab leaders of the trade and the African Lakes Company, who had to expend most of their resources on military operations. Fortunately for Nyasaland it came under the eye of Cecil Rhodes, whose British South Africa Company came to the rescue financially.

About this time, too, the Portuguese Government began to cast interested eyes on the lands to the north of the Zambesi, on which river it had long had military and trading posts, and there was a certain degree of international friction. In 1889, however, one cause of friction was removed by the discovery of a navigable route through the Zambesi delta from the Indian Ocean which made Nyasaland accessible, by way of the Zambesi and the Shire, by an international waterway without touching Portuguese territory. Nevertheless, in the same year a conflict took place on the Lower Shire between a well armed Portuguese expedition under Major Serpa Pinto, and one of the Makololo chiefs, in consequence of which the Acting Consul, a pioneer planter named Buchanan, claimed a British Protectorate over the Shire country on 21st September, 1889, almost exactly thirty years after Livingstone first set foot on the shores of Lake Nyasa.

In 1891 an Anglo-Portuguese Convention ratified the work of Mr. H.H. (later Sir Harry) Johnston, Mr. A. (later Sir Alfred) Sharpe, and others and a Protectorate was proclaimed over the countries adjoining Lake Nyasa ; in 1893, the name of the territory was changed to the British Central Africa Protectorate, but in 1907 a further Order-in-Council revived the old name of the Nyasaland Protectorate. It must here be emphasised that Nyasaland did not fall under British influence by conquest or annexation ; it was led under the protection of the Crown by British missionaries and traders with, as the first Proclamation put it, " the consent and desire of the Chiefs and people."

By 1896 the slave-trade had been extinguished and the countries of the Yao and the Southern Angoni pacified, although the Northern Angoni did not come fully within the sphere of British Administration until 1904. They had, however, long given up raiding their neighbours partly because of an unpleasant military surprise inflicted upon them by the Achewa to the south, but undoubtedly mainly because of the immense influence acquired over their Paramount Chief by Dr. Laws, to whom, with his colleagues, was due the peaceful entry into the British Commonwealth of a hundred thousand people with their five thousand square miles of territory.

Since then the life of the country has on the whole been peaceful, though of course affected like that of every other land by the two World Wars. Nyasaland's position in 1914 with her long common border with German East Africa was dangerous, but prompt action on both land and water scotched the immediate danger, and she was able to contribute greatly to the British forces which waged the long and costly East African campaign. It was during this war that the country suffered the only armed rising in its modern history, when one John Chilembwe, a native pastor half-educated in the United States and egged on by the German authorities, rose with his followers in the Blantyre neighbourhood and murdered several Europeans against whom the rebels had personal grudges ; rapid counter-measures were taken and the rising fizzled out with the death of its leader in a scuffle in the bush on the Portuguese border. To the credit of these

misguided men it must be recorded that such European women and children as fell into their hands were treated with the utmost consideration.

1939 found the Protectorate far from any front, but nevertheless in a position to aid the war effort very considerably, in relation to her size, in both men and materials. In peacetime Nyasaland raises the two senior regular battalions of the King's African Rifles, and the First Battalion maintained its pride of place by being the first African colonial unit to be in action, in 1940, against the Italians on the Abyssinian border, and the last out of action in 1945, in the neighbourhood of Rangoon, after adding Abyssinia, Madagascar, and Burma to a list of campaigning grounds which in the previous fifty years had embraced much of tropical Africa. By the end of the war nearly 30,000 Nyasalanders, including a very high proportion of the Protectorate's small European population—men and women—had served in the forces, and to the two original battalions had been added a further seven line battalions, two field regiments of artillery, over 4,000 drivers in the East African Army Service Corps, and numerous other garrison and ancillary troops. The wandering habits of the natives of the country, to which fuller reference is made below, led also to their appearance in many of the non-Nyasaland units of the East African Forces, in the non-European units of the Union Defence Force and in the Pioneers; a few of the last-named had the misfortune to be taken prisoners at Tobruk and thereby made the acquaintance of Italy and Germany before they were liberated.

1951 has seen celebrations in connection with the Diamond Jubilee of the declaration of a British Protectorate over the countries adjoining Lake Nyasa. Thus have 60 years of British rule passed in comparative peace and growing prosperity. 1951 has been a year for reflection on the notable advances which have been made since 1891. Given the social and economic conditions which prevailed towards the end of the nineteenth century, the growth of peace and prosperity, the establishment of law and order, the evolution of a political and social consciousness together with the maintenance of inter-racial harmony amount to a considerable achievement in so short a space of time. The emphasis laid by Africans in their loyal addresses on 15th May, 1951, on the benefits resulting from 60 years of British rule was most gratifying to those who have played some part in the Nyasaland epic.

The social and economic history of the Protectorate since its proclamation is on the whole one of slow but steady progress in the face of many difficulties. Migratory tribal units have become stabilised, and the last flood of immigrants was one of Africans from Portuguese territory swarming over the border in search of work on the tea estates and later settling down in the Southern Province. Thanks largely to the work of the missions, which now have among them representatives of the Roman Catholic Church, the Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa and the Seventh Day Adventists,

as well as the successors of the Scottish and Anglican pioneers, education has made considerable strides, craftsmen continue to increase in numbers, and medical aid had reached far beyond the more settled areas of the country. The influences of western culture have undoubtedly done much to drag the African from the anchorages of his tribal beliefs and discipline, but on the credit side there has probably been the building up of a greater degree of sound moral character than the superficial observer often believes ; as in material progress much of the credit belongs to the missions, so in this moral sphere much is due to the influence and example of lay Europeans both men and women. A current task is the inculcation among Africans of a spirit of voluntary service to their fellows, which had not been encouraged by an earlier insistence on the virtues of rugged individualism, usually expressed in terms of cash. As social welfare activities grow, so will the field for such service expand, but it is already finding its opportunity in probation work, in scouting, and in the management of such recreational activities as football leagues.

Reference has already been made to the wandering habits of the Nyasaland African ; travel is in his blood, life at home is apt to be dull, and in a predominantly agricultural country cash returns have until recent years been low by comparison with other countries. It was not long, therefore, after the pacification of the country that he began to find his way to the higher cash wages of Rhodesia and the bright lights of the Rand. The Nyasa is now to be found in South Africa, the Rhodesias, Tanganyika, Kenya, the Belgian Congo, Portuguese East Africa and London ; he has also been reported from the New York waterfront. The stream of emigrants swelled steadily into a flood until by the nineteen-thirties it was safe to say that nearly a third of the able-bodied men were away from Nyasaland. Since then measures have been taken to control the flow to some extent, to safeguard the emigrant while out of the country, and to ensure that in as many cases as possible he, and his savings, return home after a fairly short period, either for good or for regular holidays. The country's contribution to the economic progress of its neighbours has therefore been considerable, possibly too considerable for its own good.

Otherwise, the economic history of Nyasaland is its agricultural history, which is a record of pioneer planting by Europeans of single products over large areas with little previous experimental work, save perhaps in the most recent instance, tung. The earliest economic crop was coffee which was later displaced by cotton—a coffee tree figures prominently in the Protectorate's first coat of arms—cotton then gave way to tobacco and tea and these two may now be regarded as established crops. Tung has grown steadily in importance, but its position as a major crop will depend very largely on the result of the experiments now being carried on in connection with the Vipya development scheme. The last two years have also seen the establishment of certain minor secondary industries, but it is unlikely that

most of these will ever be of more than local importance. They do, however, contribute considerably to the comfort and well-being of the population, in their provision of cheap soap, cigarettes, and shoe leather.

No sketch of the history of Nyasaland would be complete without a reference to the development of its communications. In the early days the Zambesi, the Shire, and Lake Nyasa provided the main artery of communication, interrupted only by the sixty-mile portage round the Murchison Cataracts. By the time that the Chinde mouth of the Zambesi was discovered in 1889, the level of the Shire had begun to fall, and steamers could not proceed beyond Chiromo. The growing importance of Blantyre led to the planning of a railway to it from the Lower Shire, and in 1907 work was begun on a line from Chiromo to Blantyre; almost immediately, however, the continued fall in the level of the river made Chiromo useless as a port, and the railway was continued to Port Herald, the line being opened in 1908. Port Herald then became difficult or impossible of approach for steamers, and between 1913 and 1915 a further fifty miles of railway were constructed between Port Herald and Chindio, on the northern bank of the Zambesi in Portuguese territory.

Meantime the level of the Upper Shire was also falling, and in due course steamer traffic became impossible outside Lake Nyasa. The Blantyre-Zomba road, one of the first to be made in the country, was therefore extended to Fort Johnston, at the south end of the Lake, and this was the main transport route in use during the First World War. The Protectorate is linked by road with all its neighbours, and the trunk roads from Blantyre to Mbeya and from Salima to Fort Jameson are important parts of the main communications of Central Africa.

Navigation on the Zambesi next became uncertain, and a railway, opened in 1922 was built from Murraca, on the south bank of the Zambesi nearly opposite Chindo, to Dondo, eighteen miles from Beira, on the line from Beira to Rhodesia. The ferry service was however, unsatisfactory, and the line was frequently washed out by floods. In 1935, therefore, a railway bridge across the Zambesi was opened, and at the same time the line was extended from Blantyre to the neighbourhood of Lake Nyasa at Salima, giving uninterrupted rail communication between the Lake at Chipoka and Beira on the Indian Ocean. As an illustration of the trials of those who plan in Africa, it may be added that about the time this link was completed the Lake began to rise again and the Shire with it, so that in the rainy season the railway bridge at Chiromo might have more than twenty feet of water under it; a re-alignment of the track in this neighbourhood became urgently necessary. Early in 1948, a few months after this improvement had been completed, a great island of sudd, floating down the flooded Shire, carried away the Chiromo bridge, and Nyasaland's railway link with the sea became dependent on a swiftly improvised ferry, which remained in operation throughout 1949. A new steel bridge completed during 1949 was put into service in 1950.

## Chapter 3 : Administration

The Protectorate is administered by the Governor assisted by the Executive Council comprising the Chief Secretary, the Financial Secretary and the Attorney General as *ex officio* members and the Secretary for African Affairs, the Director of Agriculture and two unofficials as nominated members. The Laws of the Protectorate are made by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, constituted by the Nyasaland Order in Council 1907. The Legislative Council consists of the Governor as President, 9 official members (including the three *ex officio* members of the Executive Council) and 9 unofficial members. Five of the unofficial members are selected from nominations by public bodies representing European interests ; one is nominated by the Governor ; two African members are selected from nominations made by the African Protectorate Council and one Asian member from nominations made by an Asian public body.

The judicial system of the Protectorate is described in Part II, Chapter 9.

The principal departments of Government, apart from the Provincial and District Administration, are : Judicial, Legal, Medical, Agriculture, Public Works, Education, Police, Prison, Geological Survey, Labour, Veterinary, Forestry, Posts and Telecommunications, Electrical, Audit, Lands, Customs, Printing and Stationery, Co-operative, Game, Fish and Tsetse Control and Surveys.

The policy of the Government is defined and controlled in the Secretariat. The Chief Secretary is the channel of communication between Government on the one hand and heads of departments and the general public on the other. He is head of the Civil Service.

For administrative purposes the Protectorate is divided into three Provinces, Northern, Central and Southern, each in charge of a Provincial Commissioner, who is responsible to the Governor for the administration of his Province. The Provinces are divided into 18 districts in charge of District Commissioners who are responsible to the Provincial Commissioners. Provincial and District Commissioners and District Officers are responsible for the good conduct of the Native Administration within their areas. Each of the districts contains one or more Native Authorities constituted as such under the Native Authority Ordinance 1933. The size of the various Native Authorities' areas varies considerably and is dependent generally on the degree of tribal feeling and homogeneity which remained at the time of the introduction of the 1933 Ordinance. The largest population administered by any single Native Authority is 170,000 under Chief M'belwa of Mzimba ; the smallest, the 260 of Chief Chikalema of the Blantyre District. There are 11 Native

Authorities in the Northern Province, 34 in the Central and 60 in the Southern, a total of 105.

A "Native Authority" means any chief or other African or any African council or group of Africans declared to be or established as a Native Authority, under the Ordinance, for the area concerned. The Government recognises the chief whom the people accept as chief, and if he is suitable, appoints him to be a Native Authority. There always has been and still is a very real regard on the part of the Africans for the state of chieftainship; nor is this regard confined to the illiterate or semi-educated inhabitants of the rural areas.

Native Authorities are not officers of the Government but are established on a tribal basis, though there are a few cases where chiefs who in African eyes have no hereditary claim to title have been appointed by the Administration, either because of the ability they display, or because of the influence they acquired under the old system of principal headmen.

The Governor may withdraw recognition of a person as a Native Authority or as a member of a Native Authority and a Provincial Commissioner can exercise powers of suspension for three months or, with the Governor's approval, for one year in cases involving abuse of power, incapacity or other sufficient reason.

In all districts of the Central Province, except Ncheu, and in the Zomba and Blantyre Districts of the Southern Province, Councils of Chiefs have been established, consisting of all the Native Authorities in a district sitting as a council. The Councils of Chiefs have a statutory entity and function as a Native Authority superior to the individual Native Authorities of the district.

Although the chief alone may be gazetted as Native Authority, local African custom does not recognise a chief as having purely autocratic powers. The chief is the figurehead and the embodiment of the Native Authority but he and his council are inseparable. The tendency is towards the functioning of the chief-in-council as a minor local government unit and towards the strengthening of these councils by making them more fully representative of all sections of the community both to include more progressive and educated elements and also to secure their participation in the conduct of local government.

The institution of the chiefs' own council is more elastic than that of chieftainship, councillors are not necessarily hereditary and appointment depends in many cases on public opinion. In some cases the composition of the council is still determined by established native custom; in others the customary practice has been modified so as to allow a broader basis of representation and expression of opinion.

Government takes no active part in the method of selection although it has in recent years, and to some effect, stressed the necessity for these councils to be genuinely representative and thus to command the support of the people themselves. Many chiefs are now displaying a greater understanding of the need for support by representative councils. Below the chief's council (i.e. the Native

Authority's council) there are several subordinate councils, which include Sub-Chiefs', Councillors', Group and Village Councils. All four kinds are found in the Northern Province ; in the Central and Southern Provinces the general structure is Native Authorities', Group, and Village Councils.

The Group Councils are coming increasingly into the administrative picture as they assume more and more of the responsibility which originally rested with the village headman, who used to be one of the mainstays of the district administration, and is now becoming less and less able to cope with the increased demands and responsibilities of modern administration. The gradual replacement of village headmen by newly-formed Group Councils is taking place. As far as can be seen at present, these will remain non-statutory bodies, but will have some measures of local financial and administrative responsibility.

However, the village headman is still in many areas, and especially in the Southern Province, an important part of the Native Administration. In some cases, these headmen derive their influence from the actual or traditional inheritance of powers exercised by family heads ; in others they owe their authority to the position given to them by the Administration. They are numerous and a great many of them are of little, if any, service to the Government. Until the system of representative councils is effectively established throughout the Protectorate from village level upwards, the village headman must continue to perform his function as a direct link between the ordinary villager and the chief as well as the District Commissioner. Native Authorities have four inter-related responsibilities—executive, legislative, judicial and financial. Executive responsibility is vested in Native Authorities by sections 8 and 9 of the Native Authority Ordinance and is supplemented in certain cases by the delegation of powers under those Laws of Nyasaland, such as the Game and Forestry Laws, which largely concern Africans. Under the Ordinance Native Authorities are empowered to issue orders "subject to the provisions of any law or Ordinance for the time being in force and to the general or special directions of the Governor." Within the area over which the Native Authority has jurisdiction, these orders may relate to a number of subjects, such as the control and restriction of intoxicating liquor and gambling, the possession and carrying of firearms, the prohibition of any act or conduct which might lead to a breach of the peace, the carrying out of measures designed to safeguard public health, the reporting of crime and criminals, the regulation of migration within their areas, the reporting of births and deaths, the movement of livestock, the control of grass and bush fires, the protection of trees, the cultivation of food supplies adequate to maintain an African and his dependants, the enforcement of any lawful instructions issued by the Provincial Commissioner or the District Commissioner and the prohibition restriction or execution of any matter or thing which the Native Authority, by virtue of any native law and custom for the time being in force and not repugnant

to morality and justice, has the power to prohibit, restrict, regulate or require to be done. In addition, in times of famine, the Native Authority, subject to the same conditions, is empowered to issue orders regulating the movement of the population to facilitate feeding, requiring the cultivation of land and controlling the movement of foodstuffs within his area. The Governor may specially sanction the issue of orders by a Native Authority for any purpose, either generally or for a particular area. The prior approval of Government for the issue of Orders is not required, but they must be reported at the earliest possible moment to a superior Native Authority, if any, or the District Commissioner. The Provincial Commissioner or District Commissioner with the approval of the Provincial Commissioner, may revoke any Order which he considers should not have been issued or which should not be enforced. An offence against an order is normally punishable by a fine not exceeding £5 or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or by both such fine and imprisonment. With few exceptions, Native Authorities have issued orders on their own initiative and most of these orders are eminently sensible though some have required amendment or revocation either as being in excess of the powers granted or as being impossible to enforce, e.g. the total prohibition of gambling.

Legislative responsibility is vested in a Native Authority under Section 18 of the Native Authority Ordinance which empowers it, subject to the provision of any Ordinance or other law for the time being in force and to the approval of the Governor, "to make rules to be obeyed by Africans within the local limits of its jurisdiction providing for the peace, good order and welfare of such Africans." Such rules may make provision for the imposition of fees and, when passed, have the authority of Ordinances and may only be revoked with the consent of the Governor. Subject to the approval of the Governor, a Provincial Commissioner or a District Commissioner may himself make rules for any of the purposes mentioned above in respect of the area of jurisdiction of any Native Authority in his Province or District, and such rules have the same force and effect as if made by the Native Authority of the area; such rules may not however extend to the imposition of fees. Rules made by the Native Authority may at any time be revoked by the Governor. For breach of the rules, penalties may be imposed up to a fine of £50 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or both such fine and imprisonment.

The legislative or rule making powers of the Native Authorities have been widely used. In almost every district rules have been made covering such subjects as African trading stores, markets, hotels and canteens. The registration of marriages in Native Authority areas is usually covered by rules. The manufacture, sale and consumption of native beer are subject to regulation and licensing. Canoe Rules designed to control the cutting of trees suitable for the construction of canoes and to make provision for the licensing of canoes have been made in the areas adjoining Lake Nyasa and large rivers. A develop-

ment of considerable importance is the increasing extent to which Native Authorities are making rules to ensure proper agricultural practice, land usage and preparation of gardens. Such rules are in force in eight districts of the Protectorate.

The judicial and financial responsibilities of Native Authorities are dealt with in Part II, Chapters 9 and 3 respectively.

The association of Africans in the work of Government in addition to the Native Authority system is being developed along two main lines—the inclusion of Africans on Government Committees and Boards and the council system. Both Native Authorities and African teachers are represented on District School Committees and six Africans nominated by the African Provincial Councils and three appointed by the Governor are included in the Protectorate Advisory Committee on African Education. Africans have been appointed to a number of statutory boards and committees such as the Native Tobacco Board, Maize Control Board, Immigration Control Board, Provincial Natural Resources Boards and others.

The council system has been developed with the aim of providing an unbroken ladder of councils from the Legislative Council at the top to village level at the bottom.

The Protectorate Council, under the chairmanship of the Secretary for African Affairs, meets twice a year, membership being equally divided between the Northern, Central and Southern Provinces, each Province providing 7 members. African members of Legislative Council who are not otherwise members of Protectorate Council are *ex officio* members appointed by the Governor. Members hold office for two years and are eligible for re-appointment. The Council is advisory and non-statutory. It provides an instrument for the expression of African opinion, drawing together leading Africans from all parts of the Protectorate, and develops in them a proper sense of perspective in relation to matters of local and Protectorate-wide interest. It serves as an electoral college for the appointment of the two African members of Legislative Council, these two appointments being made by the Governor from a panel of names submitted as a result of a secret ballot by members of the African Protectorate Council.

African Provincial Councils are established in each of the three Provinces and sit twice yearly under the chairmanship of Provincial Commissioners. These councils are also advisory and non-statutory. In the Northern and Central Provinces their constitution is 13 chiefs and 12 non-chiefs, while in the Southern Province the council consists of 26 members of whom 16 are chiefs. The allocation of seats for non-chiefs in each district is made by the Governor from a panel of names submitted by the various local councils after recommendations made by the Provincial Commissioner. In the Central Province a permanent quota of seats for both chiefs and non-chiefs is allotted to each district and representatives are nominated to these seats by District Councils or special meetings of the people called for this express purpose. The Provincial Commissioner makes his recom-

mendations and nominations are approved by the Governor. In the Southern Province, chiefs are nominated by their District Council of Chiefs and approved by the Governor after recommendations are made by the Provincial Commissioner. Non-chiefs are selected by the Provincial Commissioner from a panel of names submitted by District Commissioners after consultation with local Councils of Chiefs and are approved by the Governor. In every case election is for a period of two years. The reconstitution of Provincial Councils in 1950 was carried out to encourage the most representative expression of African opinion and to obtain equal opportunity of representation by hereditary dignitaries and others while retaining as far as possible the indigenous tribal structure of administration at Native Authority level and below.

Below Provincial Councils District Councils have been constituted, being more numerous in the Central and Southern Provinces. These District Councils are purely advisory and have no executive, legislative or judicial powers given to them by law. Chiefs sit on these by right and non-chiefs are invited to become members either by the Councils of Chiefs, where these exist, or by the District Commissioner who presides at the District Council meetings. In many cases however membership is indefinite and anyone interested can attend and speak at these meetings. (These District Councils are not to be confused with the Councils of Chiefs referred to previously. The Councils of Chiefs have statutory entity; as the superior Native Authority they have executive and legislative power; as owners of the joint Native Treasury they have financial responsibilities; as holders of court warrants they have judicial powers and responsibilities as courts of the first instance and as appeal courts). There is only one District Council in the Northern Province.

Below the District Councils are the Native Authorities' Councils and the various subordinate Councils already described e.g. Sub-Chiefs', Councillors', Group and Village Councils. The system provides for the nomination of members from one level of Councils to another, and this provides an unbroken chain of representation from village to Protectorate level. The councils have already shown themselves to be a valuable means of obtaining African opinion and advice. Considerable latitude is allowed in their discussions; in the case of Provincial Councils, for instance, subjects for discussion may be introduced either by the Central Government, the Provincial or District Councils or the individual members themselves. In the case of Group Councils as a rule anyone who is by native custom entitled to speak is allowed to do so.

The townships of Blantyre, Limbe, Zomba, Fort Johnston and Lilongwe are administered in their domestic affairs by Town Councils which in the two former cases are elected by the ratepayers and in the three latter are nominated by the Governor. One African, representing the African Civil Servants' Association, is appointed a member of the Zomba Town Council.

Urban advisory committees have been established at Blantyre, Limbe and Zomba, to advise the Town Councils on matters appertaining to the African urban population.

#### INFORMATION SERVICES

The Public Relations Office was established in February, 1949. The functions of the Director of Public Relations are to assist in interpreting the policy of the Government to the people of the Protectorate, to act in an advisory and co-ordinating capacity for distributing information on the various development schemes, to keep in touch with public opinion, to publicise the affairs of the Protectorate in Great Britain and elsewhere and to provide the public of the Protectorate with information about developments in Great Britain and various aspects of British life. In the execution of these duties the Director makes use of the Press, the cinema, broadcasting, publications, photographs and personal contacts. There is evidence that an increasing interest is being taken in the affairs of the Protectorate by the Press of other countries and news items are supplied to 36 newspapers and agencies covering Central, South and East African papers, correspondents, the British Broadcasting Corporation and United States of America and United Kingdom publications. Bulletins of the London Press Services and press releases from the Information Department of the Colonial Office are distributed locally. Supplies of literature are distributed as judiciously as possible to the many thousands of educated Africans who are thirsting for information and knowledge. Large numbers of British magazines are regularly distributed to district headquarters whence they are handed down through Native Authorities to individual Africans. These publications are in great demand and pass through many hands until they literally disintegrate through use. It is hoped that the supply of material will induce local Africans to get together in reading rooms and form discussion groups. The demand for such publications, however, still greatly exceeds the supply; posters and photographs of the Royal Family are always in the greatest demand.

African interest in the weekly vernacular newspaper *Msimbi*, which has been published by the Public Relations Department since October, 1949, continues to increase. This is the principal vernacular newspaper in the Protectorate and some 600 letters are received by the editor from readers every month. The size of *Msimbi* was doubled in October, 1951, with an immediate increase in circulation and appeal; it also became a more effective advertising medium.

The photographic section of the Department continued in 1951 to supply material for information and general publicity purposes and various departmental activities were photographically recorded. Three thousand, two hundred and eighty-five enlargements were sold to the public and 1,164 photographs were supplied to the Press for publication. The Central African Airways Corporation and the Nyasaland Railways were both supplied with special enlargements for advertising purposes.

The mobile information unit showed films to 92,508 people in all three provinces during 1951. The unit gave performances at Native Authority headquarters and courts, at African hospitals, in townships and on tea estates. The most popular films shown were those made by the Central African Film Unit, stories acted by Africans to point a moral, with a tempo especially suited to African audiences. These are silent films, but an African commentator, by dint of much practice, puts words into the mouths of the actors through a microphone and loud-speaker system. The Nyasaland travel film *Land of the Lake* had a special appeal for African audiences, for it depicts many well-known Nyasaland characters engaged in their daily work. This film also secured appreciative audiences in the United States of America where its showing was arranged through the British Embassy, and it was estimated that some 10,000 people had seen the film in London by October, 1951. The film toured the whole of Nyasaland after the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, being shown in conjunction with an old silent film on the life of Livingstone.

The development of the tourist industry is yet another responsibility of the Public Relations Department. A publicity bureau continued to be maintained in Blantyre, and was visited weekly by the Director from Zomba. The bureau has a dual function in that it provides information about Nyasaland to tourists and provides information for residents about other holiday centres. The number of tourists entering the Protectorate continued to increase, totalling 5,726 in 1951. The main attraction for visitors is undoubtedly Lake Nyasa, and the air excursions from Southern and Northern Rhodesia to the Lakeshore hotels proved popular. The lake steamer *Ilala II* began regular voyages round Lake Nyasa in the middle of the year, and 26 visitors took advantage of these inland-sea cruises. A new edition of the tourist handbook *Nyasaland Calling* was published in May, and a new road guide, containing route cards of all the main roads, was also published. An advertising campaign in the South African newspapers during the early months of 1951 produced a number of tourist enquiries. Advertisements were also placed in the East, Central and South African Annuals, together with contributions in the form of articles and photographs.

## Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

Standard British weights and measures are in use throughout the Protectorate.

## Chapter 5: Newspapers and Periodicals

Printing and the production of reading matter were among the earliest "civilised" developments in Nyasaland. As far back as 1878 the Blantyre Mission of the Church of Scotland brought out a hand press and produced its monthly journal *Life and Work in Central Africa* which is still published. The Universities Mission to Central Africa has produced its journal, *Nyasa News*, at its headquarters on Likoma Island in Lake Nyasa since 1893.

The first regular newspaper to be produced was the *British Central Africa Gazette* which first appeared in Zomba on 1st January, 1894. The first issue was apparently set up over the Christmas holidays in 1893 for several copies escaped the proof reader with the date 1st December, 1893 on two pages and 1st January, 1894 on the remainder. The printers were Yaos who had been trained by the Missions, and one or two are said to have come from Zanzibar.

The *British Central Africa Gazette* was the official medium for the publication of notices, regulations and announcements of the Administration, but it also carried a wealth of material in the form of reports from the Districts, accounts by travellers, advice on agriculture, and local news which now present a very vivid picture of life in those days in British Central Africa. Local merchants were quick to take advantage of the *Gazette* for their advertisements, one of them simply reading "For Sale. A quantity of Round and Flat Iron." The German Administration in German East Africa also published its regulations in German in the *Gazette*. The "week-end" wars against the slave raiders are described in great detail, and the paper is generally a happy hunting ground for the historian. In 1907 the name of the paper was changed to the *Nyasaland Government Gazette* when the Order in Council of that year revived the name of Nyasaland for the Protectorate.

The *Government Gazette* of today is published fortnightly by the Government Printer at Zomba, and contains only official announcements and notices, Ordinances, and such matters as have to be published by law for public information.

The first independent newspaper was *The Central African Planter*, published as a monthly in September, 1895, at Songani, near Zomba. Its first editorial apologises for the appearance of a fourth paper in the Protectorate and hopes that people would not think the field overcrowded. The other papers were *Life and Work*, *Nyasa News*, and the *British Central Africa Gazette*. As the telegraph line from Salisbury to Blantyre was completed about this time the *Central African Planter* was able to publish world news and so supply a definite need.

In 1897 this paper became a weekly, and changed its name to the *Central African Times*, and later, when the name of the Protectorate

was changed from British Central Africa to Nyasaland, it became the *Nyasaland Times* of today. It is now published on Mondays and Thursdays. Newcomers to the territory are often puzzled by references to something having been "in last week's CAT," until they learn that the *Times* still carries as its nickname the initials of its predecessor. The *Nyasaland Times* is published by the Blantyre Printing and Publishing Company Ltd., of Blantyre. It reaches the European, Asian and the educated members of the African community.

The *Rhodesia Herald*, published in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, circulates widely in Nyasaland despite the fact that its news is often a day or two old by the time it is read.

The African community is provided for by an official weekly newspaper and a number of Mission journals, with Chinyanja as the main vernacular. The Government sponsored African Book Centre in Blantyre supplies books at low rates to Africans.

The official newspaper *Msimbi* (the relater or recorder of news) is published by the Public Relations Department in Zomba. It contains local and world news, illustrations and advertisements. It has the largest circulation of any paper within Nyasaland, and it also reaches Nyasaland Africans in South and East Africa and in the Rhodesias. Its readers are estimated to number between 30,000 and 40,000, bearing in mind the fact that a paper is passed from hand to hand and its news passes verbally to illiterates. Its predecessors were *Zo Ona* (The Truth), published by the *Nyasaland Times* before the war, and *Nkhani za Nyasaland*, a free official weekly news sheet which replaced *Zo Ona* at the beginning of the war to make reliable information freely available to the people.

*Msimbi* doubled in size in 1951. The popularity of *Msimbi* is indicated by the Editor's post bag, which averages 600 letters a month, mostly in the vernacular and written on an amazing variety of topics. The yearly subscription is 4s., and one optimist wrote in sending 8s. and asked to have the paper twice a week.

*The African* is a monthly paper published by the White Fathers' Mission at Likuni, similar in make-up to *Msimbi*, but with more accent on mission news. *Mthenga* (The Messenger) is published every two months by the Dutch Reformed Mission; *Lipenga* (The Trumpeter), published by the Zambesi Mission, and *Uthenga* (The Message) produced by the Seventh Day Adventist Mission, also appear every two months. One or two estates produce news sheets on duplicators.

The *Nyasaland Journal*, the organ of the Nyasaland Society, is published twice a year, and contains papers on all aspects of social, cultural, historical and scientific matters in the Protectorate.

The *Nyasaland Agricultural Quarterly Journal* is produced mainly by the staff of the Department of Agriculture, and is a useful contact between the Department and the tobacco, tea and tung planters.

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18,000	—	—	—	Technical Education, Scheme No. D. 1972
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—	—	1,130	2,100	Agricultural Experimentation, Scheme No. R. 230
431	—	480	—	Investigation in Stored Products, Research Scheme No. R. 417
7,176	2,230	6,008	6,250	Taste Research, Scheme No. R. 207
1,234	1,000	1,234	1,200	Geological Survey, Scheme No. D. 1981 (C.A. D. 4)
8,126	4,000	—	1,900	Municipal Survey, Scheme No. D. 478
24,808	9,100	8,100	14,200	Lilongwe-Tor Johnson Road, Scheme No. D. 208

## APPENDIX

### GRANTS UNDER THE COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE ACTS

	<i>Actual Revenue 1950</i>	<i>Estimate 1951</i>	<i>Actual Revenue 1951</i>	<i>Estimate 1952</i>
	£	£	£	£
<b>(a) Departmental Schemes</b>				
Agriculture, Scheme No. D. 1550	—	38,000	34,000	34,000
Education, Scheme No. D. 1551	—	41,000	41,000	42,000
Forestry, Scheme No. D. 1552	—	10,500	10,500	11,000
Water Supplies, Scheme No. D. 1625	—	10,000	10,500	10,500
Medical, Scheme No. D. 1553	—	36,000	35,000	35,000
Veterinary, Scheme No. D. 1554	—	10,500	10,500	11,000
<b>(b) Public Works Schemes</b>				
Road Development, Scheme No. D. 812	186,000	190,000	183,650	120,948
Kaningina-Nkata Bay Road	—	20,000	20,000*	100,000
African Housing, Scheme No. D. 1391	59,000	96,500	75,100	54,560
Mental Hospital, Scheme No. D. 1359	24,400	22,000	12,000	22,000
Chileka Airport, Scheme No. D. 738	124,000	53,000	34,550	7,818
Machinery and Road Plant, Scheme No. D. 1677	—	58,000	—	—
Technical Education, Scheme No. D. 1672	—	—	—	19,000
<b>(c) Aeronautical Schemes</b>				
Meteorological Equipment, Scheme No. D. 1810	—	7,000	—	28,000
Telecommunications, Scheme No. D. 1483	—	3,500	2,300	20,100
<b>(d) Central Fund Schemes</b>				
Lilongwe Experimental Station, Scheme No. R. 157	14,650	13,062	26,000	13,829
Agricultural Experimentation, Scheme No. R. 220	2,100	1,150	—	—
Infestation in Stored Products Research, Scheme No. R. 437	—	480	—	431
Tsetse Research, Scheme No. R. 307	8,250	6,068	2,330	7,176
Geological Survey, Scheme No. D. 1191 (E.C.A. D. 4)	1,200	1,234	1,000	1,234
Mineralogical Survey, Scheme No. D. 878	1,900	—	4,000	8,126
<b>(e) Regional Schemes</b>				
Domasi District Development, Scheme No. D. 846	14,850	6,165	9,100	24,806
Lilongwe—Fort Jameson Road	—	20,000	—	80,000

	<i>Actual Revenue 1950</i>	<i>Estimate 1951</i>	<i>Actual Revenue 1951</i>	<i>Estimate 1952</i>
	£	£	£	£
(f) <i>Miscellaneous Schemes</i>				
Contribution to Educational Scholarships .. .. .	—	—	1,800*	—
Shire Valley Project Survey, Scheme No. D. 1702 .. .. .	—	—	—	70,000
Expired Schemes .. .. .	128,803	13,500	40,206	—

\*Revised estimate.

During 1950 the Secretary of State approved in principle the cancellation of all Colonial Development and Welfare schemes financed from the territorial allocation other than those for specific public works projects, and the reallocation of the resultant available funds to offset a proportion of the developmental expenditure of certain Departments for the remainder of the currency of the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. £146,000 was thus made available in 1951.

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Colonial Economic Research Committee.

Tsetse Fly and Trypanosomiasis Research Committee.

Colonial Fisheries Advisory Committee.

Director Anti-Locust Research Centre.

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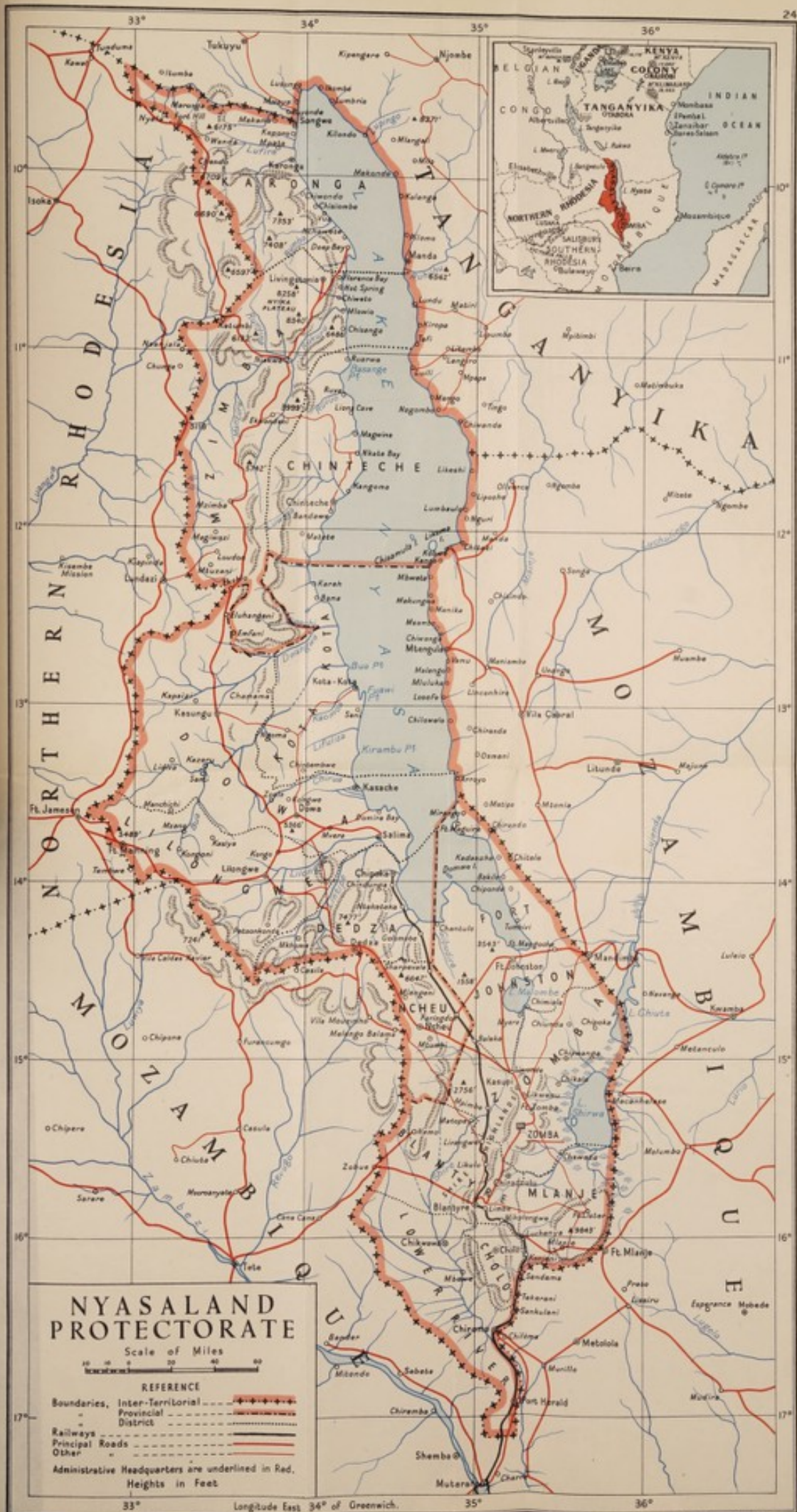
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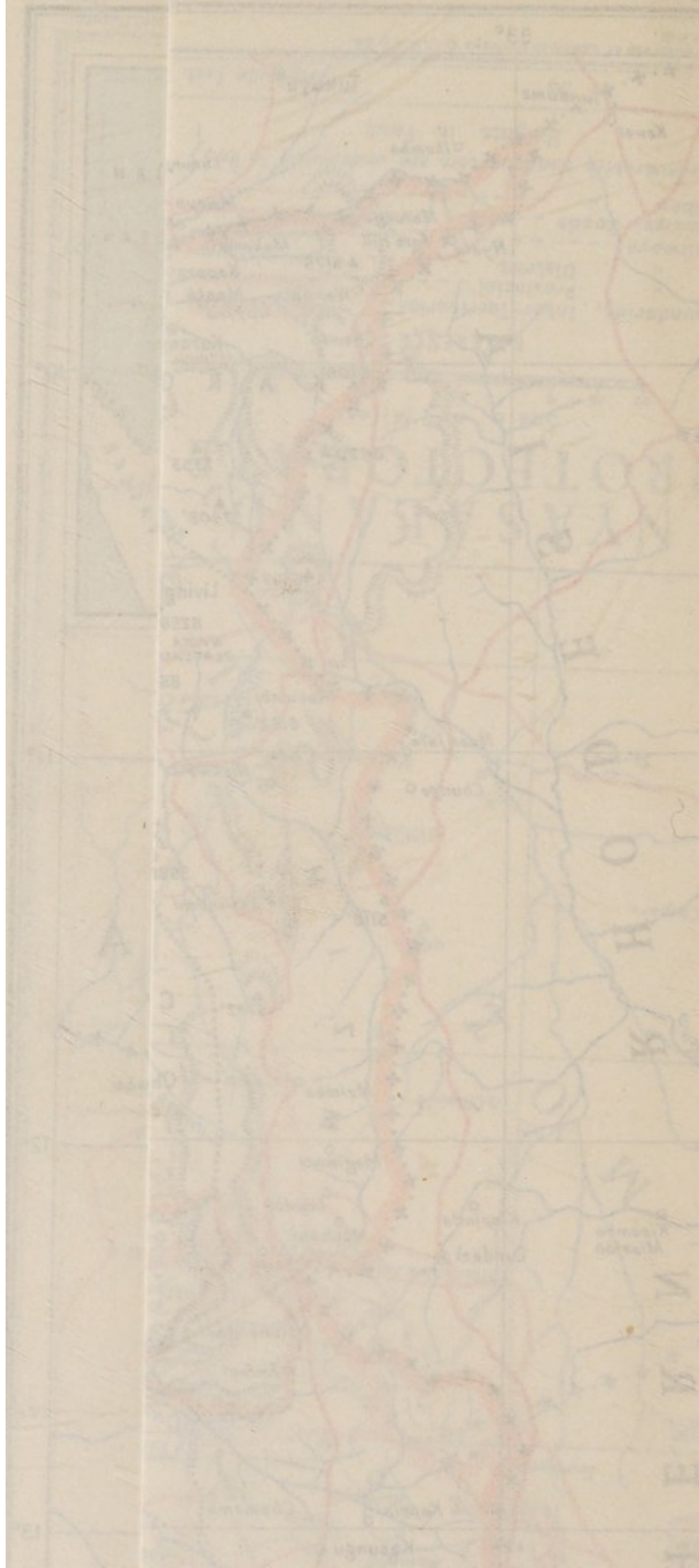
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