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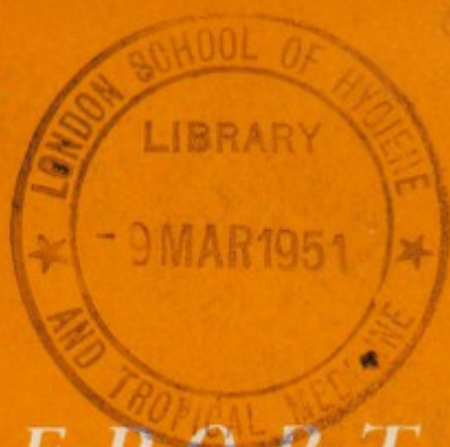
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COLONIAL REPORTS


Basutoland

1949



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COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT
ON
BASUTOLAND
FOR THE YEAR
1949

LONDON
HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1950

Printed in Basutoland

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MAP OF BASUTOLAND

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Map of Mauritius

PART I

REVIEW OF THE MAIN EVENTS OF THE YEAR 1949

CHAPTER ONE

FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION

1949 has been a year of economic adversity. There was a serious drought during the 1948-49 growing season and the total agricultural production for the year was estimated at only 158,000 bags as compared with 1,700,000 bags in 1948. Thousands of livestock died in the winter of 1949, the grazing being very poor as a result of the drought. To appreciate how serious the situation was it must be realized that agricultural produce and livestock are almost the only source of wealth within Basutoland. There are no industries and a recent geological report has disclosed that there is no potential source of mineral wealth in the Territory.

The economic difficulties which still exist in the United Kingdom and which are now affecting conditions in South Africa have indirectly had a most serious effect on the finances of the Territory. In terms of a long standing agreement between Basutoland and the Union of South Africa 8.8575 per cent of the total Customs Import Duty collected in the Union is credited to the Basutoland Government. It was clear, therefore, when Import Control was introduced in the Union of South Africa that Basutoland's share of the total Customs Import Duty would be considerably less than that received in former years. Departmental expenditure was accordingly severely cut, 42 European posts being abolished and a large part of the Public Works Department building programme being abandoned. Fortunately, however, it was found later that revenue from Income Tax and Native Tax would exceed the original estimates and that, after allowing for the profit on the sale of Universal Postal Union Commemorative Stamps and the increase in the collection of Wool and Mohair Export Duty due to the rate being raised, the revised deficit would be little more than that allowed for in the Estimates.

The accumulated surplus balance at 31st March, 1949, was approximately £535,500.

It had been estimated that there would be a deficit of some £63,000 for the year ending 31st March, 1949, but as a result of certain savings on ordinary expenditure and the increase in all items of Revenue the actual deficit was only £9,000.

The estimates for the financial year 1949-50 also allowed for a deficit of some £46,000, and it is expected for the reasons given above that the actual deficit will slightly exceed this estimate.

It was inevitable that Expenditure should exceed Revenue during these years when essential expenditure was being made on capital works and on the general development of the Territory. It was also necessary to supply deficiencies which could not be made up during the war years.

AGRICULTURE

All possible action was taken to alleviate the food shortage which followed the drought. Fortunately much of the excellent maize crop which was reaped in the previous year had been stored in the Territory and 14,500 bags of maize which had been intended for export to the Bechuanaland Protectorate were returned to Basutoland. The Maize Industry Control Board of the Union of South Africa also allowed the import into Basutoland of 288,000 bags of maize grown in the Union.

The Basuto in the lowlands were encouraged to sow much more winter wheat than is their custom to provide a supply of grain on which they could rely if other supplies failed.

The building of grain storage tanks has continued, the ultimate aim being to store sufficient grain in the Territory to meet all requirements in a year of scarcity. Storage for 9,600 bags has already been completed and tanks are now being built to store a further 24,300 bags.

Economic progress in Basutoland is bound up with improved methods of agriculture, and there can be no doubt that the basic needs of the Territory are the conservation of the soil and the improvement of its fertility. Work was carried out during the year on soil conservation, the control of grazing, crop improvement, the manuring of lands, tree planting, the improvement of stock, the marketing of wool, and other measures designed to increase the prosperity of the Basuto peasant. A full account of this work is given in Chapter II.

Flock owners received good prices for their wool throughout the year. The policy of wool improvement embarked on by Government in 1936 has proved fully justified and Basutoland wool—particularly Government-classed wool—has a ready sale at the coast at prices far higher than those received before the improvement scheme was started. The export duty on wool and mohair has now been raised from $\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $1d.$ in order that further developments may be made in the interests of sheep and goat owners.

An Agricultural Survey was started towards the end of the year. Reliable basic information is being obtained on which the future policy of land utilization will be based.

The Leper Settlement farm will now be used as an experimental station and demonstration farm in addition to providing food for the lepers.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

In January, 1948, an administrative officer was appointed as Registrar of Co-operative Societies after a co-operative training course in the United Kingdom. In an agricultural country such as Basutoland it is both natural and desirable that co-operation should play its due part in helping the peasant farmer to develop his resources.

Development during the year under review was at first concentrated on forming wool and mohair marketing societies to sell members' wool and mohair at the coast. Six societies of this type were registered, and all of these have had a very successful first season. These societies also sell skins and hides on behalf of members and purchase agricultural requisites and other things cheaply.

There has been a large demand for consumer co-operation and in response to this consumers' clubs have been formed which make bulk purchases on members' behalf to enable them to get their household requirements cheaply. Fourteen such societies have already been registered and others await registration. The formation of co-operative agricultural societies has been encouraged and four societies were registered during the year.

NATIVE ADMINISTRATION

A number of important developments took place during the year. At the 44th Session of the Basutoland Council a resolution was passed that a tax of 1s. should be imposed on all tax-payers to make possible the commutation of free services to the Chiefs. This proposal was accepted by the Resident Commissioner and Paramount Chief and it was also agreed that the tax should be imposed as a local rate by the Paramount Chief as head of the Native Administration and all collections should be paid direct into the National Treasury. Amending legislation has been enacted empowering the Paramount Chief with the concurrence of the Basutoland Council to impose local rates and it is probable that in future this power will prove a valuable instrument in furthering the progress of the Native Administration. With regard to the allocation of the proceeds of the rate, the opportunity is being taken to delegate limited financial responsibility to local authorities with the object of strengthening local interest and initiative. The proceeds of the rate will be devoted to compensating the Paramount Chief and other leading Chiefs for the loss of their free services, to the building of Native Courts and offices, the payment of messengers sent on administrative duties by the Chiefs, and other services which were previously carried out by forced unpaid labour but which will now become a charge on National Treasury Funds.

The appointment of three permanent Advisers to the Paramount Chief has proved to be of great value. In addition to their duties in connexion with routine administration at Matsieng the Advisers have made frequent trips to the districts. In the early part of the year the

Paramount Chief herself made a tour of the Territory to address the people on the subject of "ritual" (medicine) murder. In a highly centralized Native Administration such as exists in Basutoland these visits are of value.

The policy of devolving more responsibility on to the Native Authority with a view to enlisting its interest and necessary support in measures of agricultural improvement has been followed with fairly promising results. The Chiefs now take a more active share in controlling the importation of livestock and in ensuring that the cattle imported into any area are not in excess of its grazing capacity. In the cattle post areas of certain wards a simple method for the control of grazing, based on the four points of the compass, is being introduced by the Paramount Chief and other Chiefs. Further executive responsibility is shortly to be entrusted to the Paramount Chief and to the Principal and Ward Chiefs in regard to the maintenance of soil conservation works.

On the 1st April, 1949, responsibility for the upkeep of bridle paths was handed over to the Native Administration for a trial period of three years. Preliminary reports indicate that a good standard of work has been maintained and that the paths are in good condition.

A further constitutional advance has resulted from a resolution passed at the 45th Session of the Basutoland Council that the elected element in the Council should be increased. It has now been agreed that the number of representatives elected by District Councils should be increased from two to four per district, making a total of 36 District Council members. Together with the six members elected by sectional bodies this will result in an increase in the elected element to 42. Of the remaining 57 members, 52 will continue to be nominated by the Paramount Chief and five by the Government. This decision, which had the almost unanimous support of the Council as at present constituted, indicates a progressive spirit on the part of the Paramount Chief and Chiefs and a realisation that the introduction of a larger element of educated commoners will strengthen the Council not only as an organ of local government but also as the principal advisory body to the Government.

NATIVE COURTS

At the 45th Session of the Basutoland Council the view was clearly expressed that the reorganized Native Courts have proved to be superior to the old courts. At the same time it was recognized that in many respects there is room for further improvement and it was recommended that a committee should be appointed to report on reforms which are considered advisable. This resolution was accepted by the Resident Commissioner and Paramount Chief and data and recommendations are now being accumulated for consideration by the Committee. It is proposed that a Registrar of the Native Courts should be appointed in the near future for duty at Matsieng to supervise the administrative work in connexion with the running of the courts throughout the Territory.

RITUAL MURDER

Five cases were reported during the year of the savage and brutal crime known as ritual murder, as compared with twenty cases reported in 1948. "Medicine-horn" or simply "medicine" murder is, perhaps, a less misleading term, as parts of the flesh and blood of the victim are used to fill a medicine horn. The belief is still widespread amongst the Basuto that this "medicine" can be used to further the designs of the person on whose behalf the victim was murdered.

During the year Mr. G. I. Jones, an anthropologist from Cambridge University, was appointed by the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations as a Commission to investigate the causes of this crime. Mr. Jones spent several months in Basutoland, during which time he toured the Territory extensively, examined the relevant records, and interviewed members of the Service, missionaries, traders, and any Mosuto who wished to give evidence before him.

Two of the most senior chiefs in Basutoland, who had been convicted of ritual murder, were hanged in August after their Appeal had been dismissed by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. It is hoped that these executions will have had a deterrent effect on any who may, in spite of the many warnings from Government and from the Paramount Chief, have contemplated the commission of this horrible crime.

In accordance with a resolution passed in the Basutoland Council eight additional police posts are being built in the mountains and the police establishment is being increased, in order to combat ritual murder and stock theft.

EDUCATION

It was necessary to reduce the expenditure of all Departments when the Revenues of the Territory dropped after the introduction of import control in the Union of South Africa. The Education Vote was, accordingly, reduced by £12,000. It is a measure of the interest shown by the Basuto in education that of all the economies which appeared necessary the one which occasioned most comment was the proposed reduction in grants-in-aid of education. Fortunately the financial position improved slightly before the end of the year and it was possible to cancel the notices of retrenchment which had already been sent to 143 unqualified teachers.

The school roll has increased by nearly 4,000 since 1948. As a result of this increase in numbers many schools are overcrowded. The "Shift System" recommended by the Central Advisory Board on Education, whereby children in Standards I-III attend in the morning and those in the Grades in the afternoon, has been introduced successfully in a limited number of schools. In accordance with the wishes of the Basutoland Council the system is only introduced where parents and teachers agree. Unfortunately in many schools it has not been possible so far to overcome the widespread prejudice against the system.

Two more Form A classes were opened at mission centres at the beginning of the year, one in the lowlands and one in the mountains.

A sub-committee appointed by the Paramount Chief investigated the work of the Home Industries Organization during the year as it had become apparent that, although work was proceeding steadily, the cost of the Organization was out of proportion to the revenue received from the sale of articles made. As a result of the sub-committee's report, four small centres which had received little support from the people were closed down at the end of the year, and various changes in organization will be effected in 1950.

Four selected students are at present in England undergoing further training. These men have been granted bursaries and it is hoped that on their return to Basutoland they will, after the necessary period of probation, occupy responsible positions in the Education Department. Five bursaries for Fort Hare and two for Witwatersrand University were also awarded during the year.

MEDICAL

The year under review has been a busy one and the Medical staff have been kept fully occupied. The number of patients attending Government hospitals to-day is almost double what it was ten years ago, and the numbers are increasing yearly.

At the Leper Settlement very encouraging results have been obtained from the use of sulphetrone, a new leprosy treatment which is showing great promise.

The new hospital and dispensary at Teyateyaneng are now almost completed. The building of a new medical centre at Phamong has been started, and plans are in hand for the establishment of two rural nursing centres.

WELFARE

The work of the Welfare Officer has continued to be concerned primarily with the welfare of ex-soldiers and their dependants through the medium of the Pensions Board and the Basuto Soldiers' Benefit Fund. Certain improvements in pension rates have been approved with effect from the 1st April, 1948. These include increased allowances for children of disabled ex-soldiers and of deceased soldiers, gratuities to widows on re-marriage, and pensions to widows and children of ex-soldiers who die from non-pensionable disabilities, provided their pensionable disability was at least 40 per cent.

A Community Hall is being built at each district headquarters to provide a centre for the social life of the African community. The Community Hall which was opened in Maseru in 1948 has been in constant use throughout the year. Many educational, dramatic, musical, and social functions have been held there, and a Youth Club has been formed by the local Africans entirely by their own initiative and efforts.

POLICE

201,135 miles were covered in patrolling rural areas. 93.1 per cent of the serious crimes investigated were disposed of satisfactorily.

53 recruits were passed out from the Police Training School as efficient and posted to divisions for police work.

There was an apparent increase in crimes of a serious nature, but it is not yet possible to say whether there was a real increase, or whether, owing to the greater efficiency of the police force, which has now been re-organized, more crime was detected and dealt with than formerly.

PRISONS

A new Central Prison is being built at Maseru entirely by prison labour. The first wing is now almost complete and is housing the prisoners who are working on the building.

Several prison industries have been started, whereby, in addition to performing useful work, prisoners learn trades which will be useful to them after their release from prison. These industries include gardening, tailoring, leather work, shoe repairing, stone quarrying and cutting, brick making, woodwork and ironwork.

NATIONAL TREASURY

The Basuto National Treasury completed the third year of its existence on 31st March, 1949.

The following is a summary of its Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year:

<i>Revenue</i>		<i>Expenditure</i>	
I. Share of Basuto Tax	£78,430	A. Administration	£100,763
II. Court Receipts :		B. Development	14,457
(i) Fines	27,018	C. Capital Works	2,322
(ii) Fees	7,541		
III. Sale of Stray Stock	3,765		
IV. Home Industries	6,625		
V. Other Receipts :			
(i) Miscellaneous	676	Balance	7,844
(ii) Interest	1,331		
	<u>£125,386</u>		<u>£125,386</u>

There was a surplus of £7,844 for the year and the accumulated surplus balance at the 31st March, 1949, was £23,079. These figures show that after three years' working the Treasury is in a sound financial position.

CHAPTER II

DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

Development schemes financed from the Revenue of the Territory, such as agricultural improvement schemes and constitutional developments in the Native Administration, are more conveniently described elsewhere in this Report.

The following is a brief account of the progress which has been made on schemes financed from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund.

GENERAL

An amount of £830,000 has been provided from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund under the Ten Year Development Plan. The allocation of this amount and the revised estimates of expenditure in 1949-50 are as follows :

	<i>Total Allocation</i>	<i>Revised Estimate of Expenditure for 1949-50</i>
Soil Conservation Measures	£303,480	£36,000
Roads & Bridges	236,000	5,000
Water Supplies	80,000	34,081
Medical & Health Schemes	108,825	15,340
Education	100,300	9,894
Unallocated Balance	1,395	
TOTAL	<u>£830,000</u>	<u>£100,315</u>

SOIL CONSERVATION

Soil conservation work has proceeded steadily in spite of the difficult conditions created by the drought. In the lowlands 30,486·6 acres were terraced—a record for any one year; 28 major dams were constructed; 11,365 trees of suitable types were planted out in dongas and around dams in fenced areas; fencing was erected to protect trees and soil conservation works where necessary; meadow strips and dongas were demarcated; 8 grass spillways were established, and one of stone; 58,000 acres were protected by grass buffer strips; 323,058 yards of mountain diversion furrow were constructed; and maintenance work was carried out where necessary.

Dr. Lowdermilk, late of the United States Soil Conservation Service, paid a visit to the Territory during the year and gave some most useful advice regarding the latest methods of soil conservation which are being employed in the United States. He was, he said, most impressed with the soil conservation works which he had seen while on tour in Basutoland.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

During the year a low-level bridge was built across the Hololo River in the North of the Territory and the first section was constructed of a road beyond Hendrick's Drift. In the past years people using motor traffic in the Libono area, who wished to visit the Government station at Butha-Buthe, had to cross into the Orange Free State at Hendrick's Drift and to re-enter Basutoland at Joel's Drift or at Caledon's Poort. The construction of this motor road, approximately eight miles in length, and the bridging of the Hololo River will be of great advantage administratively, and a boon to sick people wishing to visit the doctor at Butha-Buthe.

Tenders were called for during 1949 for the mechanical plant required for the mountain road from Maseru to Marakabei and Ntaotes. The plant will be as embled in the latter half of 1950 and early in 1951, in order that actual construction may commence on the 1st April, 1951.

WATER SUPPLIES

Work on the water supply scheme for Maseru proceeded steadily. The 3,500,000 gallon storage reservoir and a new service reservoir were completed and most of the new pipelines were also laid down.

A new engine and pump have been installed at Teyateyaneng and water boring operations have been successful at Mohale's Hoek.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH

Of the four Basuto medical students at the Witwatersrand University, one (Dr. K. J. S. Nkuebe) qualified in June and is at present serving an internship at the Maseru Hospital.

The new hospital and dispensary at Teyateyaneng are now almost completed and the building of a new medical centre at Phamong has been started.

EDUCATION

Work has proceeded during the year on the new buildings for the Lerotholi Technical School.

The Educational Secretaries continue to do valuable work in co-ordinating the educational work of the missions with the educational plans approved by Government.

Small equipment grants have been made to all primary schools in the Territory.

Building grants on a £ for £ basis have again been allotted for the improvement of elementary schools in each district. Unfortunately, because of the shortage of money in the Territory after the drought and the difficulties of building in the mountains, some missions have been unable to raise the necessary funds and to undertake the building programmes which they had planned. They have not therefore been able to claim the money allotted to them on the £ for £ basis.

One further Form A classroom has been built at a mission intermediate school and a second one is nearing completion.

At the Basutoland Training College two teacher's houses have been completed, the existing dormitories have been repaired and improved, and improvements have been made to the water supply.

PART II

CHAPTER ONE

POPULATION

The population of Basutoland has more than doubled in the last 50 years. In 1898 it was estimated at 256,000 and in 1936 it reached its peak of 562,311. The increase has been partly due to immigration, particularly of Tembus from the nearby Districts of the Cape Province, stimulated by the feeling of some Basuto Chiefs that their importance would be enhanced by increasing the number of their subjects. Of recent years, however, this process has been reversed, immigration has been replaced by emigration, and the preliminary figures for the 1946 census show a decrease of approximately 6,000 in the total population.

The final figures may differ to a certain extent from the statistics shown below but there seems no doubt that there has been a drop in the African population living in the Territory. It is generally agreed that this fall is not due to faulty enumeration but to certain economic factors and the line of industry in the neighbouring territory of the Union. It appears that many Basuto are gradually discarding their feudal mode of life and that education, the lure of urban amenities and the opportunity to earn make it inevitable that they should be drawn to the Union.

The slight increase in the figures of the European population in 1946 as compared with 1936 (apart from natural increase) is due to three factors : the employment by Government of a larger European Staff ; an increase in trading activities ; and the arrival of more missionaries in the Territory. Over the last 25 years there has been an increase of 75 Europeans.

The present distribution of the African population shows a distinct relationship to the physical structure of the country. The bulk of the population is still concentrated in the lowlands, and in these areas saturation point seems for the time being to have been reached. The mountains were, until recently, almost entirely reserved for grazing, and even the concentration of population which now exists in the rich valleys near the 'Maletsunyane Falls dates back only about 20 years.

With the increasing pressure on the land in the lowlands the people extended their cultivation up the river valleys, and, as these were in turn found to be inadequate, up on to the mountain slopes.

The result is that to-day there are scattered settlements throughout the mountain area of Basutoland. Land has been ploughed which is unsuitable for cultivation and which will quickly become eroded. The Paramount Chief has, therefore, issued orders, firstly that these scattered settlements

shall be grouped together to form villages, and secondly that no new land shall be ploughed without her permission. Permission to plough new lands is only given after consultation with the Agricultural Department.

In the table below are given the preliminary figures for the census held in May 1946 :

A. BASUTO IN THE TERRITORY

<i>District</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>1936</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Butha-Buthe	14,929	20,350	35,279	34,869	+ 410
Leribe	42,399	55,870	98,269	97,376	+ 893
Teyateyaneng	24,984	32,569	57,553	55,522	+ 2,031
Maseru	43,369	57,985	101,354	108,237	— 6,883
Mafeteng	30,505	38,031	68,536	70,864	— 2,328
Mohale's Hoek	28,806	37,126	65,932	65,309	+ 623
Quthing	19,865	25,714	45,579	44,552	+ 1,027
Qacha's Nek	19,639	24,921	44,560	46,132	— 1,572
Mokhotlong	16,424	20,341	36,765	36,412	+ 353
	240,920	312,907	553,827	559,273	— 5,446

B. EUROPEANS IN THE TERRITORY

<i>District</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>1936</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Butha-Buthe	14	17	31	50	— 19
Leribe	77	94	171	154	+ 17
Teyateyaneng	60	48	108	94	+ 14
Maseru	364	360	724	583	+ 141
Mafeteng	111	111	222	189	+ 33
Mohale's Hoek	86	100	186	150	+ 36
Quthing	56	46	102	106	— 4
Qacha's Nek	53	46	99	82	+ 17
Mokhotlong	21	14	35	26	+ 9
	842	836	1,678	1,434	+ 244

C. COLOURED

<i>District</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>1936</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Butha-Buthe	5	4	9	—	—
Leribe	38	40	78	—	—
Teyateyaneng	41	27	68	—	—
Maseru	87	92	179	—	—
Mafeteng	53	51	104	—	—
Mohale's Hoek	17	28	45	—	—
Quthing	17	18	35	—	—
Qacha's Nek	13	13	26	—	—
Mokhotlong	1	—	1	—	—
	272	273	545	1,263	—718

D. ASIATICS

<i>District</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>1936</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Butha-Buthe	89	65	154	—	—
Leribe	63	63	126	—	—
Teyateyaneng	14	4	18	—	—
Maseru	10	5	15	—	—
Mafeteng	6	2	8	—	—
Mohale's Hoek	3	—	3	—	—
Quthing	—	—	—	—	—
Qacha's Nek	8	8	16	—	—
Mokhotlong	—	—	—	—	—
	193	147	340	341	-1

The final tabulation of statistics is being undertaken by the Union Department of Census, and is not yet finished.

WAGES AND COST OF LIVING

The few wage earners who find employment in the Territory may be classified as follows :

- Domestic servants, earning from £1. 10s. 0d. to £5 a month, including the value of food and lodging if provided.
- Labourers, employed mainly on roads and other public works, soil conservation work, etc., at rates of from 1s. 9d. to 2s. a day. Public works labourers work a 54 hour week.
- Foremen, earning from £5 to £8 a month.
- Artisans, earning from £8 to £17 a month.
- Trading store employees, earning £3 to £7 a month.

In considering these wages it should be remembered that every married man is entitled to lands on which to grow food, free occupation of a site for his house, and communal grazing rights for his cattle.

During the year there has been a continual, steady rise in the cost of living in Basutoland. The following table shows the rise in prices of various commodities since 1948 and indicates the pre-war prices :

<i>Commodity</i>		<i>Price</i>		
		1938	1948	1949
Bread	per 2 lb. loaf	4d.	7½d.	8½d.
Flour	per pound	2d.	3½d.	3¾d.
Rice	per pound	4d.	9½d.	10d.
Oatmeal	per pound	3d.	5d.	5d.
Tea	per pound	2s. 3d.	5s.	7s. 3d.
Coffee	per pound	1s. 9d.	2s. 11d.	3s.
Sugar	per pound	3d.	4½d.	3½d.

Jam	per pound	5 <i>d.</i>	9 <i>d.</i>	1 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>
Potatoes	per pound	1 <i>d.</i>	3 <i>d.</i>	3 <i>d.</i>
Butter	per pound	1 <i>s.</i> 2 <i>d.</i>	2 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	2 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>
Cheese	per opund	1 <i>s.</i> 2 <i>d.</i>	1 <i>s.</i> 10 <i>d.</i>	2 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>
Eggs	per dozen	1 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	2 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	1 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> to 4 <i>s.</i>
Milk	per gallon	2 <i>s.</i>	2 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>	3 <i>s.</i>
Bacon	per pound	1 <i>s.</i> 5 <i>d.</i>	2 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>d.</i>	2 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>d.</i>
Beef	per pound	6 <i>d.</i>	1 <i>s.</i>	1 <i>s.</i>
Mutton	per pound	7 <i>d.</i>	1 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i>	1 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i>

TRADE UNIONS

It was a necessary condition for obtaining assistance from the Colonial Development Fund that facilities should be provided for the establishment and activities of Trade Unions. There had previously been no need for such legislation in Basutoland owing to the total lack of industries.

Proclamation No. 17 of 1942, entitled the Basutoland Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Proclamation, has provided for the registration and regulation of Trade Unions in Basutoland and for the orderly settlement of trade disputes.

By the end of 1949 no Trade Unions had been registered in Basutoland.

CHAPTER II

OCCUPATIONS AND LABOUR

The principal occupations of the Basuto are agriculture and stock farming, and for these pursuits the country provides all the essentials. Its climate favours the development of a healthy, hardy mountain people and it is free from the chief scourges of Africa ; there are few mosquitoes and no malaria or tsetse fly. It is also free from many of the forms of cattle disease which plague countries nearer sea level.

However, primitive methods of farming have made the soil less productive and, through hastening erosion, have actually decreased the area of arable land. At the same time the population has increased under the "pax Brittanica" so that there are more people to feed and yet less food is produced than before. The measures which are being taken to conserve the soil and to make it more productive are described in a later chapter.

As the average family has not enough land to support it, it is necessary for the men to leave home periodically to look for work. There are no industries in Basutoland besides the printing industries

of the P.E.M.S. and the R.C. Missions which employ about 80 and 40 Basuto respectively. Apart from employment in the Government Service or at trading stores, there is little work to be found in the Territory. It is, therefore, necessary for the Basuto to leave the Territory to work in the Union of South Africa.

Until recently most of the men went to the gold mines of the Witwatersrand, but more and more are now finding work in other industries and employment. At 31st December, 1949, 34,665 Basuto were employed on the gold mines. No accurate figures are available of those otherwise employed, but it is known that more than 10,000 were working on the coal and diamond mines and more than 27,000 were in other employment in certain areas of the Transvaal and Orange Free State alone.

The table below shows the number of passes issued in the last three years to Basuto leaving the Territory for employment in the Union of South Africa. The difference between the number of passes issued and the workers employed on the mines is largely accounted for by the numbers who remained at the mines from previous years.

<i>Mines</i>	<i>1947</i>	<i>1948</i>	<i>1949</i>
Gold	19,304	20,562	30,401
Coal	3,176	4,701	4,790
Daimond	209	878	1,787
Manganese	—	126	1,120
Other Mines	499	575	1,699
Total Mines	23,188	26,842	39,797
Agricultural	1,688	4,199	5,284
Miscellaneous	10,262	18,778	15,324
Totals	35,138	49,819	60,405

The Chamber of Mines, Johannesburg, is represented by the Native Recruiting Corporation Ltd., with its local Superintendent and head office in Maseru, and branch offices in other district headquarter stations. The corporation recruits either under contract or under the Assisted Voluntary System.

The contract, which is attested before a Government officer, binds the recruit to work in a certain mine for a certain number of shifts at given rates of wage, according to the class of work performed. Basuto, incidentally, are usually employed on the more difficult and better paid tasks, such as shaft sinking. The majority are employed underground.

Most recruits for the mines prefer to engage under the Assisted Voluntary Sytem. By this system the recruit is not attested for work on any particular mine, but agrees to proceed to Johannesburg for work on any of the mines enumerated in a schedule. On arrival he is given three weeks in which to choose his mine.

A large percentage of the Basuto recruited for the mines defer a portion of their earnings for payment to them on their return to Basutoland. In 1949 £112,761 was paid out through the Native Recruiting Corporation as deferred wages. Many also remit money to their families through the Native Recruiting Corporation, and in the year under review this amounted to £170,313. Although statistics are not available it is estimated that an amount at least equal to this is remitted through the post. This is very satisfactory and is given every encouragement by Government.

Labour is also recruited by other approved Labour Agents for work on coal, diamond, and manganese mines, farms, and other employment.

In 1932 an office was opened temporarily in Johannesburg for collecting tax from Basuto employed on the Witwatersrand. At the beginning of 1935 the Agency was permanently established and it has been maintained ever since. The Agency at first dealt only with the collection of revenue, but it soon began dealing with the domestic affairs of the Basuto on the Witwatersrand, encouraging them to save money, giving them home news, counteracting as far as possible the temptations of their environment, repatriating those who are indigent and, generally, giving advice and assistance to them whenever required.

The Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland now share in the Agency which thus deals with Africans from all three High Commission Territories, both in regard to the collection of taxes and in general welfare work.

Recruiting is only permitted for those concerns which provide good living and working conditions and the Agent for the High Commission Territories and his Officers spend much of their time in inspecting conditions on the mines and elsewhere. During the year the Agent visited many labour centres in the Union as far apart as Durban and Cape Town and made contact with many Basuto who were working far from their homes. Partly as a result of these visits the tax collections of the Agency for the year amounted to £98,182, which is a figure considerably higher than that for any previous year.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

The following labour legislation is in force in the Territory :

Proclamation No. 37 of 1936 enables the High Commissioner to regulate the level of wages paid to natives in any occupation or in any area within the Territory. A minimum wage level may be prescribed by Notice in the Official Gazette.

Proclamation No. 71 of 1939 regulates the condition of employment of women, young persons, and children in industrial undertakings, and prohibits the employment of any person under the age of 12 years in any such undertaking, whether public or private, unless it shall be owned by that child's parents.

Proclamation No. 5 of 1942 amended and consolidated the law relating to the recruitment and contracts for the employment of Basuto for work in the Union of South Africa.

Proclamation No. 4 of 1948 makes provision for the payment of compensation to workmen employed in Basutoland who suffer injury or death or contract disease in the course of their employment.

CHAPTER III

PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION

Revenue for the financial year ended 31st March, 1949, including receipts from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, amounted to £980,934 and Expenditure to £989,985. There was, therefore, a deficit of £9,051.

The revised estimate of the position at 31st March, 1950, is as follows :

Accumulated Surplus Balance at 31st March, 1949	£535,554
Revised Estimate of Revenue for 1949-50	£896,790
Revised Estimate of Expenditure for 1949-50	944,375
Revised Estimate of Deficit for 1949-50	47,585
Revised Estimate of accumulated Surplus Balance at 31st March, 1950	<u>£487,969</u>

The reasons for this estimated deficit are detailed earlier in Part I of this Report.

Tax collections in Basutoland were not as good as expected but it is estimated that the amount of Basutoland Native Tax collected by the Rand Agency in 1949-50 will exceed the 1948-49 figure by £8,000. This increase is the result of the extension of the activities of the Agency to include the collection of tax from Basuto in Durban, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and many other industrial areas far from the Rand.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The following is a comparative statement of revenue and expenditure for the last five years :

Head	REVENUE				
	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
	£	£	£	£	£
Native Tax	194,246	198,515	233,360	249,607	267,170
Customs & Excise	176,715	222,754	340,387	333,244	356,278
Posts & Telegraphs	28,353	56,817	55,947	50,386	38,958
Licenses	11,333	12,042	13,964	15,319	17,363
Fees of Court or Office	3,438	4,419	4,326	4,240	4,896
Judicial Fines	1,464	1,455	2,626	2,047	2,825
Income Tax	30,247	49,408	59,486	104,407	132,579
Carried forward	445,796	54,5410	834,437	759,250	915,567

	£	£	£	£	£
Brought forward :	445,796	545,410	834,434	759,250	915,567
Personal & Savings Fund Levy	3,225	4,210	144	16	—
Excess Profits Duty	66,980	73,502	40,557	—	—
Trade Profits Special Levy	1,018	3,068	2,317	—	—
Poll Tax	1,854	1,886	1,999	2,029	2,047
Fees for Services Rendered	13,426	12,122	15,240	15,107	15,663
Interest	4,943	3,999	4,147	7,941	9,446
Wool & Mohair Export Duty	22,589	23,494	26,262	25,410	25,298
Miscellaneous	7,672	13,475	26,377	29,692	35,934
Education Levy	22,871	23,395	—	—	—
	590,374	704,561	827,139	839,445	908,457
C.D. & W. Grants	5,374	27,792	36,165	61,209	72,477
Total	595,748	732,353	863,304	900,654	980,934

EXPENDITURE

Head	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
	£	£	£	£	£
Resident Commissioner	22,574	25,887	29,284	31,220	44,289
Agricultural & Veterinary Services	74,405	78,031	63,060	66,847	74,836
District Administration	43,235	48,229	41,831	46,716	65,480
Education	89,196	130,727	145,378	160,526	158,127
Judicial & Legal	6,047	9,008	12,010	14,138	18,776
Leper Settlement	26,813	28,037	28,192	27,766	28,651
Medical	58,935	59,384	62,860	73,743	75,603
Miscellaneous	12,930	13,645	58,487	29,542	29,211
Native Administration	—	—	—	78,135	85,848
Pensions & Gratuities	23,974	22,689	27,261	31,510	31,722
Police	—	—	—	—	71,990
Prisons	59,940	68,148	88,096	89,842	30,387
Posts & Telegraphs	19,736	21,260	25,842	34,847	35,021
Public Relations	—	—	—	—	1,636
Public Works Department	7,442	10,907	12,300	15,972	24,134
Public Works Recurrent	52,368	54,806	52,241	54,333	50,336
Public Works Extraordinary	25,951	84,270	61,166	74,463	89,520
Allowances to Chiefs & Headmen *	12,135	11,698	5,861	—	—
Basutoland & District Council *	2,961	5,631	68	—	—
Grant to National Treasury *	—	—	71,500	—	—
Contribution to National Treasury	—	—	49,000	—	—
C.D. & W. Schemes *	—	—	36,165	57,337	74,418
Total :	538,642	672,357	870,602	886,937	989,985

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The surplus balance at the 31st March, 1949, amounted to £535,554.

The following is a detailed statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st March, 1949.

Notes : * Included under "Native Administration" after 1946-47.

** Included under departments in 1944-45 (£5,373) and 1945-46 (£61,777).

MAIN HEADS OF TAXATION

Native Tax

The normal rate of tax for Africans is 34s. for each adult male domiciled in Basutoland ; the wealthier men pay 40s. In addition a tax of 25s. is payable for each wife after the first, but no African is liable to pay tax for more than two additional wives.

Revenue from Native tax for the year ending 31st March, 1950, is estimated at £260,000.

Customs and Excise

It is expected that a sum of £288,000 will be received from the Government of the Union of South Africa as Basutoland's share of the Union customs collections in 1949-50. (According to a Customs agreement between the two countries Basutoland receives .88575 per cent of the gross customs revenue of the Union of South Africa.

The corresponding figure for 1948-49 was £348,968. The decrease of £60,968 is due to the imposition by the Union Government of import control, a measure which was necessitated by the unfavourable foreign trade position of the Union of South Africa.

The Basutoland collection of import duty on Union manufactured Spirits, Beer and Wines during 1949-50 is estimated to be £10,000.

Trading Licences

A schedule of trading licences is given in Proclamation No. 28 of 1928. The more important licence fees are as follows :

General Dealer	£25
Commercial travellers	£15 and £25
Trading Agent	£15
Specific trades, between	£2 and £10.

Income Tax

The rates fixed and rebates allowable for the year ended 30th June, 1949, were :

	<i>Basic Rate per £ of taxable Income</i>	<i>Increase in Rate for each £ in excess of £1</i>	<i>Surcharge after deducting Rebates</i>
(1) Normal Tax :			
Married	15d. }	By 1/1000th of a penny	40%
Unmarried	18d. }		50%
(2) Super Tax : (On incomes in excess of £1775)			
Married	24d. }	By 1/400th of a penny	45%
Unmarried			50%

For each pound of taxable income in excess of £16,000 the rates were 4s. 2d. normal tax and 8s. 8d. super tax.

Public Companies were taxed at the rate of 7s. 6d. for each pound of taxable income.

From the tax calculated at the rates shown in the first two columns of the table above the following rebates were deducted :

	<i>Normal Tax</i>	<i>Super Tax</i>
Primary rebate for a married taxpayer	£26	£210
Primary rebate for an unmarried taxpayer	£20	£210
Rebate for each child	£10	—
Rebate for each dependent	£2. 10s.	—
Rebate for each pound of insurance premiums	1s. 3d.	—

In addition to these rebates the amount of poll tax paid during the year was deducted from the income tax payable.

The following example shows how the income tax payable by a married man with an income of £800 p.a., having one child and one dependent, and paying insurance premiums of £40 p.a., would be calculated :

Rate : 15·799d. per £1 (i.e. 15d. plus 799/1000ths of a penny)

Tax payable = 800 x 15·799d., less rebates, plus surcharge

= £52. 13s. 3d.—£41 + 40 %

= £16. 6s. 7d.— £3 poll tax if paid.

Income tax amounting to £159,355 was collected during the financial Year ended 31st March, 1950.

Income tax is not payable by Africans.

Stamp Duty

Stamp duties are levied under Proclamation No. 16 of 1907 as amended from time to time.

Death Duties

(a) *Succession Duty*. Subject to certain provisos and exemptions set out in Proclamation No. 20 of 1935, as amended by Proclamation No. 1 of 1945, the rates of Succession Duty are as follows :

<i>Degree of relationship of successor to predecessor</i>	<i>Rates of duty upon dutiabale amount of succession</i>
(i) Where the successor is the direct descendant or ascendant of the predecessor	3%
(ii) Where the successor is the brother or sister of the predecessor	5%
(iii) Where the successor is the descendant of the brother or sister of the predecessor	8%

- (iv) Where the successor is otherwise related to the predecessor or is a stranger in blood or is an institution... .. 12%

(b) *Estate Duty*. This is payable by the Estate in terms of Proclamation No. 20 of 1935, as amended, and is distinct from Succession Duty which is payable by successors. The rate of Estate Duty chargeable upon each pound of the dutiable amount is three ten thousandths of a pound for every completed one hundred pounds or part thereof contained in the dutiable amount, subject to a maximum rate of 6s. 8d. upon each pound. A rebate of £300 is deducted from the amount of duty at the rate so calculated, with the result that it is only on estates where the dutiable amount exceeds £10,000 that Estate Duty is payable.

Wool and Mohair Export Duty

The Wool and Mohair Fund was established under Proclamation No. 39 of 1931 in order to promote and improve the production and marketing of wool and mohair. The levy, which is paid on all wool and mohair exported from the Territory was increased from $\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $1d.$ per lb. with effect from 1st October, 1949. The balance standing to the credit of the Fund on 31st March, 1949, was £37,651.

Poll Tax

All adult males who do not pay Native Tax must pay Poll Tax at the rate of £3 per annum. It is payable yearly on 1st July.

Posts and Telegraphs

Post Office revenue amounted to £38,957 during the financial year ended 31st March, 1949, and expenditure to £35,021.

CHAPTER IV

CURRENCY AND BANKING

The Standard Bank of South Africa Ltd. has a branch office at Maseru. This is the only commercial bank in the Territory.

Many Basuto operate Post Office Saving Bank accounts. 12,823 deposits were made during the year to the total value of £147,552 and 31,721 withdrawals totalling £260,203. The balance in the Bank to the credit of depositors on 31st March, 1949, was £461,469.

There is no demand for agricultural or co-operative banks since land is inalienable in Basutoland and there is, therefore, no real debt problem.

CHAPTER V

COMMERCE

Most of the retail trade of Basutoland is in the hands of Europeans and a few Indians in the north, though since the war many Basuto have applied for, and have been granted, trading licences. In normal years the most important exports of the Territory are wool, mohair, wheat, and cattle. The values in the last three years bore the following proportions to total exports :

	1947	1948	1949
Wool	48%	55%	76%
Mohair	9%	7%	10%
Wheat	4.1%	9%	.2%
Cattle	5.8%	5%	3.6%

Little wheat was reaped or exported in 1949 because of the drought.

TABLE I

Value of total imports and exports for the years 1920, 1928, 1936, 1938—1949

Year	Imports	Exports
	£	£
1920	1,180,986	937,038
1928	921,573	1,013,392
1936	712,125	302,193
1938	749,126	401,512
1939	866,403	405,517
1940	875,280	461,666
1941	992,924	531,447
1942	1,033,328	459,589
1943	1,118,747	464,621
1944	1,422,545	516,538
1945	1,624,734	501,269
1946	2,056,182	485,204
1947	1,628,521	887,773
1948	1,807,256	1,336,269
1949	2,244,117	1,275,437

TABLE II

Values and quantities of principal imports during 1948 and 1949

	Quantity		Value in £	
	1948	1949	1948	1949
<i>Merchandise</i>	—	—	1,711,809	1,744,906
<i>Livestock</i>	<i>Number</i>			
Horses, Mules, etc.	752	985	6,311	7,571
Cattle	5,836	4,148	46,439	30,362
Sheep & Goats	431	268	649	360
<i>Grain</i>	<i>Bags</i>			
Wheat & Wheatmeal	13,708	34,749	25,836	61,623
Maize & Maizemeal, etc.,	8,192	307,196	9,903	361,113
Kaffir Corn	1,948	15,625	3,010	30,592
Other Produce	—	—	3,299	7,590
	Total		1,807,256	2,244,117

TABLE III

Values and quantities of principal domestic exports during 1948 and 1949

	Quantity		Value in £	
	1948	1949	1948	1949
<i>Livestock</i>	<i>Number</i>			
Horses, Mules, etc.	125	430	1,229	3,735
Cattle	5,965	3,977	63,125	45,725
Sheep & Goats	2,415	1,416	4,570	2,885
<i>Grain</i>	<i>Bags</i>			
Wheat & Wheatmeal	90,528	1,770	115,458	2,602
Maize & Maizemeal	34,644	4,144	38,496	4,647
Kaffir Corn	86,391	3,256	104,607	5,622
Beans, Peas	54,262	13,107	133,965	46,081
Barley	3,709	—	6,078	—
Oats	217	—	212	—
<i>Wool & Mohair</i>	<i>lb.</i>	<i>lb.</i>		
Wool	9,500,316	9,708,212	739,343	976,698
Mohair	1,635,925	1,381,523	101,335	127,661
<i>Hides & Skins</i>				
Hides	286,312	732,098	15,517	42,083
Skins	192,892	336,527	9,573	14,016
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	—	—	2,761	3,682
	Total		1,336,269	1,275,437

Note: The values and quantities of imports given in Tables I—III relate only to imports and exports made by traders, through whose hands most of the general trade of the country passes. In addition, account must be taken of imports made by Government, which are considerable, exports made by individual Basuto and Co-operative Societies, and cattle exported after being sold at Government auction sales.

Tables IV and V below show certain of these exports which are not included in the figures given in Tables I—III.

TABLE IV

*Livestock sold to buyers from the Union of South Africa
at Government auction sales during 1949*

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Value</i> £
Cattle	1,562	14,671
Other animals	—	—

TABLE V

*Exports of wool and mohair by Co-operative Societies,
hawkers, and individual Basuto*

Wool	1,863,419 lb.	Mohair	94,463 lb.
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TABLE VI

The following comparative table for 1948 and 1949 indicates the country of origin of motor vehicles registered in the Territory :

(a) *Private Motor Vehicles and Taxis*

<i>Country of Origin</i>	<i>New Registrations</i>		<i>Total Registrations</i>	
	<i>1948</i>	<i>1949</i>	<i>1948</i>	<i>1949</i>
Great Britain	15	17	31	41
Canada & U.S.A.	114	88	573	549
Italy	1	—	2	2
France	1	4	3	6
Germany	—	—	—	2
Total	131	109	609	600

(b) *Commercial Vehicles*

Great Britain	7	5	18	14
Canada & U.S.A.	68	64	319	336
Total	75	69	337	350

	(c) <i>Motor Cycles</i>			
	1948	1949	1948	1949
Great Britain	2	1	4	7
Canada & U.S.A.	—	—	1	5
Germany	—	—	—	1
Total	2	1	5	13

Observations

Imports during the year exceeded exports by nearly £1,000,000. The value of merchandise imported during the year was £1,744,906 which showed a small increase over the previous year due to the higher cost of imported articles.

Owing to the adverse agricultural conditions experienced during the year it was found necessary to import much larger quantities of grain; the importation of maize and maize meal, particularly, rose from £9,903 in 1948 to £361,113 in 1949. Exports of grain were accordingly almost negligible.

The value of wool exported increased from £739,343 in 1948 to £976,698 in 1949. This increase was due mainly to the improvement in the quality and the classing of the wool and to the higher prices obtained, but the quantity of wool exported also showed a slight increase.

Apart from food, the chief articles bought by Africans are clothing and agricultural implements. The clothing comes largely from the Union of South Africa, the implements chiefly from Canada. The number of African owned buses and commercial vehicles is increasing due to the greater participation of Africans in commercial undertakings. A considerable number of the European population own motor cars.

Since all imports are made through the Union of South Africa, it is not possible to give figures detailing the country of origin of imports or destination of exports.

There is very little tourist traffic in Basutoland.

CHAPTER VI

1. AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK SERVICES

AGRICULTURE

There are no industries in Basutoland and a recent geological survey has made it clear that there is very little chance of any mineral development. The few possibilities of economic development, such as the damming of the Orange and other rivers to provide hydro-electric power and irrigation schemes, and the shade drying of hides and skins, are being carefully investigated. The future wealth of the country must, however, lie mainly in the development of agriculture and stock raising.

AGRICULTURAL SURVEY

An agricultural survey was planned in 1949 and was in progress by the end of the year. The survey forms Basutoland's contribution to the World Census of Agriculture which is being undertaken by members of the United Nations on the recommendation of the Food and Agricultural Organization. This survey will be of great value in planning the further development of agriculture in the Territory.

For the purpose of the Survey Basutoland has been divided into four zones: Lowlands, Foothills, Mountains and the Orange Valley. The following information is being obtained for each of these zones:

- (a) total cultivated acreage
- (b) acreage under each crop
- (c) total production and mean yield per acre of each crop
- (d) number of fields, and mean cultivated acreage per family
- (e) various other data of agricultural significance
- (f) correlation between these statistics and existing physical and sociological data.

The Survey is being carried out by the random sampling method.

Field work consists of interrogation in the villages where the required information is obtained, followed by accurate measurements of the fields, acreages under each crop, sample crop yields, etc. The Chiefs, Headmen and people have given every assistance and have shown no sign of opposition, although it has not been possible to make many people understand fully the reasons for carrying out the Survey.

SOIL CONSERVATION

It is the aim of Government to improve the agriculture of the Territory so that more food and cash crops can be produced. It is therefore vitally important that the soil—which has already been seriously eroded—should be conserved.

Soil conservation work has therefore proceeded steadily during 1949 in spite of the difficult weather conditions. In January heavy hail storms did considerable damage to some of the new works, and towards the end of the year many of the oxen which are used on this work were in such poor condition owing to the drought that it was not possible to use them at all.

New equipment received during 1949 included two new Adams No. 84 Graders and two re-conditioned D 4 tractors.

The area terraced in the lowlands was 30,486.6 acres, which, in spite of unfavourable conditions, is a record for any one year.

28 major dams were constructed during the year, their total capacity being 61,050,000 gallons. Experience has shown that it is essential to fence in all new dam walls and this has been done. Dams have proved to be of great value during the last two dry winters; they have saved the

lives of thousands of large stock and spared the grass cover from the effect of stock regularly tramping many miles to the rivers. Several rivers dried up completely.

Many meadow strips have been beaconed off and, as an experiment, all the dongas in a large valley and at one District Headquarters have been demarcated with stone beacons which are set out at a distance from the donga equal to its depth. No ploughing is allowed between the beacons and the edge of the donga.

Most of the grass planted during the year suffered from the drought, but established Kikuyu grass stood up to the trying conditions better than any indigenous grass ; in many cases it was the only green grazing available.

Eight grass spillways were established and as an experiment a stone spillway was constructed from which flood water is spilled over a weir into a donga.

58,000 acres were protected by buffer grass strips. This is a record for any one year.

323,058 yards of mountain diversion furrow were constructed during the year.

£2,384 was spent on the maintenance of soil conservation works completed in previous years.

GRAZING CONTROL

Most of the soil conservation measures described above are designed to protect and conserve arable land. It is equally important to conserve the grazing on which the stock depend for their existence—the Basuto do not feed their stock.

Some sixty years ago the few herdboys who went into the mountains with stock during the summer were practically the only mountain inhabitants. As the population increased and the land became less productive the Basuto moved further and further into the mountains. As a result of the steady increase in population and in the area of cultivated land the area available for stock grazing has been gradually reduced.

Up to an elevation of 9000 feet the many northern, north-eastern and north-western slopes were originally covered with sweet grass (*Themeda triandra*) while the colder southern slopes grew sour grasses, of which *Festuca caprina* was the dominant species. For many years grazing has been concentrated on the warmer slopes where the more palatable grass grows, with the result that in many places the grass cover has been eaten or trodden out. Its place has been taken by tough shrubby growth, predominantly the Bitter Karroo bush (*Chrysocoma tennifolia*), which is useless as stock feed and offers little resistance to soil erosion.

Experimental work has shown that where these areas are rested from grazing the Bitter Karroo bush will not survive in competition with *Themeda*. Fortunately the principle of resting areas of grassland is well understood by the Basuto, who customarily rest certain limited areas for thatching grass or winter grazing.

In 1947 large scale grazing control was instituted in the mountain districts of Qacha's Nek and Mokhotlong. Certain denuded areas were closed to grazing, and the stock were removed to other areas which had previously been undergrazed. The *Themeda* grass is now re-establishing itself and the majority of the Basuto who live there are wholly in favour of the measures which have been adopted.

In 1949 the Paramount Chief asked that similar measures should be instituted in her ward. Since there were no large undergrazed areas in her ward it was not possible to employ the same method. All stock were, however, moved from those areas where the dominant vegetation is Bitter Karroo bush and grazing was confined to the western and southern slopes. Next year these slopes will be rested and the other two slopes grazed.

Chiefs from other districts have now asked for grazing control to be introduced in their wards and this is being done.

It is encouraging that so many chiefs have recognized the necessity for grazing control so soon after it was first introduced in Basutoland. Almost half the mountain grazing area has now been brought under grazing control.

CROP PRODUCTION

The principal crops grown in the Territory are maize, wheat and sorghum followed by peas, beans, barley and oats, in that order of importance.

There were very poor harvests of all crops in 1949. There had been no rains in the spring and summer, when most crops are planted, and most Basuto did not even plough owing to the hardness of the ground and the weakness from malnourishment of their oxen.

It became clear in the autumn that there would be a severe shortage of foodstuffs. The Basuto in the lowlands were therefore strongly encouraged to sow larger areas than usual with winter wheat. The crop, which was reaped in November, was, however, disappointing as there were inadequate winter rains.

The following table shows the approximate agricultural production in 1949 and preceding years in bags of 203 lb. gross. It will be seen that the total production for 1949 was less than a tenth of that for 1948.

Crop	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Maize	720,000	700,000	400,000	414,000	715,000	830,000	50,000
Sorghum	324,000	300,000	150,000	123,000	490,000	380,000	30,000
Wheat (spring)	360,000	416,000	325,000	156,000	350,000	430,000	50,000
Wheat (autumn)	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,000
Other crops	40,000	56,000	40,000	32,000	36,000	60,000	18,000
Total	1,444,000	1,472,000	915,000	725,000	1,591,000	1,700,000	158,000

Fortunately much of the excellent maize crop which was reaped in 1948 had been kept in the Territory. Arrangements had also been made to export to the Bechuanaland Protectorate 20,000 bags of maize, which was to be stored and milled in the Union of South Africa for dispatch to the Bechuanaland Protectorate as required. When it became clear that there would be a serious shortage of foodstuffs, 14,500 of these bags were returned to Basutoland. In addition the authorities of the Union of South Africa permitted the export to Basutoland of 288,000 bags of Union grown maize on the refund of the subsidy which is given to consumers in the Union and paid for by the Union tax payer.

It was decided in 1948 to build grain storage tanks, so that a reserve of grain may be built up during years of plenty for use in lean years. Storage for 9,600 bags has been completed and tanks are now being built for the storage of a further 24,300 bags.

Kraal manure is used by the Basuto as a fuel, there being little or no firewood available. Since nothing is returned to the soil on which crops are produced yearly, the land loses its fertility and crop yields become less and less. A subsidy is, therefore, paid by Government to Basuto farmers for carrying manure on to their lands. Government-owned two wheeled carts are kept in the districts and may be borrowed without charge for this purpose. 493,000 bags of 100 lb. each of kraal manure and ash were carried on to lands during 1949. It is hoped that the majority of the Basuto will soon have realized the value of manuring.

298 bags of 200 lb. of superphosphate were bought by Basuto farmers for the 1949 crop.

It has long been recognized that the traditional diet of the Basuto needs to be supplemented with fresh vegetables and fruit in order to counteract the deficiency diseases which are still prevalent. Every encouragement is therefore given to Basuto to grow vegetables and to plant fruit trees. During the year large quantities of free seed of cabbage, carrot, onion and turnip were issued and about 10,000 seedling vegetable plants were sold from nurseries established for this purpose. 226 peach trees, 250 fig trees and 806 vines were issued without charge. 10,900 gardens were worked.

Lectures and demonstrations on agricultural subjects were given throughout the year by Agricultural and Livestock Officers and by African demonstrators. Demonstration plots were also worked and yielded crops more than three times as big as those of neighbouring plots, where there was no manuring and no demonstrator's help was given.

Experimental work on crop improvement continued during the year. Of the many varieties of wheat tested "Ceres" and "Talberg" gave the best results, yielding 1,052 and 1,118 lb. per acre respectively. 4,600 lb. of the variety "Ceres" were reaped from a multiplication area and sold for seed purpose. Of the other experiments many failed owing to the drought.

Two demonstration farms are being worked by Basuto, under the guidance of the local Agricultural and Livestock Officer. It is now

clear that more emphasis must be laid on small livestock and livestock products so that the farmer may have a source of cash income in periods of crop failure.

TREE PLANTING

There are few trees in most areas of Basutoland and many methods of tree planting have been tried in the last few years. Trees are required as an alternative fuel to kraal manure, for building, and to check soil erosion.

The main reason for the widespread apathy which has been shown by the Basuto towards tree planting is that the ownership of trees has vested in the chieftainship. The Paramount Chief has now agreed that individual Basuto may grow trees for their own benefit provided that they first obtain the permission of their chief.

Weather conditions were unsuitable for tree planting during 1949. Some 440,000 trees were, however, planted out in favoured sites and 11,365 willows, poplars and mountain bamboos were planted out in dongas and around dams in fenced areas as part of the soil conservation measures.

LIVESTOCK AND VETERINARY

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The major export from the Territory is wool. Prices were high during 1949 and many Basuto derived a considerable income from this source. 17,194,362 lb. of wool and 1,867,306 lb. of mohair were exported during the period October 1948 to December 1949 for which the producers received over £1,600,000.

The present high price of Basutoland wool is the result of the policy of wool improvement which has been followed by Government since 1936. Before then wool was not classed, all types being mixed up and sold together in the same lot under the name "Basutoland". The market price of this product was, of course, poor and in times of depression it could not be sold at all.

A Government classing scheme was therefore introduced in 1937 whereby wool was sorted into a series of different classes under the supervision of qualified wool sorters. Flock owners were also taught a simple method of wool classing, which they could follow without supervision.

At the same time the type of sheep has been steadily improved by the castration of locally bred rams of undesirable type and the introduction of pure bred merino rams which are re-sold to flock owners below cost price. 1,090 merino rams were introduced from the Union of South Africa in October 1949.

As a result of these measures the quality and price of Basutoland wool has risen steadily.

Nine wool sheds were built during the year at which flock owners can shear and class their wool under the supervision of wool classers trained and paid by Government. Buyers at the coast are particularly interested in wool classed in this way.

In 1948 the Basutoland Council agreed that the number of goats in the Territory should be reduced. A representative committee of Basuto goat owners met in April, 1949, and after some discussion worked out a method by which the number of goats in the Territory will be reduced from 640,000 to 480,000 over a period of 5 years. At the same time Angora rams will be introduced for re-sale to goat owners. In this way the quality of the goats will improve as the number decreases, and badly needed grazing will be available for other animals.

As stated earlier much of Basutoland is overgrazed and it has been clear for some time that the Territory as a whole is overstocked. The importation of livestock has been restricted since 1947 and a census taken in February and March, 1949, showed that the total number of livestock has decreased since then. The figures are as follows :

	<i>Decrease</i>	<i>Increase</i>
Bovines		1,983
Horses	9,452	
Mules		522
Donkeys	2,915	
Sheep	145,431	
Goats	37,746	
Pigs		111

Many head of stock died in the winter of 1949, as the grazing was poor owing to the drought and there was little maize stover, which normally provides a substantial contribution to winter feed.

A request has been made by the Basutoland Council that all livestock should be branded and registered, mainly as a measure to prevent stock theft. A pilot scheme was carried out in October, 1949, when some 50,000 head of stock were marked and registered. Much useful information was obtained.

Ten auction sales were held during the year, at which 1,562 cattle were sold for £14,671.

ANIMAL HEALTH

Apart from losses by drought the health of the livestock in Basutoland was satisfactory.

No outbreaks of anthrax were reported but prophylactic inoculations were carried out as necessary. All imported cattle are inoculated on arrival at the port of entry.

There is a great demand for quarter evil vaccine and in the spring months large numbers of susceptible cattle are inoculated before removal to the mountains.



"A Well Dressed Mosuto"



"The Day's Food"



"A Mountain Valley"



"Going to Market"

The number of cases of strangles was above normal but the type was more benign, and no deaths from this disease were reported. Equine mange appeared to be on the increase and several reports of outbreaks were received.

Many cases of mastitis and of biliary fever in dogs were treated at the Clinic, which also dealt with hundreds of various minor disorders of livestock.

Many surgical operations and castrations were carried out at stock owners' requests.

ANIMAL IMPROVEMENT

The measures which are being taken to improve the type of sheep and goats in the Territory have already been described.

A herd of native cattle is being built up from locally purchased cows which are being mated to an Afrikander bull from one of the best milking strains which is known in this breed. The object of this work is to produce for sale to Basuto animals of known ancestry which will give a good milk yield and which can withstand the rigorous conditions under which native cattle exist during the winter. It will shortly be possible to try out some of the young bulls of known milk producing ancestry.

A pure bred Arab stallion was purchased towards the end of the year. Other Government stallions are kept throughout the Territory.

2. CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

GENERAL PROGRESS

In January 1948 an administrative officer was appointed to the post of Registrar of Co-operative societies after a special course of training. The first three-quarters of that year were taken up with the essential preliminary groundwork, while the remaining three months saw the establishment of the first three societies. 1949 has been a year of fairly rapid development and expansion—within the limitations imposed by a total Co-operative staff of one Registrar and two African inspectors, and by the necessity for laying solid foundations.

The most important and fundamental change has been in the attitude of the people themselves towards co-operation. Whereas in 1948 it was viewed generally with scepticism, if not with suspicion, there has arisen during 1949 a spontaneous demand for co-operative societies far in excess of what could be met, and the year ended with a waiting list of 26 groups applying for registration. This change in attitude is attributable partly to the propaganda leaflets which were distributed by the Registrar during the latter part of 1948 and early 1949, but mainly to

the people's observation of co-operation in action in the first societies, which has convinced many that it has very solid benefits to offer after all. The result has been that whereas 1948 was a year of persuasion and painful beginnings, 1949 has seen a spontaneous development almost greater than the Co-operative staff could control.

The following is a summary of the societies registered up to 31st December 1949 :

<i>Type of Society</i>	<i>Number of Societies</i>	<i>Number of Members at time of Registration</i>	<i>Share Capital at time of Registration</i>		
<i>1948</i>			£	s.	d.
Wool & Mohair Marketing	3	211	129	10	0
<i>1949</i>					
Wool & Mohair Marketing	3	142	142	0	0
Consumer	14	658	334	5	0
Agricultural	4	192	139	10	0
	24	1203	£745	5	0

The societies are spread over seven out of the nine districts of Basutoland, including the two mountain districts of Mokhotlong and Qacha's Nek.

CO-OPERATIVE WOOL AND MOHAIR MARKETING

This form of co-operative organization offers more scope probably than any other in Basutoland, and the turnover of these societies is incomparably greater so far than that of the other types. Their principal aims are to obtain the maximum return for the producer by exporting his wool and mohair direct to the coastal markets, and, by insisting on the wool being classed to full Government classing standards, to break down the prejudice that has existed against Basutoland wool in common with "native" wools generally and to enable it to sell on its own merits. That it has already gone some way towards achieving this latter object has been shown not only by the comments of the wool buyers but by the higher prices generally obtained for Government classed wool, as compared with other wools from Basutoland not classed to the same standards. There is no doubt at all as to the additional return to the producer, which has been considerable. These co-operative societies have been favoured, of course, by the rising market in wool ; prices have been extremely high on the open market of the Union of South Africa, while in Basutoland they have for the most part lagged far behind. Many traders are now competing strongly with the co-operative societies, however, and this itself is an illustration of how co-operation benefits a far wider circle than its actual members.

Mohair is dealt with in the same way as wool, except that in the absence of mohair classing standards and facilities in Basutoland the members' mohair is sent to the coast in their own bags, instead of being bulked in bales like their wool, and is classed by the brokers before being offered for sale. Here too the prices obtained have been very favourable. Very much less mohair is produced than wool. Its export is, therefore, of secondary importance.

The wool and mohair marketing societies also buy certain goods at wholesale rates on behalf of their members and sell members' skins and hides for them. The goods purchased consist mainly of stock-salt, sheep-shears, grain-bags and farm implements, but some clothing is also bought. During the winter months, when food was short and maize imports were restricted, some of the societies obtained quotas and purchased maize on behalf of their members. Skins and hides are despatched to Durban and East London for sale by the societies' wool-brokers, and the prices received have been considerably higher than those obtainable within the Territory.

CONSUMERS' CLUBS

The very high cost of living has given rise to a widespread demand for consumer societies. This is being met by the formation of "consumers' clubs", which carry only small stocks of the simplest kind, such as soap and paraffin, their main function being the bulk purchase from wholesalers, for cash, of goods ordered by their members. These societies have worked fairly well, their degree of success depending largely on the amount of energy shown by their secretaries and committees. The first such society was registered in March 1949 and the total number registered up to the end of 1949 was 14. Their total membership at the end of the year was roughly 825 and total capital approximately £430. They include one small European society, the only European co-operative society so far in Basutoland.

AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATIVES

These societies resemble consumers' clubs, insofar as the bulk orders from wholesalers are concerned, but the emphasis is on agricultural improvement and membership is restricted to agriculturists. Their by-laws provide for the disposal of members' produce through the societies, though this has so far been done to a limited extent only. In two cases also the provision of thrift facilities, with compulsory monthly savings deposits, has been added to their other functions. Four agricultural societies had been registered by the end of 1949, with a total membership of about 260 and total share capital of about £200.

CO-OPERATIVE LIVESTOCK MARKETING

There has been a certain demand for this type of society, especially in districts where Government does not sponsor regular auction sales. No livestock marketing societies have yet been formed, but during the winter months one wool marketing society exported a trial parcel of about 90 head of cattle and 50 sheep to the Durban abattoirs. The experiment was a success, and is likely to be followed up during 1950.

CHAPTER VII

SOCIAL SERVICES

1. EDUCATION

The number of pupils enrolled in school is nearly 4,000 higher than in 1948 and is the highest it has ever been ; seventy-five per cent of the children of school-going age are in school. It has become apparent that school attendances increase when the crops are poor, as the boys are not required for herding or the girls for hoeing or looking after the younger children when parents are in the lands. This has increased the pressure on the school accommodation which even before was limited at many schools. There are still approximately twice as many girls as boys in the primary schools, as many boys of school age are employed herding their fathers' stock. Unfortunately the experiments in mass literacy among herd boys had to be discontinued as two of the supervisors in charge of the scheme had to undertake other important duties.

There are 644 Aided and 99 Partially Aided Elementary Vernacular Schools (teaching up to Standard III or in some cases to Standard IV) ; there are also 94 unaided and private schools. The total enrolment in all these was 27,421 boys and 56,332 girls. There are 5 Government and 52 mission aided intermediate schools (that is, schools teaching Standards IV-VI), with a total enrolment of 2,598 boys and 3,518 girls. There were 569 boys and 339 girls in the 11 secondary and technical institutions in the Territory.

District Advisory Committees continue to give useful advice not only in the allocation of building grants but also in making recommendations for new intermediate schools, Standard IV classes, and so on. These committees have undoubtedly helped the people to feel that they have a share in the education work which is being done in the Territory. The Central Advisory Board on African Education and the Standing Committee of the Board have also been of great value. They have considered amongst other matters the question of a Provident Fund for

institution teachers, the relations between managers and teachers, building grants for Form A classrooms, further facilities for secondary education for girls, the provision of further intermediate schools, the provision of a commercial course, fees in institutions, and regulations concerning corporal punishment in schools.

In the second half of the year it became apparent that the introduction of import control by the Union of South Africa would result in an estimated drop in the revenue of the Territory of about £100,000 in a full year. It was decided, therefore, that in order to balance the Territory's budget drastic cuts must be made in expenditure and the Education Vote was reduced by £12,000. It had been thought that most of the necessary savings would have to be made from grants-in-aid of education and from teachers' salaries. However, by reducing the headquarter's staff, by effecting savings at the Lerotholi Technical School, the Basutoland High School and the controlled intermediate schools, by not replacing unqualified by qualified staff in mission schools, or employing the 10 new teachers per annum allowed in the 10-Year Plan, by abolishing substitutes for teachers on sick leave, and by not expanding further Form A classes and intermediate schools, the direct savings to be effected on present teaching staff were reduced to £5,000.

It was eventually decided that it would be necessary to retrench 143 unqualified teachers in order to save this amount. Fortunately, however, the financial position of the Territory improved before the end of the year and the notices of retrenchment, which had already been sent to the teachers concerned, were cancelled.

It is unfortunate that the falling revenue has precluded such developments as the replacement of unqualified by qualified staff, employment of new staff, and the opening of more intermediate schools, all of which are necessary if the quality of education is to continue to improve.

A new syllabus for the Elementary Vernacular schools has been approved and will be ready for use before the new school year starts. Stress has been laid on the productive subjects, such as gardening and nature study, handwork, singing and recreation.

Although school committees are not as yet compulsory, an increasing number are being started. These committees are usually advisory and consist of the manager and five members, three of whom are nominated. The duties of the committee are to assist the manager in the provision of adequate school accommodation, the care of school furniture and equipment, the provision of a school garden, the regular attendance of pupils, the representations of parents, the carrying out of recommendations made by Education officials, and recommendations in regard to the appointment, leave and discipline of teachers.

Two further Form A classes were started during the year at mission intermediate schools, one of which is situated in the mountains. Plans for an increase in the number of intermediate schools were drawn up by the Central Advisory Board for implementation over the next few years, but unfortunately the financial situation has stopped any such developments.

Experiments in the "Shift System" by which children in Standards I-III attend in the morning and those in the Grades in the afternoon have continued, usually with success. This system was introduced in 1948 on the recommendation of the Central Advisory Board on Education, in order to cut down the number of pupils per teacher without turning children away from school. It was, however, decided in accordance with the wishes of the Basutoland Council that it should be introduced only when the manager, teacher and parents agreed. Unfortunately a number of teachers and parents who have had no practical experience of the working of the system are opposed to it and it has not therefore been introduced as widely as is desirable.

For the first time a system of loan bursaries was introduced ; two students have in this way been enabled to take a post-graduate diploma in education. A further two students were sent to England with overseas scholarships provided by the Basutoland Government. One of these students is at Oxford doing research in the teaching of English to foreign students, and the other is taking the professional teachers' certificate at the Institute of Education, London University.

With funds made available from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, a steady improvement is taking place in school buildings. Some missions, however, have found it difficult to raise money on a £ for £ basis and not as much building has been done as was hoped.

The Pathfinder Scout Movement had 55 troops in operation with 1,037 scouts. The missions are giving the movement their support but the difficulty has been to find either Europeans or Africans to take over executive posts in the movement. Three Scouters' Training Camps were held during the year, and 9 scouts were sent for training to Pietermaritzburg in the Union of South Africa. Although there has been a small increase in the number of Guide Companies and Sunbeam circles, the number of Guides and Sunbeams has decreased slightly. This is largely due to the "Shift System" referred to above as some parents will not allow their children to wait at school until the teachers are free to take their troops after the afternoon shift. Guiding has otherwise progressed steadily in the schools, and the usual ceremonies in Maseru and the districts were held on Thinking Day and Guide Sunday.

Although the Home Industries Organization continues to turn out a steady amount of work the Finance Committee of the Native Administration became seriously concerned about the financial position of the organization. The Paramount Chief was, therefore, asked to appoint a committee to review the working of the Organization and the progress made since 1946, to consider the present financial position, and to make recommendations on future policy. Five African teachers were appointed to form the committee.

Their report was approved by the Basutoland Council and was accepted with various minor alterations by the Resident Commissioner and the Paramount Chief. The main changes were the closing at the end of 1949 of four small centres, which had not been well supported ; the placing of the whole organization under the Native Administration ;

and the appointment of the Deputy Organizer, who is an African, as Organizer when the present Organizer's contract finishes early in 1950. There is a steady improvement in designed fabrics such as bed spreads, hand bags, chair back covers and other types of fancy work ; these fabrics appeal to European tourists but scarves and blankets are the only products which are normally purchased by Basuto.

The officer who had been seconded from the Education Department in 1948 continued to act as Public Relations Officer for the major part of the year. It then became necessary to abolish this post as a result of the drop in the Territory's revenue after the introduction of import control in the Union of South Africa, and the officer returned to purely educational duties.

During the year the Mobile Cinema toured each of the lowland districts twice and Qacha's Nek once. One hundred and thirteen shows were given, with the following estimated attendances :

<i>Type of Audience</i>	<i>No. of shows</i>	<i>Estimated Total Attendance</i>
General public	75	16,850
Schools	21	4,670
Special Groups (Government Staff, Teachers, etc.)	17	1,630
Total	113	23,150

The shows continued to arouse great interest. A unit from the Rank Organization visited the Territory in September to shoot material for a film on the High Commission Territories to be produced as one of the series entitled "This Modern Age".

Some thirty new films were added to the Film Library during the year : these were mainly Colonial Film Unit productions supplied through the United Kingdom Information Office, which also continued to supply British News reels regularly. Back numbers of newsreels were periodically sorted out, excerpts from some being made into reels on special subjects, one for instance dealing with the Royal Family and another with Sporting Events, while the rest were distributed to Missions owning projectors. A few films were bought, including some comic cartoons, to add entertainment value to the programmes. Three Mission Schools borrowed films fairly regularly.

In the course of the year forty bulletins and articles, ranging from short news items and announcements of official events to articles explaining Government policy and extensive reports of Basutoland Council debates, were issued to the press.

The relatively small circulation in Basutoland of all the Sesuto papers precludes any great faith in the influence of the press, and possible stimulative measures were discussed at length with representatives of the Bantu Press, with the particular object of obtaining better value for the Government subsidy paid to the Sesuto paper *Mphatlalatsane*, which covers space reserved for official material and the distribution of a large

number of free copies. The proprietors were successful in establishing a number of new correspondents and agents in Basutoland. As a result the paper improved considerably in interest and news value and an increase in the paid circulation was reported, while a shorter and more effective free distribution list was compiled.

A pamphlet on Mothercraft and a poster on the value of milk were published for the Medical Department.

2. HEALTH

The Government Medical Staff of the Territory consists of a Director of Medical Services, 13 Medical Officers and one District Surgeon. At present there are 12 Medical Officers and an African Houseman who commenced his internship on 1st July, 1949. A Medical Officer is stationed at each of the District Headquarters. There is also a Medical Superintendent at the Leper Settlement. A Health Inspector is in charge of general sanitation and Public Health.

There are five Government Hospitals staffed by European nurses with subordinate African staff, and two hospitals staffed by trained African nurses with subordinate staff. A new 30-bed hospital is under construction at Teyateyaneng. The total accommodation in Government hospitals is 329 for Africans and 11 for European patients. At each District Dispensary clinics are carried out daily for patients by the Medical Officer in charge. There are three sub-dispensaries which are visited weekly by a Medical Officer.

There is no mental asylum in Basutoland, and owing to the acute shortage of accommodation in Union Asylums, it has been impossible to get accommodation for lunatics. A temporary Mental Detention Centre, built in 1943 at Mohale's Hoek, is being used to house the more dangerous lunatics. This arrangement is far from satisfactory, but supplies an urgent need. There was a daily average of 83 patients in the Centre during the year. 38 new cases were admitted and 29 were discharged.

A Board was recently held by the Director of Medical Services and Medical Officer on most of the inmates of the Centre and 21 of them were found to be much improved and sufficiently fit to return to their homes.

During 1949 7850 cases were admitted to Government hospitals, compared with 7296 in 1948. 3967 operations were performed, (752 major).

In the Maternity Ward at the Maseru Hospital (14 beds) 578 cases were admitted. This number is included in the total of hospital admissions shown above. Only case of first labour, and cases of possible complication are admitted. Ante-natal and Child Welfare Clinics are held twice a week in this ward, where there were 2988 attendances.

The following additions are being made at the Maseru Hospital :

- (a) New quarters for the Matron.
- (b) The General Hospital and the Discharged Soldiers' Hospital are now being joined by a covered passage.
- (c) Two new European wards are being completed.

A New Hospital at Teyateyaneng is being built from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds and should be ready for occupation by 31st March, 1950.

There are three Mission Hospitals which are subsidized by the Government at Roma, Morija and Ntaotes with 40, 32 and 22 beds respectively. Each of these Hospitals has an out-patient department.

The following tables give a summary of the work which has been carried out at Government and Mission hospitals during the year:

GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

<i>District</i>	<i>In-patients treated in hospital</i>	<i>Operations</i>		<i>Out-patients treated in Dispensaries including those receiving injections for Syphilis</i>			<i>Total</i>
		<i>Major</i>	<i>Minor</i>	<i>First Attendances</i>	<i>Subsequent</i>	<i>injections for Syphilis</i>	
Maseru	3,113	343	469	30,846	14,098	4,437	53,306
Leribe	1,125	198	537	19,851	24,787	11,236	57,734
Mafeteng	1,030	58	579	33,722	23,440	5,695	64,524
Mohale's Hoek	606	90	733	13,916	7,705	7,791	30,841
Qacha's Nek	560	17	151	7,912	2,054	1,698	12,392
Quthing	879	15	418	10,505	2,227	1,492	15,536
Teyateyaneng	86	1	92	19,092	5,735	2,740	27,746
Mokhotlong	451	30	236	4,998	558	160	6,433
Total	7,850	752	3,215	140,842	80,604	35,249	268,512
District Surgeon, Butha Buthe							1,471
							<u>269,983</u>

MISSION HOSPITALS

<i>Hospital</i>	<i>In-patients treated in hospital</i>	<i>Operations</i>		<i>Out-patients treated in Dispensaries including those receiving injections for Syphilis</i>			<i>Total</i>
		<i>Major</i>	<i>Minor</i>	<i>First Attendances</i>	<i>Subsequent</i>	<i>Injections for Syphilis</i>	
Roma	564	20	85	3,611	1,241	752	6,273
Scott Hospital							
Morija	679	22	106	7,340	2,903	3,567	14,617
Paray Hospital							
Ntaotes	523	5	81	6,930	2,090	1,182	10,811
Total	1,766	47	272	17,881	6,234	5,501	31,701

EPIDEMIC AND GENERAL DISEASES *

Diphtheria. There was a widespread epidemic of diphtheria throughout the country, especially in the centre of the Territory. 267 cases were reported with 27 deaths. It is certain that there were many more cases in remote villages which were not reported. Wherever there was a reported outbreak, prophylactic inoculations were given.

Typhus. 27 cases were notified during the year, with 7 deaths. The majority of cases were reported from Mafeteng (14) and Leribe (6). Whenever there were known cases of typhus present disinfection and delousing with D.D.T. was carried out at once with good results.

Typhoid Fever. 200 cases were notified, of which the majority came from Maseru and Mafeteng districts. There were 32 deaths. The infection was water-borne in every case, and in many instances it was found that the villagers were using water from dams or soil erosion furrows. Whenever there was a large outbreak, prophylactic inoculations with T.A.B. vaccine were carried out.

Tuberculosis. 547 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified with 40 deaths, and 444 other tuberculosis cases with 19 deaths. This shows an increase of 142 cases on the number reported in 1948.

Pellagra. 2389 cases were reported which shows an increase of 1136 on 1948 figures. The reason for this increase is that there was a drought at the end of 1948 and beginning of 1949. The majority of these cases were seen at Leribe (706), Teyateyaneng (504) and Maseru (500).

Avitaminosis. 1214 cases were reported. This occurred mostly among children and was due to protein deficiency as the result of lack of milk. The majority of cases were at Leribe (332) and Maseru (284).

Water Supplies. The protection of village springs has continued, and 9 new springs have been built and 29 repaired. During the first 9 months of the year water supplies were poor owing to the drought, but the supply now, on account of good rainfall during the last three months of the year, is good in most villages.

Sanitation. Generally this is primitive. With few exceptions where septic tanks have been installed, the disposal of sewage in Government reserves is done by the bucket system. In Maseru the contract for clearance by mechanical transport, which was instituted in December, 1947, is working well.

* The figures given in this section are taken from returns submitted by the Government Dispensaries and do not include annual returns of statistics submitted by Mission Hospitals. Certain missions submit an annual return of infectious diseases but they do not make weekly notifications owing to their remote situations.

The Health Inspector, who was appointed in 1947 has carried out great improvements in sanitation generally, and in the closer supervision of the abattoir and the inspection of meat.

LEPER SETTLEMENT

The Leper Settlement is situated at Botšabelo, which is four miles from Maseru. It is staffed by a Medical Superintendent, European Matron and sister, two African Trained Nurses, with a European staff of Clerk, Compound Manager, Farm Bailiff and Artisan. There is a large African staff of Office Clerks, Dispensers, guards, mechanics and casual labourers.

There are eight Leprosy Inspectors who travel through Basutoland inspecting villages for likely cases of Leprosy. The majority of new cases are reported by them.

On 31st December, 1949, there were 610 patients at the Settlement. During the year 91 were admitted to the Asylum and 49 were discharged.

The outstanding feature of the year's work has been the introduction of sulphetrone therapy on a regular basis. During 1948 a few individuals received small doses for short periods without significant results, but in May, 1949, fifty selected lepromatous cases began a regular course of larger doses. At the end of three months obvious improvement had occurred in the appearance and mental outlook of most of these cases. Their enthusiasm for this treatment is shown not only by their own statements but by the exemplary regularity with which they continue to attend the drug issues even on Sundays and holidays.

The use of sulphetrone is being restricted by its high price, for the cost of the treatment to-day works out at about £20 a year for each case. Di-amino-di-phenyl sulphone (under the proprietary name of Alvo sulphone) was used in Nigeria and elsewhere last year and is claimed to be as effective as sulphetrone at a fraction of the cost. A supply has been ordered and will be used as soon as it is received.

Lepers who are not actually infectious are given periodic leave to go to their homes. They are taken by a special motor bus to the administrative centre which is nearest to their home and are brought back to the settlement at the end of their leave. This helps to keep the patients content and breaks the monotony of a long stay at the settlement. (The number of desertions has greatly decreased since this privilege was granted to the patients.)

Patients are encouraged to have hobbies such as farming, chicken breeding and weaving. The boys play Association Football and the girls have their own Girl Guide troop. Cinema shows are given fortnightly.

3. HOUSING

The Basuto live in small scattered villages under tribal authority and their huts are, on the whole, healthy if primitive. They are usually built of rough stone or of sods and are roofed with thatching grass or in

some areas in the mountain with wheat straw. The floors are smeared by the women with mud and cow dung and frequently the inner and outer walls are treated in the same way. The walls are often decorated with traditional designs in various colours.

The traditional hut is circular in shape but nowadays many Basuto prefer to build rectangular huts which are in some cases roofed with corrugated iron. The wealthier people build houses of cut stone or of brick and buy stock-size doors and glazed windows.

In the old days it was the custom for each man to build and thatch his own house but many of the younger generation have no knowledge of building. They are, therefore, compelled to hire others to do this work for them.

If a man wishes to build he asks his chief or headman for a site. Any building he may erect remains his property unless he leaves the village, in which case the chief may allocate it to some other person but at no charge. The original owner is, however, allowed to remove the doors and windows if he wishes to do so.

There are no factories or industrial undertakings in Basutoland, and the problem of housing industrial workers has not therefore arisen.

The small European population consists for the most part of civil servants, missionaries and traders, and is as a rule well housed in buildings of local cut stone. Since the war, however, Government departments and commercial enterprises have expanded and a number of houses in Maseru have been built of brick since it is quicker and cheaper to build with brick than with stone.

During the year six European Government houses were completed. One house has also been finished at Leribe.

31 African Staff quarters were completed during the year.

Owing to the loss of revenue resulting from the introduction of import control in the Union of South Africa, the building of new quarters for Government officials has been suspended.

4. SOCIAL WELFARE

As the Basuto live in small scattered village communities and there are no towns or industrial undertakings where workers of the poorer class are concentrated, there are no slums and no problems arising out of urban conditions such as exist in the Union of South Africa.

Much valuable work is done throughout the Territory by youth movements such as Scouts and Guides and by the Homemakers association. These organizations are run entirely by voluntary workers, both European and Basuto.

Community Halls are being built by Government at all District Headquarters. At each Headquarters a committee of Africans has been appointed to assist the District Commissioner with the planning and building of the Hall and to organize the activities which are to take

place there. It is considered essential for the development of these Halls as centres of social life that the activities should spring from the efforts and wishes of the people themselves.

A Community Hall and Library were completed in Maseru in 1948. The money for their construction was generously given by a Commercial firm in the Territory and by a resident of Maseru. Events which took place in the Hall during 1949 included lectures, plays, film shows, musical evenings, concerts, dances and meetings of various associations.

It is encouraging to note that a Youth Club has been formed by the African residents of Maseru, entirely by their own initiative and effort.

Amongst his other duties the Welfare Officer acted as Chairman of the Pension Board and of the Executive Committee of the Basuto Soldiers' Benefit Fund.

The Pension Board consists of four members :

Chairman (Welfare Officer)

Civilian Medical Officer (Dr. H. W. Dyke, C.B.E., retired Director of Medical Services, Basutoland)

Civilian Medical Officer detailed by Director of Medical Services
Representative of the Paramount Chief.

The Board meets weekly to consider the applications of disabled ex-soldiers and to make awards.

The following comparative tables show the number of cases dealt with in 1948 and 1949 :

<i>First Applications</i>	<i>1948</i>	<i>1949</i>
Pensions	48	37
Permanent Pensions	5	9
Dependents Pensions	19	17
Dependents Gratuities	1	1
Gratuities	59	13
No. Awards	39	15
No. Awards for Dependents	2	5
	<u>173</u>	<u>97</u>

<i>Re-examinations</i>	<i>1948</i>	<i>1949</i>
Pensions	167	110
Permanent Pensions	89	42
Dependents Pensions	47	21
Cessation of Pensions	21	6
Gratuities	108	32
No. awards for Dependents of deceased A.P.C. & H.C.T.C. Pensioners	3	-
	<u>435</u>	<u>211</u>

There remain 172 soldiers medically boarded out of the army who have not yet applied for pensions. There are also 40 cases of dependents of deceased soliders from whom no applications have been received. Every effort has been made to find these people but they are mostly reported to be in the Union of South Africa at unknown addresses.

Certain improvements in pensions rates have been approved with effect from 1st April, 1948. These include increased allowances for children of disabled ex-soldiers and of deceased soliders, gratuities to widows on re-marriage, and pensions to widows and children of ex-soldiers who die from non-pensionable disabilities, provided that their pensionable disability was not less than 40 per cent.

Soldiers' pensions vary between a maximum of £50 per annum to a volunteer with a 100 per cent disability and £10 per annum for a 20 per cent disability, with appropriate increases for a wife and each child. A widow receives £25 per annum and £10 per annum extra for each child. Men whose degree of disablement is assessed at less than 20 per cent receive a gratuity, the amount of which depends on the duration of the disablement.

The Basuto Soldiers' Benefit Fund was established out of contributions received from the Basutoland War Levy, the Governor General's War Fund, and P.R.I. funds of the contingents who served in the Middle East. The Fund totalled £24,873.

Applications for assistance are first considered by District Welfare Boards and are then passed with the Board's recommendation to the Executive Committee of the Fund.

141 applications were considered by the Executive Committee in 1949 and assistance was granted in 61 cases. 31 of the grants made were Education Bursaries and Family Allowances to ex-soldiers studying at schools and colleges. The remaining 30 grants covered re-habilitation, relief, etc. £1,710 was paid out of the Fund during the year.

The tax collecting Agency established on the Rand in 1932 and mentioned in an earlier chapter now includes among its more important duties the welfare of the Basuto working in the mines and in industry in the Union of South Africa. During the year the Agent, an Administrative Officer seconded from the Territory, and his Deputies, carried out inspections of numerous compounds and the conditions of work in many industrial undertakings. Labour Agents in the Territory may recruit only for those mines and industries where conditions are found to be suitable.

Labourers on the Reef continue to make great use of the Agencies, which serve to help these men to keep in touch with their homes. Requests for assistance from districts in the Territory are frequent and it is usually possible to arrange for cash remittances or for repatriation. Destitute and stranded Basuto are frequently assisted and the Agent and his Deputies often help to settle matrimonial differences.

CHAPTER VIII

LEGISLATION

The following is a list of the more important legislation in 1949 :

Proclamation No. 14 of 1949.—The Basutoland Women and Girls Protection Proclamation, 1949, which makes provision for the protection of mentally defective women and girls under the age of 16.

Proclamation No. 25 of 1949.—The Basutoland Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Proclamation which establishes a Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund, and makes provision for the granting of pensions to the widows and children of European officers employed in the service of the Government of Basutoland.

Proclamation No. 46 of 1949.—The Basutoland British Nationality (Supplementary Provisions) Proclamation, 1949, which makes provision for the fees payable in respect of any application made under the British Nationality Act, 1948.

Proclamation No. 49 of 1949.—The Basutoland Credit Restriction Proclamation, 1949, which amends the law relating to the regulation and restriction of the grant of credit and similar facilities to natives living in Basutoland, and ensures that such natives do not incur pecuniary liabilities beyond their means and capacity to pay.

High Commissioner's Notice No. 90 of 1949, which makes provision for the recording of proceedings in the High Court.

High Commissioner's Notice No. 97 of 1949, which makes provision for Exchange Quota arrangements.

High Commissioner's Notice No. 98 of 1949, which makes provision for Exchange Control.

High Commissioner's Notice No. 123 of 1949, which confers jurisdiction on the Native Courts to try contraventions of certain sections of the Basutoland Native Tax Proclamation, 1942.

High Commissioner's Notice No. 130 of 1949, which, for the purpose of Proclamation No. 8 of 1903, specifies cats as animals liable to the disease of rabies.

High Commissioner's Notice No. 149 of 1949, Regulations under the Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Proclamation, 1942.

High Commissioner's Notice No. 236 of 1949, which makes provision for the control of petrol.

High Commissioner's Notice No. 258 of 1949, which makes provision for the prevention or relief from double taxation in respect of income tax between the United Kingdom and Basutoland.

CHAPTER IX

JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS

1. JUSTICE

The laws in force in Basutoland include those of the Cape of Good Hope up to the 18th March, 1884, except where repealed or altered by Proclamation of the High Commissioner, who is empowered to make by Proclamation such laws as may be necessary for the peace, order and good Government of the Territory. Accordingly, the common law of the Territory is Roman-Dutch common law, supplemented by statute law which is often based on that of the Union of South Africa. The Criminal Procedure and Evidence Proclamation is based on the South African Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act which is derived from English Criminal Law. Native Law and Custom in so far as it is not repugnant to the principles of justice and morality, or the laws of the Territory, is also in force.

The Basutoland Courts of Law consist of :

1. THE HIGH COURT

The High Court which constitutes the Supreme Court of Basutoland from which an appeal lies to the Privy Council. This Court, which superseded the Court of the Resident Commissioner, was constituted under Proclamation 57 of 1938. It is presided over by the Judge of the High Commission Territories, and has jurisdiction in all cases both civil and criminal which arise in the Territory. The High Court is also a Court of appeal from all Subordinate Courts, and has full powers of review in respect of all proceedings of Subordinate Courts. When the High Court is not in session these powers are vested in the Judge. At any trial the Judge has the power to call for one or two Administrative Officers as Advisers, and one or more African Assessors to assist him, but the decision is vested exclusively in the Judge.

2. SUBORDINATE COURTS OF THE FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD CLASS

In the nine districts of the Territory, there are Subordinate Courts of the first class, presided over by the District Commissioner of each district, and also subordinate courts of the second and third class, presided over by Assistant District Officers and cadets, the limits of whose jurisdiction are clearly defined in Proclamation No. 58 of 1938. Appeals lie

from these courts to the High Court of the Territory. A District Officer has now been appointed as a full-time Magistrate to hold a Court of the first class in each district. District Commissioners are thus relieved of a certain amount of their Court work and have more time for their administrative duties.

The powers of these courts are as follows :

Criminal

(a) *First Class*: Presided over by a District Officer. Can impose sentences with or without the option of a fine up to a maximum of two years imprisonment with hard labour or a fine of £100. In certain cases a whipping not exceeding fifteen strokes with a cane may be imposed.

(b) *Second Class*: Are courts of an Assistant District Officer. The maximum sentence is Imprisonment with hard labour for one year or a fine not exceeding £50. A whipping not exceeding eight strokes may be imposed in certain cases.

(c) *Third Class*: Are courts of an Assistant District Officer (Cadet) with maximum jurisdiction limited to six month's imprisonment with hard labour or a fine of £10.

These courts have no jurisdiction to try as Courts of first instance any person charged with treason, murder, rape or sedition. A preparatory examination is held, and the record is transmitted to the Attorney General who may decide inter alia :

- (i) Not to indict the accused.
- (ii) To indict the accused before the High Court.
- (iii) To remit the case to the District Commissioner for trial with or without increased jurisdiction.
- (iv) To remit the case to the District Commissioner for the hearing of further evidence.

Civil

In Civil cases, subordinate Courts of the First Class have jurisdiction in all actions where both parties are natives and all other actions where the claim or value of the matter in dispute does not exceed £500, and of the Second Class where the matter in dispute does not exceed £250. Subordinate Courts of the Third Class have no civil jurisdiction.

Criminal procedure in use in subordinate Courts is laid down in the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Proclamation (No. 59 of 1938) and Civil Procedure is laid down in the Subordinate Courts Proclamation No. 58 of 1938, and in the Rules issued thereunder and promulgated in High Commissioner's Notice No. 111 of 1943.

3. THE JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER'S COURT

It was established by Proclamation 16 of 1944 to hear civil and criminal appeals from the Courts of the Paramount Chief. Formerly appeals from Native Courts were heard by District Commissioners, but they became so numerous that it was found essential to establish this special court to deal with them. This court is the court of appeal for matters decided according to native law and custom and appeals from this Court to the High Court can be made with the permission of either the High Court or the Judicial Commissioner.

4. NATIVE COURTS

Native Courts were formally recognized and given special powers and jurisdiction under Proclamation No. 62 of 1938. These Courts are established by a warrant issued by the Resident Commissioner with the approval of the High Commissioner, and may exercise civil and criminal jurisdiction to the extent set out in their warrants. They have no jurisdiction over any parties other than Natives as defined in the General Interpretation Proclamation (No. 12 of 1942). They deal mainly with offences against Native Law and Custom and infringements of the Paramount Chief's orders, or those of Chiefs and sub-Chiefs, and with civil disputes. District Officers have access to Native Courts and the right to examine case records with powers of revision in the event of a miscarriage of justice.

The Paramount Chief's Court is a Court of appeal from the Courts of Ward Chiefs. Any person aggrieved by a decision of this Court may appeal to the Court of the Judicial Commissioner.

When the National Treasury was inaugurated on 1st April, 1946, Native Courts were considerably reduced in number. Courts are now distributed in proportion to the population and are graded according to the number of tax-payers they serve. Thus a Ward Chief will have an "A" Court and in the area of a chief who has less tax-payers there may be a "B" Court. Under the old system the fines received from the Courts were taken by the Chiefs as a perquisite of their position, a practice which was obviously open to abuse, for as in mediaeval England "*justitia magnum emolumentum est*". With the inauguration of the National Treasury, however, all fines are paid into the National Treasury revenue. The Chiefs now receive fixed allowances and their Courts are presided over by Presidents and have other officials to assist them who are all paid from Native Administration funds. There is no doubt that the reduction of Native Courts from over 1,300 to 107 has resulted in a more efficient and equitable system of justice.

Chiefs and headmen now have no judicial powers apart from those which may be conferred on them as members of Native Courts established by warrants issued by the Resident Commissioner with the approval of the High Commissioner. They may, however, act as arbitrators in the case of a civil dispute which neither party wishes to bring before the Courts.

THE JUDGE OF THE HIGH COURT

The Judge of the High Court is also Judge of the High Courts of Swaziland and the Bechuanaland Protectorate, and is Legal Adviser to the High Commissioner. He is not resident in the Territory except when the High Court is in session.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Attorney General, who is a practising member of the Johannesburg bar, acts in a similar capacity for both Swaziland and the Bechuanaland Protectorate. He is also legal adviser to the three High Commission Territories.

THE LEGAL SECRETARY

This post, which was created in October, 1947, includes the posts of Master, Registrar and Sheriff of the High Court. The Legal Secretary is also local legal adviser to the Government and is responsible for deeds registration, legislative drafting, control of the Judicial & Legal Vote and the registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

REGISTRAR OF THE HIGH COURT

An innovation in the High Court during the year was the recording of all proceedings by Government-owned belt recording machines. The system has so far been entirely satisfactory, and has made it possible for more complete records of all High Court proceedings to be kept. The same machines, also operated by the staff of the Legal Secretary, are used to record the proceedings of the Basutoland National Council. The saving effected by the introduction of this system was more than sufficient to cover, within the first year of operation, the initial outlay involved.

The duties of the Master of the High Court include the supervision of the administration of the estates of persons other than Africans who are deceased or who are lunatics, and also of the administration of all insolvent estates. He is also responsible for the administration of the Guardians' Fund.

The Legal Secretary is responsible for the registration of births and deaths of persons other than Africans under the provisions of Proclamation No. 17 of 1947. Prior to this there was a voluntary system of registration governed by the Cape of Good Hope Act No. 20 of 1880.

During 1949, 44 births and 5 deaths were registered.

The Legal Secretary has also been made responsible for the registration of marriages under Proclamation No. 7 of 1911. Two thousand one hundred and forty-five marriages were registered in terms of this Proclamation during 1949. (This figure includes marriages by Africans but not customary unions according to Basuto custom, except where parties to customary unions have subsequently married according to Christian rites.)

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HIGH COURT

During 1949, 14 trial cases, involving 72 accused persons, were heard by the High Court. 8 of these cases dealt with the crime known as "ritual" murder, and involved 61 accused persons. 49 were found not guilty and discharged, 7 were sentenced to death and 5 were found guilty either of assault or of being accessories after the fact and were sentenced to 2 years imprisonment each. Of the 7 persons sentenced to death, 5 have made application for leave to appeal to the Privy Council, one has notified his intention of doing so, while the remaining one has had his sentence commuted to a term of imprisonment. 11 accused persons were tried for murder (as opposed to "ritual" murder) and of these 7 were found guilty of culpable homicide and 4 were found not guilty and discharged.

40 criminal appeals were dealt with during 1949. 16 appeals were allowed ; 16 were dismissed ; 6 were struck off the roll, the appellants being in default ; one sentence was varied ; and one appeal was withdrawn before hearing.

261 Subordinate Court cases were reviewed by the Judge of the High Court. In 10 of these the convictions and sentences were set aside, and in a further 10 cases the sentences were amended. In 2 cases the Judge declined to review the proceedings as appeals had been noted. In the remaining cases the convictions and sentences were confirmed.

In addition to cases subject to automatic review, summarized particulars of sentence in all Subordinate Court cases are scrutinized in the office of the Registrar of the High Court, and where necessary, cases not ordinarily reviewable are submitted to the Judge for review.

There was very little civil work dealt with by the High Court during 1949.

THE JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER

The Judicial Commissioner is on circuit throughout the year and during 1949 visited each District twice and some Districts three times. The total number of appeals heard by him was 352. In 173 cases the judgment of the African Courts was upheld ; in 18 cases the judgment of these Courts was varied ; in 51 cases the judgments were reversed ; 60 cases were returned to the lower courts for re-hearing ; 33 cases were struck off the roll for want of prosecution ; and 17 cases dealt with miscellaneous matters. In addition the Judicial Commissioner heard 24 petitions in terms of Proclamation No. 16 of 1944 and of these 7 were granted.

2. POLICE

ADMINISTRATION

The Territory is divided for police administrative purposes into five Divisions, which in turn are divided into nine Police Detachments.

The Deputy Commissioner in addition to his duties as second in command of the Force, is in command of a Division and controls the Detachment at the capital, which is his Divisional Headquarters.

A Superintendent of Police, normally stationed at Divisional Headquarters, is in charge of each of the remaining Divisions. He commands the Detachment at his Divisional Headquarters and is responsible to the Commissioner of Police for all the Police work in his sub-Division.

An Assistant Superintendent is stationed at each of the remaining Detachments contained within a Police Division. He is responsible to the Superintendent for all the Police work of his Detachment.

All non-commissioned ranks are recruited from among the Africans of the Territory.

POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL

The Police Training School is under the supervision of an Assistant Superintendent. He has a staff of one Sergeant, one Corporal instructor and one Trooper provost.

The School is accommodated at Walker's Camp on the Maseru Reserve, where suitable buildings of a permanent nature have been erected. These include a dormitory, with accommodation for forty men, and a block of buildings consisting of lecture rooms, recreation and dining rooms, canteen, kitchen, pantry and ablution rooms. Quarters for the European Officer, stables, forage, and saddle rooms were completed during the year.

95 recruits received training during the year, and of that number 53 were passed out as efficient and posted to Divisions for police work, 8 were discharged as unsuitable, and 34 remained to complete their training.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION AND RECORDS BUREAU

An Assistant Superintendent of Police is in command of the Criminal Investigation Division.

The duties of this Branch of the Force cover inter alia :

- (i) Legal work.
- (ii) An intelligence system and collation of information to enable the Commissioner of Police to keep Government advised of the state of crime throughout the Territory.

- (iii) Responsibility to the Commissioner of Police for the final preparation of cases and the organization of all matters relating to the Basutoland High Court, and the satisfactory presentation of Police prosecutions for the Attorney General.
- (iv) The publication of Criminal Investigation Divisional Circulars for despatch to the various out-stations containing instructions and advice for the guidance of officers and other ranks on all subjects relating to the successful investigation of crime and the prosecution of offenders.
- (v) The collation of information connected with wanted persons, lost, found and stolen property and their publication in the appropriate Gazette and Circulars.
- (vi) Photographic Section and Fingerprint branch.

PIONEER SECTION

A European Foreman is in charge of the Pioneer Section, which undertakes essential repairs to Police buildings in the Territory.

WORK OF THE POLICE

Patrolling

Patrolling of the rural areas is an important police duty and there is nothing better calculated to prevent and detect crime. The Territory was effectively patrolled during the year. 201,135 miles were covered by 6,943 members of the rank and file on 5,753 patrols which were sent out.

Border Posts

There are 35 Border Posts manned by an average of two to three men each. Approximately one-third of the African Establishment of the Force manned these posts. They were occupied with normal police duties, work connected with Customs, collection of revenue, and the import and export of cereals and livestock.

CRIME

"Ritual" or medicine murder was again the most serious crime with which the Police had to contend during the year. The incidence of this crime which had been on the increase since 1941 assumed grave proportions during 1948 when twenty cases were reported. Five cases were reported during the year under review, a considerable decrease over the figures for the previous year. The indications are that the conviction and execution of the second and fourth Chiefs in order of seniority in the Territory had a deterrent effect. Only two cases have been reported since their execution in August, 1949. The resources of the Police were, however, taxed to the utmost in dealing with the investigation of outstanding cases and the prosecution of offenders. The superstitious belief

in the efficiency of medicine made from human flesh and the fact that prominent chiefs of Basutoland were involved, were factors which rendered the successful investigation of these crimes extremely difficult.

A comparative statement showing the medicine murders reported since 1941 and the fluctuations over the past eight years, is given below :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cases reported</i>	<i>Increase over Previous Year</i>	<i>Decrease over Previous Year</i>
1941	2	2	—
1942	3	1	—
1943	4	1	—
1944	8	4	—
1945	6	—	2
1946	7	1	—
1947	6	—	1
1948	20	14	—
1949	5	—	15

Eight cases of medicine murder were sent for trial during the year. Seventy-six persons were involved and of these sixty-one were discharged, seven sentenced to death, five convicted of lesser crimes, and three were on remand at the end of the year.

There were twenty-three cases of medicine murder under investigation on 31st December, 1949. Eight additional police posts are being built in the interior of the Territory, and the establishment is being increased as a temporary measure to combat medicine murder and other serious crime. Three supernumerary Assistant Superintendents were appointed for a period of three years and the African establishment was increased by fifty-seven other ranks.

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

<i>Nature of Crime</i>	<i>1942</i>	<i>1943</i>	<i>1944</i>	<i>1945</i>	<i>1946</i>	<i>1947</i>	<i>1948</i>	<i>1949</i>
<i>In Magisterial Courts</i>								
Offences against the Person	320	237	259	298	485	476	490	401
Offences against Property	324	277	314	433	594	416	558	594
Offences against Liquor Laws	20	28	26	44	61	81	66	77
Other Crimes	739	830	697	824	834	984	1,012	1,069
<i>In Superior Courts</i>								
Murder	12	7	22	5	8	35	48	7
	<u>1,415</u>	<u>1,379</u>	<u>1,318</u>	<u>1,604</u>	<u>1,982</u>	<u>1,992</u>	<u>2,174</u>	<u>2,148</u>

<i>Nature of Crime</i>	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
	1,415	1,379	1,318	1,604	1,982	1,992	2,174	2,148
Culpable Homicide	14	—	11	12	21	31	14	7
Attempted Murder	1	—	4	2	—	3	—	—
Rape	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	—
Other Offences								
Against Person	3	—	4	—	8	6	1	4
Offences against								
Property with								
Violence to the								
Person	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences								
Against Property	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	1
Public Violence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Crimes	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total	1,439	1,379	1,337	1,620	2,015	2,037	2,189	2,160

The figures for the years 1946 to 1949 show comparatively slight fluctuations, but show a definite increase in comparison with the number of convictions during the previous five years.

This increase is attributed to the following factors :

- (a) Approximately 20,000 Basuto left the Territory on active service. They received good pay and their dependants regular allowances. The free circulation of money tended to remove the causes of theft, and kindred offences. The absence of a comparatively large number of young men from Basutoland contributed towards the reduction in the incidence of crime.
- (b) A large proportion of trained African rank and file and European Officers of the Basutoland Mounted Police were on active service. During this period the African other ranks were replaced by temporary personnel. In the circumstances the lack of adequate European supervision and the shortage of trained policemen adversely affected the proper functioning of the Force.

The increase of crime during the years 1946 to 1949, may, therefore, be attributed to :

- (a) The return of the members of the Services to civilian occupation in the Territory.
- (b) The cessation of service pay and allowances.
- (c) The high cost of living and scarcity of essential commodities, and
- (d) The re-organization and bringing up to strength of the Force with resulting increase in Police activity.

3. PRISONS

There is a prison at each of the nine administrative centres in the Territory. In Maseru a new Central Prison is being built entirely by prison labour. The first wing is almost completed and is housing the

prisoners who are employed on building, quarrying, stone dressing, brick making, etc. The plans for this prison provide for the segregation of men and women, convicted and unconvicted prisoners, and first offenders and prisoners who have previous convictions. Minor buildings include a hospital ward and dispensary, a laundry, workshops, stores, and visiting rooms.

The total number of people committed to prison during the year was 2,723, of whom 1,728 were convicted. In 1948 3,607 people were committed to prison of whom 2,154 were convicted. The main reason for the decrease in numbers of convicted prisoners was that every effort was made to deal with offenders, especially first offenders, by other means than imprisonment. Suspended sentences were awarded in many cases.

WOMEN PRISONERS

Women prisoners, except those serving very short sentences, are transferred to Maseru, where one Female Gaoler and three Female Warders are permanently employed.

In smaller prisons women who are on remand or serving very short sentences are supervised by temporary female warders.

The women prisoners at Maseru are employed on laundry work, cleaning at the Government Hospital, light work in the prison garden, repairing clothing, and making womens' clothing.

The Female Gaoler gives simple instructions in elementary hygiene and several women have been taught to read and write.

SPIRITUAL WELFARE

There are no chaplains attached to the prisons, but ministers of all denominations are allowed and encouraged to visit the prisons and to hold services or talk with the prisoners on matters affecting their spiritual welfare.

HEALTH AND DIET

The general health of prisoners throughout the year has been good. There were 126 admissions to hospital and one death excluding judicial hangings.

The Government Medical Officer at each station examines all prisoners on admission and attends to sick prisoners. He also inspects the prison and sees all inmates weekly.

There are no hospitals or sick bays in any of the prisons, but prisoners requiring hospital treatment are admitted to the local Government hospital, where they are guarded night and day by warders. A small hospital will be built in the new Central Prison.

LABOUR

Prison labour is used for various works of a public nature including stone and gravel quarrying, minor building repairs, sanitary work, loading and unloading Government stores, gardening, and cleaning at hospitals. Each prison has a garden which supplies most of the vegetables used in the prison.

At Maseru there are several prison industries, the main one being tailoring. All prisoners' shirts and trousers are made by prison labour, also uniforms for warders and other Government employees.

Prisoners employed on leather work now make boots, waist belts and revolver holsters for the prison staff, and repair boots and shoes.

Stone quarrying is the oldest of prison industries, but this has now been extended to include building, and the stone quarried and dressed in Maseru is being used in building the new Central Prison.

The Carpenter-Warder, with the aid of the prisoners whom he is instructing, has made all the doors and door frames for the new prison and is now putting on the roof.

The Blacksmith Warder teaches prisoners to make tools for the stone masons and for supply to the Public Works Department. Ironwork has also been made for the new prison and various repairs have been carried out in the old gaol.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Prisons are inspected weekly by the District Commissioners and Medical Officers. Periodic inspections are also carried out by the Superintendent of Prisons.

A Board of Prison Visitors has been appointed in each district. The District Commissioner is the chairman of the Board but the members, European and African, are not Government officials.

DISCIPLINE

There was a minor mutiny in Maseru gaol shortly before two prominent chiefs were to be executed but this was quickly quelled without resorting to force. Otherwise discipline was good.

CHAPTER X

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS

WATER

The Water Supplies in Maseru and other District centres are owned and operated by the Government. Its Institutions, Hospitals, Gaols, Police Camps and its African and European staff are by far the largest consumers.

A long drought period at the end of the year caused somewhat difficult conditions, particularly in Quthing, Mafeteng and Maseru, and the watering of gardens was sometimes prohibited.

Work on the Water Supply scheme for Maseru which is being financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds proceeded satisfactorily. The 3,500,000 gallon storage reservoir and a new service reservoir were completed, and most of the new pipe lines were also laid down.

Unfortunately pumps and electric motors to drive them were not delivered from Great Britain on time, and this has delayed the completion of the scheme.

Water supplies at District centres are also being improved. The engine and pump on order from Great Britain for Teyateyaneng arrived towards the end of the year and was installed. Boring for water was carried out with success at Mohale's Hoek but at Mafeteng no adequate source of water was found. The Government Geologist of Swaziland visited the Territory and selected sites for boreholes at Quthing and Leribe.

In the villages springs are the normal source of water supply. Over 1,000 springs have been bricked in by Government to prevent contamination of the water.

Most of the trading stores in the interior also rely on springs for their water supplies.

ELECTRICITY

The only Electricity Supply undertaking in the Territory is at Maseru. It supplies electricity to the township and the Leper Settlement four miles distant and until March 1948 was owned and operated under a fifteen year concession by the firm of Reunert and Lenz, Engineers, of Johannesburg.

This firm did not exercise the option to continue the concession and Government has now purchased the Power Station and distribution lines. Steps are being taken to establish a much larger Power Station, the operation of which will be controlled by a Public Utility Board. Until this is established, however, the electricity supply is being managed by Messrs Reunert and Lenz under a new short term agreement.

CHAPTER XI

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT

RAILWAYS

The Territory is linked with the Railway system of the Union of South Africa by a short line from Maseru to Marseilles, on the Bloemfontein-Natal main line. From this junction it is possible to proceed by rail direct either to Bloemfontein or Bethlehem, and from these junctions respectively to the cities of Cape Town and Johannesburg, and to Durban. One mile of the line is in Basutoland. The railway does not at any other point enter Basutoland, but runs along the boundaries of the Territory and goods are transported by road to and from the nearest railway station across the border.

The Road Motor Transport Department of the South African Railways runs regular services between Fouriesburg and Butha-Buthe, Zastron and Quthing, Zastron and Mohale's Hoek, Quthing and Sebapala.

ROADS

The greater part of Basutoland is very mountainous and in this area all transport is effected by the use of pack animals.

On the Western side of Basutoland there is a strip of agricultural country from North to South in which a fairly good road system had been developed. The main roads traverse the whole of this area, with branches leading west to the principal points of exit. Nearly all the roads are gravelled and carry motor and ox-wagon traffic in all weather. There are, however, a number of unbridged rivers and streams which, during flood periods, may delay travellers for some hours.

From the main roads a number of feeder roads lead towards the interior. By-roads to trading centres and missions start from these feeder roads and penetrate still further into the interior. Although several roads now cross the first range of mountains, none has yet reached the second range. Feeder roads are maintained by the Government, and during the year a certain amount of gravelling has been carried out and particular care taken to improve drainage at the same time.

The by-roads are maintained by traders and others to whose stations they lead, and annual Government grants are made towards their upkeep.

On the eastern side of Basutoland, in the Qacha's Nek district there is a short road system, similar to that described above, and the standard reached is much the same as that on the western side of the Territory.

For many years past a programme of construction of low-level bridges, causeways, etc., has been carried out and paid for from the revenues of the Territory. A change in the method of financing took

place in 1949, whereby £5,000 per annum has been made available for a period of seven years from Colonial Development Funds. The main construction work undertaken during the year was a low-level bridge across the Hololo River, and new road construction from Mabina Store towards Hendrick's Drift and the Libono road.

Except in the Qacha's Nek District all ox drawn transport has been replaced with mechanical transport and power road graders.

BRIDLE PATHS

On the 1st April, 1949, the responsibility for the maintenance of the Bridle Paths was handed over by the Public Works Department to the Native Administration. The position will be reviewed after a period of three years when, if successful, the change over will become permanent. Three African Supervisors of the Native Administration now direct all maintenance work, and are guided by the advice of the Public Works Department Inspectors who were previously in charge of the work.

AVIATION

There are only two recognized aerodromes in Basutoland and these are for the lightest types of aircraft. They are at Maseru, the capital, and Mokhotlong, the District Headquarters in the Drakensberg mountains.

POSTAL COMMUNICATION

There is a daily exchange of mails between the main administrative centres in Basutoland and the border towns of the Union of South Africa. Within the Territory mails are carried by motor lorry or, in the mountains where there are no motor roads, by pack mule. In 1949 new postal agencies were established at Litsoetse and Matela's.

The telegraph line from Mohale's Hoek to Quthing was reconstructed during the year.

TELEPHONES

All administrative centres (with the exception of Mokhotlong) are connected by telephone with each other and with the telephone system of the Union of South Africa. Government offices, trading stations and other subscribers are connected with the local exchange.

30 new subscribers were connected during the year, two public call offices were installed, and a private branch exchange was established for the use of the Secretariat and Treasury.

RADIO-COMMUNICATION

Permanent transmitting and receiving sets have been installed at Maseru, Qacha's Nek and Mokhotlong on a fixed frequency and the service is open to public traffic. The radio station at Qacha's Nek was established in 1949.

PART III

CHAPTER ONE

GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The Colony of Basutoland is an enclave within the Union of South Africa, its boundaries running with those of Natal Province to the East, Cape Province to the South, and the Orange Free State to the North and West. It lies between latitudes $28^{\circ} 35'$ and $30^{\circ} 40'$ South and longitudes 27° and $29^{\circ} 30'$ East. It comprises an area of 11,716 square miles of which about one quarter in the West is lowland country varying in height above sea level from 5,000 to 6,000 feet, the remaining three-quarters being highlands rising to a height of 11,000 feet in the Drakensberg Range, which forms the eastern boundary with Natal. The mountain ranges run from North to South and those in the central area, named the Maluti, are spurs of the main Drakensberg Range which they join in the North forming a high plateau varying in height from 9,000 to 10,500 feet. It is this area, where two of the largest rivers of the Union, the Orange and the Tugela, and tributaries of the Caledon have their source, that has caused Basutoland to be called the "sponge" of South Africa.

The soils in the mountain area are of basaltic origin, and those in the lowlands are derived mainly from the underlying cave sandstone. In the lowlands the soil has been cropped continuously for upwards of 80 years. Due to the absence of fuel practically all of the cattle manure is burnt, so that little or no organic matter is returned to the land : thus with the increasing population, both human and livestock, excessive demands have been made on the soil which has lost its structure and has become subject to serious erosion. The soils in the mountains have been brought into cultivation comparatively recently and are rich, though shallow. Owing to former uncontrolled grazing the areas situated above the arable land in many places became denuded of the grass cover, and the rush of surface water from those denuded areas caused serious gully erosion on the arable land situated below. The measures which have been and are being taken to control erosion and to restore and preserve the grass cover are described earlier in this Report.

CLIMATE AND RAINFALL

Rainfall is variable and averages approximately 28 inches a year over most of the country. Most of it falls in the months from October to April, but there is normally no month which has less than half an inch. Serious droughts, like the one of 1948/1949 are rare and there are a large number of perennial streams, though not so many as existed some years ago. Unfortunately river discharge statistics show that most of this water is lost to Basutoland in the form of run-off. The deciding factors from an agricultural point of view are whether the rain comes at intervals suited to the growth of the staple crops and whether it comes in the form of short and heavy storms, running to waste and eroding the soil, or in steady, soaking showers. In the lowlands the temperatures vary from a maximum of 90 degrees or more in summer to a minimum that rarely drops below 20 degrees in winter : in the highlands the range is much wider and temperatures below zero are by no means unknown.

CHAPTER II

EARLY HISTORY

The Basuto as a nation did not come into prominence until 1818, when Moshesh, a minor chief of the Bakoena tribe in North Basutoland, gathered together the remnants of the various clans that had been scattered by the raids of the Zulu and Matebele.

The new nation went through many vicissitudes of fortune, first with the emigrant Boers of the Great Trek, and then with the British under General Cathcart in 1852. From 1856 until 1868 there was a series of wars with the Orange Free State burghers, and, being hard pressed and having lost a large portion of his country (now known as "the Conquered Territory"), Moshesh repeatedly sought the protection of the British Government.

His request was eventually granted, and the Basuto became British subjects in 1868. Part of the Proclamation issued by Sir Philip Wodehouse, the Governor of the Cape Colony, on 12th March, 1868, reads as follows :

"Now therefore, I do hereby proclaim and declare that from and after publication hereof the said tribe of Basuto shall be taken to be British subjects, and the territory of the said tribe shall be taken to be British territory."

The country remained in a very unsettled condition until it was annexed to the Cape Colony by an Act of the Cape Legislature, No. 12 of 1871. The Act expressly declared that the territory was not to be subject to the general laws of the Colony, and gave the Governor power to

legislate for it by proclamation and to extend to it by proclamation any Cape Act not otherwise in force therein.

The people never took kindly to the Cape Colonial rule, and after various disturbances the Government of the Cape, in 1880, extended to Basutoland the provisions of the Cape Peace Preservation Act of 1878, which included a clause for the general disarmament of the Basuto. They refused to accept the terms and, after a war lasting nearly a year, an agreement was arrived at under which the Act was repealed and certain fines were paid by the Basuto.

Although outwardly peace was restored, there still remained several chiefs who would not submit, and it was eventually decided by the Government of Cape Colony to hand over the administration to the Imperial Government. This was effected by Order in Council of 2nd February, 1884, which was proclaimed and brought into force by Proclamation No. 75A of 18th March, 1884. This proclamation defined the boundaries of the Territory and restored it to the direct control of the Queen through Her Majesty's High Commissioner for South Africa.

CHAPTER III

ADMINISTRATION

CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

The Territory is governed by a Resident Commissioner under the direction of the High Commissioner for Basutoland, the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland, the latter possessing legislative authority, which is exercised by proclamation promulgated in the Official Gazette. Until 1931 the office of the High Commissioner was held by the Governor-General of the Union of South Africa, but with the close of the Earl of Athlone's period of office the two posts were separated.

The executive posts of the Government, other than those of the Resident Commissioner and Government Secretary, are held by Heads of Departments and District Officers who are responsible to the Resident Commissioner for the good order and administration of their respective spheres. For administrative purposes the country is divided into nine districts under District Commissioners, stationed at Butha-Buthe, Leribe, Teyateyaneng, Maseru (the Capital), Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing, Qacha's Nek and the mountain station of Mokhotlong.

These districts are divided into wards and smaller areas presided over by principal chiefs, ward chiefs, chiefs, and headmen who are responsible to the Paramount Chief in all matters relating to law and custom. All chiefs are hereditary and are descended from the house of Moshesh or from allied families.

Heads of Departments are the Financial Secretary, Director for Medical Services, Director of Livestock and Agricultural Services, Director of Education, Director of Public Works, and the Commissioner of Police. In 1947 the Prisons Department was separated from the Police and is now under the control of a Superintendent of Prisons.

In addition a Judicial Commissioner was appointed in 1943 to deal with civil and criminal appeals from the Paramount Chief's Court, and a Registrar and Master of the High Court was appointed in 1944. A Welfare Officer was also appointed in 1944 to look after the interests of soldiers and returned soldiers. His duties are now more comprehensive and are fully described in Chapter VII Social Services, (4) Social Welfare. A Magistrate was appointed in 1949 to relieve District Commissioners of some of their judicial work and to enable them to devote more time to their administrative duties.

NATIVE ADMINISTRATION

Basutoland is an African territory without European settlers or landowners and is governed under the system of "indirect rule". The Basuto owe allegiance to a single Paramount Chief under whom is a hierarchy of Chiefs and Headmen, a number of whom trace their descent to Moshesh (1785-1870), the founder of the Basuto nation, and are styled "The Sons of Moshesh". This feudal aristocracy claimed and exercised considerable powers and privileges.

An Advisory body known as the Basutoland Council, constituted by Proclamation in 1910, consisting of the Resident Commissioner as President, the Paramount Chief and 99 Basuto members, 94 of whom are nominated by the Paramount Chief and five by the Resident Commissioner, meets once a year to discuss matters affecting the domestic affairs of the Nation and to express its opinion on any draft laws and Proclamations that may be laid before it by the President. Until such time as Basutoland has its own Legislative Council, it is the policy of the Government to consult the Paramount Chief and the Basutoland Council before Proclamations closely affecting the domestic affairs and the welfare of the Basuto people or the progress and development of the Basuto Native Administration are enacted.

In recent years developments of some political importance have taken place. In 1938 a Native Administration Proclamation and a Native Courts Proclamation were promulgated. The former recognized the Paramount Chief and his Subordinate Chiefs as an integral part of the Government of the Territory, defined their powers, and vested them with legal authority, while the latter extended similar recognition to the Basuto Courts and defined and extended their jurisdiction. Further developments were delayed by the outbreak of war, until in accordance with resolutions passed at the 1943 Session of the Basutoland Council a District Council was established as an advisory and consultative body in each of the nine districts into which the country is divided for administrative purposes.

These District Councils give the people a voice in the management of local and national affairs. The majority of the members are elected by popular vote at local pitsos (assemblies) and two to five members of the Basutoland Council, resident in each District are nominated by the Paramount Chief to sit as District Councillors.

These District Councils meet once a year shortly before the Session of the Basutoland Council and elect members who are nominated by the Paramount Chief for appointment as members of the Basutoland Council. At first each District elected one member only making a total of nine members for the whole Territory. In 1948 the number was increased to four members per district with a corresponding reduction in the number of members not so elected. Both in the Basutoland Council and District Councils provision was made for the election of members to represent important sectional bodies such as the Agricultural Association, the Progressive Association, the Teachers Association and the Basuto Traders. As a result of these changes 42 out of the 99 members of the Basutoland Council are now elected by popular vote and an important step has therefore been taken towards placing the Native Administration on to a more representative basis. Members of both the Basutoland Council and District Councils now hold office for three years. As a means whereby the Basutoland Council could be consulted when not in session, a Standing Committee, consisting of five of its own members elected by Council, was established and to this Committee, whose discussions are attended by the Resident Commissioner and Paramount Chief, all important questions are referred when Council is in recess. At the 44th Session of the Council it was recommended that three permanent advisers to the Paramount Chief should be elected by Council and effect has been given to this resolution, it being left to the Paramount Chief to choose her three advisers from a panel of eighteen elected by the Council.

A further necessary step in the development of the Native Administration, the establishment of a National Treasury, was taken in 1946. At the end of 1943 a Committee consisting mainly of Basuto was appointed to work out a scheme for the establishment of a National Treasury, and its proposals were published in a booklet which was widely distributed throughout the Territory. The proposals put forward were not confined to the establishment of a National Treasury, but included the reorganization of the Basuto Courts, entailing a reduction in their number from over 1,300 to about 130. Recently this number has been further reduced to 107.

It was also recommended that the long established practice of chiefs and others being remunerated by "eating" the fines their courts imposed, and by the proceeds of the sale of unclaimed stray stock, which had led to abuse, should be abolished. It was proposed that chiefs and others engaged in carrying out the administrative, judicial, and fiscal duties which are now undertaken by the Native Administration should be paid fixed allowances or salaries by the National Treasury into which would be paid all court fines and fees and the proceeds of the sale of Stray

Stock. These proposals were accepted by the Paramount Chief on the recommendation of the Basutoland Council in 1945.

The political and administrative reforms set out in the preceding paragraphs are regarded as essential preliminaries to undertaking any comprehensive scheme of development, if plans are to be carried out efficiently and economically with the good will and co-operation of the Native Authorities and the people, and if the social and economic advance made is to be of lasting value to the life of the community.

CHAPTER IV

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The weights and measures in common use in the Territory are the British Imperial.

The Cape Act of 1858 which defines the standard of weights and measures according to the English Act of 1824 still applies in Basutoland in terms of Proclamation No. 4 of 1904.

CHAPTER V

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

Several papers are published in the Territory in Sesuto. These are *Mochochonono* (partly in English), *Moeletsi oa Basotho* and *Leselinyana*. The first is published by S. Tlale & Sons (Pty.) Ltd. and the other two are Mission papers. They are weekly publications.

In addition to these there is the newspaper *Mphatlalatsane* which is published by the Bantu Press in Johannesburg mainly for the interest of the Basuto Community living there. It is also distributed in Basutoland. A page of this paper is reserved by the Basutoland Administration and is used for the publication of items of special interest that have occurred in Basutoland and for propaganda work. Slip copies of special articles, particularly on Agricultural, Medical and Educational subjects, are obtained in bulk and distributed throughout the Territory in Sesuto.

The only English newspaper which is published locally is the *Basutoland News*, a weekly publication which deals mainly with the interests of the European Community.

CHAPTER VI

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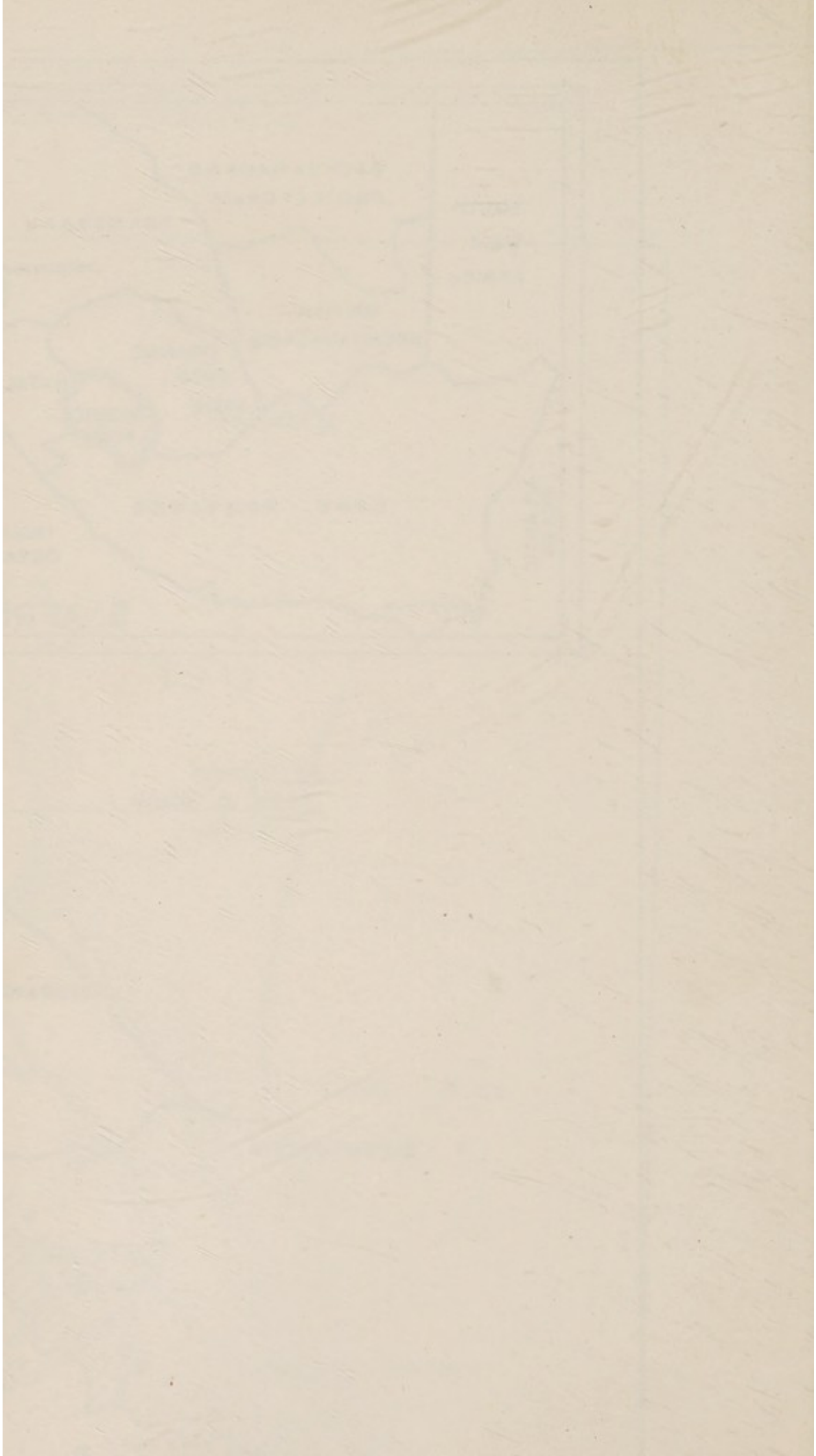
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