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*COLONIAL REPORTS*

**Basutoland**  
**1955**

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FOR THE YEAR

1955

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## PART I

### CHAPTER ONE

## REVIEW OF THE MAIN EVENTS OF 1955

### I. ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL

His Excellency the High Commissioner, Sir Percival Liesching, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.V.O., accompanied by Lady Liesching were welcomed in September on their first visit to the Territory.

Sir Saville Garner, K.C.M.G., Deputy Under-Secretary at the Commonwealth Relations Office, visited the Territory at the end of the year.

The Paramount Chief and Colonel J. Scott, a South African Financier and Mining Engineer, signed an agreement in the early part of 1955 which gives the latter the exclusive right to prospect and mine for diamonds in Basutoland for a period of three years.

Prospecting was begun in April in the vicinity of Kolo Mountain in the Mafeteng District and at various locations in the Butha-Buthe District. The results in the former area proved disappointing and operations have been temporarily suspended in order to concentrate on the prospects in the ButhaButhe District.

Prospecting operations in the mountain areas of the Butha-Buthe District have been rendered difficult by the fact that there are no roads and all equipment must be transported by pack mule. To facilitate the transport of heavy equipment to the Kao River area, construction work on a jeep track over very difficult mountain country was commenced towards the end of the year. Progress has been slow due to rain and impassability of rivers. Prospecting operations were also hindered towards the end of the year by adverse weather conditions.

The fossilised bones of a number of dinosaurs, estimated to have lived 150 million years ago, were found by a Mosuto teacher at a site near Maphutseng in the Mohales' Hoek district and were excavated by Dr. François Ellenberger, a visiting French geologist and Dr. A. W. Crompton, Palaentologist at the National Museum, Bloemfontein, and Director-Designate of the Cape Town Museum. More than 600 bones, buried under only one to three feet of soft rock and distributed in a compact mass of about 350 square feet, were found. The bones include most parts of the skeleton and are in a good state of preservation. This discovery is considered to be the most complete yet made in South Africa of this particular type of large dinosaur.

The petrified tracks of an unknown and extraordinary four-footed, five-toed giant animal, believed to be a dinosaur, were found in a perfect state of preservation on a sandstone slab in a river bed near Leribe, by the Rev. P. Ellenberger, of the Paris Evangelical Missionary Society in Basutoland.



The Paramount Chief Designate, Bereng Seeiso, who is at school in the United Kingdom, paid a short vacation visit to Basutoland in August-September.

Delegates to the South African Regional Committee on the Conservation and Utilisation of Soil from as far afield as Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia, Angola, Mozambique and the Union of South Africa, were the guests of Basutoland for a few days during November when they were shown soil conservation works in the Territory.

## 2. FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC

A surplus of £10,584 resulted for the year 1954-55 as against an anticipated deficit of £33,626. This was due principally to unexpectedly high collections under the revenue heads of Native Tax and Customs and Excise, though offset by shortfalls under Income Tax and Wool and Mohair Export Duty. Further reference to these items will be found in Chapter III of Part II of this report. The accumulated surplus balance at 31st March, 1955, was £658,038.

Wool prices declined during the year, and had a marked effect upon traders' profits and in consequence reduced yields from Income Tax. However, full employment continued in the Union of South Africa where many Basuto work in mining and industry, which accounts for the continued high collections of Native Tax.

## 3. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION

The policy of the Agricultural Department continued to be concentrated on reversing the downward trend in production which has been in progress since the days when shifting cultivation no longer became possible. It is considered that the reversal process must be based on a background of education in agricultural matters, combined with demonstration that a very much better living can be obtained from the average holding of six acres of arable land, which is all that is available for a family in the Territory. With this object in view steady progress was made during the year.

Spring rains came late and as is usually the case after a long and severe winter oxen were in poor condition for ploughing. Consequently planting of food crops was delayed. Conditions for growth during January and February were poor on account of very heavy and continuous rains, temperatures being too low for healthy growth of maize and sorghums, the main food crops. Had the onset of cold weather been delayed yields would have been fair, but growth was brought to an abrupt end by frost on April 7th. Over large parts of the lowlands crops of maize and sorghums were almost a complete failure. It is fortunate that adequate supplies of foodstuffs have been available for importation.

The winter wheat crop harvested in January was poor on account of

the low rainfall in the autumn and winter of 1954. When it became apparent that the maize yields were going to be very low, arrangements were made for wheat seed, of a variety known to do well in areas bordering on the Orange Free State, to be made available for distribution in all lowland districts. Over 600 bags of seed were sold. Land was in excellent condition for planting, with adequate subsoil moisture for winter growth, and some excellent yields are in prospect in many parts. Bulk purchase of seed was financed by the Basuto National Treasury.

The 1955 summer wheat harvest was patchy, but on the whole fairly satisfactory from the point of view of food supply. A smaller quantity than usual was available for export. The standing crop is on the whole excellent and it may be anticipated that exports during 1956 will be larger than usual.

The 1955 Basuto pea harvest, which contributes quite largely to the split-pea industry in Natal, was only fair, being partly damaged by rain in the autumn.

The need is great for establishment of tree plantations purely as a source of supply of fuel. From efforts which have been made in the past it is quite evident that satisfactory growth of trees in the early stages cannot be maintained unless plantations are securely fenced against damage by livestock. As relatively heavy capital expenditure is involved, financial assistance for the purpose is being sought from the C. D. and W. Fund. However, several large areas of suitable hillside have been fenced and planted during the year with the assistance of funds provided by the Basuto National Treasury. Applications from individuals for the allocation of land to them specifically for tree planting have been disappointingly few.

Vegetable gardening as part of the effort which is being made to improve the diet of the Basuto was continued during the year.

The year 1955 was a bad one for the livestock industry of the Territory. It commenced with the whole country in the grip of a very severe drought which was broken towards the end of January by heavy rains, which continued until the end of March. The resultant conditions were ideal for the breeding of insects and parasites and the stock suffered accordingly. The maize harvest was unusually poor, and there was very little corn stalk available for the stock during the winter, but stock came through the winter fairly well. Grazing was good, even though the grass was of a low nutritive value, but the late frosts and delayed rains retarded recovery and at present the condition of stock remains poor.

The quality of the 1955 wool clip was satisfactory. This is ascribed to the phenomenal rains experienced at the beginning of the year. The get-up of the clip has improved considerably although there is still room for improvement, especially as regards uniformity in length and quality in each class. Despite the lower price levels established at the beginning of the new season in September, serious fluctuations have been conspicuously absent since the opening of the sales. The general picture reflects a healthy demand, and is such as to encourage the belief that wool prices will maintain stability from now on. During the year 7,700,701

lb. of wool were exported to the value of £969,005 at the coast, the overall average price of all types exported being 30.2*d.* per lb.

In pursuance of the policy of wool improvement 795 merino rams were imported from the Union of South Africa during the year, bringing the total since the inception of the scheme in 1936 to 14,095. As a result of these annual importations the quality of wool produced in the Territory has improved beyond recognition. This improvement must continue as wool is at present Basutoland's most valuable export.

On the whole the year was satisfactory for the mohair industry. Not only have prices been higher generally than the previous year, but the market remained firm throughout, with prices hardening as the year went on. The total quantity of mohair exported during the year was 1,103,000 lb. valued at £322,627 at the coast with an overall average price of 70.2*d.* per lb. During the year 273 angora rams were imported for resale to flockowners at a price below cost.

The progress made in soil conservation during the year under review does not show marked acceleration on the achievements of the previous year. This may be attributed to the fact that in the three northern districts work has been confined to three gangs occupied on heavy diversion furrow work in areas which had already been buffer stripped. In actual fact, apart from dam work, only three gangs have been employed on new contour bank construction. Progress in soil conservation is further reviewed in the following chapter in which developments in research, agricultural education and co-operation and other schemes financed entirely or in part from C. D. and W. Schemes, are also outlined.

#### 4. CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

In 1955 the number of registered societies increased by ten. At the end of the year there were 47 societies, consisting of 14 wool and mohair marketing societies, ten consumers' societies, 9 agricultural societies, 12 mechanized farming societies, and two salary earners' (thrift and credit) societies. Three wool and mohair marketing societies, one consumers' society, two agricultural societies, six mechanized farming societies and two salary earners' thrift societies were registered during the year. Two wool and mohair marketing societies and two consumers' societies were liquidated.

Some progress was made in wool and mohair marketing, which continues to be the most prominent co-operative activity. The quantity of wool exported by co-operative societies in the 1954-55 season (October-September) showed an increase of more than 11 per cent over 1953-54. Mohair exports were increased by 13 per cent. Sales of hides and skins showed little change. Prices of wool and of hides and skins declined still further and as a consequence the societies' cash turnover is down. Marketing costs tended to rise. Because of the failure of the Basutoland maize harvest in 1955, wool marketing societies have undertaken the distribution, to their members, of grain imported from the Union of South Africa.

On balance, consumers' co-operation shows little improvement over the previous year. One society however showed that, given good management, consumers' societies can operate successfully in Basutoland. This society showed a considerable increase in turnover compared with 1954, and the monthly turnover in 1955 increased steadily as the year progressed. Elsewhere, one or two small societies recorded progress, but a number of backsliders leave the overall picture much as it was a year ago.

Farmers' or agricultural societies (with the exception of one operating under the auspices of the Pilot Project Scheme), have shown little if any progress. These societies combine the distribution of consumer goods and agricultural requisites with the marketing of produce and in two cases, the acceptance of savings deposits. It has become clear that the marketing of crops is impossible without loan capital to finance crop purchases and the provision of storage.

Six mechanized farming societies were registered during 1955, bringing the total to twelve, of which one is awaiting liquidation. The progress of these societies is described in Chapter 6, Part I of this report.

A beginning was made with salary earners' thrift societies. The two societies registered are both small, but they function properly and may become the fore-runners of a considerable savings movement. This type of society seems to be popular among African Civil Servants and Teachers.

It would perhaps be fair to say of Co-operation in Basutoland that an adequate scaffolding has been erected. The idea is well and widely understood and there are a number of societies whose affairs are conducted with tolerable competence. There have been two conferences of representatives of all societies, the second of which resulted in the formation of a Central Committee to advise the Registrar. A co-operative Wholesale Agency was in process of formation at the end of the year. There remains however much to be done, and it now seems likely that a change in approach is called for. The limits of self finance have been reached and the structure erected by these means appears as a framework for building by bolder methods. Proposals arising from a visit by the Adviser on Co-operation to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, are now being studied.

## 5. BASUTO ADMINISTRATION

The provision of office accommodation and staff dwellings for all Basuto Courts was the main undertaking to which the Basuto Administration addressed itself during the year. For various reasons progress has been slow and many courts are still without permanent buildings.

The Basuto National Treasury investments with the Crown Agents now stand at £96,129. In addition, a number of short-term investments have been made locally and taking these into account total investments stand at £130,129.

The accounts of the Basuto National Treasury shewed revenue and expenditure to be £170,191 and £160,500 respectively. Of this expendi-

ture £8,550 was for capital works. The accumulated surplus at 31st March, 1955, was £121,922 and the Special Reserve remained at £60,000.

The first batch of students to be awarded scholarships from the Higher Education Fund were chosen during the year. Of these, one has already commenced his studies at Edinburgh University in medicine ; one more will go to Edinburgh in 1956 for a similar course of study ; one will take law at a United Kingdom University and another will study Agriculture.

A Special Session of the Basutoland Council, in addition to the ordinary session, was held in 1955. The Special Session held in March was called for the purpose of discussing the proposals made by the Moore Committee on Administrative Reforms.

## 6. EDUCATION

The total enrolment in African schools increased by over a thousand to 104,509. Territorial finance permitted new teachers only in those schools, built from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds, which opened or developed new classes during the year. Many schools continue to be over-crowded, particularly in the lowlands. The teacher-pupil ratio in the aided primary schools is 1 : 52.

During the year two new secondary schools, built from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds, have been completed. One, in the mountain district of Mokhotlong, accepted pupils in 1955, and the second, in the southern district of Quthing, was opened in December, and will accept pupils in 1956. Extensions and improvements to existing primary schools continued to be made from funds provided from the same source.

In February Sir Christopher Cox, the Educational Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, visited the Territory for a week. His itinerary included some of the more important institutions, and an air trip to the mountain districts. He had discussions with Educational Secretaries and representatives of the National Teachers' Association, as well as Government officials. The suggestions and advice contained in his report of the visit have proved most valuable and were greatly appreciated.

In the course of the year new and improved salary scales for teachers of all grades have been introduced. Trained teachers now receive salaries similar to Government servants of equivalent status and qualifications.

At its meeting in August the Central Advisory Board on African Education recommended that eight primary schools should be raised to Higher Primary status, proceeding to Standard VI. This was approved and will bring the number of such schools in the Territory to 75 in 1956.

In the course of the year new Principals have been appointed at two of the Territory's major institutions, the Lerotholi Technical School and the Basutoland High School. Two seconded Education Officers have in this way been released for departmental work. The Woman Education Officer proceeded on leave pending resignation in November and a

suitably qualified and experienced Mosuto woman is being sought to fill the vacancy. The Director of Education was transferred to Sierra Leone towards the end of the year.

#### 7. MEDICAL

The total accommodation in the nine Government hospitals is 398 beds. During the year, 10,513 patients were admitted and 3,781 operations were performed, an increase of 440 and a decrease of 811 respectively compared with the figures for 1954.

On account of shortage of staff it was not found possible to re-establish the former blood donor service in Maseru. Blood serum, however, continues to be available at all Government hospitals.

The main block and the surgical block of the new 232 bed hospital in Maseru are expected to be completed during 1956.

The Health Centre at Semonkong, with an Assistant Medical Officer in charge, is serving a useful purpose in providing medical facilities for this remote mountain area. Work on the construction of the buildings connected with the Centre was delayed on account of labour and transport difficulties and the severity of the winter, with the result that the buildings will not be completed until the end of March, 1956.

The construction of a Health Centre at Mashai, and of Mountain Dispensaries at Patlong and Mphaki's, is expected to be completed by the end of March, 1956.

At the suggestion of Professor Darby of the Division of Nutrition, Vanderbilt University, Tennessee, U.S.A., who visited Basutoland during November, 1954, with Doctor Bronte-Stewart of Professor Brock's Nutrition Consultants, Doctor A. C. Jaques, Medical Superintendent, Botšabelo Leper Settlement, carried out a survey during February, 1955, confined mainly to heights and weights in relation to age of children of pre-school and school-going age in the area of the Agricultural Pilot Project. His memorandum is published in the *Annual Report of the Medical Department 1955*, Appendix II, under the title "Nutrition Survey Among Children of the Pilot Project Area".

With the assistance of the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund, a mass diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation campaign was started on the 1st June, 1955. An interim report by Doctor S. T. Makenete, Medical Officer in charge of the campaign, on the progress made, under most difficult conditions, since the campaign was started is published in the *Annual Report of the Medical Department 1955* as Appendix III.

As a result of an application to World Health Organization for assistance towards a Nutrition survey and control, a nutrition team is expected to arrive in Basutoland early in 1956.

Doctor K. Marti of World Health Organization and Doctor R. Marti and Mr. S. Sutton of the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund

visited Basutoland in May, 1955, in connection with a proposal for a Tuberculosis Assessment Team to visit Basutoland. The team is expected to arrive in Basutoland during November, 1956.

A mass smallpox vaccination campaign was started in October, 1955, among infants, children and adolescents.

A grant of £3,153 was received during December, 1955, from the Board of Control, Chamber of Mines Deferred Pay Interest Fund, for the provision of an X-ray Plant, X-ray building, generator and dark-room equipment and accessories for the Teyateyaneng Hospital.

No further cases of plague were reported during the year in the Tšakhohlo area of Mafeteng district, but two further deaths occurred amongst those who had contracted the disease during the previous year.

Three isolated cases of typhus fever occurred in the Maseru district.

The incidence and the mortality rate of diphtheria was lower than during the previous year.

## 8. POLICE

Seven mountain stations have been operating at full strength throughout the year. One Mountain Post, at Ntaote's in the Qacha's Nek District, had to be abandoned in July as all the buildings collapsed during a severe storm. The Sehonghong (Mashai) Mountain Station was opened during the year but temporarily closed at a later date because of the difficulty and heavy expense of supplying fodder to this station. It will be re-opened early in 1956. These Mountain Stations are manned by eight non-commissioned officers and 35 troopers. They continue to serve the public and to be of great assistance in the suppression of stock theft which is still a major problem.

The number of "medicine murders" reported during the year was 9.

Convictions for all crimes for 1955 totalled 4,393, an increase of 525 compared with the previous year's figures.

During the year 45 recruits completed their training and were posted to districts. In addition to the Training Course for Recruits, three other courses were held for a total number of 43 non-commissioned officers and other ranks of the Force. These covered Refresher, Promotion and Clerical Courses. A Training Refresher Platoon consisting of one Sergeant, one Corporal and 15 Troopers underwent a six months intensive course of training in law, police duties, musketry, riot drill and physical training. A further Refresher Platoon had completed part of its training by the end of the year.

Districts have maintained the volume and efficiency of their work. The increased tempo of training will constitute an important factor in efficiently combating the increasing volume of crime reported.

## 9. PRISONS

Good progress was made with building at the Central Prison, which is now nearing completion.

Technical Building Instructor Tlotlo Sesoane was awarded the B.E.M. for meritorious service and received the medal at the Queen's Birthday Parade, Maseru.

A Warders' Training Course was again held in Maseru and thirty warders underwent intensive training which included drill, first aid, judo and lectures on prison duties and regulations.

A serious disturbance occurred at the Central Prison on 19th November, 1955, resulting in the death of one warder and four prisoners. Twenty-two prisoners escaped and the Gaoler's office was destroyed by fire. All but one of those who escaped have since been recaptured. An inquiry is being held.

The daily average in all prisons in the Territory increased from 879·2 to 980·0. The main reason for this is the increased police activity against stock theft in the districts.

## 10. POST OFFICE

A new Post Office building at Teyateyaneng is almost complete and will be occupied early in 1956.

The new Post Office building at Sehonghong was completed during the year and will be opened early in 1956. Progress has been slower than was originally anticipated due to the difficulty of conveying building materials and office equipment to the site which is situated in mountain country.

Alterations to the Maseru Post Office were commenced during the year and should be completed early in 1956. This was necessary in order to cope with the increased mail traffic generally and particularly because of the re-routing of Mokhotlong mail through Maseru instead of through Ladysmith as was previously done.

Reconstruction of the telephone trunk line between Teyateyaneng and Butha Buthe was completed.

A new postal agency was opened at Likalaneng on the new Mountain Road. The postal agency at Mohlalefi's in the Mafeteng District was closed.

## 11. PUBLIC WORKS

Investigations into Basutoland's water resources were continued during the year and expert surveys of a preliminary nature were carried out in Northern Basutoland. As a result of these investigations a report on possible hydro-electric and water development schemes has been prepared and is now being printed.



12. APPOINTMENT OF BASUTO TO  
HIGHER POSITIONS IN THE SERVICE

The following Senior Service appointments were made :

Mr. J. R. L. Kotsokoane, B.Sc. (Hons.) : Agricultural Education Officer ;  
Mr. N. N. Ralitapole, M.R.C.V.S. ; Veterinary Officer.

The following appointments have been made on the higher grade scale :

Mr. M. P. Matete : Administrative Assistant ;  
Mr. B. K. Taoana, B.A. : Administrative Assistant ;  
Mr. F. Makhooane : Storeman-Clerk, Agricultural Department ;  
Mr. A. Mathule : Assistant Agricultural and Livestock Officer ;  
Mr. J. E. Mokitimi : Clerk, Leper Settlement ;  
Mr. G. L. Mosala, B.A. ; Clerk, Treasury ;  
Mr. T. Motsamai : Veterinary Assistant ;  
Mr. N. M. Taole : Assistant Instructor, Lerotholi Technical School ;  
Mr. M. T. Tlebere, B.A. : Clerk, Secretariat.

Promoted from Staff Sergeant to Inspector :

Inspector L. Julius ;  
Inspector T. Molefe.

13. HONOURS

*O.B.E. (Civil Division)*

Mr. R. E. K. Murray, Senior District Officer ;  
Major A. H. Donald, District Officer.

*M.B.E. (Civil Division)*

Mr. J. Zurcher, Manager, Moriija Printing Works (Honorary).

*B.E.M. (Civil Division)*

Mr. Selborne Letsie, Development Officer, Agricultural Department ;  
Mr. Tlotlo Sesoane, Technical Instructor (Grade I), Central Prison.

*Colonial Police Medal*

Captain R. M. Williams, Basutoland Mounted Police ;  
Staff Sergeant Sebolai Tsepane, Basutoland Mounted Police.

*Certificate of Honour and Badge*

Mr. L. Mabathoana, Senior Interpreter, Judicial Department.

## CHAPTER II

## PROGRESS OF DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

The table below shows expenditure on schemes financed entirely from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund. The ten year period 1945-55, for which funds were voted under the 1945 Act, is now completed and a further five year period to 1960 has been embarked upon. The Territory has been allotted further sums for this period, to enable existing schemes to be continued and completed and to finance new, approved, schemes of a capital nature which cannot be undertaken from the ordinary revenues of the Territory.

<i>No. of Scheme</i>	<i>Title of Scheme</i>	<i>Initiated during financial year</i>	<i>Total Expenditure to 31.3.55</i>
D.603A/B	Soil Conservation, Maseru .	1946-47	£371,098
D.684	Water Supplies, Maseru .	1946-47	68,000
D.692	District Water Supplies . .	1946-47	11,357
D.758	Education . . . . .	1947-48	77,232
D.842	Medical and Health . . . .	1948-49	92,917
D.1025	Improvements to Main Roads	1949-50	29,366
D.1050	Mountain Motor Road . . .	1949-50	239,690
D.1025A	Orange River Bridge . . . .	1950-51	6,346
D.1436	Mountain Dispensaries . . .	1950-51	2,752
D.1479	Scholarships . . . . .	1950-51	3,367
D.1488	Topographical Survey . . . .	1950-51	25,805
D.1504	Orange River Survey . . . .	1950-51	1,506
R.495	Soil Fertility Worker . . . .	1951-52	4,147
D.1765	Pilot Project Scheme . . . .	1952-53	44,821
D.1845	Experiment Station . . . . .	1952-53	20,929
D.2180	Survey of Orange River . . .	1953-54	4,103
D.2197	Agricultural Training Scheme	1954-55	9,501
D.2204	Pilot Project (continuation of Part D.1765) . . . . .	1954-55	13,215
D.2205	Mechanised Group Farming (continuation of part D.1765)	1954-55	6,964
			£1,033,116

The following summaries indicate progress made during 1955.

## I. AGRICULTURE

*Soil Conservation - Schemes D. 603 A and B*

Progress made in the principal sections of this work is shown by the following table :

<i>Measure</i>	<i>Prior to 1955</i>	<i>During the year</i>	<i>Total to Dec. 1955</i>
Area terraced Lowlands (acres)	409,528	21,020	430,548
Length of terraces (miles) .	23,432	1,166	24,598
Buffer strips (acres). . . .	595,531	75,410	670,941
Diversion furrows . . . .	131,199	936	132,135
Dams constructed . . . .	447	35	482
Trees planted . . . . .	970,817	41,735	1,012,552
Dongas beacons (miles) .	4,898	447	5,345

During the earlier part of the year the Territory experienced very heavy rains lasting for nearly three months. The soil reached saturation point and the slightest shower produced very heavy run-off. This caused extensive damage to four dams and to certain newly constructed works and progress was held up by the extensive repairs that had to be effected. However, in spite of these difficulties, a further 21,020 lowland acres were protected by terraces during the year.

Except for a few small areas in the Maseru and Mafeteng districts which still have to be protected, buffer stripping in the mountain areas is virtually complete. The total acreage in the mountains covered with buffer strips during the year was 75,410 acres.

35 dams were constructed during the year, most of them in the North, with a total capacity of 45,600,000 gallons.

In Maseru District and in the South of the Territory work has previously been concentrated on the construction of gully banks and diversion works. However, during the year a start was made in this part of the Territory on the construction of dams on a large scale. About 30 dam sites have been selected and surveyed in Maseru and Mafeteng areas. These sites also include several concrete arch weirs.

This year there was a substantial increase in the number of trees planted as compared with previous years, i.e., 50,000 this year compared with 20,000 the year before. Most of the planting was done in dam sites and gulleys. Several areas have been selected for the establishment of large plantations and these will be fenced off for planting next season as soon as stocks become available.

*Pilot Project - Scheme D. 1715 and D. 1104*

Agricultural extension work has begun to yield promising, in some cases spectacular, results mainly by the increased use of farm yard

manure and fertilizer. 84 bags of fertilizer were sold to individual farmers in the Pilot Project area during the year (directly and through the new co-operative society) as compared with 55 bags last year.

Observation and demonstration plots have served their purpose during the year despite some failures due to the poor season and imperfect co-operation by farmers. Plots treated with phosphatic fertilizer were clearly shown to yield often twice as much as those without, and the effect of lime on red foothill soils was also evident. Cultivation being on the peasant lands, the visible results were of considerable interest to the peasants themselves.

Eight different types of cart are available for re-sale on an instalment plan or on loan to selected Africans. Interest has quickened in the last year and carts are now distributed in many parts of the Territory by the Pilot Project. Seventy-eight carts have now been issued, as compared with ten as at 31st December, 1954.

Five Brown Swiss bulls are now at stud on the Pilot Project and it is proposed to allow them in future to run with closed village herds, as insufficient heifers are brought in for service under the present arrangement. Individual cattle owners who are anxious to raise the quality of their herds - a small but slowly growing class of farmer - are assisted as far as possible.

The second season in co-operative mechanized farming saw encouraging progress in some directions, although both Government and farmers have still much to learn about efficient management of mechanized groups under local conditions. There is now a better understanding amongst the members of the objects and obligations of the system and appreciation of its advantages. Despite adverse weather conditions members of all groups harvested considerably more per acre than their neighbours as the table below shows. In most cases the return was more than sufficient to cover the outlay leaving a substantial net gain. The standard of work done by drivers has improved, but there is a great need of more frequent and thorough training courses for committee members as well as drivers if both work and maintenance are to be efficient. This season the tractor service has been provided only for those farmers holding fields within a reasonable radius of the Society's headquarters, who make a cash payment in advance.

Delays have occurred in the Pilot Irrigation Scheme referred to last year, mainly owing to damage and waterlogging caused by heavy rains last summer, before earthworks had been consolidated.

The Tebetebeng Farmers Co-operative Society now has 60 members and is beginning to serve a useful purpose by providing farmers' requirements, particularly of fertilizers and seed. Thirteen village water supplies have now been improved with the assistance of the keener villagers and the demand may be expected to continue. Young Farmers' Clubs with a total membership of 370 have made initial progress both in gardens and fields. Schools have continued to plant trees, grass and reeds and have also helped to plant potato demonstration plots. Construction of stone silt barriers has continued.

The slow but steady improvement in the farming practice and living conditions of the more progressive families in the pilot project area and the growing interest shown in the scheme by Basuto from other parts of the Territory prove that the potential value of the Pilot Project is great.

*Maize yields in Mechanized Groups  
(in bags 200 lb. grain per acre)*

District	1953-1954		1954-1955	
	Group lands	Non-Group lands	Group lands	Non-Group lands
Mesapela . . .	2·21	1·75	2·68	0·08
Thaba Chitja . .	6·35	—	5·67	5·37
Rampepes . . .	9·13	6·99	8·09	4·38
Malimong . . .	4·23	2·03	8·00	1·76

*Mechanized Group Farming — Scheme D. 2205*

In addition to the four groups in the Pilot Project there are now seven mechanized groups operating in the Berea and Leribe districts. Three of these were started in July, 1955, and four in the previous year. One of these latter, however, was closed and restarted under new management during 1955. All groups are now registered under the Basutoland Co-operative Societies Proclamation as farming societies and all operate banking accounts or post office savings bank trust accounts. Each group has helped to build a tractor shed and store at its headquarters, the groups supplying the labour, and the Scheme the material. Unfortunately not all groups show the same drive and enthusiasm.

Although 1955 has not been a good year for maize growing there is little doubt that the people served by the mechanized groups will benefit in the long run. One of the main reasons for improved crops is the application of phosphatic fertilizer with the seed ; another is the timely cultivation which can be effected with the tractor operating on a reasonably small acreage. The work done at present by the groups is mainly confined to the preparation of land for and the cultivation of maize. As a start towards introducing a crop rotation people are now encouraged to plant beans on lands which have previously grown maize. During the off seasons tractors are hired out to members of groups for transport work.

*Soil Fertility Research — Scheme R. 495*

In brief, the scheme consists of a field experiment programme backed at present by a very limited amount of laboratory analytical work, of investigations into problems of soil infertility and including a search for

optimum varieties of the four main crops for each of the three ecological zones.

The work is centred at Maseru and with it are associated ten small sub-stations, or district experiment plots, so sited as to be representative of the three ecological zones and to give good geographical coverage. A new feature of the programme is co-operative experimentation carried out on peasant holdings.

Operations are centralized with all planting, treating, foresting, etc., carried out by a peripatetic main station staff. A mobile self-contained mechanical unit is used for ploughing, cultivating and produce transportation on eight of the ten stations. On the two stations inaccessible by road, animal draft is used.

During the year 62 experiments were planted on the stations covering 3,051 plots including 324 micro plots. The amount of crop selection work was reduced compared with 1953-54 while the soil investigational programme was increased slightly. A further 16 small fertilizer trials (192 plots) were carried out by junior field staff on Basuto farms.

In a survey of major soil deficiencies a series of exploratory experiments was laid out (for the third year) on the sub-stations, covering all important soil types and ecological regions. Of the 32 experiments planted 11 were on maize, 12 on wheat and 9 on sorghum. No sorghum trial was planted at Mokhotlong, where an additional wheat experiment was included. It has been established that phosphate deficiency is the most important single limiting factor to increased production in Basutoland.

Further experiments carried out in soil fertility research are described briefly in Chapter VI, Part III.

#### *Maseru Experiment Station — Scheme D. 1845*

Progress on buildings and other development works at the Maseru Experimental farm continued satisfactorily during the year.

The scheme for the production and distribution of pigs and poultry has in its first season of operation proved highly successful. 6,100 Rhode Island Red chicks were hatched and 85 Large Black piglets thrown.

Each week some 200 three month old birds are transported to one of the nine district holding pens and there sold at production cost price to Basuto buyers. Ten weaner pigs per month are similarly disposed of. In all districts the demand for stock has far exceeded the available supply.

Information on the comparative merits in the lowlands of flood and spray irrigation of lucerne is being accumulated on a 24 acre project on the banks of the Caledon River. Indications to date are that, given terrain that does not require a great deal of preparatory earth moving, flood irrigation is more satisfactory than spray irrigation.

The forest nursery in its first year after transfer to the new experimental station produced 20,000 boxed evergreen tree seedlings and 10,000 deciduous trees for cuttings. Production will be considerably increased in 1956 to meet the demands of the new departmental tree planting scheme. Good progress has been made in the development of arable

and grazing rotation systems. The vegetable requirements of the school are now being met from the station garden.

*Agricultural training — Scheme D. 2197*

The capital works for the agricultural school were completed early in 1955. These consist of 10 dormitory rondavels, two lecture rooms, a students' mess, an administrative block, an ablution block, two staff houses and an electricity generating plant.

With a capacity of 40 resident students, the school trains young Basuto men in general agriculture in a two year diploma course.

The teaching programme drawn up has been based on the agricultural requirements of the Territory. The major subjects are soil conservation, field and animal husbandry, and wool and mohair improvement, the teaching of which is the responsibility of the respective specialist officers of the department. While full courses of lectures are given in all subjects special emphasis is placed on practical training. A school bus is available for conveying students into the field, where they work on dam building, tree planting, wool classing etc. On the station, students work not only on the various sections — forest nursery, pigs and poultry, field experiments etc., but themselves run a set of small agricultural units, on a competitive basis. The units are based on differing farming systems, all of which are applicable to Basutoland, and they serve not only as a training ground in practical agriculture for the students but also have an important fact-finding function.

An important subsidiary activity at the school is the holding of short training or refresher courses for departmental staff, chiefs and headmen, and school teachers during the school vacations.

In order to disseminate the data obtained from various agricultural experiments, an agricultural journal entitled *The Basutoland Farmers' Journal* was inaugurated in 1955.

## 2. PUBLIC WORKS

*Roads and Bridges — Scheme D. 1025*

The worst sections of the Maseru-Mafeteng road were re-aligned and reconstructed and work was started on the re-alignment of the Maseru-Leribe road. Three bridges and numerous culverts were constructed during the year.

*Mountain Road — Scheme D. 1050*

The pilot track which reached the Senqunyane River in early January, 1955, has been enlarged to a full size road and carried normal traffic by August, 1955. At this stage progress was halted while the major works on the Senqunyane bridge were tackled. The total cost of the bridge is likely to be £25,000.

In the last few months of the year work proceeded on the far banks of the Senqunyane River, but exceptionally heavy rains in November and December hindered progress. The construction camp has now been moved forward to the Senqunyane River from the former camp at Likalaneng.

Despite heavy rains from January to March and again in November and December, no serious damage occurred on the Mountain Road, apart from isolated landslides which were not unexpected. The gravel surface remained open to traffic throughout and all culverts and bridge structures proved to be adequate.

#### *Orange River Survey — Scheme D. 2180*

Work on the construction of gauging stations was started and that on the Tsoelike River above its confluence with the Orange River is complete. A second gauging station at Rapase's on the Orange River is half finished but works were delayed during November and December when the site was inundated by flood waters.

Proposals for more extensive hydrological work are now being prepared and it is hoped that gauging stations will be established on all major rivers in Basutoland.

#### *Ox-Bow Lake Power and Water Scheme*

Following preliminary investigations into the development of water resources conducted jointly by a consulting civil engineer and the Public Works Department, a gauging station has been constructed on the Malibamatšo River at an altitude of 8,500 feet in the North-West corner of Basutoland. This gauging station was completed in December, 1955, and the recorder was ready for installation. Rain gauges have also been installed in this catchment area to gain an idea of the co-relation between rainfall and run-off.

### 3. MEDICAL AND HEALTH

#### *Training of African Medical Officers — Schemes D. 525 and D. 525 A*

Of the five Africans who received medical training under these schemes, two are still in Government service, the remainder being in private practice.

Dr. S. T. Makenete, who was previously in charge of the Butha Buthe Hospital was placed in control of the UNICEF-aided diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation campaign which began on the 1st June, 1955, and of the mass smallpox vaccination campaign which began during October, 1955.

Doctor V. R. Ntšekhe, who had been stationed at Teyateyaneng, was granted a British Council scholarship in order to take a post-graduate



course in mental diseases. He left by air for the United Kingdom in June, 1955, and is expected to be away for about two years. On his return to Basutoland he will be Medical Officer in charge of the new mental hospital which it is proposed to build with the assistance of Colonial Development and Welfare Funds.

*Medical and Health — Scheme D. 842*

*New Maseru Hospital:* Although the construction of the main block and the surgical block was completed during the year, the installation of electrical and other internal fittings was unavoidably delayed, but this is expected to be finished during 1956.

A further grant has been received from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds for the construction of the additional buildings required to complete the hospital, namely Senior Matron's quarters, Nursing Sisters' Home, Kitchen, Laundry Wing and Medical Block.

*Semonkong Health Centre:* This Health Centre is serving a very useful purpose in providing medical facilities in a remote area accessible only on horseback or by air. The construction of the buildings comprising the Centre was delayed by labour and transport difficulties, and the severity of the winter but is now expected to be completed by the 31st March, 1956.

*Mashai Health Centre:* Work on the construction of this Health Centre was started during the latter half of 1954 and should be completed during March, 1956.

*Marakabei Health Centre:* Work on the construction of this Health Centre is expected to start early in 1956.

*Extensions to Hospitals:* Additional Colonial Development and Welfare Funds have been granted to enable a new hospital to be built at Mokhotlong, maternity and children's wards to be provided at those hospitals where there are none at present, isolation wards to be added to the Teyateyaneng and Butha Buthe hospitals and tuberculosis wards to be built at Maseru, Leribe, Mafeteng, Quthing and Qacha's Nek hospitals.

*Mountain Dispensaries — Scheme D. 1436*

The mountain dispensary at Nohana's near Ketane, is in the charge of a competent African nurse and midwife, who is doing excellent work in this remote area accessible only on horseback.

The construction of a mountain dispensary at Mphaki's in the Quthing district was put out to contract and is expected to be completed during March, 1956.

The construction of the mountain dispensary at Patlong in the Qacha's Nek district to replace that abandoned at Sekake's is under the supervision of the Public Works Department Building Superintendent and is expected to be completed by the end of March, 1956.

## 4. EDUCATION

*Education — Scheme D. 758*

Under the scheme for the improvement of school buildings a total of £1,891 was paid to Missions on a £ for £ basis in respect of additions and improvements to primary schools. Assistance to the extent of £1,332 was given towards the completion of the fourth junior secondary school built under this scheme. Equipment grants to mission schools and salary grants for Educational Secretaries continued.

*Scheme D. 1479*

The two students studying Veterinary Science at Edinburgh completed their courses in 1955. One is to enter the Basutoland Government service early in 1956, while the other has already joined the Uganda Government.

## PART II

## CHAPTER ONE

## POPULATION

Statistics for Basutoland show a rapid increase in population during the first forty years of this century. In 1911 the total population was estimated at 401,000 and in 1936 at 559,273. From the figures of 561,289 produced by the 1946 census it appears that the rate of increase has slowed down but this tendency remains to be confirmed by the next census which will be held in 1956.

*1. Africans in the Territory*

<i>District</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>1936</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Butha Buthe. . . .	14,950	20,268	35,218	34,869	+ 349
Leribe . . . . .	42,519	56,136	98,655	98,376	+1,279
Berea. . . . .	25,123	32,709	57,832	55,522	+2,310
Maseru . . . . .	46,605	59,115	105,720	108,237	-2,517
Mafeteng. . . . .	30,989	38,312	69,301	70,864	-1,563
Mohale's Hoek . . .	29,055	36,895	65,950	65,309	+ 641
Quthing . . . . .	19,888	25,784	45,672	44,552	+1,120
Qacha's Nek. . . .	19,847	24,954	44,801	46,132	-1,331
Mokhotlong . . . .	17,368	20,772	38,140	36,412	+1,728
Total . . . . .	246,344	314,945	561,289	559,273	+2,016

*2. Europeans in the Territory*

<i>District</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>1936</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Butha Buthe . . . .	15	17	32	50	- 18
Leribe . . . . .	77	94	171	154	+ 17
Berea . . . . .	59	49	108	94	+ 14
Maseru . . . . .	378	359	737	583	+154
Mafeteng . . . . .	108	110	218	189	+ 29
Mohale's Hoek . . .	87	99	186	150	+ 36
Quthing . . . . .	57	46	103	106	- 3
Qacha's Nek . . . .	55	44	99	82	+ 17
Mokhotlong . . . .	21	14	35	26	+ 9
Total . . . . .	857	832	1,689	1,434	+255

*3. Asiatics and Coloureds*

<i>District</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>1936</i>	<i>Difference</i>
ButhaButhe . . .	108	86	194	185	+ 9
Leribe . . . . .	100	104	204	337	-133
Berea . . . . .	55	31	86	199	- 33
Maseru . . . . .	82	75	157	331	-174
Mafeteng . . . . .	57	53	110	248	-138
Mohale's Hoek . . .	20	29	49	233	-184
Quthing . . . . .	16	18	34	70	- 36
Qacha's Nek . . . .	21	20	41	65	- 24
Mokhotlong . . . .	1	-	1	16	- 15
Total . . . . .	460	416	876	1,604	-728

The figures given do not include absentees. The increase up to 1936 was partly due to immigration, particularly of Tembu from nearby districts of the Cape Province. Some Basuto chiefs felt that their importance would be enhanced by increasing the number of their subjects and encouraged immigrants to settle under them.

In 1949-50 an agricultural survey was carried out and in the course of it the total population of Basutoland was estimated to be approximately 660,000. This figure, however, included absentees and was calculated in a manner different from that employed in previous population censuses with which, therefore, it cannot be compared with accuracy.

It is generally agreed that the comparatively small increase in population between 1936 and 1946 is not accounted for by faulty enumeration but is largely the result of certain economic factors and the increased lure of employment in the neighbouring territory of the Union to which it is inevitable that many Basuto should be drawn.

The increase of 255 in the European population between 1936 and 1946 is the result of natural increase, an increase in trading activities and the arrival of more missionaries in the Territory. There are no European settlers in Basutoland.

The distribution of the African population is related to the physical structure of the country. The bulk of the population is concentrated in the lowlands, and in these areas saturation point seems for the time being to have been reached. Until fairly recently the mountain areas were almost entirely reserved for the grazing of stock and even the concentration of population which now exists in the rich valleys near the 'Maletsunyane Falls dates back only some 25 years. With the increasing pressure on the land in the lowlands the people tend to extend cultivation up the river valleys, and as these in turn are found to be inadequate, they move up on to the mountain slopes.

The result is that to-day there are scattered settlements throughout the mountain areas 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.

## CHAPTER II

# OCCUPATIONS, WAGES AND LABOUR ORGANIZATION

### I. OCCUPATIONS

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 stock disease which plague countries nearer sea level.

Primitive methods of farming, however, have made the soil less productive and, by hastening erosion, have reduced the area of arable land. At the same time the establishment of law and order and the development of social services have facilitated a large growth in population over the years. The result has been that the increase in food production has barely kept pace with the demands of the increasing population. Measures which have been and are being taken to check erosion and increase food production are described in Chapter Six.

The pressure on land, together with other economic and social factors, such as a developing cash economy and a spirit of adventure amongst the young men, have traditionally caused the Basuto to leave home periodically to seek work, and will continue to do so. There are no industries in Basutoland other than the printing enterprises of the Paris Evangelical Missionary Society and the Roman Catholic Mission which employ 80 and 40 Basuto respectively. An increasing number, however, are taking part in trading activities and Europeans and Indians are at present not being granted licences to establish new trading stores. Apart from employment in the Government Service or in trading stores there is little work to be found in the Territory. It is therefore necessary for most of those seeking work to take up employment in the Union of South Africa.

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.

<i>Mines</i>	1953	1954	1955
Gold . . . . .	25,504	29,002	35,608
Coal . . . . .	5,398	6,043	7,780
Diamond . . . . .	473	947	662
Other Mines . . . . .	2,262	1,752	1,444
Total Mines . . . . .	33,637	37,771	45,494
Agricultural . . . . .	4,408	3,807	2,398
Miscellaneous . . . . .	23,605	21,280	11,193
Total . . . . .	61,650	62,858	59,085

These figures are not, of course, a correct estimate of the total number of Basuto actually employed in the mining industry, in factories and on farms in the Union at any one time: they merely indicate how many persons left the country to take up employment during the year under review, and do not take account of employees engaged in previous years who have remained in the Union during 1955. For example 43,746 Basuto were recorded as in employment with mines affiliated to the Transvaal and Orange Free State Chamber of Mines alone on the 31st December, 1955. The corresponding figure for 1954 was 33,909.

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 head-quarter 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 System. 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.

Labour is also recruited by other approved labour agents for work on coal, diamond, and manganese mines, farms, and for other employment. All employers for whom labour agents recruits are first approved by Government.

The majority of Basuto recruited for the mines defer a portion of their earnings for payment to them on their return to Basutoland and in 1955 the total amount of deferred wages paid out through recruiting organizations was £241,355. Many also remit money to their families through the organizations and in the year under review this amounted to £335,611.

At the same time it is considered that the miners are largely responsible for the moneys sent from the Union to be paid through Basutoland Post Offices. In 1955 the value of money orders and postal orders paid out in this way amounted to over £100,000.

Prior to 1932, if tax collection was bad in any year in Basutoland an officer was despatched to the Rand to undertake a field collection. In 1932 a temporary office was opened in Johannesburg and in 1933 a permanent office was established: within a few years the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland decided to join the venture and the office received its present name of Agency for the High Commission Territories. The most important function of the Agency was the collection of tax but it soon assumed the additional duties of general welfare work and now deals 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 whenever required to do so. The officer in charge of the Agency, that is the Agent for the High Commission Territories, has recently been appointed Regional Employment Commissioner for the High Commission Territories and in this capacity deals with requests by Basuto for permission to enter the prescribed and controlled areas in the Union of South Africa. He also deals with requests received through the Union Labour Bureau in Pretoria for labour from the High Commission Territories for industries and other undertakings in which there is a labour shortage. District Commissioners are advised of the areas in which labour is required and of the wages offered and conditions prevailing so that labourers requesting authority to enter the Union for the purpose of seeking work can be informed of openings available.

Sub-Agencies have been opened at Springs and Randfontein and more recently at Welkom, centre of the new Orange Free State goldfields.

Recruiting is permitted only for those concerns which provide good living and working conditions and the inspection of mines and factories forms an important part of the Agent's work. During the year close on 160,000 miles were travelled by the Agent and members of his staff in visiting centres in various parts of the Union where Basuto workers were engaged.

Tax collected by the Agency from Basuto working in the Union amounted to £123,827 during the year, an increase of £5,667 on 1954 figure.

## 2. WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

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

- (a) Domestic servants, earning from £1 10s. *od.* to £5 a month. Food and lodging are usually provided in addition.
- (b) Labourers, employed mainly on roads and other public works,

soil conservation work, etc., at rates from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 9d. per day.

Public Works labourers work a 54 hour week.

- (c) Foremen, earning from £5 to £8 a month.
- (d) Artisans, earning from £8 to £17 a month.
- (e) Trading store employees earning from £5 to £15 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, and that the staple food of the average Mosuto of the labouring class is mealie porridge, samp and beans.

The traditional occupation of herding is still largely rewarded in the traditional way – by a share in the natural increase in the flock or herd.

### 3. COST OF LIVING

The following table shows the fluctuations in prices of various commodities over the years and indicates the prewar price :

Commodity	1938		1952		1954		1955	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Mealie meal per lb. . . . .		1½		3		3		3
Beans per lb. . . . .		3		8		6		7
Samp per lb. . . . .		1½		3¾		4		4
Bread per 2lb. loaf . . . . .		4		9½		9½		9½
Flour per lb. . . . .		2		3¾		5		5
Rice per lb. . . . .		4	1	5	1	5	1	1
Oatmeal per lb. . . . .		3	1	—	1	2	1	—
Tea per lb. . . . .	2	3	6	9	8	11	7	11
Coffee per lb. . . . .	1	9	5	4	7	3	7	3
Sugar per lb. . . . .		3		5		5¾		5¾
Jam per lb. . . . .		5	1	10	3	6	2	—
						to		
					3	8		
Potatoes per lb. . . . .		1		3		4		4
Butter per lb. . . . .	1	2	3	2	3	5	3	5
Cheese per lb. . . . .	1	2	2	8	2	10	2	10
Eggs per doz. . . . .	1	6	2	6	2	6	2	6
						to		to
					3	3	4	6
Milk per gall. . . . .	2	—	2	9	3	5	3	5
Bacon per lb. . . . .	1	5	3	6	3	6	3	6
Beef per lb. . . . .		6	2	2	2	2	2	3
Mutton per lb. . . . .		7	2	6	2	6	3	—



## 4. 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 trades unions. There had previously been no need for such legislation in Basutoland owing to the total lack of industries.

The Basutoland Trades Unions and Trades Disputes Proclamation was promulgated in 1942 and amended in 1949. Regulations were published in 1949 (High Commissioner's Notice No. 149 of 1949) and amended in 1950 and 1952. The Proclamation and Regulations provided for the registration and regulation of trades unions in Basutoland and for the orderly settlement of trades disputes.

By the end of 1955 four trades unions had been registered, namely:

- The Basutoland Typographical Workers' Union ;
- The Basutoland Commercial Distributive Workers' Union ;
- The Basutoland National Union of Trained Artisans ;
- The Basutoland General Workers' Union.

## 5. LABOUR LEGISLATION

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 conditions 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 is owned by the child's parents.

Proclamations No. 5 of 1942, 40 of 1943, 4 of 1951 and 43 of 1951 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

## I. GENERAL

Including receipts and expenditure on account of Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes, the revenue for the financial year 1954-55 totalled £1,477,367 compared with expenditure amounting to £1,466,783. The gross surplus of £10,584 was reduced to £6,222 by a deduction of £4,362 representing depreciation of the Territory's investments, when revalued at the close of the financial year. The net surplus for the year increased the general revenue balances at the 31st March, 1955, to £658,039.

Expenditure on Colonial Welfare and Development projects was £175,908 and funds totalling £170,809 were received from Her Majesty's Treasury in this respect. A further sum of £8,536 is due from the Treasury to meet expenditure incurred on certain projects.

Revenue collections under Native Tax and Customs and Excise exceeded the estimated figures by £46,767 and £57,894 respectively. The increase under Native Tax was due to the continued full employment of Africans in the Union of South Africa, and the registration scheme in the Union, which resulted in the discovery of large numbers of Basutoland taxpayers who previously were evading tax. The continuing relaxation of import control by the Union of South Africa, has resulted in a very large increase of imports, and a corresponding increase in the Territory's share under the Customs agreement.

The receipts from Income Tax and Wool and Mohair Export Levy were £30,906 and £11,168 below the estimates. During the year wool prices declined further and although prices to the producer are still comparatively high, the traders who handle most of the clip experienced a most difficult season which was reflected in lower gross income to the business community. The fall in wool prices necessitated a decrease in the rate of export levy, which is based on a sliding scale.

Expenditure exceeded the estimated figure by £131,954.

The revised position at 31st March, 1956, is anticipated to be as follows :

Accumulated Surplus at 31.3.54 . . . . .	£651,816
Add Surplus for year 1954-55 . . . . .	6,223
	<hr/>
Accumulated Surplus at 31.3.55 . . . . .	658,039
Estimated (revised) Expenditure 1955-56 . . . . .	£1,468,359
Estimated (revised) Revenue 1955-56 . . . . .	1,296,211
	<hr/>

Estimated deficit for year 1955-56 . . . . .	172,148	
Less amount due on account of Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes. . . . .	8,536	163,612
		<hr/>
Estimated surplus balance at 31.3.56 . . . . .		£494,427

## 2. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The following is a statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the last three years :

STATEMENT N :

*Comparative Statement of Revenue*

<i>Head</i>	<i>1952-53</i>	<i>1953-54</i>	<i>1954-55</i>
Native Tax. . . . .	284,092	359,092	331,767
Customs and Excise . . . . .	416,457	513,059	505,895
Posts and Telegraphs . . . . .	35,502	38,682	62,535
Licences. . . . .	19,313	21,273	20,636
Fees of Court or Office	12,683	14,114	14,481
Judicial Fines . . . . .	6,950	7,171	7,384
Income Tax . . . . .	189,400	158,004	114,094
Poll Tax. . . . .	2,137	2,379	4,298
Fees for Services Rendered	23,895	30,781	32,233
Interest . . . . .	14,013	14,180	12,717
Wool and Mohair Export Duty . . . . .	123,297	108,469	113,832
Miscellaneous . . . . .	55,995	55,579	67,049
Rent from Government Property . . . . .	17,866	18,899	19,638
	1,201,600	1,342,410	1,306,559
C. D. and W. Grants . . . . .	167,235	171,196	170,809
	<hr/> 1,368,835	<hr/> 1,513,606	<hr/> 1,477,368

## STATEMENT O :

*Comparative Statement of Expenditure*

<i>Head</i>	<i>1952-53</i>	<i>1953-54</i>	<i>1954-55</i>
	£	£	£
Public Debt . . . . .	2,335	5,668	6,310
Resident Commissioner . . . . .	6,092	4,099	4,688
Agricultural and Veteri- nary Services . . . . .	69,994	79,270	70,669
Audit . . . . .	3,058	3,968	10,578(a)
Central Stores . . . . .	5,848	5,333	2,347
Co-operative Societies . . . . .	4,398	5,390	5,572
District Administration . . . . .	56,260	57,240	40,327
Education . . . . .	184,640	188,076	202,659
High Commissioner's Office . . . . .	31,155	32,476	37,194
Judicial . . . . .		9,360	8,184
Legal . . . . .	13,170	6,576	5,299
Leper Settlement . . . . .	27,283	27,712	29,521
Medical . . . . .	95,379	104,037	112,209
Miscellaneous . . . . .	97,719	43,272	42,952
Native Administration . . . . .	106,071	131,023	122,875
Pensions and Gratuities . . . . .	61,832	67,377	74,911
Police . . . . .	94,496	104,760	112,554
Prisons . . . . .	42,081	45,805	46,235
Posts and Telegraphs . . . . .	41,603	45,368	56,502
Public Relations . . . . .			
Public Works Department	28,132	31,321	31,860
Public Works Recurrent . . . . .	57,486	68,121	71,018
Public Works Extraordi- nary . . . . .	96,388	89,434	74,657
Rand Agencies . . . . .	40,907	26,579	24,470
Secretariat . . . . .	14,463	15,202	12,222
Subventions . . . . .	46,666	26,700	21,391
Treasury . . . . .	11,543	12,604	5,611
Welfare . . . . .			
Anomalies Committee . . . . .			
General Clerical Service . . . . .			58,061(a)
C. D. and W. Schemes . . . . .	1,238,999 163,475	1,236,771 169,639	1,290,876 175,908
Total . . . . .	1,402,474	1,406,410	1,466,784

(a) Shewn previously under departmental heads.

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31st MARCH, 1955

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ANNUAL REPORT : BASUTOLAND

## LIABILITIES

	£	s.	d.
<i>Deposits:</i>			
African Pioneer Corps Pensions . . . . .	3,544	18	5
Basuto National Treasury Matsema Levy . . . . .	575	4	0
Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland Tax account . . . . .	7,425	0	1
Higher Education Levy . . . . .	52	17	0
Miscellaneous . . . . .	45,014	7	4
Prisoners' Property . . . . .	989	8	4
S.A. Railways and Harbours account . . . . .	9	2	6

*Special Funds:*

Colonial Development and Welfare Fund . . . . .	11,513	3	7
Guardians Fund . . . . .	7,614	0	6
Home Industries . . . . .	33,119	16	7
War Levy Fund . . . . .	2,987	11	6

*Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund:*

With Crown Agents £71,676 0 1			
Cash on hand . . . . .	2,369	3	7
	74,045	3	8

*General Revenue Balances:*

Balance as at 31st March, 1954 . . . . .	651,816	14	11
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Plus surplus as at 31st March, 1955 . . . . .

	10,584	5	6
	662,401	0	5

Less Depreciation on Investments . . . . .

	4,362	9	10
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Total . . . . .	844,929	4	1
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## ASSETS

	£	s.	d.
<i>Cash:</i>			
With Standard Bank . . . . .	111,763	13	9
With Sub-Accountants . . . . .	77,098	17	8
With Crown Agents . . . . .	426	1	8
With Joint Colonial Fund . . . . .	255,000	0	0

Imprest Accounts . . . . . 218 6 4

*Investments:*

Surplus Balances . . . . .	245,992	6	5
Home Industries . . . . .	33,119	16	7

*High Commission Territories Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund:*

Invested with Crown Agents . . . . .	64,256	9	7
With Joint Colonial Fund . . . . .	7,419	10	6
	71,676	0	1

*Advances:*

Miscellaneous . . . . .	42,940	14	8
Lerotholi Technical School Stock and Works in progress . . . . .	4,617	5	10
Leper Settlement Stock . . . . .	1,191	15	3
Maseru Electric Light Stock . . . . .	884	5	10

*General Revenue Balances:*

Balance as at 31st March, 1954 . . . . .	651,816	14	11
--	---------	----	----

Plus surplus as at 31st March, 1955 . . . . .

	10,584	5	6
	662,401	0	5

Less Depreciation on Investments . . . . .

	4,362	9	10
Total . . . . .	844,929	4	1

N.B.: Surplus understated by £8,536 6s. 6d. representing under-issue in respect of expenditure on Colonial Development and Welfare accounts.

## 3. MAIN HEADS OF TAXATION

Revenue from Native Tax for the year ending 31st March, 1956, is expected to be £332,000 and to exceed the original estimate by £32,000.

*Customs and Excise*

Revenue from Customs and Excise duties is expected to be £510,000 for the year ending 31st March, 1956.

*Income Tax*

The rates fixed and the rebates allowable for the year ended 30th June, 1955, were as follows :

- (1) *Normal Tax:* Married persons are assessed at the rate of 15*d.* increased by one  $\frac{1}{1000}$  of a penny per pound of taxable income. Unmarried and other persons (including private companies but excluding public companies) are charged an extra 3*d.* per pound. Public companies pay at the rate of 7*s.* 6*d.* per pound.
- (2) *Super Tax:* This is payable in addition to normal tax on incomes in excess of £1,775 by persons other than public companies. The rate is 24*d.* increased by one  $\frac{1}{4000}$  of a penny per pound of income subject to super tax.
- (3) *Rebates:* The normal tax assessed at the above rates is subject to a primary tax rebate of £31 for married persons, and £23 for unmarried persons. In addition rebates of £10 per child, £2 10*s.* 0*d.* per dependant, and 1*s.* 3*d.* per pound of insurance or benefit fund premiums, are allowed. The super tax rebate is £210.
- (4) *Surcharge:* This is a percentage increase after the deduction of rebates and is used to increase or reduce the tax payable each year. The surcharge on married persons is 35 per cent on normal tax and 40 per cent on super tax. It is 45 per cent on both taxes in respect of other persons, excluding public companies.
- (5) *Maximum Rate:* The normal and super taxes conjointly plus the surcharges must not exceed 12*s.* 6*d.* in the pound.
- (6) *Tax payable:* The approximate tax payable on various income levels is as follows :

<i>Taxable Income</i>	<i>Unmarried Person</i>	<i>Married without Children</i>	<i>Married with Children</i>
£	£	£	
350	4		Reduce the figures in the previous column by £13 10s. od. for each child under 18 years on the last day of the year of assessment, or under 21 years on that day if wholly supported by parent.
400	8		
500	23	2	
700	46	20	
900	69	39	
1,200	106	67	
1,500	143	97	
1,800	187	130	
2,000	254	194	
2,500	428	351	
3,000	614	519	

The income tax collections for the year ended 31st March, 1954, were £158,004. It is not expected, however, that the estimated figures of £150,000 will be realized for the year ending 31st March, 1955.

Africans are exempt from income tax.

#### *Trading Licences*

Details of the annual licence fees payable during the year 1953 are shown in the Basutoland Trading Proclamation, 1951, the more important being:

General Trader . . . . .	£25
Native Trader . . . . .	£2 10s. od. or £5
Agent of a Firm . . . . .	£25
Other specified businesses . . . . .	£2 or £10

#### *Stamp Duty*

Stamp duties and fees are payable at the rates shown in the Schedule to Chapter 70 of the Laws of Basutoland.

#### *Death Duties*

(a) *Succession Duty*: Subject to certain provisos and exemptions set out in Chapter 67 of the Laws of Basutoland, the rates of Succession Duty are as follows:

<i>Degree of Relationship of Successor to Predecessor</i>	<i>Rates of Duty upon Dutiable amounts of succession</i>
(i) Where the successor is the direct descendant or ascendant of the predecessor . . . . .	3 per cent

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| (ii) Where the successor is the brother or sister of the predecessor . . . . .   | 5 per cent  |
| (iii) Where the successor is the descendant of the brother or sister of the predecessor . . . . .                        | 8 per cent  |
| (iv) Where the successor is otherwise related to the predecessor or is a stranger in blood or is an institution. . . . . | 12 per cent |

(b) *Estate Duty*: This is payable by the estate in terms of Chapter 67 of the Laws, 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 complete 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*

Duty levied on wool and mohair exported from the Territory is now fixed at 3d. and 6d. per pound respectively. A subvention of £15,000 a year is made to a Wool and Mohair Fund established for the betterment of the Wool and Mohair industry of the Territory.

#### *Poll Tax*

Poll Tax of £3 per annum is payable by all adult male persons who do not pay Native Tax. Poll Tax payments can no longer be deducted from payments due in respect of Income Tax.

## CHAPTER IV

# CURRENCY AND BANKING

Basutoland's currency is the same as that of the Union of South Africa.

There are no agricultural or co-operative banks but the Standard Bank of South Africa Ltd. has a branch office at Maseru and also operates weekly agencies at Mohale's Hoek, Mafeteng, Teyateyaneng, Leribe, Matsieng, Roma, Morija, Sekake's and Qacha's Nek. Barclay's Bank Ltd. operates similar agencies at Leribe, Mohale's Hoek, Mafeteng and Butha Buthe but has no branch office in the Territory.

There are eleven Post Offices at which business is transacted with the Union Post Office Savings Bank whose headquarters are at Bloemfontein.



## CHAPTER V

## COMMERCE

The bulk of the general trade in the Territory is carried on by Europeans and also in the northern districts, by a few Indians. At present Europeans and Indians are not being granted licences to establish new trading stations for, since the war, an increasing number of Basuto have engaged in trading activities. By the end of 1955, more than 2,600 Basuto held trading licences of one sort or another, principally for bakeries, butcheries, cafes, livestock trading, milling, general trading (subject to certain restrictions), and road transport both for goods and passengers. Another feature of commercial activity since the war has been the development, particularly in the field of wool and mohair marketing, of co-operative societies; this is described in Chapter Six.

Basutoland has no industries and has to import the consumer goods and capital items it needs as well as a certain amount of agricultural produce and livestock. The country's exports consist almost entirely of agricultural commodities and livestock, the main exports normally being wool and mohair, followed by wheat, sorghum, and cattle. The value of imports usually exceeds the value of exports, often by a considerable figure, but the adverse balance is offset by the export of labour to the mines, industries and farms of the Union of South Africa resulting in a flow of income to Basutoland in the form of remittances to relatives, deferred pay paid locally, savings brought back from the Union, payments to labour agents in the Territory and better native tax collections.

The year 1955 saw a marked decrease in the value of exports from the Territory and a further rise in imports. This is mainly attributable to the very poor crops harvested during the year which necessitated unusually large imports of maize, the staple foodstuff of the Basuto, and also resulted in a smaller quantity of sorghum and wheat than usual being exported, since much of the crop was retained for home consumption. There was also a drop in the value of peas and beans exported. The prices obtained for wool showed a further slight decline which was to a certain extent offset by the generally higher prices for mohair. Nevertheless the overall value of exports of these two important commodities fell below that of the previous year.

Precise and comprehensive statistics relating to the balance of trade position in Basutoland are not available. The figures given in the tables below, however, enable the estimated imports and exports of the major commodities to be compared over the last three years.

TABLE I

*Imports*

The estimated values and quantities in this table relate to imports by traders through whose hands most of the general trade of the country passes, to imports by Co-operative societies and, in the case of grain and livestock (the latter for 1955 only) to imports by individuals. Government imports which are considerable, are not included and neither are capital and consumer goods imported by individuals.

<i>Livestock</i>	<i>Quantity</i>			<i>Value in £</i>		
	<i>1953</i>	<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>	<i>1953</i>	<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>
Horses, Mules, Donkeys . . . . .	323	158	2,651	1,846	1,397	29,043
Cattle . . . . .	29	55	6,322	596	1,458	113,796
Sheep and Goats . . . . .	51	60	1,168	152	205	2,528
<i>Grain</i>	<i>bags</i>	<i>bags</i>	<i>bags</i>			
Wheat and Wheat- meal . . . . .	36,000	31,815	46,928	84,365	89,597	105,995
Maize and Maize- meal . . . . .	41,447	50,756	219,380	73,477	99,146	394,824
Sorghum . . . . .	3,818	5,655	18,593	8,684	11,445	52,987
Other Produce . . . . .	—	—	—	4,841	4,116	10,514
Merchandise . . . . .	—	—	—	2,417,165	2,404,643	2,492,650
<b>Total . . . . .</b>				<b>2,591,126</b>	<b>2,612,007</b>	<b>3,202,337</b>

TABLE II

*Exports*

This table shows the estimated values and quantities of the principal commodities exported by traders and co-operative societies and, in the figures for mohair and wool, hides and skins, by individuals also. It does not include the number and value of stock exported after being sold at Government auction sales in 1953 and 1954 but does include those exported in 1955.

	Quantity			Value in £		
	1953	1954	1955	1953	1954	1955
<i>Livestock</i>						
Horses, Mules, Donkeys . . . . .	110	51	85	842	218	1,015
Cattle . . . . .	3,565	3,025	12,927	52,938	48,273	213,296
Sheep and Goats . . . . .	3,412	2,619	4,125	8,429	7,300	12,787
<i>Grain</i>						
Wheat and Wheat- meal . . . . .	36,000	54,478	27,575	84,365	127,434	60,665
Maize and Maize- meal . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sorghum . . . . .	57,951	17,371	10,168	101,555	23,791	25,115
Barley . . . . .	415	134	59	823	181	63
Beans and Peas . . . . .	25,967	54,160	39,677	87,177	175,310	138,869
Oats . . . . .	136	236	31	170	278	31
<i>Wool and Mohair in lb.</i>						
Wool . . . . .	7,445,733	7,872,244	7,700,701	1,489,147	1,205,765	969,005
Mohair . . . . .	1,137,841	1,112,868	1,103,000	350,834	298,113	322,627
<i>Hides and Skins</i>						
Hides . . . . .	365,501	345,050	294,418	24,181	18,950	16,252
Skins . . . . .	466,855	439,060	443,578	35,359	31,250	28,844
Miscellaneous . . . . .	—	—	—	15,663	2,623	4,951
Bones (lb.) . . . . .	294,118	700,900	820,600	1,029	2,453	2,872
Total . . . . .				2,251,483	1,930,486	1,796,392

TABLE III

*Comparison of Totals of Imports and Exports  
given in Table I and Table II above*

	Imports £	Exports £
1953 . . . . .	2,591,126	2,278,611
1954 . . . . .	2,612,007	1,954,105
1955 . . . . .	3,202,337	1,796,392

## CHAPTER VI

# PRODUCTION

### I. AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

#### I. GENERAL

The economy of Basutoland rests largely upon its agricultural and livestock industry in which the unit of production is the peasant farmer. There are practically no industries and what mineral wealth may exist is still undeveloped. Thus the economic future of the Territory must depend mainly on the continued development of agriculture and animal husbandry, and it is to this end that the policy of the Agricultural Department is directed.

The Department is headed by a Director under whom are officers responsible for soil conservation, wool and mohair improvement, soil fertility, veterinary services and agriculture and livestock work. Demonstrators and veterinary assistants assist these officers in the field.

#### 2. LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

##### *Utilisation of Agricultural Land*

The most reliable figures to indicate the uses to which the land is put are obtainable from the Agricultural Survey which was conducted in 1949-50.

At the time the Survey was taken the total arable land was 930,000 acres, which is 12·4 per cent of the total area of the Territory : to be added to this figure were 3,000 acres representing non-tribal cultivation. The mean arable field acreage per household was 5·75 acres, the average size of a household being four persons including absentees. There were, however, 11,700 households with no arable land at all. Of the total arable land 22 per cent was not cultivated, 47 per cent was put down to maize, 15 per cent to sorghums, 13 per cent to wheat and the remainder to peas, barley, beans and oats. It is considered that at the present date the total area of land under cultivation must be close on a million acres.

##### *Land Ownership*

Proclamation No. 14 of 1868 declared inter alia that "the Territory of the said Tribe (the Basuto) shall be, and shall be taken to be, British Territory".

In practice the land of Basutoland is held in trust for the Basuto Nation by the Paramount Chief who exercises and performs these judiciary rights and duties through the Chieftainship. There is no freehold tenure, the

Chiefs allocating land to their subjects for occupancy and use according to their needs and with the right to re-allocate to another any land occupied or used by an individual in excess of his needs. Missions, schools and traders are allowed by the Paramount Chief in consultation with the Resident Commissioner to occupy land according to a recognized scale.

Areas known as Government Reserves are set apart for the Capital district headquarter stations.

### *Soil Conservation*

Years of peasant agriculture, the practice of which has included monoculture with little return to the soil of animal manure (which is extensively used as fuel), and the overstocking of grazing areas, have led over the course of years to land becoming infertile and highly susceptible to wind and water erosion.

A soil conservation campaign has been conducted since 1936. By 1946, 154,000 acres of land in the lowlands had been protected by terrace banks and 77,500 acres in the mountain and foothill areas protected by buffer strips.

In 1946 a grant of £282,000 was made from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds and this was later supplemented by a further £122,000. This assistance has enabled general and energetic anti-erosion measures to be undertaken. The stabilization of erodible soil is being undertaken by the construction of contour terrace banks in the lowlands, the construction of grass buffer strips and diversion furrows in the mountain, tree planting, the fencing of badly denuded areas, and the building of dams. A summary of the work completed during 1955 and figures showing the work completed up to the end of 1955 are given in Chapter Two of Part I. The latter may be restated in the following way. More than 80 per cent of lowland arable land has been protected by a combination of terraces and grass strips. Work on lowland terracing is expected to continue for another three seasons. The bulk of the area still to be completed is in the south, where the general conditions of rainfall, grass cover and soil are poorer and the remedial effects of conservation necessarily slower. In the foothill country heavy diversion furrow work is in progress in areas which have already been buffer stripped. Buffer stripping in the mountain areas is virtually complete and only in the Maseru and Mafeteng districts are there small areas left in the mountains to cover. Thirty-five dams with a total capacity of 31,983,000 gallons were constructed during the year and a further thirty dam sites in the Maseru and Mafeteng Districts were surveyed. Tree planting and grass planting on dam walls and in dongas continued during the year.

Recent developments indicate a growing recognition amongst the Basuto of the need for grazing control. The necessity for grazing control systems is greatest in the cattle post country in the mountains. Ten years ago large expanses of mountainside had been grazed bare and would have been subject to extensive soil erosion had no action been taken. Work so far has consisted in resting these areas. Restocking, which could

have safely been undertaken some years ago was deferred pending approval by the Paramount Chief and the Basutoland Council, of regulations rationalizing the use of the cattle post country as a whole. These regulations came into force in November, 1955.

That the Basutoland Council, representing the people, were able to accept the draft order is an indication that those in positions of responsibility fully realize the need for grazing control. This is borne out by the increasing number of sub-chiefs and headmen who are seeking advice as to the adoption of grazing control systems to their own (village) areas.

### 3. AGRICULTURE

The Basuto are essentially a nation of peasant farmers with an average family holding of only 6 acres of arable land. Further extension of cultivation on any scale is not possible and indeed is not desirable if a proper balance between arable and grazing areas is to be maintained. Production from areas at present under the plough must therefore be increased if the needs of an increasing population are to be met. The policy of the Agricultural Department is to educate the Basuto in better farming methods and to show them that a better living can be obtained from their small holdings if such methods are put into practice. The work that is being done in soil conservation has been described in the preceding section.

The principal crops of the Territory are maize (the staple food), sorghums, wheat, peas, beans, followed by barley and oats. Maize is grown throughout the Territory. Sorghums, beans and oats are grown principally in the lowlands while wheat and peas are confined mainly to the mountain areas.

Except in isolated parts of the foothills where spring rains were earlier than elsewhere, maize and sorghum yields were much below average. Because of the late rains only a portion of the area normally planted to these crops was sown, and much of that very late. Growth was stopped by a general frost when grain was in the dough stage. The general failure of the maize and sorghum crop has had its usual reaction on the territorial economy. Money which would normally be spent on other things has gone to provide necessities, with a consequent depression in trade.

Standing crops to be harvested May to July, 1956 are in very fair condition, due mainly to excellent rains in December. The lowland wheat crop harvested in January was poor whereas the mountain crop was on the whole satisfactory. The pea crop was partly damaged by autumn rains and the export figure fell well below that of the previous year's bumper crop.

In the table below are given exports of the principal crops, which when compared with those for the previous years give an indication of the adverse season experienced.

<i>Produce Exported</i>	1953	1954	1955
200 lb. bags			
Wheat and Wheatmeal . . . . .	36,000	54,478	27,575
Peas and Beans . . . . .	25,967	54,160	39,677
Sorghums and Malt . . . . .	57,951	17,371	10,168

Wheat exports were lower than imports of wheaten products by 19,353 bags ; 18,593 bags of sorghums were imported compared with 5,655 in the previous year ; and 219,380 bags of maize were imported compared with 50,756 bags in the previous year. In the Union of South Africa maize and maize products are subsidized, the subsidy at present being 5s. 6½d. per 200 lb. and importation is subject to a refund of this subsidy by the importer. During the year under review, the sum of £60,655 was paid to the Union Government.

The success of the Department in educating the Basuto in better farming methods depends very largely upon the efforts of the field staff. The Agricultural School is expected to play an important role in raising the standard of field work amongst an increasing number of men who will pass through the school and become available for posting to field duty. The work of the Agricultural School is further described in Part I Chapter II of this Report.

The Pilot Project and the mechanized farming groups which have been established on a co-operative basis within the Pilot Project and elsewhere are providing experience in farming methods and organization new to the Basuto. The Pilot Project consists in extensive reclamation and demonstration, investigation of new systems under field conditions and general community development concentrated in a single catchment area in the Teyateyaneng District, with the object of providing an example to the rest of the Territory. The slow but steady improvement in the farming practice and living conditions of the more progressive families in the Project area, and the growing interest shown in the scheme by Basuto from other parts of the Territory, prove that the potential value of the Pilot Project is great. An outline of the work of the Project and the mechanized farming groups will be found in Chapter Two of Part I.

Research into soil and crop problems is carried out at the Maseru Experiment Station. For the third successive year experiments with Nitrates, Phosphates and Potash on maize, wheat and sorghums laid out on the ten experimental sub-stations showed a marked response to phosphate on most soil types in the lowlands and foothills. Phosphate deficiency therefore appears to be the most important single limiting factor to increased production in Basutoland.

One of the difficulties which has been encountered lies in persuading the people to apply a sufficiently heavy dressing of phosphate. It has

been determined experimentally that about 150 lb. per acre is probably the optimum dressing. Phosphate has been supplied by the trade in 125 lb. pockets and real danger to the policy of steadily increasing its use derives from the fact that farmers purchase one pocket and expect it to be sufficient for one field, averaging  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres in size. In an endeavour to overcome this, continued propaganda is being spread by the field staff. A small increase in maize yield per acre, achieved by the general use of phosphates, would make the Territory self sufficient in basic food production. An increase in maize production beyond the subsistence needs of the people would permit, over the course of years, a reduction in maize acreage, improved crop rotation, the production of more cash crops and crops of greater nutritional value and animal foodstuffs. Other experiments carried out included a study of the effects upon crop production of lime, kraal manure, weedkillers and nitrogen. Variety trials and testing and selection work on maize, sorghum, wheat, beans, castor, linseed, cowpeas, soybeans, sunflowers and groundnuts were continued and further data on performances accumulated. The superiority of the South African maize hybrids was well demonstrated in a trial of 25 varieties, as was that of the Spitzkop wheat varieties recently bred in the Union for production on the Highveld. The work of the Station and of its Soil Fertility Worker has been described briefly in Chapter II of Part I.

Interest in vegetable gardening amongst the Basuto is increasing. Vegetable seed is purchased in bulk and broken down into packets of a size to suit the needs of the individual gardener. A new departure this year was the replacement of the usual free issue by payment for seed. 45,000 packets of seed were made up and sold very readily indeed at a penny a packet, a slightly sub-economic figure.

The usual number of timber and fruit (mainly peach) trees were distributed and steps have been taken to interest pupils in primary schools in tree planting. The fencing of plantations in the early stages of growth has proved essential and since this involves relatively high capital expenditure, financial assistance is being sought from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund. An officer of the Department is to be sent to the Colonial Development Corporation plantations in Swaziland for a short course in nursery technique.

#### 4. LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

The biennial livestock census — 1955 gave the following figures :

Cattle. . . . .	408,144
Horses . . . . .	102,001
Mules. . . . .	4,829
Donkeys . . . . .	48,855
Sheep. . . . .	1,339,019
Goats. . . . .	654,800



The year 1955 was a bad one for the livestock of the Territory. It commenced with the whole country in the grip of a severe drought, which was broken towards the end of January by heavy rains, which continued through until the end of March. The resultant conditions were ideal for the breeding of insects and parasites and the country suffered accordingly. Due to the late rains and early frosts the maize harvest failed, and there was very little corn stover available for the stock during the winter. The livestock came through the winter fairly well because of good winter grazing brought on by the unusually heavy autumn rains, but in the spring was slow to regain condition due to late frosts and delayed spring rains, and at the close of the year the condition of animals was on the whole poor. Heavy stock losses from horsesickness and bluetongue and towards the end of the winter, considerable stock losses due to worm infestation and malnutrition occurred.

Auction sales were held only in Qacha's Nek where 1095 head of cattle and 1,744 sheep were sold at prices which compared very favourably with those in East Griqualand. A system of one channel marketing which was to have been introduced early in 1955 was not proceeded with owing to the unfavourable weather conditions and the resultant poor condition of stock. The success of such a system of marketing depends on the full co-operation of the livestock owners and traders alike and an early set-back would undoubtedly have prejudiced them against the scheme. The scheme will be introduced when conditions are favourable.

Owing to the failure of crops throughout Basutoland, and the consequent necessity for the Basuto to sell their livestock to enable them to purchase maize, cattle exports were higher than usual and again exceeded imports. Unlike the previous year when the Basutoland wool clip suffered from the drought, the quality of the 1955 clip was satisfactory.

The get-up of the clip improved considerably in the year, although there is still room for improvement, especially as regards uniformity in length and quality in each class.

The use of unscourable marking fluids by Basuto flockowners, which has given rise to complaints from buyers and manufacturers in the past, appears to be dying out. Two complaints of foreign matter found in Basutoland wools were received from overseas. However, this was at a time when the complaint was general in regard to much of the wool exported from Union ports.

Theft of wool by shearing animals continues. This is having a retarding effect on all wool and mohair improvement schemes, and is at the same time discouraging flock owners from improving their sheep and wool.

The training of Government and traders' wool classers has continued satisfactorily. There are now a sufficient number of trained classers to handle all the wool produced in the Territory. In order to maintain a uniform standard of classing throughout the Territory refresher courses for wool classers are to be held periodically.

A transport team comprising 41 mules and 14 horses used to convey materials for the construction of wool sheds did valuable work during the year. Materials for 14 sheds were transported and erected on remote

sites in the mountains. Operations were considerably delayed by heavy rains during the autumn. It is hoped to complete the programme of wool shed construction in the next four years.

The policy of wool improvement was continued during the year and a further 795 Merino rams were imported for sale to Basuto flock owners. Since the inception of the scheme in 1936, a total of 14,095 rams have been imported. The remarkable improvement in the quality of the wool produced in the Territory can be attributed mainly to these annual importations. The Basuto wool producer has developed into an important asset in the economy of the Territory and the improvement must continue. The use of undesirable rams by certain flock owners during the past two years has resulted in a deterioration in the quality of the wool clip. In March this fact was brought to the notice of the Paramount Chief who issued instructions to all principal chiefs to have such rams castrated.

The price levels established at the beginning of the new wool season in September were lower than in the previous season. Since the opening of the sales serious price fluctuations have been conspicuously absent and the general picture reflects a healthy demand, and is such as to encourage the belief that wool prices will remain stable from now on. During the year 7,700,701 lb. of wool were exported to the value of £969,005 at the coast, the overall average price of all types exported being 30·2*d.* per lb.

The mohair industry of the Territory is making slow progress. Complaints from overseas about the deterioration of the mohair clip were put before the Paramount Chief who issued an order that undesirable he-goats in the Territory should be castrated. The Agricultural Department, with the co-operation of the chiefs is making good progress towards the elimination of these he-goats. No appreciable improvement in the quality of mohair produced in the Territory can be expected until such time as all undesirable he-goats are castrated and the goat reduction scheme is in full operation.

The classing and packing legislation introduced in 1953 has met with universal approval from buyers and users from Bradford and the Continent, and the general get-up of the clip made steady progress. Requests from the Continent for further information in connection with grades, and the quality and quantity exported, have been received. Considerable time was devoted to training Government and Traders' classers in mohair and it is now considered that all traders are properly equipped to handle it.

During the year 273 angora he-goats were imported for resale to flock owners at a price below cost. The interest shown by goat breeders in the improvement of their flocks is unfortunately not the same as that shown by sheep breeders. Imported he-goats are being disposed of only with a certain amount of difficulty.

The year was a satisfactory one for the mohair industry. Prices were generally higher than in the previous year with the market remaining firm throughout.

The total quantity of mohair exported during the year was 1,103,000 lb.

valued at £322,627 at the coast, with an overall average price of 70·2*d.* per lb.

The tattooing and registration of large and small stock continues. In February and September of each year all livestock which have not been done before, or whose marks are no longer legible, are tattooed by tank area supervisors.

The Agnes Young Memorial Stud continues to make steady progress. Mares have been bought by the stud and others have been received as gifts. Unsuitable animals have been disposed of. At present the stud consists of Silver Eagle, 2 year old stallion Ramon as teaser, 20 mares, with a further 5 mares on loan. 15 foals were born during the 1954-55 breeding season and to date nine have been born in the present season. Unfortunately three of the best mares did not conceive. A further seven or eight foals are expected this year.

The first progeny are now fourteen months old. They are mostly well set up and compact with powerful hindquarters, short backs and good bone, and should prove satisfactory as the sires and dams of the new Basuto pony.

Cattle owners are being encouraged to improve their cattle by the importation of high grade bulls. Many stock owners favour the Brown Swiss breed and twenty-five Brown Swiss bulls are now standing at stud in the Territory. The increasing interest shown by stock owners in cattle improvement is encouraging. However, unless stock owners improve their husbandry very little lasting improvement is possible.

A minor cattle improvement scheme has been launched in the Tebeteng valley under the general supervision of the Agricultural Officer in charge of the Pilot Project. Four closed herds, each consisting of 40-50 cows are being run with Government owned Brown Swiss bulls. The cows constituting these herds belong to villagers controlled by four interested headmen, who have themselves undertaken to look after these herds and be responsible for the well-being of the bulls. Each villager who has a cow in the herd pays his share, either in cash or kind, towards the maintenance cost of the bull. By this system it is hoped, in the course of the next five years, to build up four grade Swiss herds which will be kept under conditions similar to local indigenous and other cattle. The comparison of milk yield, death rate, condition, etc. will provide useful information.

## II. CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

### I. GENERAL

The fostering of Co-operative development is accepted as a Government responsibility. There is a staff comprising a Registrar, an Assistant Registrar, an Audit Clerk and four Inspectors whose function it is to



*Petrified tracks of four-footed, five-toed dinosaur on sandstone-slab in river-bed near  
Leribe.*



*Inter-schools soccer match.*



*Degree Day at Pius XII University College, Roma. Left to right: His Honour the Resident Commissioner of Basutoland. Mr. E. P. Arrowsmith, C.M.G.; Miss Naidu, Lecturer in Psychology; Bishop Mabathoana, Bishop of Leribe; Chief Nkoebe Mitchell, P.C.'s repr.; Arch-Bishop Hurley, Arch. of Durban; Father Guilbeault, Rector.*

stimulate the formation of Co-operative Societies, and to advise those societies already established and audit their account books. During much of 1955 the staff on duty has been below establishment because of the Registrar's absence on overseas leave for six months and because of a delay of three months in finding a replacement for an inspector transferred to another department. Provision for a supervisor or senior inspector was made in the estimates but no appointment had been made at the end of the year.

Shortage of staff and difficulties in regard to transport have impeded development and only ten new Societies have been formed, six of these being mechanized farming groups fostered by the Agricultural Department. The progress of the latter is described in Chapter II of Part I of this Report. Wool and Mohair Marketing Societies are still the most successful form of Co-operative enterprise so far developed in Basutoland. Consumers and Agricultural Societies have remained much as they were in 1954. Two salary earners' thrift societies have been registered. More generally, progress has been made towards the development of a Central Co-operative Organization with the election of a Central Committee, and a Co-operative Wholesale Agency was in the process of formation at the end of the year.

It was pointed out in last year's Report that the rate of progress was limited by lack of capital and of managerial skill. Proposals to overcome these limitations have been discussed and, in October, 1955, the Adviser on Co-operation to the Secretary of State for the Colonies visited the territory and made a number of recommendations. These recommendations are now being studied.

## 2. WOOL AND MOHAIR MARKETING

The average gross price of wool at the coast during the 1954-55 season was 25 per cent lower than in 1953-54, and has declined still further in the current season (1955-56). This decline is reflected in the reduced turnover figures for all marketing societies. It has been accompanied by a steady increase in transport and handling costs. The following table shows the movements of prices of all classes over the past five years (Net average after deducting marketing commission) :

	<i>C1</i>	<i>C2</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>CBP</i>	<i>BP</i>	<i>BKS</i>	<i>XM</i>	<i>LOX</i>	<i>C&amp;C</i>
	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1950-51 . . . . .	93	83	80	77	68	64	61	67	45	66
1951-52 . . . . .	33	31	29	25	23	20	17	20	13	18
1952-53 . . . . .	45	43	41	40	34	34	33	33	15	26
1953-54 . . . . .	40	38	37	33	31	31	24	29	12	22
1954-55 . . . . .	32	30	25	23	20	18	17	20	7	16
Typical Decrease 1955. . . . .	28	27	24	23	20	18	14	19	8	17

Co-operative wool exports rose from 374,000 lb. in the 1953-54 season to 416,000 lb. in 1954-55. This is the highest figure since 1951-52, when co-operative exports soared because the societies were given credit for the high prices in the previous season. The figure for 1954-55 is not unsatisfactory when it is remembered that the societies rely entirely on capital raised by their own members, and are therefore hampered by the shortage, or complete absence, of storage and office accommodation, especially in the early stages. The progress of newly formed societies is very slow because the salary a new society can afford to pay a secretary does not attract competent men, and a better salary is prevented by failure to expand. The older societies, which were started in the most suitable places and which benefited from the wool boom, are well established and expanding. The four largest handle about 60 per cent of the wool handled by co-operatives. On the one hand this is disquieting because it shows up the slowness of the others to develop; but it is re-assuring that the majority of the business is handled by well established societies which are unlikely to fail.

The quantity of mohair exported by Co-operatives during the financial year ending September 30th, 1955 was 26,000 lb. compared with 23,000 lb. in the previous year. The quantity of hides and skins exported remained much the same, but this trade depends largely upon the number of animals which die naturally, and is of no great significance in assessing progress made by co-operative societies.

Because of the failure of the maize crop in many parts of Basutoland, it became necessary to import from the Union of South Africa. The Wool and Mohair Marketing Societies undertook to import maize and other grain for their members, often distributing it in the form of advances on wool delivered. The societies continued to supply agricultural requisites.

### 3. CONSUMERS' SOCIETIES

There is little progress to record in the fortunes of these societies, except that the one in Maseru expanded its turnover during the financial year ended September 30th, 1955, and even more rapidly during the last three months of the year. This society is well established and should prosper. It is impossible to forecast the future fortunes of the remainder.

### 4. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

There are nine of these societies registered, but, apart from modest activities as consumers' societies or in exporting wool and mohair, there is little external evidence of their existence. Without financial assistance from outside there is little prospect of the development of crop marketing.

## 5. SALARY EARNERS' THRIFT SOCIETIES

Two of these were registered during 1955. Both have Civil Servants for members and have as their object the encouragement of savings. They are handicapped because contributions are not deducted automatically from members' salaries, but so far they are working successfully. The idea is popular, and it is likely that other societies will follow among Civil Servants and teachers.

## 6. STATISTICS

<i>Type of Society</i>	<i>Number of Registered Societies</i>				<i>Total Membership</i>			
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1952	1953	1954	1955
Wool and Mohair Marketing . . . . .	10	11	13	14	2289	2205	2473	2438
Consumers . . . . .	14	12	11	10	1137	1373	1568	1436
Agricultural . . . . .	5	7	7	9	468	812	845	848
Mechanized Farming . . . . .	—	—	6	12			261	441
Salary Earners' Thrift . . . . .				2				24
Total . . . . .	29	30	37	47	3894	4390	5147	5187
<i>Type of Society</i>	<i>Total Share Capital</i>				<i>Total Turnover</i>			
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1952	1953	1954	1955
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Wool and Mohair Marketing . . . . .	1915	1869	2288	2270	94731	79982	71587	58991
Consumers . . . . .	627	977	1148	985	3750	6747	8072	8078
Agricultural . . . . .	372	545	694	769	2849	3719	3482	4288
Total . . . . .	2914	3391	4130	4024	101330	90448	83141	71357

## CHAPTER VII

## SOCIAL SERVICES

## I. EDUCATION

African education is largely in the hands of the three main missions (Paris Evangelical, Roman Catholic and English Church) under the direction of the Education Department. Grants-in-aid are paid by Government to the three Missions to cover the salaries of all teachers on



the approved grant-in-aid list. In schools previously called "partially-aided schools" the salary of one teacher has been paid. The designation has been dropped, and Educational Secretaries will place their approved number of aided teachers to the best advantage of their aided system, and with the formal approval of the Director. In many aided schools in the Roman Catholic system unaided teachers, particularly Sisters, give assistance. In addition small grants are paid from territorial funds to improve equipment in primary schools. The total expenditure on grants-in-aid for the calendar year will slightly exceed £191,000. The exact figure is not yet known as a revision of teachers' salaries was approved in December, but the new salaries were effective from April 1st, 1955. Arrears for the period April to December are still being paid out. This expenditure represents an increase of over £34,000 over the 1954 figure. Nearly £26,000 of this increase is attributable to the salaries revision.

Small grants amounting to £1,891 were made under Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme D. 758 referred to in Chapter II, of Part I of this report, to some 53 schools for extensions and improvements on a £ for £ basis. A grant of £1,332 was given for the completion of the last junior secondary school built under the scheme, also on a £ for £ basis. Four junior secondary schools built under this scheme will be functioning in 1956 at Leribe in the North, St. James in the mountain district of Mokhotlong, Masitise in the South, and St. Agnes in the central lowland area. The scheme D. 758 also continued to pay part (£1,250) of the salaries of the three mission Educational Secretaries, and a sum of £1,245 towards equipment grants for aided schools.

Of the 963 schools and institutions in the Territory, 952 are under mission control; of the 952 mission schools 824 are wholly or partially aided. One, the Lerotholi Technical School, is wholly maintained and managed by the Department; six schools, the Basutoland High School, Hlotse Junior Secondary-cum-Higher Primary School, and four Higher Primary Schools at Maseru, Matsieng, Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek are controlled by Management Committees, and maintained by the Department. First year secondary classes (Form A) exist at Maseru, Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek Higher Primary Schools. During the year ten new private schools were established. The school enrolment showed a smaller increase in 1955 than in 1954. Of the total enrolment of 104,509, 95,261 were attending aided primary schools, 719 maintained primary schools, and 6,553 unaided primary schools. The average class in the aided primary schools is 52 pupils.

The secondary school enrolment increased from 999 in 1954, to 1,175 in 1955 due to the opening of new schools and classes. Full secondary facilities (up to Matriculation) are available at Roma College, St. Mary's Institution, and the Basutoland High School. Five other schools offer junior secondary facilities (up to Junior Certificate), in a three-year course. A few selected Higher Primary Schools have the first-year junior secondary class which serves as a selection class for the Primary Teacher Training Centres as well as the Junior Secondary Schools. These special

classes will disappear in the next two or three years with the creation of new junior secondary schools under Colonial Development and Welfare proposals.

The number of teachers in training increased by 30 to 319. The numbers in technical training also increased, there being 132 in the two main technical training schools (Lerotholi and Leloaleng), and 239 girls attending housecraft, or spinning and weaving schools.

The only institution providing post-secondary education in the Territory is the Pius XII Catholic College at Roma, which is unaided. In 1955 there were 39 African students, and three Europeans. Of the 39 Africans 32 were males and seven females. Fourteen of the students were Basuto. The rest came from the Union of South Africa (11), Bechuanaland (2), Swaziland (1), Rhodesia (4), Nyasaland (4), Uganda (2) and Kenya (1). Basutoland made its usual annual grant to the University College of Fort Hare where seven Basuto (6 men, 1 woman) were studying in 1955.

Scholarship assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds continues to be given to two students taking veterinary courses at Edinburgh, and to two taking medical courses in Dublin and London respectively. One student, a Government Medical Officer, is studying for his Diploma in Psychological Medicine in England under a British Council Scholarship, and one entered upon a full medical course at Edinburgh under a scholarship awarded by the Basuto Administration Higher Education Fund. Three students are in receipt of Government bursaries for medical training at the Durban Medical School, three for degree courses and two for University Education Diploma courses at Pius XII Catholic College, and six for degree courses at Fort Hare University College. Two Basuto were studying law at universities in the Union of South Africa with the assistance of Government bursaries, and one has since been called to the Bar in Natal, 112 students are in receipt of Government bursaries for pre-matriculation courses in Basutoland. Four are in receipt of scholarships awarded by Messrs. Frasers Limited and two received Victoria League Bursaries tenable at Basutoland Institutions for pre-matriculation courses.

The Union Government has announced a quota of Non-Union Africans to be admitted to the University College of Fort Hare, and the Durban Medical School in the years 1956 to 1958. Basutoland will probably be allocated two places at Fort Hare, and one at Durban in 1956.

For the administration of education the headquarters staff consists of a Director, a Senior Education Officer, a Woman Education Officer (to be a Mosuto) and a Mosuto Supervisor of Agricultural Education in primary schools. The Territory is divided into three circuits each under an Education Officer. To help circuit Education Officers in their work there is a field staff of three African Assistant Education Officers and five Supervisors; their work consists of regular routine visits to schools, discussions on all educational matters with teachers, school committees and managers, and liaison work between the schools and the chiefs and their people. Circuit Education Officers spend as much time as possible

in the field correlating the work of their circuit staff, visiting managers, and doing as much inspection work as their administrative duties will allow. Nine refresher courses for in-service teachers have been run by departmental staff during the year.

Consultation with the people is carried out both at District and national levels. The District Advisory Committees with the District Commissioner as Chairman, representatives of the three main missions, the Teachers' Association, the chiefs and the people as members, and Education Officers as secretaries, meet annually to advise the Director on the local application of educational matters. These Committees in turn elect representatives to the Central Advisory Board under the chairmanship of the Director of Education, with additional members nominated by the Missions, the Paramount Chief, and the Teachers' Association. This Board is responsible for advising the Resident Commissioner on all matters affecting education.

During 1955 the Central Advisory Board made recommendations on teachers' salaries and terms of service, development of primary and secondary education, Colonial Development and Welfare expenditure, promotion, transfers and discipline of pupils, and on school fees.

Co-operation and co-ordination between Missions and the Department is carried out through Educational Secretaries whose salaries are paid by Government with assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. In turn, Educational Secretaries, deal with their Parish Managers. These are normally the missionaries in charge of parishes.

The third two-year course under the revised Home Industries Organization ended in December and eight candidates obtained their certificates. The Supervisor of Craft Schools has proved a most useful part-time addition to the supervisory staff, and of great assistance to the newer teachers of Spinning and Weaving. He has spent two weeks per session at each of the three Craft Schools. About 10 certificated girls have now set up Home Units in their villages, and the Supervisor visits them annually.

The two technical schools in the Territory, one run by Government, and one by the Paris Evangelical Missionary Society have reported good progress. A man with many years' experience at Johannesburg Technical School has been appointed Principal of the Government controlled, Lerotholi Technical School. There were 82 students on the roll in 1955. The Commercial Course at the school will be a one-year post-Junior Certificate Course as in the past. Students continue to come from the Union, and the other High Commission Territories as well as from Basutoland. The Leloaleng Technical School has had a roll of 50 students mostly in the Motor Mechanics and Carpentry Departments. Students completing their courses continue to find good positions in Basutoland and the Union.

The cinema van broke down in the latter part of the year, and is being replaced immediately by a modern, lighter outfit. A good supply of films of an educational nature, and news reels, has been available.

## CALENDAR YEAR 1955

*Finance*

<i>Source</i>	<i>Recurrent</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>From Colonial Revenue:</i>	£	£	£
Grants-in-Aid	191,050		191,050
Education Administration . .	18,030	—	18,030
Other Charges . . . . .	24,079	—	24,079
Total Colonial Revenue . . .	233,159	—	233,159
<i>From Voluntary Agencies</i> . .	28,050*	44,500*	72,550
<i>From Imperial Funds</i> . . . .	2,969	4,468	7,437
<i>Total</i> . . . . .	254,178	48,968	313,146

\*Estimates only.

*Schools and Roll*

<i>Type</i>	<i>Schools</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary . . . . .	936	36,767	65,838	102,605
Secondary . . . . .	12	739	436	1,175
Technical . . . . .	8	131	240	371
Teacher Training . . . . .	6	134	185	319
Post Secondary . . . . .	1	32	7	39
Totals . . . . .	963	37,803	66,706	104,509

*Examination Results*

<i>Examination</i>	<i>Candidates entered</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>1st Class pass or Matriculation Exemption</i>
Departmental Standard VI . . . .	1,951	1,102	7
Departmental Primary Teachers	141	78	1
Departmental Higher Primary Teachers . . . . .	31	22	2
University of South Africa Junior Certificate . . . . .	203	108	1
University of South Africa Senior Certificate . . . . .	43	8	4

## II. PUBLIC HEALTH

The policy of the Medical Department is primarily to secure the benefits of modern medicine to the largest possible number of the population. This is being done by providing, directly or indirectly, a balanced curative and preventive medical and health service through the existing hospitals, dispensaries, rural treatment centres and other health services. The Medical Department also co-operates with other departments of Government in promoting the social welfare of the Basuto. It aims at educating the public in all matters connected with health and sanitation. Nurses, health assistants, dispenser-anaesthetists and leprosy inspectors, who also act as health and welfare inspectors, are trained by the department.

Most of the diseases for which treatment is sought in the Territory are essentially preventable. For this reason, the curative and preventive functions of the majority of the staff cannot be effectively separated and they are concerned equally with the prevention and cure of disease.

Basutoland is not a tropical country, and the diseases commonly known as "tropical" do not present serious problems in the Territory. The principal diseases are venereal diseases, chronic rheumatism, malnutrition, infections of the respiratory tract and dyspepsia. The heaviest toll of lives in children is due to tuberculosis, malnutrition, diphtheria, whooping cough and gastro-enteritis. The incidence of nutritional and deficiency diseases is comparatively high and is allied to maize being the staple food. Typhus, plague and smallpox occur only rarely and then in sporadic form, while diphtheria, typhoid fever, measles and whooping cough are endemic.

At each district headquarters there is a Government hospital with one or more medical officers and trained nursing staff. Each hospital, which is equipped for general medical and surgical work, has an out-patients department, ante-natal and infant welfare clinic and venereal diseases clinic. In certain districts there are additional clinics established some distance away from the hospital and these are visited by the medical officer at regular intervals. The maternity wards opened the previous year at the Teyateyaneng and Butha Buthe hospitals are filling a long-felt need. As funds become available more medical centres are being established in the mountain area, which has become more thickly populated during recent years, and existing hospitals expanded. A leprosarium in the charge of a Medical Superintendent is established at Botšabelo in the Maseru district. There is a mental detention centre at Mohales' Hoek in the charge of the medical officer.

Greater efforts are being made towards preventive medicine. Reports of outbreaks of serious epidemic diseases are promptly investigated by the health and welfare inspectors and health assistants. Appropriate prophylactic measures are taken without delay and the cause of the outbreak dealt with; huts are disinfected, disinfestation is carried out, rodents destroyed, water supplies protected, sewage disposal improved and prophylactic inoculations given as necessary.

Sanitation arrangements are mainly of the bucket type and restricted in general to urban areas, but indoor sewerage has been installed in a number of existing buildings and is being installed in all new Senior Service staff quarters in Maseru, with septic and effluent storage tanks cleared by a mechanical extractor. African villages are usually small and scattered and their sanitation does not in general present a problem. The mountainous nature of the Territory and the shallow depth of soil and its clayey nature make the sinking of pit latrines impracticable in most rural areas. In some large villages public latrines have been installed.

There is a piped water supply in each urban area. Each year several springs in rural areas are protected by enclosing the "eyes" of the springs with concrete and piping the water to reservoirs, but on account of transport difficulties in remote areas, progress is slow.

Owing to shortage of staff and equipment, little research can be carried out by the department. There is no medical laboratory in the Territory, but the department has a commuted payment agreement with the South African Institute for Medical Research for the performance of pathological investigations.

When the post of Medical Officer of Health is filled, it is hoped to undertake the training in Maseru of selected African medical auxiliaries in simple laboratory procedures.

At several centres there are Red Cross Committees organized for the purpose of giving lectures to the public in elementary first-aid and home nursing. Five maternity and child welfare clinics have also been established by the Red Cross.

Hygiene lessons are given in all Government and Mission schools and lectures are given by members of the staff of the medical department to various organizations such as the Women's Homemakers' Society and to Teachers' Refresher Courses.

Propaganda and health posters and pamphlets were gratefully received from the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis and World Health Organization.

Dr. K. Marti of World Health Organization and Dr. R. Marti and Mr. S. Sutton of the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund visited the Territory during May, 1955, in connection with an application which had been made to World Health Organization for a tuberculosis survey and control. All were impressed with the good work of the medical services and with the favourable progress made by the UNICEF-aided diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation campaign under most difficult conditions.

As a result of an application to World Health Organization for assistance towards a nutrition survey and control a nutrition team is expected to arrive in the territory in the early part of 1956. World Health Organization also proposes to send a Tuberculosis Assessment Team to Basutoland towards the end of 1956.

The Government professional and technical medical staff consists of :

*Senior Service*

- 1 Director of Medical Services ;
- 1 Medical Superintendent (Botšabelo Leper Settlement) ;
- 1 Medical Officer of Health ;
- 17 Medical Officers ;
- 1 Assistant Medical Officer ;
- 1 Senior Matron ;
- 1 Matron (Botšabelo Leper Settlement) ;
- 3 Nursing Sisters in charge ;
- 10 Nursing Sisters ;
- 1 Male Mental Nurse ;
- 1 Health Inspector.

*Junior Service*

- 1 Assistant Health Inspector ;
- 1 Sanitation Assistant ;
- 6 Health Assistants ;
- 31 Dispensers ;
- 4 Pupil Dispensers ;
- 5 Trained African Nurses in charge
- 32 Trained African nurses ;
- 21 Student Nurses (including Pupil Midwives) ;
- 77 Ward Attendants Hospital (Orderlies) ;
- 11 Ward Attendants (Mental Detention Centre) ;
- 9 Health and Welfare Inspectors (who also act as Leprosy Inspectors) ;
- 1 Laboratory Assistant.

There are three African doctors in private practice in Maseru, Mafeteng and Quthing. All were trained with the assistance of Colonial Development and Welfare Funds. There is one European doctor in private practice in ButhaButhe.

The Missions employ five European doctors and a number of European nursing sisters and trained African nurses.

There is a European dentist in Maseru who receives a Government grant for treating hospital cases when required. There are no other dentists in the Territory.

There is a pharmacist in private practice in Maseru.

The African population from the Census of 1946 was 561,289 and it is estimated that there was one doctor per 20,153 Africans and one bed, in general hospitals, per 1,019 Africans during the year under review.

Doctor S. P. Makotoko, who completed his internship in the Union of South Africa, was appointed medical officer on the 1st March, 1955, and after being stationed initially at Teyateyaneng was transferred to Butha Buthe hospital.

In addition to Mr. L. M. Mohapelo and Mr. J. L. Molapo who were granted Government bursaries in 1954 to study medicine at the Natal Medical School, Mr. C. T. Maiten, B.Sc., was granted a similar bursary at the beginning of the year to study medicine at the same school.

Mr. K. T. Maphathe who is studying medicine in Dublin with the assistance of a scholarship from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds is expected to complete the course in 1958 and Mr. J. M. Motsiela who is studying medicine in London with a Colonial Development and Welfare scholarship is expected to complete the course towards the end of 1958.

Mr. R. T. Hoohlo who was granted a bursary by the Basuto Administration Higher Education Fund sailed for the United Kingdom in September, 1955, to study medicine at Edinburgh University.

Miss Claudia Mohafa, the first student nurse at Maseru hospital to sit the final examination for medical and surgical nurses conducted by the High Commission Territories Nursing Council was successful in the examination held during November, 1955.

Medical and health facilities are financed from territorial revenue. For the financial year ended the 31st March, 1955, the actual ordinary expenditure of the medical department was £141,730. Included in this amount is the sum of £2,263 which was spent on grants to Mission hospitals. The proportion of medical expenditure to total ordinary expenditure of the Territory was 10.98 per cent. During the same period, actual revenue of the medical department amounted to £12,452.

The existing facilities for hospitals, health centres etc., are as follows :

	<i>Government</i>	<i>Mission</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Hospitals . . . . .	9	4	0	13
Beds available . . . . .	398	169	0	567
Maternity and child welfare centres . . . . .	11	4	5	20
Venereal diseases clinics . . . . .	11	4	0	15
Health Centres . . . . .	2	0	0	2
Mountain Dispensaries . . . . .	1	1	0	2
Out-patient clinics . . . . .	17	15	0	32
Leprosaria . . . . .	1	0	0	1
Mental Detention Centre . . . . .	1	0	0	1
X-ray plant . . . . .	5	2	0	7

#### I. HOSPITALS

The four Mission hospitals are situated at Roma, Morija, Paray (Ntaote's) and Mapoteng. As a result of awards totalling £43,000 from the Governor-General's National War Fund the Mission hospitals have been able to undertake certain improvements and enlargements to their buildings. All four hospitals are subsidized by Government and have 45, 32, 31 and 61 beds respectively. Each hospital has an out-patient department and venereal diseases clinic and is staffed by a doctor and trained European and African nursing staff. Ante-natal clinics are conducted at each hospital. There are also clinics some distance away which are visited by the doctor at regular intervals.

Of the nine Government hospitals, four are staffed by European nursing sisters with a subordinate African staff, while five are staffed by trained African nurses with a subordinate African staff.

All hospitals are equipped for general medical and surgical work.



Both the Maseru Hospital and the Maluti Hospital at Mapoteng are recognized by the South African Medical and Dental Council for the training of interns, the latter hospital since July, 1955.

The Maseru Hospital is recognized by the High Commission Territories Nursing Council for the training of nurses and midwives, of which there were 21 in training during the year. This hospital also provides for the training of health assistants and dispenser-anaesthetists. The erection of the new Maseru Hospital (see under C. D. and W. Scheme D. 842) is important in view of the necessity of obtaining trained personnel for the Territory.

The Morija Hospital is recognized by the Basutoland Executive Nursing Committee as a training centre for medical and surgical nurses of whom there were nine in training during the year. In order to enable the standard of training of nurses at Morija Hospital to conform to the stricter requirements recently laid down by the Basutoland Executive Nursing Committee, Government has made available to that hospital for the purchase of teaching equipment the sum of £175 from funds granted to Government by the Board of Control of the Witwatersrand and Orange Free State Chamber of Mines Deferred Pay Interest Fund.

A grant has been made available from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds to enable suitable hospital accommodation to be provided for tuberculosis maternity and infectious diseases cases and for sick children in Government hospitals.

## 2. HEALTH CENTRES, MOUNTAIN DISPENSARIES AND RURAL TREATMENT CENTRES

Health centres and mountain dispensaries are built with the assistance of Colonial Development and Welfare Funds and maintained by Government for the purpose of providing limited out-patient medical facilities, and where a trained African nurse is a member of the staff, maternity services to people living in remote areas. Health centres are to be staffed where possible by an African health assistant and African nurse and midwife, and mountain dispensaries by an African nurse and midwife. The Rural Treatment Centres are being built from funds made available by Deferred Pay Interest Fund (non-Government) and will be in the charge of an African nurse and midwife whose salary will be paid by Government when funds from the scheme become exhausted.

The health centre at Phamong is functioning well with an African health assistant in charge.

The health centre at Semonkong is meeting a long felt need and the buildings comprising the centre are expected to be completed by the end of March, 1956.

The erection of a health centre at Mashai is expected to be completed during March, 1956, and the construction of a health centre at Marakabei is expected to start early in 1956.

The mountain dispensary at Nohana's, with a trained African nurse in charge, is working well. The dispensaries at Mphaki's and Patlong are nearing completion (see Chapter II of Part I).

The Rural Treatment Centre at Linakeng is still unfinished due to labour and transport difficulties.

### 3. LEPER SETTLEMENT

The leper settlement, with a medical officer in charge, assisted by a European matron and two trained African nurses, provides hospital facilities with 54 beds. Patients are received from Basutoland and from the Bechuanaland Protectorate. The general health of the patients during the year has been good. There have been a number of acute lepra reactions which are often relieved by injections of antimony tartrate. Deaths have been mostly due to old age. There are still many cases with trophic ulcers usually on the feet, and most "recurrences" admitted have been cases of broken down ulcers. Three true recurrent cases were re-admitted; all had previously been discharged before sulphone treatment came into use. Avlosulphone continues to be used with good results; the usual dose is 300 mgm. twice weekly. There were 50 admissions during the year and, in addition, 20 cases were re-admitted, mostly for broken-down ulcers. 222 patients were admitted to hospital during the year mostly for ulcerated hands and feet. 38 X-ray examinations and 52 surgical operations were performed. Discharges totalled 150 and there were, in addition, 30 deaths and 22 desertions. There were 386 patients remaining at the end of the year, a decrease of 132 patients as compared with the previous year. Of the patients remaining at the end of the year, many were old arrested cases, crippled and without a home. They are allowed to remain at the settlement indefinitely.

### 4. MENTAL DETENTION CENTRE

There is no mental hospital in Basutoland. In the past, Basuto lunatics were treated in mental hospitals in the Union of South Africa and 33 cases are still in Institutions there. At present, however, accommodation can rarely be obtained. As a matter of urgency a temporary mental detention centre was established at Mohale's Hoek for dangerous lunatics. This arrangement, although it leaves much to be desired, supplies an urgent need until a mental hospital in the charge of a medical officer, trained in modern psychiatric treatment, can be provided. The detention centre at Mohale's Hoek has two advantages as compared with the admission of lunatics to Union mental hospitals; firstly, it permits patients to be visited more readily by relatives and, secondly, it facilitates discharge to their homes of patients whose condition is restored to health or much improved. There were 37 new admissions during the year. 23 patients were discharged and, in addition, there were 17 deaths. A

total of 124 patients was accommodated during the year ; at the end of the year, 84 patients were being cared for.

An application for assistance under Colonial Development and Welfare Funds to establish a modern mental hospital which would care for patients from the three High Commission Territories is expected to be successful.

## 5. EPIDEMIC AND GENERAL DISEASES

### *Plague*

No further cases of plague were reported during the year in the Tšakhohlo area of Mafeteng district, but two further deaths occurred amongst those who had contracted the disease towards the end of the previous year. The anti-plague measures which were promptly undertaken when the outbreak occurred were continued in the year under review when 8,005 injections of prophylactic vaccine were administered and 354 houses were disinfected.

### *Typhus Fever*

Three isolated cases of typhus fever were reported during the year at Nko's Simione in the Maseru district. Prompt preventive anti-typhus measures were taken in these areas ; prophylactic inoculations were given and delousing was carried out with D.D.T. powder.

The preventive measures undertaken in December, 1954, at Malumeng in the Thabana Morena area of Mafeteng district were continued during January, 1955.

In the course of dealing with these outbreaks 2,293 prophylactic inoculations were given and 136 houses disinfected.

### *Smallpox*

No case of smallpox was reported during the year. A mass vaccination campaign among infants, children and adolescents up to the age of 18 years was started in October, 1955. The campaign began in Roma and from there it moved to the Maseru foothills, and into the isolated district headquarters of Mokhotlong and Qacha's Nek. A total of 14,452 vaccinations were performed by the end of the year.

### *Diphtheria*

The number of cases of diphtheria notified during the year showed a marked decrease as compared with 1954. There was also a marked decrease in the number of deaths as compared with the previous year. The highest incidence was in the Maseru district, with 32 cases. It is noteworthy to record that no case of diphtheria was notified in the Teyateyaneng district. For the Territory as a whole there was a total of 112 cases reported with 14 deaths as compared with 190 cases with 48 deaths in 1954. During the course of dealing with these cases 17,830 prophy-

lactic inoculations were given. From the commencement of the UNICEF-aided mass diphtheria and whooping cough campaign until the end of the year 18,182 first-dose and 12,665 second-dose prophylactic diphtheria vaccine inoculations were given to children between the ages of six and twelve years, and 14,279 first-dose and 9,502 second-dose inoculations were given to children and adolescents between the ages of 13 and 18 years.

#### *Whooping Cough*

There were 1,842 cases of whooping cough notified during the year. Pneumonia is a frequent complication in whooping cough, particularly during the winter months, and it account for a certain number of deaths in children. From the commencement of the UNICEF-aided mass diphtheria and whooping cough campaign on the 1st June, 1955, until the end of the year, 16,200 first-dose, 11,078 second-dose and 6,094 third-dose injections of combined diphtheria and whooping cough vaccine were administered to infants and children below the age of six years. The high defaulter rate is due in part to ignorance and suspicion, but there are signs that the population is becoming aware of the dangers of this disease. 75 inoculations of combined diphtheria and whooping cough vaccine and 51 inoculations of prophylactic whooping cough vaccine were given on request.

#### *Typhoid Fever*

Typhoid fever is endemic throughout the year and 184 cases with 14 deaths were reported. The highest incidence was again in the Maseru district with 93 cases and 8 deaths. Outbreaks of the disease were usually traced to contaminated village water supplies. These were then protected by enclosing the springs and piping the water to reservoirs. At the same time villagers were instructed in prophylactic hygiene measures and in the construction, where possible, of simple pit latrines. The problem of providing an economical and effective disposal method for human waste in rural areas has not yet been solved. As a prophylactic measures, all officials in the Service and their families, all prisoners and inmates of the mental detention centre are given prophylactic anti-typhoid inoculations with annual "booster" doses where appropriate. Prophylactic inoculations were also given to residents in the areas where outbreaks occurred, and a total of 10,580 such inoculations were given during the year.

#### *Measles*

Measles is prevalent and 1,279 cases were notified during the year.

#### *Tuberculosis*

There were 940 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis with 60 deaths as compared with 830 cases with 52 deaths in 1954. In addition 491 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were reported as compared with

510 cases in 1954. Chemotherapy and antibiotic treatment is being increasingly used throughout the Territory.

Trained African nurse Mrs. J. S. Mefane who was awarded a Tuberculosis Scholarship, tenable for six months in the United Kingdom, by the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, returned to the Territory on completing the course and has been placed in charge of tuberculosis cases admitted to Maseru Hospital.

#### *Venereal Diseases*

There were 4,462 cases of all forms of syphilis reported during the year and 4,348 cases of gonorrhoea. Treatment of both conditions is by procaine penicillin administered intramuscularly.

#### *Deficiency Diseases*

The incidence of deficiency diseases during 1955 was higher than in the previous year due mainly to the poor crops harvested.

During the year there were 3,239 cases of pellagra with eight deaths as compared with 1,796 cases with four deaths in 1954. There were 272 cases of ariboflavinosis with no mortality as compared with 198 cases with no deaths in 1954. 304 cases of kwashiorkor with 22 deaths were notified as compared with 253 cases with 34 deaths during the previous year.

There were 637 cases of avitaminosis with four deaths as compared with 692 cases with eight deaths in 1954, and 936 cases of malnutrition with 24 deaths as compared with 746 cases with 28 deaths in 1954.

The incidence of pellagra and kwashiorkor is closely allied to maize being the staple item of the diet. Steps have been taken to correct this by encouraging the Basuto to substitute kaffir-corn (sorghum) and wheat as the staple food with liberal additions of vegetables and to consume more protein which is available in the form of peas and beans. The available supply of animal protein cannot be immediately increased. The fortification of maize-meal, as an interim measure, with niacin and riboflavin as suggested by Professor Darby and Dr. Bronte-Stewart who visited Basutoland during November, 1954, as World Health Organization Nutrition Consultants, is at present under consideration.

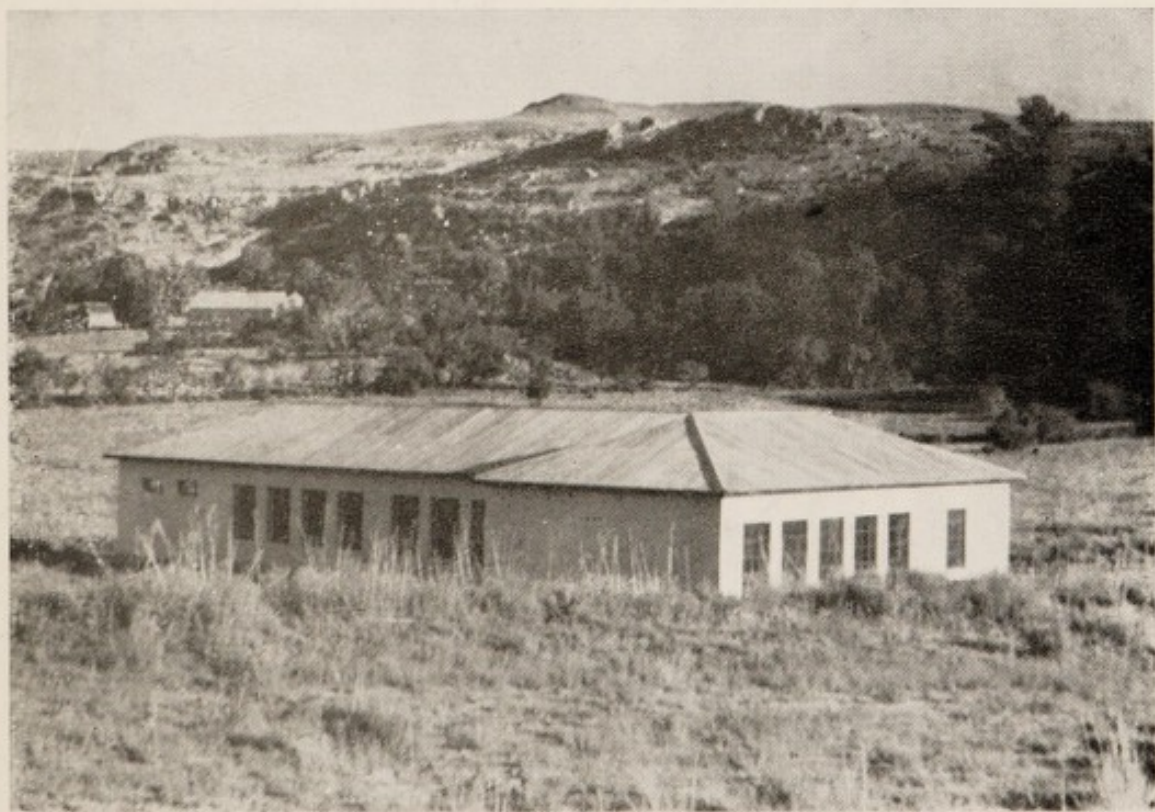
Dr. B. D. Whitworth who was Basutoland Liaison Officer with the Applied Nutrition Unit at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine transferred to Swaziland at the end of May, 1955, and Dr. A. C. Jaques, Medical Superintendent, Botšabelo Leper Settlement, has taken over these duties.

## 6. SANITATION

The protection of village springs has progressed despite difficulties in the transport of supplies and equipment. Twelve springs altogether were protected. The protection of two of these springs, one at Semonkong



*Weaving class at Mazenod Institute.*



*Masitise secondary school, Quthing District.*



*In motor mechanics department, Lerotholi Technical School.*



*Motor mechanics class, Lerotholi Technical School.*

## Government Hospitals - 1955

District	In-patients admitted to Hospital	Operations		Out-patients treated in Dispensary						Total Out-Patients
		Major	Minor	First Attendances	Subsequent Attendances	Injections for Syphilis	Ante-natal Clinics			
							First Attendances	Subsequent Attendances		
Maseru . . . . .	4,084	215	566	23,675	39,410	4,295	1,413	1,919	70,712	
Leribe. . . . .	1,494	154	684	15,401	5,369	2,897	828	1,055	25,541	
Mafeteng . . . . .	1,416	93	588	15,384	22,292	3,236	421	521	41,854	
Mohale's Hoek . . . . .	496	36	187	9,358	253	2,745	192	175	12,723	
Qacha's Nek . . . . .	483	52	116	6,025	1,389	664	83	95	8,256	
Quthing . . . . .	590	27	254	12,511*	3,441*	3,715*	240*	124*	20,031*	
Teyateyaneng. . . . .	882	39	295	20,349	3,023	1,587	683	890	26,532	
Mokhotlong . . . . .	435	16	74	6,351	6,854	163	170	363	13,901	
Butha Buthe . . . . .	633	65	233	10,846	592	685	283	352	12,758	
Semonkong . . . . .		4**	83	2,142	613	473	264	143	3,635	
Totals. . . . .	10,513	701	3,080	122,042	83,236	20,460	4,577	5,637	235,943	

\* Domiciliary midwifery cases.

\*\* Includes attendances at Phamong Health Centre and Mohane's Mountain Dispensary.



## Mission Hospitals - 1955

Hospital	In-patients admitted to Hospital	Operations		Out-patients treated in Dispensary						Total Out- Patients
		Major	Minor	First Attend- ances	Subsequent Attend- ances	Injections for Syphilis	Ante-natal Clinics First Attend- ances	Subsequent Attend- ances		
St. Josephs' Hospi- tal, Roma . . .	923	52	271	5,511	3,595	1,429	490	507	11,532	
Paray Hospital, Ntaote's . . .				Not Available						
Maluti Hospital, Mapoteng . . .	1,648	317	476	5,111	3,072	200	438	418	9,239	
Scott Hospital, Moriya . . .	735	63	358	20,596	6,079	3,088	620	1,693	32,076	
Totals. . .	3,306	432	1,105	31,218	12,746	4,717	1,548	2,618	52,847	

in the Maseru district and one at Masitise in the Quthing district, was a major engineering feat and each spring took several months to complete.

During the year the mechanical extractor cleared 778,400 gallons of septic tank effluent and waste water. The construction of public latrines at Leribe, Teyateyaneng, Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek, was started during the year and is expected to be completed by the end of March, 1956.

Numerous specimens of drinking water and milk were submitted for bacteriological examination. Drinking water was satisfactory, but the recommendation that consumers should boil all milk before use was not withdrawn.

During the year 38 rooms were fumigated and two motor vehicles and an aeroplane were disinfected.

Sixteen plans for new buildings or alterations to existing buildings were submitted to the medical department for advice on sanitation, disposal of waste water, lighting, ventilation, ablution facilities, etc.

During the year 1,912 carcasses were inspected at the Maseru abattoir; two whole carcasses and 216 organs were condemned, mainly for parasitic infection.

A new abattoir at Leribe was opened during the year and new abattoirs are expected to be completed at Qacha's Nek and Mohale's Hoek by the end of March, 1956.

### III. 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 mountains with wheat straw. The floors are smeared by the women with mud and cow dung and frequently the inner and outer walls are treated the same way. The walls are often decorated with traditional designs in various coloured clays.

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. He is allowed to remove anything, the materials for which were not provided by the Chief. He may, e.g., remove the roof if of sawn timber or corrugated iron, as well as doors and windows.

There are no factories or industrial undertakings, except two printing works, 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 have been built of brick since it is quicker and cheaper to build with than stone.

During the year four Government staff quarters for Europeans were either completed or under construction. The following African staff houses were completed or nearing completion by the end of the year throughout the Territory.

Maseru . . . . .	5	Mohale's Hoek . . . . .	1
Teyateyaneng . . . . .	1	Butha Buthe . . . . .	1
Leribe . . . . .	3	Quthing . . . . .	1
Mafeteng . . . . .	6		

#### IV. SOCIAL WELFARE

Basutoland is predominantly an agricultural country and the Basuto live in small scattered communities. There are no towns or industrial undertakings with large concentrations of workers and consequently no serious problems arising from urban conditions of living. The maintenance of the indigenous pattern of Basuto society has permitted social life to develop without violent disruption of traditional ways. Sesuto law and custom therefore provide remedies for many social problems including the care of orphans, the aged and infirm which is normally undertaken by relatives. Where necessary however, cases of indigence are assisted from Basuto Administration funds.

The Basutoland Homemakers' Association was founded in 1945 after several Homemakers' Clubs had been formed in the Territory under the auspices of the Home Improvement Association at Fort Hare in the Union of South Africa. These clubs then joined the local Association which now comprises over 150 clubs. Membership is almost entirely confined to Basuto housewives. The objects of the Association are largely concerned with advising and helping housewives with their day to day work in the home; this help and advice is aimed at the proper feeding of the family, maintaining cleanliness in and around the house,

improving members' knowledge of sewing, keeping alive the indigenous crafts such as pottery, grass work and wall decorations and also upholding Christian standards in the home.

The Association experienced another successful year. The local branches of the Association at Quthing and Maseru each in turn organized an exhibition and sale of work without any assistance from the Central Executive. Exhibits of handicrafts, garden produce, preserved fruit and vegetables and dried fruit were of a high standard. A highly successful regional course was held at Mapoteng in the north of Basutoland during the year which included two days of demonstration and talks on home-making. The Annual Training Course attended by about 200 interested persons was held at Leloaleng Technical School in the Quthing District during December.

At several centres Red Cross Committees have been organized for the purpose of giving lectures and demonstrations to the public in the elementary first-aid and home nursing. Red Cross Child Welfare Clinics have also been established on a voluntary basis at several district headquarters.

The Basutoland Boy Scouts Association comprises four Cub Packs, 37 Scout Troops and one Rover Crew. This represents an increase of seven troops over 1954. There are eight Rovers, 845 Scouts and 80 Cubs in these troops, with 300 recruits not yet invested.

A Wood badge course was held at Mafeteng early in the year. Ten of the scouters who followed the course have now completed their Part I and will therefore be ready to receive their Wood-badge Certificate early in 1956. These qualified scouters will help a great deal to raise the standard of scouting in the different troops which they will conduct.

The Basutoland Girl Guides Association continues to expand its activities. There are 18 Commissioners, 76 Guiders and 2 secretaries working for the movement. There are 79 Guide Companies with an enrolment of 1,540, 33 Sunbeam Circles with an enrolment of 576, a Cub Pack of 15, 6 Ranger Companies with 78 Rangers, and 1 Torchbearer Cadet Company. An Extension Guide Company and an Extension Sunbeam Circle were run at Botšabelo Leper Settlement. There has been an increase of over 300 Guides and Sunbeams this year, and 2 more Commissioners have been appointed.

As focal points for Basuto community activities at district headquarters, community halls have been, or are being, established there. At each headquarters a Basuto Committee was formed to assist the District Commissioner with the planning and building of the hall and to run it, when built, for the encouragement of social activities.

The welfare and re-habilitation of ex-soldiers is catered for by a Pensions Board and by the Basuto Soldiers' Benefit Fund.

The Financial Secretary is chairman of the Pensions Board on which the Paramount Chief is also represented and which meets regularly to consider applications from disabled soldiers and dependants of deceased soldiers.

The Basuto Soldiers' Benefit Fund was established out of contribu-

tions received from the Basutoland War Levy, the Governor-General's War Fund and P.R.I. Funds of the Basuto contingents which served in the Middle East. The Fund totalled £24,873. During the financial year 1953-54, 34 awards were made from the Fund largely for educational and rehabilitation assistance and maintenance and relief of ex-soldiers and dependants. Including continuing grants, a total of £1,831 was paid out in grants.

## CHAPTER VIII

### LEGISLATION AND LEGAL

The following is a list of the more important legislation enacted during 1955 :

1. Proclamation No. 9/1955 : The Basutoland Weights and Measures Proclamation.
2. Proclamation 30/1955 : The Court of Appeal (Basutoland) Proclamation, 1955, appointed the 15th April, 1955, as the day on which the Basutoland, Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland Court of Appeal Order in Council, and the Court of Appeal (Basutoland) Proclamation, 1954, came into force. The Court of Appeal commenced functioning on that date.
3. Proclamation 46/1955 : The Basutoland, the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland (Appeals to Privy Council) Order in Council, 1954, Commencement Proclamation, 1955, appointed the 15th April, 1955, as the day on which the Basutoland, Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland (Appeals to Privy Council) Order in Council, 1954, came into operation. This provides for appeals from the local Court of Appeal to Her Majesty in Council from that date.
4. Proclamation 84/1955 : the Basutoland Levy on Sand and Stone Proclamation, 1955, provides for the imposition of a levy on sand and stone removed from Basutoland.
5. Proclamation 87 of 1955 : The Basutoland Opium and Habit-forming Drugs (Amendment) Proclamation, 1955, introduces more comprehensive definitions of cannabis (Indian hemp) and opium.
6. Proclamation 91 of 1955 : The Basutoland Criminal Procedure and Evidence (Amendment) Proclamation, 1955, contains a number of amendments designed to facilitate the hearing of criminal cases.
7. Proclamation 92/1955 : The Basutoland Legal Practitioners Proclamation, 1955, provides for the admission, enrolment and discipline of legal practitioners.

8. Proclamation 99/1955: The Commissions Powers Proclamation, 1955, contains provisions whereby Commissions of Enquiry may be given the powers necessary to the proper conduct of their proceedings.

9. Proclamation 105/1955: The Basutoland Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Proclamation, 1955, is mainly a revenue measure, and motor licence and motor drivers' licence and motor drivers' licence fees are generally increased. Similar increases in the fees payable for trading licences were introduced by High Commissioner's Notice No. 275 of 15th December, 1955.

10. Statutory Instrument No. 1955/711: The Colonial Air Navigation Order, 1955, makes general provision for air navigation in the Colonies, and applies to Basutoland. Subsidiary provision for particular matters has been made as follows: High Commissioner's Notice No. 85 of 1955: the Air Navigation (Registration and Licensing) Regulations, 1955; High Commissioner's Notice No. 86 of 1955: the Air Navigation (Investigation of Accidents) Regulations, 1955; High Commissioner's Notice No. 87 of 1955: the Air Transport (Licensing of Air Services Regulations, 1955).

11. Carriage by Air: Although promulgated prior to 1955, it was noted that the Carriage by Air Orders, particularly SI 1953/1206 and SI 1953/1474, applied to Basutoland in respect of both international and non-international carriage. The Warsaw Convention, with certain modifications and adaptations, extends to Basutoland.

A cumulative index of the laws published between 1st January, 1949 and 31st December, 1955, was published and can be obtained on payment of five shillings (post free) from the Comptroller of Stores, Maseru.

## 2. LEGAL DEPARTMENT

During the year a permanent Registrar of the High Court was appointed, and the Legal Secretary relinquished all duties connected with the High Court.

The principal functions of the Legal Secretary are legislative drafting and advising on legal matters raised by the Administration. Drafts of uniform laws affecting all three Territories are dealt with by the Attorney-General, who is legal adviser to the High Commissioner.

The Legal Secretary also functions as Registrar of Deeds, and 62 deeds were registered during the year. The law relating to deeds and their registration is still under review, and a preliminary draft Proclamation is in preparation. Apart from personal deeds, rights of occupation allotted to traders and residents on Government Reserves are the principal rights registered. Rights to occupy land allocated by Chiefs to their subjects are not registered. The registration of Births and Deaths is also effected in the Legal Secretary's office. Africans are not obliged to register. 38 births and 15 deaths were registered.

Marriages are also registered in the Legal Secretary's office, although there is still no provision for the appointment of a Registrar of Marriages. An amendment to permit such an appointment is under consideration. Marriages of Africans must be registered, but this does not apply to customary unions. 2,140 marriages were registered during the year.

Patents, Trade Marks and Designs are registered in the Legal Secretary's Office, and the figures for 1955 are : Patents, 5 ; Trade Marks, 102 ; and Designs, none.

The functions of Registrar of Trade Unions are performed by the Legal Secretary (see Chapter Two of Part II).

The annual volumes of Proclamations and Notices are compiled in the Legal office, and the cumulative index also is revised there annually.

The Legal Secretary continues to perform the duties delegated to him by the Attorney-General under the Inquests Proclamation. 103 records of proceedings were perused and directions given.

During the year an informal drafting committee functioned, its main purpose being firstly to consider whether any proposal for the introduction of legislation was justifiable ; secondly to consider the form which the draft should take, and thirdly to consider the draft itself before submitting it to the proper authority.

## CHAPTER IX

# JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS

## I. JUSTICE

### I. THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

In criminal matters the Court of Appeal, the High Court and Subordinate Courts are governed by the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Proclamation. This Proclamation follows the criminal law in force in the Union of South Africa.

In civil matters, except where native law and custom is involved, the Roman Dutch Common law in force in the Union of South Africa is followed.

This is so because in Basutoland the laws in force include those of the Cape of Good Hope up to the *18th March, 1884*, except where repealed or altered by Proclamation by the High Commissioner. The Basutoland Courts of Law consist of :

### *(1) Court of Appeal*

A Court of Appeal for all three High Commission Territories was established on the 15th April, 1955, under the Basutoland, Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland Court of Appeal Order in Council, 1954. This Court is composed of the Chief Justice, who is President, and other Judges of Appeal.

Thus, for the first time, litigants can appeal from High Court decisions to a local Court of Appeal, instead of having to appeal direct to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The further right of appeal to the Judicial Committee is retained.

Circumstances in which an appeal lies to the Court of Appeal, and Court rules governing appeals, are the subjects of local legislation.

### *(2) The High Court*

The High Court is a Superior Court of Record and, in addition to any other jurisdiction conferred by the local law, possesses and exercises all the jurisdiction, power, and authorities vested in the Supreme Court of South Africa.

Although the decision in every case, civil and criminal, is vested exclusively in the presiding Judge, he sits with four Assessors (two Administrative Officers and two Africans), who act in an advisory capacity.

In practice all four Assessors sit in every criminal trial and in every criminal appeal.

In civil cases the practice is for the Judge to sit alone where only law, other than native law and custom, and not fact is involved. Where native law and custom is involved the Judge sits with all four Assessors or with two African Assessors only, depending on the character of each particular case.

### *(3) The Subordinate Courts of the First, Second and Third Class*

In the nine districts of the Territory there are Subordinate Courts of the First, Second and Third Class presided over by Administrative Officers, and in the district of Maseru there is a Resident Magistrate presiding in the First Class Subordinate Court. Appeals lie from all these Subordinate Courts to the High Court.

#### *Criminal*

(i) *First Class:* These courts can impose sentences up to a maximum of two years imprisonment with or without hard labour, increased in stock theft cases to four years, or a fine up to one hundred pounds, increased



in stocktheft cases to two hundred pounds, or both imprisonment and fine, provided that the maximum imprisonment of two years and in the case of stocktheft four years, is not exceeded. In certain cases and subject to certain safe-guards a whipping not exceeding fifteen strokes with a cane may be imposed.

(ii) *Second Class:* The maximum sentence which these courts can impose is imprisonment with or without hard labour up to one year, or a fine not exceeding fifty pounds, or both imprisonment and fine, provided that the maximum sentence of one year is not exceeded. A whipping not exceeding eight strokes with a cane may be imposed in certain cases and subject to certain safe-guards.

(iii) *Third Class:* The maximum sentence which may be imposed by these courts is imprisonment with or without hard labour up to six months, or a fine not exceeding twenty-five pounds, or both imprisonment and fine, provided that the maximum sentence of six months is not exceeded. A Third Class Court cannot impose a sentence of whipping

Subordinate Courts have no power to try a person charged with treason, murder, rape, sedition or an offence relating to coinage or currency, except that the Attorney-General may remit a rape case for trial by a Subordinate Court.

#### *Increased criminal jurisdiction*

The Attorney-General may remit a case (not being treason, murder sedition or an offence relating to coinage or currency) to a Subordinate Court for trial under the ordinary jurisdiction or with increased jurisdiction, after the holding of a preparatory examination. When so remitted with increased jurisdiction the powers of punishment are :

- (i) *First Class:* Imprisonment up to four years ; fine not exceeding two hundred pounds.
- (ii) *Second Class:* Imprisonment up to two years ; fine not exceeding one hundred pounds.

There is no remittal to a Third Class Court and therefore no increased jurisdiction for such a Court.

#### *Criminal Review*

In criminal cases all sentences by Subordinate Courts of the First Class are subject to review by the High Court when the punishment imposed exceeds six months' imprisonment or a fine exceeding fifty pounds.

As regards the Second and Third Class Subordinate Courts they are also subject to review by the High Court when the punishment imposed exceeds three months' imprisonment or a fine exceeding twenty-five pounds.

All sentences of a Third Class Court are subject to review by an officer empowered to hold a First Class Court.

*Civil*

In civil cases Subordinate Courts of the First and Second Class have jurisdiction in all actions where both parties are not Europeans, subject to the right of such Courts to transfer cases to the Native Court for hearing, and in all other actions where the claim or value of the matter in dispute does not exceed for Courts of the First Class five hundred pounds, and for Courts of the Second Class two hundred and fifty pounds. Third Class Subordinate Courts have no civil jurisdiction.

*(4) The Judicial Commissioners' Courts*

Judicial Commissioners have been appointed in terms of Proclamation No. 25 of 1950 to hear civil and criminal appeals from the Courts of the Paramount Chief. Formerly appeals from Basuto Courts were heard by District Commissioners, but they became so numerous that it was found essential to establish special courts to deal with them.

The function of these Courts is that of hearing civil and criminal appeals from Basuto Courts. Many of these appeals involve boundary disputes and in most of them native law and custom is involved.

On any appeal the Judicial Commissioner can reserve on his own motion, or on the application of either party, any question of law or native law and custom for decision by the High Court.

From the decisions of a Judicial Commissioner on appeals from Basuto Courts there is a further right of appeal to the High Court, with the leave of the Judicial Commissioner, or, if this is refused, with the leave of the High Court.

The Judicial Commissioners have been gazetted as Magistrates to preside over First Class Subordinate Courts in districts, thereby assisting District Commissioners.

*(5) Basuto Courts*

The recognition and grant of special powers and jurisdiction to Basuto Courts is contained in the Native Courts Proclamation, Chapter six of the Laws of Basutoland. There are 63 courts which fall under the following categories :

- (a) "B" Courts or courts of first instance, of which there are 47, 12 of which sit alternately at one of two centres each. Their jurisdiction in criminal cases is limited to a fine of £15 and/or three months' imprisonment with or without hard labour; in civil cases they have jurisdiction in all actions where the claim or value of the matter in dispute does not exceed £250.
- (b) "A" Courts or Basuto Courts of Appeal, of which there are 12. They have first instance as well as appellate jurisdiction. Their

jurisdiction in criminal cases is limited to a fine of £25 and/or six months' imprisonment with or without hard labour. In stock theft cases only, this jurisdiction is increased to one year's imprisonment with or without hard labour. In civil cases they have jurisdiction in all actions where the claim or value of the matter in dispute does not exceed £500.

- (c) Central Appeal Courts or Higher Basuto Courts of Appeal, of which there are four. They, too, have first instance as well as appellate jurisdiction. Their jurisdiction in criminal cases is limited to a fine of £50 and/or two years' imprisonment with or without hard labour. In civil cases there is no limit to the amount of the claim or matter in dispute in respect of their jurisdiction. Appeals from these courts go to the Judicial Commissioner's Court. Three of these courts are sited at Matsieng, Leribe and Mohale's Hoek, while the fourth is a circuit court serving the mountain districts of Qacha's Nek and Mokhotlong.

These courts are established by warrants 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 Africans as defined in the General Interpretation Proclamation, Chapter 2 of the Laws of Basutoland. They deal mainly with civil disputes and offences against Sesuto Law and Custom and infringements of the Paramount Chief's Rules and orders.

Before April, 1946, there were 1,300 courts run by unpaid officials, and all the fines imposed were taken by the Chiefs as a perquisite of their position, a practice which was obviously open to abuse. When the National Treasury was inaugurated on the 1st April, 1946, the number of courts was reduced to 106 and paid court officials were employed. The revenue derived from court fines and various fees is now paid into the National Treasury.

The number of courts has been further reduced to 63 as shown above. In effecting this reduction care was taken to site the courts at centres which will be convenient and within easy reach of the majority of the people. The new court staffs have been carefully selected and were only appointed after a course of training.

Chiefs still retain the right to act as arbitrators in civil disputes where both parties are prepared to have the dispute settled out of court.

## 2. THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

This department is headed by the Chief Justice, who is also Chief Justice of the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland. He is resident in Maseru in Basutoland because there is more court work in Basutoland than in either of the other Territories.

During the year a Puisne Judge was appointed for all three Territories. Like the Chief Justice, he is stationed at Maseru.

The Chief Justice, now that a Puisne Judge has been appointed, confines his activities to the Court of Appeal, Criminal Review cases, the supervision of the work of Subordinate Courts, etc., and the administrative side of the Judicial Department.

During the year re-organization was completed to create a separate and distinct Judicial Department. There is now a full time Registrar, High Court, the former system whereby the Registrar's work was done by the Legal Secretary has ceased.

Under the Chief Justice there are the Judicial Commissioners, Registrar, High Court, Resident Magistrate and the various presiding Officers of the Subordinate Courts — that is Administrative Officers in their judicial capacity.

The following statistics for the year under review are of interest :

### *Court of Appeal*

The first sittings of the Court of Appeal took place in Basutoland in July, 1955, and a further sitting in Basutoland was held later in the year. Another sitting was held in Swaziland for appeals from that Territory and the Bechuanaland Protectorate. Six appeals were disposed of in Basutoland, mostly medicine murder, involving many appellants.

### *High Court*

In 16 criminal trials 53 persons were indicted of whom 46 were eighteen years of age or over. There were 53 charges against these persons of which 1 was withdrawn. There were convictions on 45 and acquittals on 7 of those charges ; 21 persons were convicted of the crime known as "Medicine" murder and none of murder, as distinct from medicine murder.

Criminal review cases from Subordinate Courts totalled 314.

There were 80 criminal appeals from Subordinate Courts of which 65 were dismissed, 10 allowed, 3 sent back for re-hearing and 2 were pending at the end of the year.

There were 11 civil cases of which 8 were disposed of and 3 were pending at the end of the year.

Civil appeals from Subordinate Courts totalled 8 of which 3 were dismissed, 1 was allowed, 1 sent back for re-hearing and 3 were pending at the end of the year.

### *Judicial Commissioners' Courts*

Including 6 criminal appeals pending at the end of 1954 and 14 filed during the year, there were 20 criminal appeals. Of these 6 were dismissed, 5 allowed, 1 sent back for re-hearing and 8 were pending at the end of the year.

Including 91 civil appeals pending at the end of 1954 and 182 filed during the year, there were 273 civil appeals. Of these 142 were dismissed,

47 allowed, 22 sent back for re-hearing, leaving 62 pending at the end of the year.

### *Subordinate Courts*

These Courts dealt with 5,423 charges during the year under review, an increase of more than 700 over the 1954 figures. Apart from a number of petty offences not classified under any particular heading, the main offences were stock theft, housebreaking, malicious injury to property, assault, liquor and drug offences. Stock theft offences increased considerably over the 1954 figures in spite of legislation increasing the penalties.

Including those pending at the end of 1954, and those registered in 1955, there were 652 civil cases of which 454 were heard. Most of the remainder were not heard because parties did not set them down for hearing.

### *Master of the High Court*

The duties of the Master of the High Court include the supervision of the administration of the estates of persons (other than tribal Africans) who are deceased or absent 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 total number of estates registered is 535, of which 13 were registered during this year.

Two estates were wound up during the year.

There were no insolvencies.

The Guardians' Fund total was £7,538. 11s. 4d. of which £4,913. 19s. 8d. was unclaimed money.

## II. POLICE

### I. ADMINISTRATION

The Commissioner of the Basutoland Mounted Police is the Departmental Head and Commanding Officer of the Force. He is responsible to the Resident Commissioner for its efficient administration.

The Commissioner is assisted at Police Headquarters by the Deputy Commissioner of Police as Second-in-Command of the Force; by a Superintendent as Staff Officer; by a second Superintendent as Officer-in-Charge of the Police Training School; and by a Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Police as Officers Commanding the Criminal Investigation Division and Special Branch respectively.

For Police administrative purposes, the Territory is divided into five Divisions, which in turn comprise nine Districts. District commands coincide with Administrative District areas.

The Divisions are each commanded by a Superintendent who, in addition, commands the District Police in his District, and is responsible to the Commissioner of Police for the efficient administration and working of his Division.

The remaining Districts contained within a Division are commanded by Superintendents or Assistant Superintendents or Senior Inspectors, who are responsible to their Divisional Commanders.

All Commissioned Officers of the Force are Europeans. The Inspectorate and Non-Commissioned ranks are recruited from the Africans of the Territory.

### *Establishment and Strength*

The Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations approved an increase to the Establishment in December, 1954. This increase was further augmented during 1955 making a total of :

#### Special Branch :

- 1 Lady Clerk ;
- 1 Staff Sergeant ;
- 2 Corporals ;
- 8 Troopers.

#### Training Reserve :

- 1 Sergeant ;
- 3 Corporals ;
- 26 Troopers.

#### District :

- 2 Inspectors.

As the post of Sergeant Major was abolished the net increase was 42 men and 1 lady clerk. Recruiting difficulties and wastage were responsible for the Force not being up to its full strength. A further increase is anticipated in 1956. The following tables which include this increase show the Establishment and actual strength of the Force as at 31st December, 1955 :

### *Europeans*

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Establishment</i>	<i>Strength</i>
Commissioner . . . . .	1	1
Deputy Commissioner . . . . .	1	1
Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents . . . . .	14	11
Total Commissioned Ranks . . . . .	16	13

*Africans*

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Establishment</i>	<i>Strength</i>
Senior Inspector. . . . .	1	1
Inspectors . . . . .	2	2
Staff Sergeants . . . . .	8	4
Sergeants. . . . .	16	12
Corporals. . . . .	36	33
Lance Corporals. . . . .	—	19
Troopers . . . . .	327	301
Total Inspectorate and Non-Com- missioned-Ranks . . . . .	390	372

*Civilian Employees*

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Establishment</i>	<i>Strength</i>
Lady Clerks (European). . . . .	2	2
Farriers (African) . . . . .	1	1
Saddlers (African) . . . . .	5	5
Messenger Clerks (African). . . . .	2	2
Total . . . . .	10	10

*Transport*

The Force has an establishment of 11 motor vehicles, 302 riding horses, and 72 pack animals. An Austin utility truck was purchased during the year for the use of the Training Reserve stationed at the Police Training School.

*Police Training School*

The Training School which is situated at Walker's Camp on the outskirts of Maseru is commanded by a Superintendent. He has a staff of one Staff Sergeant, two Corporals, and four Troopers, one of whom is a driver and another a trumpeter. In addition to recruits' courses, each of six months' duration, refresher and promotion courses are held as often as possible for Non-Commissioned-Officers and Senior Troopers. During the year a clerical course was also held.

During the year 45 recruits completed their training and were posted to Districts, 3 were discharged as unsuitable, and 32 still were undergoing training at the end of the year.

In addition to recruits' courses, 3 other courses were held for a total number of 43 Non-Commissioned-Officers and other ranks of the Force.

A training refresher platoon consisting of one Sergeant, one Corporal and 15 Troopers underwent a six months' intensive course of training in law, police duties, musketry, riot drill and physical training. This refresher platoon was replaced by a similar number of men who were still under training at the end of the year.

Additional buildings under construction at the Police Training School consist of an office block and armoury, a lecture room, dormitory to house twenty-six trainees and an extension to the stables for a further 16 horses. Extra quarters have also been built for the instructional staff. The majority of these buildings were still under construction at the end of the year.

A Police Bugle Band has been started at the Police Training School and it is hoped that this will be developed as musicians and instruments become available.

### *Criminal Investigation Division and Records Bureau*

This Division is commanded by a Superintendent of Police, directly responsible to the Commissioner. The African establishment is one Sergeant, three Corporals and seven Troopers, who, besides staffing the Bureau, are available for special investigations. The Division is also responsible for the proper performance of Divisional criminal investigation duties within the Territory and for giving assistance to all Districts in the prevention and detection of crime. This Division is also responsible for the proper presentation of cases for the consideration of the Attorney-General, and for their final preparation for the High Court.

The local Criminal Records Bureau is staffed by two troopers. With the exception of records of Africans convicted in the Basuto Courts, the dockets of all well-known criminals and persons convicted of serious crimes are being maintained at the South African Criminal Bureau until the local Bureau is properly established. Duplicate copies of all fingerprint slips sent to the South African Criminal Bureau are classified and filed in the local Bureau. Fingerprint slips received from Basutoland Mounted Police Districts numbered 896. These were classified and filed. 65 finger-print dockets were opened during the year.

### *Special Branch*

This Branch is commanded by an Assistant Superintendent of Police and the establishment consists of one Staff Sergeant, two Corporals, eight Troopers and a Lady Clerk. A member of the Special Branch is stationed at each of two Divisional and two District Headquarters.

Extensions to Police Headquarters consisted of two additional offices and a strong room for the use of the Special Branch.

### *Work of the Police*

(a) *Border Posts:* The Force is responsible for manning 26 Border Stations and Posts which have an establishment of 9 Non-Commissioned-Officers and 60 Troopers. They are mainly occupied with customs duties,



issuing of passes, the collection of revenue and enforcement of legislation dealing with the export and import of livestock and cereals. Frequent patrols are also carried out along the border as a deterrent to stock thieving and to prevent illegal imports and exports. Heavy rains and violent storms during November caused considerable damage to the buildings at Ongeluk's Nek Border Post, which is situated at an elevation of 9,500 feet.

(b) *Patrolling*: 210,073 men-miles were covered during the year by 7,965 patrols of a total of 8,079 members of the rank and file who patrolled the Territory. A large proportion of this mileage was performed during the course of criminal investigations. 97,185 miles were covered by Police motor vehicles. Gazetted Officers of the Force travelled 24,462 miles by motor car, and 470 miles on horse back.

(c) *Mountain Stations*: Seven Mountain Stations have been operating at full strength throughout the year. One Mountain Post, namely, Ntaote's in the Qacha's Nek District, had to be abandoned in July as all the buildings collapsed during a heavy storm. Lack of communications and inaccessibility of this Post have added to the difficulties of trying to repair these buildings. The Sehonghong (Mashai) Mountain Station was opened during the year but temporarily closed at a later date because of the difficulty and heavy expense of supplying fodder. It will be re-opened early in 1956.

These mountain stations are manned by 8 Non-Commissioned-Officers and 35 Troopers. They continue to serve the public and to be of great assistance in the suppression of stock theft which is still a major problem.

## 2. MEDICINE MURDER

Nine cases of medicine murder were reported during 1955. Of these, one has been committed for trial, one is awaiting trial and seven cases are still under investigation.

These nine cases are all alleged to have been committed during 1955, and some of the same accused feature in two separate cases.

At the end of 1954 one case of medicine murder reported during that year was not finalised, five cases had been committed for trial and two cases were still under investigation.

Of these cases five were sent for trial before the High Court during 1955. The results of these cases were as follows :

Convictions were obtained in four cases ; 28 persons were sentenced to death and two persons sentenced to imprisonment. In the remaining case the four accused were acquitted.

The Criminal Investigation Division investigated a number of medicine murder cases during the year thus relieving Districts to some extent of these lengthy and difficult investigations.

A comparative table showing medicine murders reported during the ten years since 1946 with yearly fluctuations is given hereunder.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cases Reported</i>	<i>Increase over Previous Year</i>	<i>Decrease over Previous Year</i>
1946 . .	7	1	—
1947 . .	6	—	1
1948 . .	20	14	—
1949 . .	5	—	15
1950 . .	4	—	1
1951 . .	9	5	—
1952 . .	14	5	—
1953 . .	10	—	4
1954 . .	11	1	—
1955 . .	9	—	2

### *Stock Theft*

There was a very considerable increase in the number of cases of stock theft reported during the year as compared with the previous year. In all 2,188 cases were reported as against 979 cases reported in 1954, 1,342 cases in 1953, and 1,501 cases in 1952.

The increase in stock theft cases during the year may be attributed in part to the following factors :

- (i) The drought conditions early in the year resulting in a poor harvest ;
- (ii) The High prices of wool and mohair, mutton and beef ;
- (iii) Four large scale stock theft drives carried out by the Police during the year.

The stock theft drives carried out by the Police in conjunction with the Basuto Administration were as follows :

Maseru District from 27.2.55 to 5.4.55 resulting in 614 cases being brought before the courts, involving 1,519, head of stock of all kinds. Southern Basutoland, in conjunction with Qacha's Nek District, from 1.4.55 to 15.5.55, resulting in 281 cases being brought to court, involving 1,222 head of stock of all kinds.

Maseru District, carried out by the Police Training School Reserve, from 19.9.55 to 29.9.55, resulting in 29 cases being brought before courts.

Of the 2,188 cases reported, 190 were still under investigation at the end of the year. 1,236 cases were sent to Basuto Courts, 544 were tried in Subordinate Courts of which 482 resulted in convictions and 61 in acquittals.

### *Statistics*

The tables at pages 84 to 87 show crime statistics for the year under review. The number of persons convicted in 1955 indicates an increase of 525 over the previous year.

TABLE I Cases Reported to and Dealt with by the Police

	Pending at 31.12.54		Total Reported in 1955		Pending Investigation at 31.12.55		Referred to Native Courts		Not taken to Court				Taken to Court				Awaiting trial at High Court at 31.12.55 (Cases awaiting trial before subordinate Courts included under 3)	
	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(3)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(13)	
<i>Against Lawful Authority:</i>																		
Public Violence . . . . .	-	11	6	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	1	-	
Perjury . . . . .	1	19	8	-	3	3	-	2	2	4	-	7	-	-	2	-	-	
Escape from Custody . . . . .	13	98	13	-	33	3	15	6	2	3	24	60	1	1	4	-	-	
Resisting Arrest . . . . .	3	52	10	15	6	3	5	3	1	1	1	23	-	-	1	-	-	
Obst. or Defeat Justice . . . . .	1	20	4	5	3	8	2	3	1	1	1	9	9	-	-	-	-	
Contempt of Court . . . . .	4	36	3	2	5	5	2	8	5	1	2	23	3	3	1	-	-	
Prison Regulation . . . . .	-	40	1	1	4	1	-	4	1	3	3	35	-	-	-	-	-	
Bribery . . . . .	-	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	
<i>Against Public Morality:</i>																		
Rape . . . . .	14	55	23	3	16	4	3	8	4	8	4	24	1	-	2	-	-	
Assault w/i to Rape . . . . .	3	25	3	3	7	3	3	2	2	2	2	14	1	-	-	-	-	
Indecent Assault . . . . .	4	80	11	33	9	4	33	4	4	-	5	29	2	-	-	-	-	
Abduction . . . . .	3	44	5	21	9	2	21	2	2	4	3	11	-	-	1	-	-	
Sodomy . . . . .	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	
Bestiality . . . . .	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	
Girls and Womens Protection . . . . .	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	
Abortion . . . . .	-	3	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	
Concealment of Birth . . . . .	2	11	4	-	2	-	-	2	-	1	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	
Incest . . . . .	-	3	-	-	2	1	-	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
Vagrancy . . . . .	-	12	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Against Person:</i>																		
Murder and Culprable Homicide . . . . .	36	65	38	-	15	7	-	5	7	5	3	42	5	1	8	-	-	

Assault w/i G.B.H.	33	303	44	169	21	4	9	8	102	98	3	1	-
Assault Common	82	2496	70	2219	122	42	44	36	167	157	8	2	-
Defamation	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Against Property:</i>													
Theft Common	61	739	117	106	258	46	145	67	319	292	20	7	-
Robbery	2	21	4	-	9	5	3	1	10	9	1	-	-
Extortion	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Housebreaking with intent	32	270	42	18	137	16	97	24	105	98	5	2	-
Stock Theft	111	2188	190	1236	329	138	145	46	544	482	61	1	-
Fraud	5	28	7	1	9	1	5	3	16	16	-	-	-
Theft by False Pretences	3	42	8	3	17	6	1	10	17	14	1	2	-
Forgery and Uttering	1	29	2	2	5	1	1	3	21	19	1	1	-
Receiving Stolen Property	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	-	-	-
Arson	17	184	35	26	89	9	61	19	51	46	3	2	-
Malicious Injury to Property	14	216	33	66	81	14	56	11	50	40	9	1	-
<i>Against Local Statute Laws:</i>													
Traffic	11	148	22	-	49	27	11	11	88	85	1	2	-
Liquor	10	241	16	7	11	5	3	3	217	208	7	2	-
Dagga	4	193	9	-	18	7	6	5	170	166	3	1	-
<i>Miscellaneous and Petty:</i>													
Other offences not specified above	113	2915	201	43	751	195	177	379	2033	1959	66	8	-

*S u m m a r y*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
Lawful Authority	22	281	46	24	58	15	12	31	175	163	4	8	1
Public Morality	27	245	49	60	47	15	17	15	116	109	4	3	-
Person	156	2880	160	2389	162	55	60	47	325	302	19	4	9
Property	246	3723	439	1458	934	236	514	184	1138	1021	101	16	1
Local Statutes	25	582	47	7	78	39	20	19	475	459	11	5	-
Other	113	2915	201	43	751	195	177	379	2033	1959	66	8	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>10626</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>3981</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>4262</b>	<b>4013</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>11</b>

TABLE II

Persons Dealt with by the Courts, 1955

	Total arrested or Summoned to Court						Convicted					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)		
	Total arrested or Summoned to Court	Acquitted	Nolle Prosequi	Awaiting trial as at 31.12.55	Total	Death	Imprisonment	Whipping	Fine	First Offenders act or rearing		
<b>Lawful Authority:</b>												
Public Violence . . . . .	47	6	-	5	41	-	12	-	29	-		
Perjury . . . . .	7	-	-	-	7	-	5	1	1	-		
Escape from Custody . . . . .	62	1	-	1	61	-	49	-	12	-		
Resisting Arrest . . . . .	27	2	-	1	25	-	12	-	12	1		
Obstructing or Defeating Justice . . . . .	11	-	-	-	11	-	7	-	4	-		
Contempt of Court . . . . .	30	4	-	-	26	-	6	-	20	-		
Prison Regulations . . . . .	41	-	-	1	41	-	31	1	8	1		
Bribery . . . . .	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-		
<b>Public Morality:</b>												
Rape . . . . .	28	2	-	9	26	-	19	3	1	3		
Assault with intent to rape . . . . .	21	4	-	-	17	-	3	7	7	-		
Indecent Assault . . . . .	31	2	-	1	29	-	15	2	12	-		
Abduction . . . . .	22	2	-	1	20	-	11	-	9	-		
Sodomy . . . . .	2	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	-		
Bestiality . . . . .	4	-	-	-	4	-	3	-	1	-		
Girls and Womens Protection . . . . .	6	-	-	-	6	-	5	1	-	-		
Abortion . . . . .	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-		
Concealment of Birth . . . . .	7	-	-	-	7	-	5	-	-	2		
Incest . . . . .	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-		
Vagrancy . . . . .	9	-	-	-	9	-	6	-	2	1		
<b>Persons:</b>	90	9	-	12	81	28	42	-	6	5		
Murder and Culpable Homicide . . . . .												



### III. PRISONS

#### I. ADMINISTRATION

The Superintendent of Prisons is the head of the Basutoland Prisons Service and is responsible to the Resident Commissioner. The Superintendent is assisted by an Assistant Superintendent who is in charge of the Central Prison. The African Staff consists of one Senior Gaoler, 11 Gaolers, 9 Technical Instructors, 83 Warders, 1 female Gaoler and 6 female Warders. The district prisons are in the charge of District Commissioners under the general direction of the Superintendent regarding prison administration.

There are ten prisons in the Territory, one at each district headquarters except at Maseru where there are two prisons — the Old Gaol which is used for condemned prisoners, juveniles and females and the new Central Prison which, although not yet completed, takes all adult male prisoners from the Maseru district and long-term prisoners from other districts. A temporary building for prisoners was erected at the new sub-district at Sehonghong.

At the Central Prison, the condemned block was completed except for water-borne sanitation and a few technical details. The fourth wing was completed except for doors, showers and interior fittings. This wing should soon be ready for occupation, which will make available a further fourteen cells. Electricity was brought to the prison and lights installed in the offices and in the condemned block. It is intended to light the four wings and the rest of the prison during the next financial year. The building of the electrical sub-station was done by prison labour. A static water tank with a capacity of approximately 12,000 gallons for fire-fighting, was completed together with necessary drainage and is available for use.

Prisoners at the Central Prison are segregated in their respective wings. "A" wing houses the first offenders, "B" wing the awaiting trial prisoners and "C" wing the recidivists. Condemned prisoners are still kept in the Old Gaol but will soon be moved to the Central Prison. At present, females and juveniles are housed in separate sections of the Old Gaol. It is hoped to start erecting the juvenile training centre in the near future.

In the districts a new office and store were completed at Teyateyaneng ; stone was cut for a new female cell at Quthing ; improvements were made to Mohale's Hoek prison ; and stone was cut for a new kitchen at Mokhotlong. At Leribe two new cells were completed and the unconvicted are now completely segregated from the convicted. District prisons were also supplied with fly-proof latrines which are a great improvement on the old type of sanitation.

During the year, 4,740 prisoners were committed to prison. The daily average in prison was 980. Comparative figures for 1954 were total committals 4,532 ; daily average 879.2.

## 2. DISCIPLINE

One third good conduct remission may be earned by prisoners, provided the sentence is not reduced to less than thirty days. In spite of the regrettable disturbance which occurred at the Central Prison on 19th November, but in regard to which an enquiry is to be held, the general standard of discipline has been good.

Forty-seven prisoners escaped during the year, twenty-two of them during the disturbance on November 19th. Thirty-eight were recaptured.

## 3. EXECUTIONS

At the end of 1954 two prisoners were in custody under sentence of death. During the year a further 28 were sentenced to death. The outcome of cases was as follows :

Executed . . . . .	12
Sentence commuted to imprisonment . . . . .	2
Died from natural causes . . . . .	1
Awaiting confirmation. . . . .	15
	<hr/>
Total . . . . .	30

## 4. HEALTH

The general health of the prisoners has been good. There were no epidemics. The daily average reporting sick was 6.55, the majority being for minor complaints. 137 prisoners were admitted to hospital and there were 15 deaths. Comparative figures for 1954 were daily average 9.59, admissions to hospital 107 and 9 deaths.

Diets are laid down in prison regulations, but the Medical Officer may alter these if he considers it necessary. Government Medical Officers in the districts see all admissions and attend to all prisoners reporting sick. Regular inspections of prisons are made by them, and in Maseru these inspections take place daily. As there are no hospitals or sick bays attached to any of the prisons, doctors place those prisoners requiring hospital treatment in the Government hospitals. These cases are guarded by prison warders.

## 5. LABOUR

Apart from routine domestic work at the prisons including gardening, building and stone-cutting, prison labour is used on work of a public nature, such as chimney-sweeping, tree-felling and planting, street-cleaning, road-building, sanitary work and the upkeep of hospital grounds.



At Maseru, the majority of prisoners are given industrial training in the following trades by prison technical instructors : tailoring, cobbling, brick-making, blacksmithing, plumbing, carpentry, stone-cutting and building. Mat-making is also carried out whenever old, boarded blankets are available. Prison labour has been used to build the Central Prison. During the year under review, 2,232 stones were cut and 216,000 bricks burned.

The Maseru vegetable gardens produced 160,415 lb. vegetables. Gardening operations are carried out by prisoners, including all the juveniles, under the supervision of an agricultural instructor. Vegetable garden products were supplied to the Maseru prisons, the Government hospital and to the Teyateyaneng, Butha Buthe and Quthing prisons when these prisons ran short of their own supplies. A new garden was started at Leribe which supplies the local prison and hospital. Mafeteng garden also supplied vegetables to the local hospital. There is always a ready market for any surplus vegetables for sale to the staff and to the public. Total revenue from the sale of vegetables amounted to £314 16s. *od.*

The tailoring section was employed chiefly in making prisoners' clothing and warders' uniforms. The cobbling section was concerned with the manufacture of prisoners sandals and repairs to warders' boots. Carpenters made all doors and window frames required for the Central Prison. Blacksmiths were mainly occupied with the manufacture and sharpening of tools for the masons and quarry gangs. They also manufactured all iron work required for the prison.

From the sale of bricks and pigs, and from other industries, a total amount of £369. 3s. *od.* was received and paid into revenue.

## 6. WOMEN PRISONERS

With the exception of short-sentence females in the districts, all female prisoners are incarcerated in the Old Gaol at Maseru and guarded by a female staff consisting of one Gaoler and six warders. Female prisoners in districts are guarded by temporary female warders. Permanent female staff in the district is not warranted.

Female prisoners are employed on laundry work, cleaning at the Government hospital and dispensary, making and repairing prison clothing and on work in the prison garden such as weeding, hoeing and planting. Two long-sentence females were employed working sewing machines. The female prisoners also knitted 465 prisoners' caps during the year under review.

During the year 469 women were admitted to prison. Of those 43 were lunatics detained under medical surveillance. Of this total 335 were sentenced to imprisonment either with or without the option of fines. Twenty of the 469 women had previous convictions. Comparative figures for 1954 were 404 admissions, 282 sentenced to imprisonment and 32 lunatics. In Maseru the daily average was 23.4 as compared with 22.0 in 1954.

## 8. EDUCATION

Simple school readers and newspapers in the local vernacular were provided for prisoners. The educated prisoners are often to be seen teaching elementary reading and writing to their illiterate companions.

District Commissioners are empowered to give persons convicted for certain minor offences the option of serving their sentences extramurally. This has the advantage of keeping first-offenders out of gaol and out of contact with hardened criminals.

## CHAPTER X

## PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS

## I. PUBLIC UTILITIES

*Electricity*

The Maseru Electricity Supply, which was operated by contractors on behalf of Government until April, 1953, when the Public Works Department assumed control, continued to function satisfactorily during the year. There are now approximately 1,800 domestic and commercial consumers. A new sub-station is at present in the course of construction to enable a wider distribution of electric power to be made to African householders in Maseru. All work on overhead mains, wiring of houses, repairs and installations is carried out by the Public Works Department.

Improvements to the overhead main distribution system are at present in progress to permit a more extensive use of electricity by domestic consumers. Revised electricity tariffs which will place the Maseru electricity supply on a sounder economic footing are to be introduced early in 1956.

*Water*

A serious drought persisted in the Territory until January and was followed by very heavy rains lasting until late March, which brought all rivers down in flood. This resulted in considerable fluctuation in the demand on the Maseru Water Works. Although both drought and rains were severe, the general weather pattern was not unusual. At most times of the year the Maseru water supply is sufficient to meet the demand, but since the pumping installation on the Caledon River is operated on a "run of the river" basis, considerable crude water storage has to be provided.

The water supply from the Caledon River is augmented by a fixed-spring supply from the nearby mountains which in the rainy season is itself almost sufficient to meet the town's needs.

The Maseru water system now serves approximately 5,000 consumers. The number of consumers will be increased when extensions to the Water Works installations have been completed and additional crude water storage provided.

Although the need is acknowledged it has not been possible to undertake any improvements to district water supplies during the year.

### *Development of Water Resources*

Investigation into the development of Basutoland's water resources were continued during the year and gauging stations have been constructed on a number of rivers. Expert advice is being sought on the possible development of a hydro-electric scheme on the Malibamatšo River in the northern part of the Territory. Preliminary investigations indicate that there are good possibilities of development in this area where the clean waters from the mountain rivers could be dammed and diverted for the development of hydro-electric power and for industrial and domestic use.

## 2. PUBLIC WORKS

### *Buildings*

The Public Works Department Building Section carried out new works to a total value of £64,000 during the year. The new High Court building will be opened early in 1956.

Considerable difficulty is being experienced in recruiting artisans due to the high wages paid in the Union of South Africa. Courses for building artisans are conducted at the Lerotholi Technical School and every effort is being made to attract more Basuto into this work. So far there has been a fair response.

Work on the Sub-District Station buildings at Sehonghong continued. Corrugated iron lined with masonite is now being used instead of hard dressed stone since construction is cheaper and quicker. There is practically no rust or corrosion of iron or steel in the mountain area due to the dry clear air. Further materials are being accumulated in Maseru for freighting by air to Sehonghong.

## CHAPTER XI

## COMMUNICATIONS

## I. 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 to Bloemfontein or Bethlehem and thence to Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban. One mile of the line is in Basutoland. The railway does not enter Basutoland at any other point but runs close to the boundary of the Territory and goods are transported by road to and from the nearest station across the border.

## 2. ROADS

The main roads in the lowlands of Basutoland have evolved from a system of wagon tracks constructed in the early days. Very little improvement has been made to the system over the years and the result is that alignments are sub-standard for modern vehicular traffic. The surfacing is poor and river crossings frequently hold up traffic after storms. However, with assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare funds a road improvement programme is being undertaken. Those sections of road considered adequate for present traffic will be accepted on their present alignment and only the worst sections are to be re-aligned.

All operators of plant and machinery in the lowlands are Basuto. Special efforts are being made to improve the training of operators in the maintenance of their mechanical equipment.

There are 390 miles of main roads, 110 miles of secondary roads and 352 miles of tertiary or "C" roads in the Territory. The "C" roads are maintained by traders with financial assistance from Government. These roads generally run east and west from the main north/south road and many of them lead up into the mountain areas of Basutoland. Technical supervision over the maintenance of these roads is the responsibility of the Public Works Department.

The new Mountain Motor Road is dealt with separately in Part I Chapter II of this Report.

## 3. BRIDLE PATHS

There are approximately 1,600 miles of bridle paths in the Territory, which are now maintained by the Basuto Administration. Any new construction work is done by the Public Works Department.

#### 4. AVIATION

The main airstrips in the Territory are at Maseru, Mokhotlong, Sehonghong and Semonkong, although there are others which are used principally by traders for transporting merchandise to and from their stores. Most of the Territory's airstrips are suitable only for the lightest type of aircraft.

A twice weekly air service connects Ladysmith (Natal), Mokhotlong and Maseru and weekly service connects Maseru, Semonkong, Sehonghong and Qacha's Nek. A new service will come into operation early in 1956.

#### 5. POSTS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES

##### *Administration*

The Basutoland Post Office administration, whilst being a separate service having its own postage, revenue stamps and staff, is closely integrated with that of the Union of South Africa. The service is headed by a Controller of Posts and Telegraphs stationed at Maseru.

##### *Postal Facilities*

There are 11 departmental post offices in the Territory which provide a full range of postal services. Nine of these offices are situated in the lowlands, one is at Mokhotlong, in the mountainous eastern district adjacent to the Natal border, and another is at Qacha's Nek. Another departmental office at the new sub-station of Sehonghong will be opened during 1956. There are also 50 postal agencies in the Territory, mostly situated in the mountainous interior, which provide a limited range of postal services. One of these agencies, that at Mohlalefi's in the Mafeteng District, was closed during the year. A new agency at Likalaneng on the Mountain Road was opened.

##### *Mail Services*

A full mail service is maintained in the lowlands and at the two other principal offices either by air, rail or motor transport whilst agencies in the interior are largely served by animal transport. A bi-weekly air mail service connecting Ladysmith (Natal), Mokhotlong and Maseru and a weekly air mail service connecting Maseru, Semonkong (agency), Sehonghong (agency) and Qacha's Nek is in operation to accelerate the disposal of mail for the mountain areas. A new service will come into operation early in 1956.

*Staff*

The establishment and strength of the Department at the end of 1955 is given below :

*Europeans*

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Establishment</i>	<i>Strength</i>
Controller of Posts and Telegraphs	1	1
Senior Postmaster . . . . .	1	1
Postmasters . . . . .	7	5
Postal Assistants . . . . .	7	2
Telegraph and Telephone Electricians . . . . .	2	1
Total. . . . .	18	10

*Africans*

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Establishment</i>	<i>Strength</i>
Postmasters . . . . .	2	2
Postal Assistants, Grade I . . . . .	10	10
Telephone Operators, Grade I . . . . .	2	1
Postal Asssistants (Linemen) Grade II. . . . .	4	4
Postal Assistants (Grade III) . . . . .	54	54
Postal Assistants Grade IV . . . . .	11	11
Messengers . . . . .	3	3
Total. . . . .	86	85

The volume of business transacted at Basutoland Post Offices continues to increase.

The following statistics are of interest :

<i>Heading</i>	<i>1953-54</i>	<i>1954-55</i>
Post Offices and Agencies . . . . . No.	62	60
Postal Orders issued . . . . . No.	44,184	46,573
	£ 20,633	22,312
Postal Orders Paid . . . . . No.	39,031	40,533
	£ 30,283	33,765
Money Orders Issued . . . . . No.	22,017	25,397
	£ 74,626	83,302
Money Orders Paid . . . . . No.	11,053	12,290
	£ 72,577	81,456
Savings Bank Deposits . . . . . No.	12,662	11,941
	£ 189,358	181,312
Savings Bank Withdrawals . . . . . No.	23,347	24,849
	£ 195,751	214,792
Telegrams Forwarded . . . . . No.	107,281	112,645
Telegrams Received . . . . . No.	101,922	107,018

## CHAPTER XII

### PRESS

Two weekly newspapers in Sesuto are published in the Territory. They are *Leselinyana* and *Moeletsi oa Basotho* which are published and printed by the Morija Sesuto Book Depot (Paris Evangelical Missionary Society) and Mazenod Institute (the Roman Catholic Mission) respectively.

In addition to these, two other newspapers, both published monthly, were registered in the Territory during the year, namely *Mohlabani* and *Letsatsi*.

*The World*, a weekly English language newspaper which is printed in Johannesburg, devotes considerable space to matters concerning the Basuto and Basutoland, where it is also widely distributed.

The *Basutoland News*, a weekly publication, deals with the interests of the European community. It is published in the Orange Free State at Ficksburg, a town on the border of Basutoland.

## PART III

### CHAPTER ONE

## GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

### I. GEOGRAPHY

The Colony of Basutoland is an enclave within the Union of South Africa, its boundaries running with those of Natal 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  $27^{\circ} 30'$  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 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.

There are no large towns in Basutoland; the population of the capital, Maseru, is estimated to be approximately 5,000 persons.



## 2. CLIMATE

Rainfall is variable and averages approximately 28 inches a year over the greater part of the country. Most of it falls from October to April, but there is normally no month which has less than half an inch. 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. Serious droughts, like the one of 1948-49 are rare and there are a large number of perennial streams though not so many as existed some years ago. 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 Matabele.

The new nation went through a period of struggle, 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.

Eventually in 1868 the Basuto became British subjects. 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, and shall be taken to be British subjects, and the territory of the said tribe shall be, and 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

Basutoland is an African territory without European settlers or land-owners. It is governed under a loose-knit system by which a British Administration combines with a hereditary chieftainship on the whole satisfactorily, but with a tendency towards dualism which is beginning to prove a handicap to progress.

The chieftainship structure is a direct result of the tribal wars following the rise of the Zulu power and of Chief Moshesh's diplomacy in welding the scattered tribes into a single Basuto nation under the hegemony of his own clan, the Bakoena, to which all but three of the major chiefs belong. In building the nation Moshesh "placed" members of his own family over groups of people of other tribes, so that, except for the Makhoakhoa in Butha-Buthe District, the Bataung in Mohale's Hoek District and the Batlokoa in Mokhotlong District, whose own chiefs owe direct allegiance to the Paramount Chief, the chiefs and headmen of tribes other than Bakoena were under the direct control of a member of Moshesh's own family. This method of placing formed the precedent for a system of placing sons and brothers of other chiefs, which led to a great multiplication in the numbers of subordinate authorities, so that in 1938 it was found necessary to impose a limitation on the number of those recognized. This was effected by publishing in the Gazette, under the Native Admi-

nistration Proclamation of 1938, a list of all chiefs and headmen recognized by the High Commissioner. The Proclamation thus recognized the Paramount Chief and chieftainship as an integral part of the Government of the Territory, and vested their powers with legal authority, extending to them also certain statutory powers and duties additional to those appertaining to them by custom. Under the senior chiefs—or "Sons of Moshesh" as they are called, although their number includes several who are not in fact descended from Moshesh—are some four hundred and fifty subordinate chiefs, all members of chiefly families, and twice as many headmen, as well as numerous village heads and some petty headmen who are not accorded recognition by the High Commissioner. The headmen and village heads belong to families not necessarily aristocratic in origin, though the hereditary principle is strictly applied now.

These chiefs, and particularly, headmen are the authorities with whom the ordinary people deal in all their daily affairs, and who are responsible for all ordinary administration in the Territory. They owe allegiance, through their immediate superiors, to the Paramount Chief, though, in practice, in matters not entirely concerned with Basuto law and custom they normally work with the District Commissioners of their districts.

At the head of the Government is the Resident Commissioner, who works under the direction of the High Commissioner for Basutoland, the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland. He is assisted by a Government Secretary who is also Deputy Resident Commissioner. The remaining executive posts of Government 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 Territory 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 Mokhotlong. Two of the District Commissioners, one of whom is stationed in the northern part of the Territory and the other in the southern part, are Senior District Commissioners, who have, in addition to their duties as District Commissioners of their own districts, advisory and supervisory relationship towards the other District Commissioners in their part of the Territory, which does not amount to actual control over or responsibility for the districts. The district boundaries correspond generally with the chieftainship division of the Territory into twenty-one wards under Principal and Ward Chiefs, all but one of whom are directly subordinate to the Paramount Chief.

Heads of Departments are the Financial Secretary, Director of Medical Services, Director of Livestock and Agricultural Services, Director of Education, Director of Public Works, Commissioner of Police, and Superintendent of Prisons. The Judicial Department falls under the Honourable the Chief Justice for the High Commission Territories.

The Resident Commissioner works in close co-operation with the Paramount Chief in all matters concerning the country and people of Basutoland, and the District Commissioners similarly work in close co-operation

with the Principal and Ward Chiefs in their districts. Heads of Departments and subordinate departmental officers, too, work with and through chieftainship authorities. The only exception to this is that the Police have authority to investigate crimes without reference to the local chief or headman, but this power is exercised only in rare cases, and the normal procedure is for the chief to detail a representative who works with the policemen engaged in the investigation.

Legislation is by Proclamation made by the High Commissioner for Basutoland, the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland. 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. Certain subordinate legislation, under the authority of High Commissioner's Proclamations, may be made by the Resident Commissioner (Government Notices) and the Paramount Chief (Paramount Chief's Rules and Orders). With the exception of Paramount Chief's Rules and Orders all legislation is promulgated in the High Commissioner's Gazette.

An advisory body known as the Basutoland Council, consisting of the Resident Commissioner as President, the Paramount Chief as Chief Councillor, and 99 Basuto members, 94 nominated by the Paramount Chief and 5 by the Resident Commissioner, was constituted by Proclamation in 1910 to discuss matters affecting the domestic affairs of the Nation and to express its opinion on any draft laws that might be laid before it by the President. Since 1910 it has developed considerably, and the 99 members now consist of 42 elected, 52 nominated by the Paramount Chief and 5 nominated by the Resident Commissioner. In 1944 the High Commissioner made a formal declaration that "it is the policy of His Majesty's Government to consult the Paramount Chief and the Basutoland Council before Proclamations closely affecting the domestic affairs and welfare of the Basuto people or the progress and development of the Basuto Native Administration are enacted". At the same time the Paramount Chief confirmed that "it is the policy of the Paramountcy to consult the Basutoland Council before issuing orders or making rules closely affecting the life or welfare of the Basuto people and the administration of the Basuto". The Council meets at least once each year.

Since 1948, the Paramount Chief has been assisted by three advisers chosen by her from a panel of 18 elected by the Basutoland Council. In 1952 the number of advisers was increased to four.

The Council elects from among its own members a Standing Committee, presided over by the Resident Commissioner, whose meetings are attended by the Paramount Chief, and to it are referred all important matters which arise when the Council is not in session. The voice of the people is, therefore, being increasingly heard in the affairs of the Territory.

In 1943 District Councils were established as advisory and consultative bodies in all districts. The majority of the members are elected by popular vote at local 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. Each District Council elects four of its members to sit as members of the Basutoland Council for a term of three years—the other elected members of the Basutoland Council are elected by certain important sectional bodies, which are also represented on the District Councils.

At the end of 1943 a Committee was appointed, consisting mainly of Basuto, to work out a scheme for the establishment of Basuto National Treasury, and its proposals were published in a booklet which was widely distributed throughout the Territory. The proposals included the reorganization of the Basuto Courts, entailing a reduction in their number from over 1,300 to about 130, and a change-over from the tribal system whereby the Chiefs and Headmen held their own courts, themselves pocketing the fines and fees, to one whereby the courts would be held by stipendiary officers, and all fines and fees paid into the proposed National Treasury. It was proposed also that other practices open to abuse, such as the retention by the chiefs of unclaimed stray stock, should be abolished, and that chiefs and others carrying out administrative, judicial and fiscal duties should be paid allowances or salaries from the National Treasury. These proposals were accepted by the Resident Commissioner and Paramount Chief on the recommendation of the Basutoland Council in 1945, and the Basuto National Treasury and the new courts were established in 1946.

## 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 accordance with Proclamation No. 4 of 1904.

## CHAPTER V

## READING LIST

## I. GENERAL

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*The Basuto of Basutoland*, by E. A. T. DUTTON (Johathan Cape).  
*The Basutos, or Twenty-three Years in South Africa*, by Rev. EUGENE CASALIS.  
*The Basuto of Basutoland*, by A. MABILLE.  
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*Reminiscences*, by J. M. ORPEN.  
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*The Basuto*, by HUGH ASHTON (Oxford University Press, 1952).  
*The Rise of the Basuto*, by G. TYLDEN (Juta, 1950).

## 2. GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

- Report on the Financial and Economic Position of Basutoland*, Cmd. 4907 (H. M. Stationery Office).  
*An Ecological Survey of the Mountain Area of Basutoland* (Crown Agents, 1938).  
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*Five Years' Experimental Work on Wheat Production*, by H. C. MUNDELL (1942).  
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*Report on the Possibilities of the Development of Village Crafts in Basutoland*, by H. V. MEYEROWITZ.

*Forestry Aims in the High Commission Territories*, by O. B. MILLER (1947).  
*The Origin and History of the Basuto Pony*, by R. W. THORNTON, C.B.E.,  
and others.

*Basutoland Census, 1946.*

*Report on the Salaries and Conditions of Service in the Public Services of the  
South African High Commission Territories, 1947-48.*

*Memorandum on the Report on Salaries and Conditions of Service in the  
Public Services of the High Commission Territories.*

*Basutoland Medicine Murder: A report on the recent outbreak of Liretlo  
Murders in Basutoland*, by G. I. JONES, Cmd. 82,09 (H. M. Stationery  
Office, 1951).

*Basutoland Agricultural Survey, 1949-50*, by A. J. A. DOUGLAS, M.B.E.,  
and R. K. TENNANT.

*Report of the Administrative Reforms Committee, 1954.*

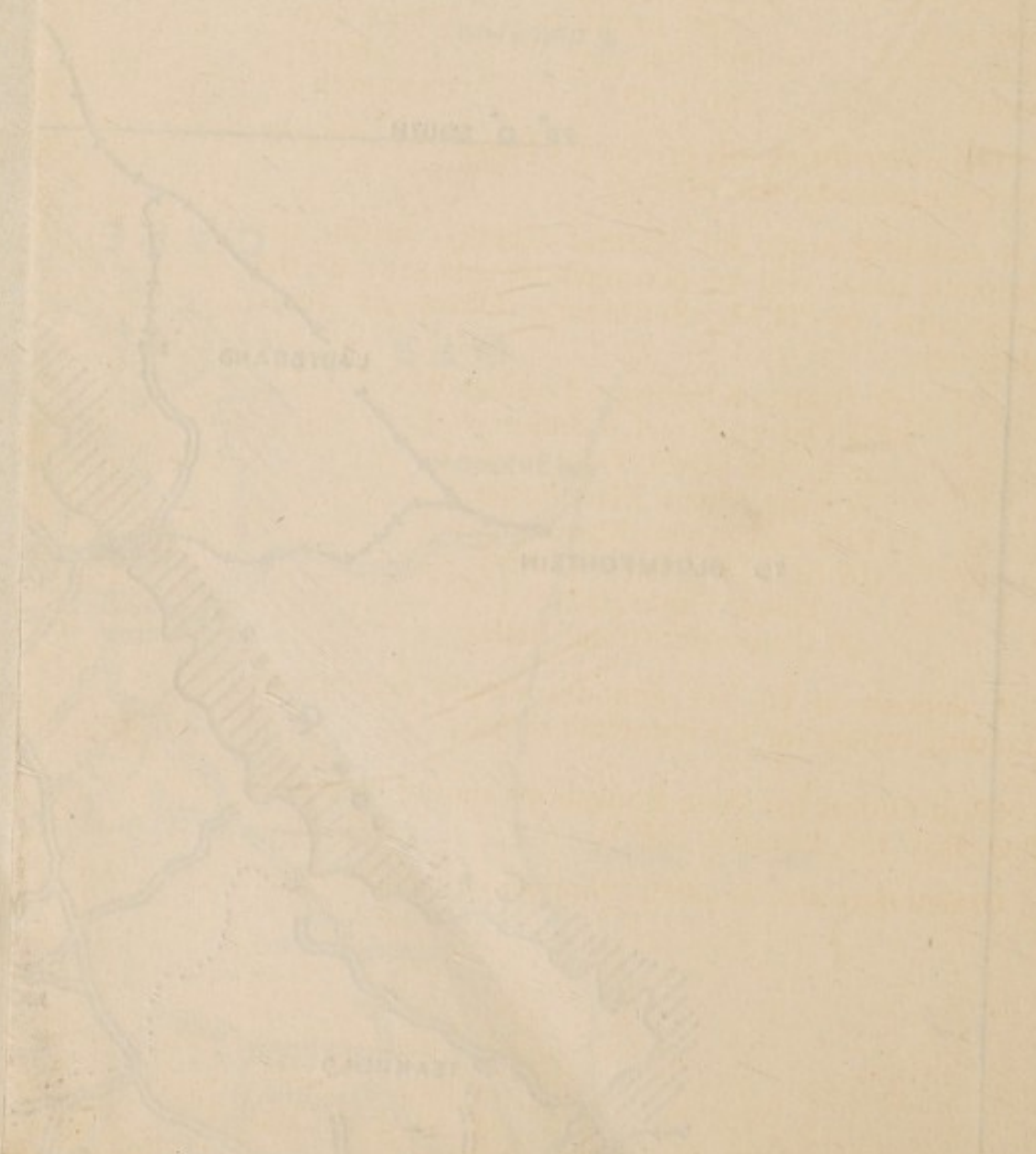
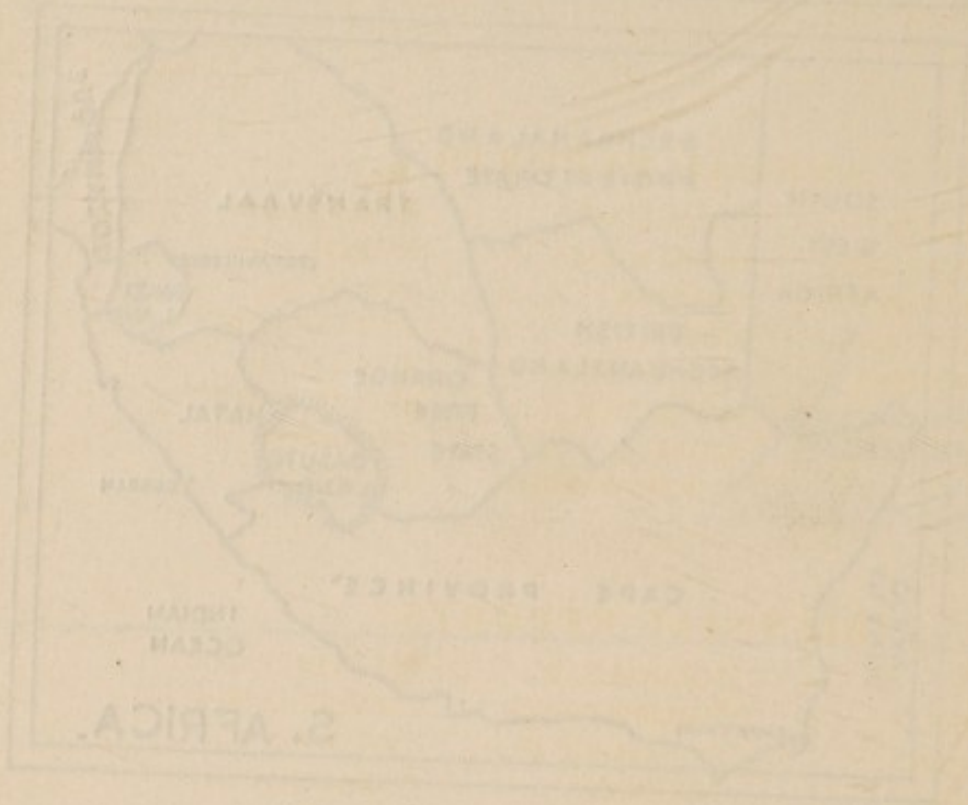


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## BIENNIAL REPORTS

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