

Nyasaland.

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No. 1389

NYASALAND

REPORT FOR 1927

(For Report for 1925, see No. 1296, price 6d.)



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Geography.

The territory comprised in the Nyasaland Protectorate is a strip about 520 miles in length and varying from 50 to 100 miles in width. It lies approximately between latitude S. 9° 45' and 17° 16' and longitude E. 33° and 36°. The area is roughly 40,000 square miles or about one-third the area of the British Isles. The most southerly portion of the Protectorate is about 130 miles from the sea as the crow flies.

This strip falls naturally into two divisions: (1) consisting of the western shore of Lake Nyasa, with the high tablelands separating it from the basin of the Luangwa river in Northern Rhodesia, and (2) the region lying between the watershed of the Zambesi river and Shire river on the west and the Lakes Chiuta and Chilwa and the river Ruo, an affluent of the Shire, on the east, including the mountain systems of the Shire Highlands and Mlanje and a small portion, also mountainous, of the south-eastern coast of Lake Nyasa.

The Protectorate is divided for administrative purposes into four Provinces, the Zomba, Southern, Central, and Northern, each of which is in the charge of a Provincial Commissioner. Each Province is subdivided into districts in the charge of Residents.

The chief towns are Blantyre, with about 300 European inhabitants, Limbe near Blantyre, and Zomba, the seat of the Government.

Historical.

Very little is known of the history of the region now called Nyasaland before the middle of the past century. Jasper Bocarro, a Portuguese, is said to have been the first European to visit Nyasaland; he appears to have travelled early in the 17th century from the Zambesi to the junction of the Ruo and Shire rivers and thence via Lake Shirwa and the Lujenda river to the coast at Mikandani.

The real history of Nyasaland begins with the advent of Dr. Livingstone, who, after experiencing considerable difficulty in ascending the Shire, discovered Lakes Shirwa and Pamalombe, and on 16th September, 1859, reached the southern shore of Lake Nyasa. Livingstone was closely followed by a Mission under Bishop Mackenzie, sent out by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The Mission settled in the Shire Highlands, but, on account of loss of its members by sickness and otherwise, it withdrew in 1862. It was subsequently re-established in 1881 on Lake Nyasa, with headquarters on the island of Likoma, where it still remains.

In 1874 the Livingstonia Mission, named in honour of the great explorer, was founded by the Free Church of Scotland. They were joined in 1876 by the pioneers of the Church of Scotland Mission, who chose the site of the present town of Blantyre and established themselves in the Shire Highlands, while the Free Church applied itself to the evangelization of the inhabitants of the shores of Lake Nyasa.

The Missions were followed by the African Lakes Corporation, and in 1883 Captain Foote, R.N., was appointed first British Consul for the territories north of the Zambesi, to reside at Blantyre.

A serious danger had arisen in connection with Arab slave traders who had settled at the north end of Lake Nyasa. At the time of Livingstone's first visit he found the Arabs established in a few places on what is now the Portuguese shore of the Lake and at Kota-Kota on the west side. Arab caravans, trading with the tribes in and beyond the valley of the Luangwa, were in the habit of crossing the Lake on their way to and from the sea coast. Opposition of the new settlers to the slave trade carried on by Arab coastmen and natives alike resulted in a conflict with the

Arab traders under Chief Mlozi, settled at the north end of Lake Nyasa, which spread to the Yao chiefs, who were under their influence.

In the summer of 1889 the late Mr. Johnston (afterwards Sir H. H. Johnston, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.) arrived at Mozambique as H.B.M. Consul and proceeded to travel in the interior to inquire into the troubles with the Arabs.

Treaties having been concluded with the remaining Makololo chiefs and with the Yaos round Blantyre, Mr. Johnston proceeded up Lake Nyasa, leaving Mr. John Buchanan, Acting-Consul, in charge, who, after the first encounter between Major Serpa Pinto and Mlauri, a powerful Makololo chief, proclaimed on 21st September, 1889, a British Protectorate over the Shire districts.

In 1891 an Anglo-Portuguese Convention ratified the work of Mr. Johnston, Mr. Sharpe (now Sir A. Sharpe, K.C.M.G., C.B.), and other pioneers of British Central Africa, and in the following spring a British Protectorate over the countries adjoining Nyasa was proclaimed. The Protectorate of Nyasaland, under the administration of an Imperial Commissioner, was confined to the regions adjoining the Shire and Lake Nyasa; the remainder of the territory under British influence north of the Zambesi being placed, subject to certain conditions, under the British South Africa Company.

On 22nd February, 1893, the name of the Protectorate was changed to "The British Central Africa Protectorate," but the old name "Nyasaland Protectorate" was revived in October, 1907, by the Order in Council which amended the Constitution.

Climate.

The climate of Nyasaland in its essential features is similar to that of the rest of Eastern Africa within the tropics.

The climate is necessarily diversified in various districts, owing to variations in latitude, altitude, and general configuration of the terrain, presence or absence of rivers, forests, etc., but, as a large proportion of the Protectorate lies at an altitude of 3,000 feet or more, the heat is not generally excessive. The monsoon commences to blow strongly in September, in conjunction with the sun's increase in southerly declination, and the first rains may be expected any time after mid-October. From their commencement to the end of December it is usual to experience violent thunderstorms and heavy precipitation in a few hours, followed by an interval varying from one to fifteen or twenty days of intense heat. With the return of the sun from its southern limit of declination, the thunderstorms diminish in intensity and frequency, and are replaced by steady rain—January, February, and March being usually the wettest months as regards duration of rainfall

as well as actual amount. After March the frequency and intensity of rainfall diminish rapidly and from May to September the climate is comparatively cool and dry.

Languages.

The principal language spoken in the Protectorate is Nyanja, which is understood by most tribes throughout the country and is the official language which all civil servants are expected to learn. Other languages in use in various parts of Nyasaland are Yao, Nguru (which is spoken chiefly by natives who have immigrated from Portuguese East Africa), Tumbuka, Tonga, and Nkonde, the last three practically confined to the Northern Province. Swahili is spoken to a limited extent, chiefly by Mohammedan Yaos.

Currency, etc.

The currency of the Protectorate consists of English coinage, gold, silver, and copper, but there is no note issue and notes of other parts of the Empire are not legal tender. During the year the question was raised of adopting the cental coinage already in use in East Africa, but the matter is still under consideration and no decision has been reached.

The weights and measures in use are also the ordinary English units, although there is an increasing tendency to use the short ton of 2,000 lb. The only two Banks operating in Nyasaland are the Standard Bank of South Africa and Barclay's Overseas Bank, formerly the National Bank of South Africa.

I. GENERAL.

His Excellency, in opening the 34th Session of the Legislative Council on the 11th of May, referred to the outstanding land problems and expressed his disappointment that he had not been able to effect a settlement of them during his recent visit to England. He outlined the provisions of a Bill which had been prepared to reserve to the native community certain lands which would be proclaimed and vested in a Native Lands Board without whose consent none of it could be alienated. The revenues of the Board would be devoted to expenditure specially ear-marked for the benefit of the native community.

As far as non-native lands were concerned the main obstacle to a settlement was the position of natives on freehold estates. The problem, which is one of extreme intricacy, was the subject of negotiations between the Secretary of State and representatives of the various landowners. The view taken at the Colonial Office was that the various land questions of the Protectorate were so interlocked that it was difficult to decide any of the outstanding questions apart from a general settlement, and that this applied also

to the terms and conditions of Crown leases both of agricultural holdings and of township plots. None of the land questions had been settled at the end of the year, although the Natives on Private Estates Bill reached the Committee stage in Legislative Council.

During the year a special Commission visited Nyasaland and made exhaustive enquiries and investigations into the economic potentialities of the Protectorate, and into the physical features of the country in connection with proposed railway extensions, and investigations were also carried out into the possibility of re-opening the Upper Shire river to navigation and into the questions of harbours and railway termini at the southern end of Lake Nyasa.

Negotiations have been proceeding between the Nyasaland Government and those of Southern Rhodesia and Portuguese East Africa for the construction of a road to join Blantyre with Salisbury by way of Tete and by the end of 1927 there was every reason to hope that the road would soon be completed, thus bringing Blantyre within two days' reach of Salisbury by motor-car. Enquiries were also being made as to the best means of linking up Northern Nyasaland with the "Great North Road" from Broken Hill to Nairobi via Fife.

A change of some importance was made during 1927, by which the financial year which formerly began on the 1st of April was made to synchronise with the ordinary calendar year. In order to bring about this change the financial year beginning on 1st April, 1927, was reduced to a period of nine months.

Lieut.-Colonel Davidson-Houston succeeded Mr. Rankine as Chief Secretary to the Government and assumed duty in November.

II. FINANCE.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure during each of the past five financial years:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
	£	£
1923-24	281,044	282,800
1924-25	293,055	295,481
1925-26	322,160	303,205
1926-27	348,320	318,899
1927 (April-December)	346,341	266,519

The excess of assets over liabilities at the end of each of the above periods was:—

	£
31st March, 1924 (excess of liabilities) ...	7,704
31st March, 1925 (excess of assets) ...	5,970
31st March, 1926 (excess of assets) ...	24,926
31st March, 1927 (excess of assets) ...	54,347
31st December, 1927 (excess of assets) ...	134,169

The public debt of the Protectorate as at the 31st December, 1927, was as follows:—

<i>Loan.</i>	<i>Total Loan received.</i>	<i>Interest & Annuity Charges paid in 1927.</i>	<i>Unredeemed balances.</i>
	£	£	£
Shire Highlands Railway:—			
Subsidy Lands	180,800	3,793	150,972
East African Protectorate:—			
Loan 1915 ... 4 per cent.	12,000	—	42,648
do. ... 6 per cent.	33,348		
Trans-Zambesia Railway Guarantee and Annuity Loans 1921-27:—			
January Issues (Plus Interest 1927, £9,660)	195,000	—	202,860
March Issues	210,550	—	194,503
July Issues	125,000	6,250	125,000
June Issues	25,000	—	25,000
December Issues	25,000	—	25,000
Loan in Aid of Famine Relief, 1924	20,000	—	18,739
	£826,698	10,043	784,722

It will be seen from the second of the tables printed above that a deficit of £7,704 on the 31st of March, 1924, has been changed into a surplus balance of £134,169 on the 31st of December, 1927, and this fortunate result must be mainly ascribed to the general progress made by the Protectorate in recent years. Since 1922 the European population has increased by 20 per cent. and the taxable income of the community has risen from £424,000 to £751,000. The opening of the Trans-Zambesia Railway and the large extension of the roads available for motor traffic have provided means for disposing of produce which were not yet in existence a few years ago. This again has reacted on the earning capacity and purchasing power of the native community, and the increases of revenue are shown under Customs, Hut Taxes, Licences, Postal Receipts, and other heads.

Certain amendments were made in the Customs Schedule during 1927. The provision by which the cost of packing and outside packages were deducted from the value of goods was abolished owing to the difficulty experienced in checking the accuracy of statements made by importers. Several articles were added to the list of building materials which are allowed in at the lower rate of 10 per cent. *ad valorem*. These additional articles included rod and bar iron, door and window fittings, flat and corrugated iron, painters' colours, roofing material, timber, and wire netting.

The duty on sewing machines was increased from 15 to 25 per cent. *ad valorem* or to a duty of twenty shillings, whichever is the greater. This provides a means of taxing to a certain extent the wealthier type of native, who would otherwise escape with no higher taxation than that paid by the ordinary labourer.

As a result of these alterations in the Customs Schedule an increase of £1,150 in revenue was anticipated.

A minor amendment to the Schedule was made in August by which the horse-power of cars that may be imported free of duty was raised from 15.6 to 15.9 as experience has shown that the latter is a more convenient limit.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculture.

Cotton.—In 1922 the area of cotton planted by Europeans was 26,545 acres; in 1927 it was 2,545 acres, and during the present season it is anticipated that not more than 1,000 acres of cotton will be planted. The rapid fall in the acreage planted with cotton by Europeans in Nyasaland is a matter for regret, but with the fall in prices and low yields European cotton must tend to be more and more confined as a main crop to the lower and less healthy elevations of the country, although as a rotation crop it has advantages in mid-elevations.

In 1927, Europeans produced 82 tons of lint cotton and natives produced 416 tons; the percentages of the total being 16.53 and 83.47 respectively. Native production fell from 2,909 tons of seed cotton in 1925 to 1,387 tons in 1927. The falling off in native production must be ascribed to the drop in prices, and with a rise in home values increased production by natives may be confidently expected.

Tobacco.—The country continues to be more and more dependent on tobacco as its staple export product, and in 1927 tobacco accounted for 8,166 tons out of the total of 10,361 tons of export crops produced. Both the European and the native crop for the year far exceeded all previous figures. Europeans produced 4,682 tons or 57.34 per cent. of the total and natives produced 3,484 tons or 42.66 per cent. of the whole crop.

The buying season opened with excellent prices for bright tobaccos, but towards the middle of the season prices fell and planters experienced great difficulty in disposing of this class of tobacco. Much anxiety was felt at the depressed condition of the home market. Dark tobaccos, on the other hand, were absorbed more readily than was anticipated. The state of the home market has created a feeling of the importance of extending the consumption of Empire-grown tobacco to cope with the increased production due to Imperial Preference.

The tendency in regard to the production of native tobacco is downwards, but at the same time the industry is becoming more stable as the better type of producer will continue in the industry, while those whose zeal was only temporary and those who hoped to make money easily by growing tobacco will drop out of the

business because of their disappointment at the fall from the abnormal prices realised the previous year.

Tea.—This crop continues to expand and in 1927 there was an increase of 1,282 acres under tea as compared with 1926. The position is healthy, prices are satisfactory, and the prospects continue to be good.

Sisal.—There was a considerable expansion in the production of this crop, due to increased development, and the amount exported rose from 529 tons in 1926 to 801 tons in 1927.

Coffee.—It must be admitted that the long, dry spell in Nyasaland is not ideal for the production of coffee, but the area under this crop increased from 424 acres in 1924 to 1,239 acres in 1927. This increase, however, gives no grounds for assuming that this crop will ever be restored to its former importance.

The following table shows the annual exports of the principal products in quantities and values during each of the past five years :—

	1923.		1924.		1925.		1926.		1927.	
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Tobacco	2,303	257,998	3,145	352,348	3,088	345,872	4,081	457,122	6,905	780,964
Cotton...	924	85,649	995	120,564	1,023	96,245	1,377	93,243	826	45,834
Sisal ...	747	15,425	799	18,015	785	19,388	529	16,799	801	24,428
Tea ...	430	39,934	473	57,046	516	64,242	528	62,675	522	56,640
Coffee ...	41	2,305	21	1,768	9	768	25	2,174	16	1,203

Veterinary.

Trypanosomiasis of cattle continues to be the cause of the majority of the deaths from disease, owing to the large tracts of country infested by tsetse fly (*Glossina morsitans* and *Glossina brevipalpis*) and to the economic necessity of moving cattle for transport purposes and the supply of slaughter animals for the food of man. A scheme which was initiated during 1925 to attempt to prevent the southward spread of tsetse fly in the Central Province is being vigorously extended and there seems to be some hope of the policy which is being pursued yielding favourable results.

East Coast Fever has been confined to the Central and Northern Provinces, where a scheme for the provision of dipping facilities is being gradually extended from the south into this area with a view to controlling all tick-borne diseases.

There have been no large outbreaks of epizootic diseases during the year. Anthrax, blackquarter, demodectic mange, and streptothricosis of cattle, and also rabies have been well under control.

Rinderpest occurred in the neighbouring district of Tanganyika, near our northern border, but the protective measures in force were sufficient to prevent any extension of this disease into Nyasaland.

The numbers of domestic animals killed by wild carnivora in the Northern Province are 20 per cent. greater than the numbers who die from disease. In one district in which a register of all cattle is kept 737 head were killed by wild carnivora during the past two years.

There has been a steady increase in the number of live stock and also in the interest of European owners in improving the quality of the animals they breed. Nineteen bulls and nineteen cows of various pedigree strains have been imported from Great Britain and South Africa by European settlers since the last report was published.

The consumption of meat by the native population is steadily increasing in the areas in which economic production by natives has been developed.

Forestry.

During the year, five new Forest Reserves were proclaimed, having an aggregate area of 217 square miles.

This brings the total number of Reserves up to 32, with a total area of approximately 2,969 square miles.

Forest protection has made great advances under the District organisations of forest guards supervised by native foresters, and most of the population throughout the Protectorate are now conversant with the main forest laws and with forest-reserve boundaries in their Districts.

A great deal of work has been undertaken by the Department in ascertaining the distribution and composition, by species, of the various "savannah" types which compose the forests of the country.

In addition to the creation of 32 Forest Reserves a commencement has been made in the demarcation of small, widely-scattered areas of forest for dedication to the communal use of the villages in their vicinity, with the object of trying to maintain a sustained yield of building poles and fuel for the needs of the people. It is intended that the people themselves should protect and manage these "village forest areas" under simple rules provided by the District Administration (Native) Ordinance, supplemented by a certain amount of supervision and advice from the Forestry Department.

In localities where insufficient natural forest remains for the allocation of effective "village forest areas," villagers are being encouraged to form communal plantations, and for this purpose plants are distributed (in many districts) free of charge from Government nurseries, the departmental staff giving advice and assistance whenever possible. During the year, 50 areas of

indigenous forest totalling 5,017 acres were demarcated and allocated to villages and over 200 additional areas were demarcated and prepared for planting up during the rainy season.

Additional areas were planted up by the Department under afforestation schemes at Zomba, Limbe, Mlanje, and Dedza, and a certain amount of experimental planting was undertaken.

Systematic tending and thinning of plantations continues to receive the close attention which successful management demands and in most cases thinnings realized satisfactory prices.

Departmental exploitation of the Mlanje cypress forests was continued throughout the year for supplying timber to the Public Works Department, and adequate stocks of sawn timber were made available.

As in the two preceding years a course of instruction was held in Zomba for native foresters, and foresters from all Districts attended as well as a few recruits. These courses are proving of great value in building up an efficient subordinate staff.

Timber and forest produce was sold to the public under the licence system as in the past, and forest revenue showed a satisfactory increase during the year.

Advice on forestry matters was given to the public whenever asked for either by letter, interview, or whenever possible by personal inspection.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

Trade conditions during 1927 were very satisfactory, and the total volume of external trade reached the record figure of nearly two and a quarter millions sterling, an increase of over a hundred per cent. since 1923. The balance of trade, too, turned once again in favour of exports.

The principal contributory cause of the general improvement in trade was the development of the tobacco industry, both European and native, the production for the year being nearly twice as much in weight as the previous largest crop. The increasing wealth of the country due to the expansion of the tobacco and other staple crops is reflected in the continuous increase in the value of imports of a capital nature such as machinery, agricultural implements, and iron and steel manufactures. The importation of heavy lorries for service as feeders to the railway increased in numbers by nearly 150 per cent. over 1926.

A notable change in the incidence of imports has taken place in the last five years. Goods imported for European consumption have increased in value from about 45 per cent. of the total to 57 per cent.; the native trade has declined from over 50 per cent. to 38 per cent., while the percentage of Asiatic imports has remained constant at about 5 per cent.

Native trade was not so good as had been anticipated earlier in the year, probably as a result of the decline in cotton production. There appears to be a smaller demand for long cloths and similar

cotton manufactures and an increase in the demand for ready-made khaki drill and other clothing, blankets, and felt hats, as well as for cheap hardware, sewing machines, and bicycles.

The volume of trade, domestic imports and exports (excluding Government imports), and goods in transit, is shown below for each of the last five years :—

<i>Year.</i>						<i>Volume of Trade.</i>
						£
1923	...	...	...	...	...	1,023,359
1924	...	...	...	...	...	1,278,407
1925	...	...	...	...	...	1,294,300
1926	...	...	...	...	...	1,637,729
1927	...	...	...	...	...	2,206,438

As compared with 1926, the trade volume of the year may be analysed as under :—

	<i>1927.</i>	<i>1926.</i>	<i>Increase.</i>
	£	£	£
Imports ...	938,461	791,054	147,407
Exports ...	960,869	671,086	289,783
Transit Inwards	127,147	75,331	51,816
Transit Outwards	179,961	100,258	79,703
	<u>£2,206,438</u>	<u>£1,637,729</u>	<u>£568,709</u>

Exports exceeded imports in 1927 by £22,408, whereas in 1926 imports exceeded exports by £119,968.

The importation of manufactured articles increased by £139,093 or 21.3 per cent. over that of the previous year, the most noteworthy item being vehicles and parts which increased in value by £71,209 or 99.7 per cent. Commercial power-lorries and tractors increased by 129 to 220, of which 92 or 41.8 per cent. were of United Kingdom manufacture. The number of touring cars imported was 136 of which 80 or 58.8 per cent. were of United Kingdom manufacture. This was one car less than in 1926, but the value of car imports increased by £2,531. The increase in the number of motor vehicles was naturally reflected in the larger quantity of motor spirit imported, the total for the year being 394,864 gallons, showing an increase of 141,861 gallons.

Cotton manufactures to the port of shipment value of £275,954 were imported during the year, a decline of £30,909 equal to 10 per cent. This is partly due to the lower home cost and partly to the greater demand for ready-made clothing.

Although the United Kingdom continues to supply Nyasaland with its highest proportion of direct imports, this percentage is certainly falling, and during the last year it has declined a further 2 per cent. The main reason appears to be the apparent indifference of British merchants as compared with the activity of foreign

agents. Imports of Japanese and Czechoslovakian manufacture, purchased in Beira and India, are increasing as also are direct imports from the United States of America. The combined direct and indirect trade in Empire manufactures constituted 74 per cent. of the total imports in 1927, as against 75 per cent. in 1926 and 77 per cent. in 1925.

The most valuable single item in the import trade of the Protectorate is cotton manufactures, and the following table shows how this business is being lost to the United Kingdom.

Year.	Total Value.	From United Kingdom.		From India.		From Other British Possessions.		Foreign Countries.	
	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%
1925	259,074	108,843	42.0	73,438	28.4	17,614	6.8	59,179	22.8
1926	306,863	108,563	35.38	66,634	21.71	9,016	2.94	122,650	39.97
1927	275,954	62,257	22.56	95,446	34.59	7,272	2.63	110,979	40.22

Taking the port of shipment value of the direct consignments of domestic trade imports the following is the position :—

Year.	United Kingdom.		British Possessions.		Foreign Countries.	
	£	%	£	%	£	%
1925 ...	295,844	50.0	139,325	23.5	156,482	26.5
1926 ...	353,334	44.66	163,923	20.73	273,797	34.61
1927 ...	410,659	43.76	211,065	22.49	316,737	33.75

Since 1925, direct imports from the United Kingdom have declined by 6.24 per cent., those from British Possessions by 1.01 per cent., while those from foreign countries have increased by 7.25 per cent.

Outside of the United Kingdom, the only parts of the Empire which contributed any appreciable quantity of the domestic imports were : India with 12.78 per cent. of the total, chiefly cotton goods ; South Africa with 4.5 per cent. ; and Southern Rhodesia with 3.85 per cent. Of the foreign countries, Portuguese East Africa supplied 13.6 per cent. of the total domestic imports, chiefly motor spirit, paraffin, cotton manufactures, salt, and sugar ; the United States supplied 6.26 per cent., mainly cotton manufactures ; Germany 5.67 per cent., cotton goods, beads, hoes and hardware ; Holland 2.95 per cent., blankets, cotton goods, fertilisers, and beads ; Japan 1.29 per cent.

As regards export trade, the most important fact of the year is the enormous increase in the quantity of tobacco produced, even when compared with the previous record production of 1926. The

chief cause of this increased development in the tobacco industry is undoubtedly the stabilised Imperial Preference. Practically the whole of the tobacco crop is shipped to Great Britain and it constituted over 30 per cent. of the United Kingdom imports of Empire-grown tobacco during 1927. The net export of tobacco was 6,905 tons as compared with 4,082 tons in 1926, an increase of 69.1 per cent.

The fall in home market prices had an adverse effect on cotton production, and only 826 tons were shipped in 1927 as against 1,377 tons in 1926.

Delayed rains at the end of the year affected the export of tea, 522½ tons being exported as compared with 528 tons in the previous year.

Sisal exports reached the record figure of 801 tons, an increase of 272 tons or 51.4 per cent. over 1926.

The total exports from the Protectorate weighed 9,820 tons and were valued at £960,869, as against 6,884 tons valued at £671,086 in 1926. The increase in weight was 42.66 per cent. and in value 43.18 per cent.

The United Kingdom took 97.19 per cent. of the total exports of domestic products by weight and 99.3 per cent. of the total by value. It will thus be seen that the exports to British Possessions and foreign countries are negligible.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

Except for the steamers of the British India Line which maintain a regular mail service, there are no fixed sailing dates from Beira and passengers are often kept waiting some days at that port awaiting the departure of the ship on which they are booked. Similar delays occur on the inward journey, as there is only one regular train a week from Beira to Blantyre, although a mid-week or special train is occasionally run. The voyage from England to Beira takes about thirty days by mail steamer and from five to six weeks by other vessels.

Railways.

There are three separate railway systems to be passed over on the journey from Beira to Blantyre, although they are all under one management. These are the Trans-Zambesi Railway from Beira to Murraca on the south bank of the Zambesi. Passengers and cargoes cross the river by a steamer-ferry, for as yet there is no bridge. From Chindio, opposite Murraca, the Central African Railway runs to Port Herald, and the Shire Highlands Railway continues from the latter place, the port of entry into the Protectorate, to Blantyre. The journey normally occupies two days, passengers sleeping the intervening night on the ferry steamer.

Roads.

At the end of the War, the use of heavy lorries was impossible except on the Blantyre-Zomba road, motor traffic elsewhere being restricted to light American cars. Bullock carts were in use to a certain extent, but human portage was still the most usual method of transport. A definite policy of road improvement was of necessity inaugurated to meet the changing conditions, and to open up new areas of the Protectorate. By 1920 the North Charterland Exploration Company were able to maintain a regular service of Reo lorries between Limbe and Dedza, whence they transported the export produce carried from Fort Jameson by ox-wagon.

During the past eight years the 46 miles of road open to motor-lorries has been developed into a main-road system consisting of 85 miles of metalled road and 834 miles of earth road, the latter being available, except during exceptionally wet periods, for motor-lorries of a gross weight of four tons.

The consequent increase in the use of motor transport has been one of the most important factors in the expansion of trade in the Protectorate. The quantity of goods carried over the Shire Highlands Railway has increased from 22,500 tons in 1923 to 43,700 tons in 1927, and the development of motor transport can best be appreciated from the fact that the imports of petrol for local consumption have grown from 88,850 gallons in 1922 to 394,864 gallons in 1927.

The introduction of balloon tyres and the increase in the number of high-speed motor vehicles have caused a great deal of damage to roads, and it has been impossible to maintain a satisfactory surface even on the Zomba-Blantyre road. Unless the country is prepared to meet the cost of proper road-surfacing, it must face the prospect of increased trouble from the disintegrating effects of high-speed traffic on water-bound macadam roads.

During 1927, 142 miles of main road were opened to lorry traffic and the road system generally was satisfactory under increased traffic.

Generally speaking, the normal maintenance of the road system of the country was carried out in a satisfactory manner, some improvements of a more important nature being carried out from loan funds. During the year there was no flood damage of a serious nature. Among the planting community there is strong agitation in favour of the early opening of the roads to heavy traffic, but the rains are often late and the damage caused by the rain must be repaired before the roads can be opened for heavy lorries.

Except in remote districts, carrier transport has almost disappeared, and Nyasaland has the distinction of owning more motor vehicles in proportion to the white population than any other country in the world.

Postal.

There was a continued increase of traffic in both the postal and the telegraph branches of the service.

The number of articles dealt with in the post was 2,411,672, an increase of 501,205 or 26.23 per cent. over 1926. Local letters numbered 551,720 in 1926 and 668,074 in 1927, the increase being due to penny postage which was introduced on the 1st of April, 1926. Dealers and collectors purchased stamps to the value of over £800, and excluding these the sale of stamps increased by 26.91 per cent.

All classes of telegraphic traffic showed a steady increase, and this is due in great measure to the installation of the Cape Town "beam" wireless system, which is cheaper than the cable service. Many telegrams to and from Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika Territory are now forwarded via the "beam" service. The increase in telegraphic traffic over 1926 is 30.08 per cent. There is no wireless transmitting station in the Protectorate, but a few people own receiving sets.

There was a considerable increase in the number and total value of money-orders issued, mainly due to the larger number of C.O.D. parcels received from England, although money-orders issued and paid in the Protectorate show a remarkable increase. Postal-order business remained about the same.

The only public telephone service is in Zomba and it is practically confined to the Government offices.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

The Police Force consists of 14 European officers and 474 African ranks. The cost of the Force for 1927 was £16,144.

Crime.

Crime in the settled areas of the Southern and Zomba Provinces has shown a tendency to increase during the year, the main increases being offences against the person and property. There is very little serious crime in other districts.

Prisons.

The established prisons of the Protectorate consist of a Central Prison at Zomba for long-sentence prisoners, at which various trades are taught, and 19 District prisons, situated at the head-quarter stations of each District, for short-sentence prisoners.

The Prison staff consists of two European officers and 125 African warders. The European officers are in charge of the Central Prison, and District prisons are under the supervision of administrative or Police officers, the whole being under the charge of a Chief Inspector of Prisons.

The total number of persons committed to the prisons during 1927 was 3,192, of whom 840 were for safe custody pending trial, six for debt, and 2,347 on sentence to imprisonment.

The cost of the prisons for 1927 was £4,995.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The most important piece of bridge work undertaken during the year was the erection of a 75-foot steel girder bridge over the Lichenya River, at Mlanje. Apart from this, no public works were undertaken which had any great interest other than local. Extensive alterations to Government House were planned and partly carried out.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The population of the Protectorate at the end of 1927 was estimated at 1,716 Europeans, about 900 Asiatics, almost wholly Indians, and 1,279,000 natives. About 1,014 Europeans and 151 Asiatics entered the country and 814 Europeans and 439 Asiatics left.

The health of the European community during 1927 was much the same as in 1926. One hundred and seventy-nine patients were admitted to the Government hospitals, as compared with one hundred and seventy-three in 1926. The out-patients numbered 715, as against 625 during 1926. Of these 894 European patients, 127 were treated for malaria, which is responsible for more sickness amongst Europeans than any other one disease. Diarrhoea and enteritis were next with 59 cases.

Amongst the native population, 3,127 cases were admitted to hospitals and 153,512 cases were treated as out-patients, as compared with 3,009 and 143,260 respectively in 1926.

Of these cases over 36 per cent. are more or less preventible diseases.

The commonest diseases were ulcers (some 24,000) and respiratory affections (nearly 21,000), whilst injuries of various kinds amounted to over 26,000 cases. Hookworm disease is very prevalent amongst the native population, although there were actually only some 2,090 persons treated.

The chief causes of death amongst natives in 1927 were infectious and epidemic diseases, respiratory affections, hookworm disease, injuries, and general diseases, each 16 per cent. of the recorded deaths.

Of the other diseases, no one disease exceeds 5 per cent. of the recorded deaths.

There were no serious epidemics during the year. There was a small outbreak of smallpox at Mlanje, but it was quickly controlled and there were only eleven cases.

IX.—EDUCATION.

The new Department of Education came into existence in May, 1926. Before 1926, the education of the native population was entirely in the hands of the various missionary bodies, the first of which to take up work in Nyasaland was the Universities Mission to Central Africa, which opened a station near Zomba in 1860, soon removed to Zanzibar, and did not renew its activities in the country until 1881, when it opened its existing headquarters on Likoma Island in Lake Nyasa.

In 1875 the Free Church of Scotland and in 1876 the Church of Scotland began mission work on Lake Nyasa and at Blantyre respectively. Other missions followed until at present there are eleven separate religious bodies operating in Nyasaland. During the last twenty years the expenditure by missions on native education has increased from about £6,000 in 1907 to £41,525 in 1927. From 1908 to 1918 an annual grant of £1,000 a year was made by Government in aid of education. From 1918 to 1926 the grant was increased to £2,000 a year, divided proportionately among the missions in accordance with the educational work performed by them. In the year ended 31st March, 1927, the grant amounted to £2,300 and in the remaining nine months of the year it totalled £3,720, based on the number of qualified teachers and instructors and boarders receiving vocational training.

Ever since 1916, Government had been considering the question of increasing the grants to missions and the creation of a Department of Education, but the financial state of the Protectorate prevented any action being taken in the matter. In 1925, however, the formation of a Department was authorised by the Secretary of State and in 1926 it was inaugurated.

During the first six months after his arrival the Director of Education acquainted himself with existing educational facilities and conferred with the heads of the various missions and with others concerned with a view to securing their support and co-operation in a scheme of education. In October, 1926, the Fifth General Conference of the Federated Missions met at Blantyre and devoted two days to the consideration of educational matters, the discussion ranging over a wide field. As a result of this Conference, a decided advance was made in the standard of education.

In May, 1927, His Excellency the Governor convened a Native Education Conference at Zomba, at which the problem of education in Nyasaland was discussed and various committees were appointed to consider different aspects of the question. As a result of this Conference, all the missions, with the exception of the Universities Mission to Central Africa, definitely agreed to co-operate in the scheme put forward by the Education Department, while the Universities Mission has agreed to give the new code a trial. At this Conference it was unanimously agreed that manual work,

especially agriculture, as well as hygiene, sanitation, physical training and organised games, should find a place in the syllabus for every type of school.

During 1927, an Education Ordinance was passed which provided for the institution of a Board of Education to act as an advisory body on all educational matters, and for the appointment of Provincial and District School Committees to deal with local questions. The Board held its first meeting in August and discussed the proposed Rules under the Ordinance and the Rules were finally approved by Government in December.

In accordance with the provisions of the Education Ordinance, registers were compiled of all schools and teachers, and at the end of the year there were 2,788 schools with a staff of 4,481 native teachers. There were 91 full-time European teachers and technical instructors employed by the missions, and 63 engaged in part-time educational work. Third-grade certificates were awarded to 319 native teachers, and 214 honorary certificates were granted to native teachers with over twenty years' service. Vernacular certificates were also granted in 55 cases. Native teachers who were in the employment of missions, but who were unable to qualify for any of the above-mentioned certificates, will be granted licences to teach available for three years.

In 1926, the Department of Education drew up a code for village schools to replace the rudimentary instruction formerly given in them. The code was in the vernacular and comprised religious instruction, reading, writing, arithmetic, hygiene, agriculture, handicrafts, composition, drill, singing, and organised games; history and geography optional. By 1927 all the missions had accepted this code and an all-round improvement in village education should result from its use in all schools for which qualified teachers can be found. Central schools on mission stations under European supervision were given the village school code with the addition of English. At the headquarters of the Church of Scotland Mission, the Livingstonia Mission, and the Universities Mission, fully qualified Europeans are employed in training native teachers who undergo a full normal course, and the syllabus recommended by the Board has been adopted in these schools. In 1927 there were 300 students taking the full normal course. In addition to these, 383 teachers were attending training classes in connection with central schools at 14 mission stations.

There are approximately 15,000 Mohammedan children of school age in Nyasaland, and although there are numbers of Koran schools in existence they really correspond to church classes in Christian missions. By the end of 1927, the question of education to Mohammedans had not been finally settled.

The only large centre of female education is at Likoma, the headquarters of the Universities Mission to Central Africa, where there are about 500 native girls on the roll under three certified

European mistresses. In the village schools, the co-education system obtains in most missions and about 40 per cent. of the total on the rolls are girls. The Board of Education agreed that in the majority of schools co-education must continue for the present.

There are at present four private schools in Nyasaland at which education is given to European children, one each at Blantyre, Limbe, Zomba, and Mkhoma. The question of assistance towards European education has been under consideration for some time, and in 1927 grants-in-aid of private schools were sanctioned by Government at the rate of £600 a year. During the year, the child population increased very greatly from 69 over five years of age in April, 1926, to 95 over six years of age in December, 1927. The number of school children on the rolls of the four schools increased from 66 in 1926 to about 100 in 1927. The education at present given comprises kindergarten instruction followed by an elementary school education. It has been proposed that Government should establish a central school, and if that were done it would consist of three departments: kindergarten, elementary, and a preparatory school for boys who wish to take the Public Schools entrance examination at home.

X.—LAND AND SURVEY.

During the year, 50 leases of Crown Land were issued, with a total acreage of 10,403 acres, as compared with 38 leases and 10,407 acres in 1926. The majority of the leases were for land for the cultivation of tobacco or for purposes connected therewith. On the other hand, six leases totalling 5,200 acres were surrendered, nearly all of these having originally been taken up for the cultivation of cotton.

Government made some important exchanges of land during 1927, namely, one of 6,848 acres at Mlanje for 8,650 acres at Malosa in the Upper Shire District, belonging to Malosa Estates, Limited; and another whereby Government acquired from Mr. T. M. Partridge various plots of land in or adjoining Limbe Township in exchange for 2,300 acres of land in the Lilongwe District.

The development of native trade is shown by the fact that 182 Yearly Tenancy Agreements were issued as compared with 113 in 1926, chiefly for trading sites and the purchase of native tobacco.

The number of surveys made during the year was 32, totalling 10,016 acres.

The Geological Survey Department investigated the bauxite deposits on Zomba Plateau and it was found that the quality falls short of that required for the production of aluminium, although the ore promises well for the manufacture of high temperature refractory bricks.

An experiment was made near Chiromo in the Lower Shire Valley with a view to obtaining water from wells in dry areas where new land for settlement is urgently required. The results were satisfactory, as they indicate that some scores of square miles of arable land are immediately available for settlement provided the necessary steps are taken to sink and maintain a series of wells.

The coal-boring operations at Chiromo were continued, and at the end of the year bore-hole No. 5 on the Tangasi River had reached 321 feet, through 61 feet of superficial deposits and post-Karoo pebble-beds, and 240 feet through Karroo red and grey sandy marls and sandstones, and grey shales.

XI.—LABOUR.

A certain section of the planting community experienced difficulty in getting labour during the year, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain labourers for the less popular kinds of work under the Public Works Department, such as road construction. There can be little doubt that the labour problem is becoming more serious. The number of natives who go abroad, chiefly to Southern Rhodesia, to seek the more highly-paid work available there, remains about constant at an estimated total of about 30,000 a year.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

In addition to legislation already mentioned in this report, the following important Ordinances were passed during the year :—

The Game Ordinance.

The European Officers' Pensions Ordinance.

The Seditious and Dangerous Societies Ordinance.

The King's African Rifles Reserve of Officers Ordinance.

Reports of Imperial and Colonial Interest.

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1926.

Summary of Proceedings. Cmd. 2768 ... 1s. 0d. (1s. 1d.)

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Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings.

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COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1927.

Summary of Proceedings. Cmd. 2883 ... 1s. 3d. (1s. 4d.)

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1927.

Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings.

Cmd. 2884 ... 4s. 6d. (4s. 9½d.)

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATION IN THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING DEPENDENCIES.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Cmd. 2825 ... 2s. 0d. (2s. 1½d.)

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Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the Colonial Agricultural Service.

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