



Basutoland

1957

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Mountain Dispensaries (Rural Treatment Centres) – Scheme D. 1436

The buildings comprising the mountain dispensary at Mphaki's in the Quthing district were completed towards the end of the year and the dispensary was opened during December, 1957. The mountain dispensary at Patlong in the Qacha's Nek district was opened in June, 1957.

Tuberculosis Wards – Scheme D. 2776

This scheme provides funds for the establishment of tuberculosis wards at Maseru, Leribe, Mafeteng, Quthing and Qacha's Nek hospitals. Work on the construction of these wards was started towards the end of 1956 and is expected to be completed by the end of 1958.

Additional funds have been applied for to provide a tuberculosis ward at Mohale's Hoek Hospital.

3. PUBLIC WORKS

Improvements to Main Roads – Scheme No. D. 2988

This scheme is a continuation of Scheme No. D. 1025 and has been planned to run concurrently with Development Loan Expenditure of £50,000 for roads during the period 1955/61 and is complementary to this scheme. Provision is made for the construction of new bridges, culverts and road approaches on the main roads in the Territory. During the year two low level culvert type bridges were constructed in the south between Mohale's Hoek and Seaka and, in the north between Leribe and Butha Buthe, two high level bridges were constructed.

Mountain Road – Scheme No. D. 1050

No work was done on this scheme during the year pending a decision on the siting of a new Administration Substation.

Hydrographic and topographic surveys of the Ox-bow Lake Scheme – Scheme No. D. 2929

Among a number of feasible schemes which cover the entire Territory, the Ox-bow Lake Scheme has been selected for immediate detailed investigation for reasons of comparatively low capital cost and the fact that it is situated in the north-western corner of Basutoland near the Orange Free State border, in convenient proximity to possible markets for power and water. The salient feature of this scheme is the diversion of water from the high-lying Malibamatšo River in the mountains, to the low-lying Caledon River Valley giving a fall to the lower power station site of nearly 3,000 feet.

Good progress has been made on the construction of the access track from the Caledon Valley over the Maluti Mountain Range into the Ox-bow catchment area. It is now possible to drive a 4-wheel drive vehicle into the catchment area, although drainage is not yet completed and certain sections, which follow the original bridle path, require realignment.

A number of small streams which cross the road require to be bridged and this work will be undertaken early next year. An Assistant Hydrologist was appointed and moved into the catchment area at the beginning of the year. A permanent camp has been established there and a completely equipped Meteorological Station has been functioning since May. Additional mountain type rain gauges have been installed in the catchment and the second rectangular notch river gauging weir is nearing completion. The weir has a capacity of 5,000 cusecs and is fitted with an automatic continuous depth recorder. Considerable delays have been experienced in the construction of the gauging weirs. Although the winter is the dry season, the intense cold, snowfalls and ice in the rivers make work impossible. On the other hand, in the summer during the wet season construction work in the rivers is hazardous due to frequent flooding.

4. EDUCATION

Colonial Development and Welfare -- Scheme D. 3092

Under this scheme two junior secondary schools at St. Monica and Emmaus have been completed during the year, and are occupied by junior certificate classes. A third school at Mafeteng is half-built and will be completed in 1958, to accept classes in January, 1959. The other three schools at Mohale's Hoek, Butha Buthe and Mapholaneng will also be built in 1958, the latter probably not accepting classes until January 1960.

Excellent progress has been made with the new High School at Peka and the school will open in July, 1958.

Little progress has been made at St. Joseph's Training College, Maseru due to site alterations. However, the site has now been demarcated and a large quantity of stone cut. Operations will proceed rapidly in 1958. At Eagle's Peak College some progress has been made with site preparation and collection of materials.

8. EDUCATION

Three specially selected warders with previous teaching experience conduct educational classes in Maseru for both adult and juvenile prisoners. These classes are proving very successful. Talks on topical subjects are given by a Prison Visitor. Weekly newspapers and monthly illustrated magazines in the local vernacular were supplied to prisoners during the year under review.

9. EXTRA-MURAL PRISONERS

District Commissioners are empowered to give persons convicted for certain minor offences the option of serving their sentences extra-murally. 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 Power Station continued to function satisfactorily throughout the year. Extensive building development in Maseru in recent years has caused a big increase in the demand for electric power. To meet this, plans have been prepared for the augmentation of the supply early in the new year with a 100 K.W. Diesel Generating Set. It is estimated that this unit will be sufficient to meet the peak loads for the next five years, after which it will be necessary to consider a major augmentation of the steam generating plant.

Increased revenue during the past year has put this undertaking on an economic basis.

Water

There were no significant changes in the Maseru Water Supply apart from the building in of a new spring in the area of the existing springs on a plateau about five miles from Maseru. Measurements taken indicate that this new spring will yield up to a maximum of 38,000 gallons per day, but may drop to about 7,000 gallons per day during the dry winter season. Very good rains during the year increased the flow from the springs with a corresponding decrease in the amount of water pumped from the Caledon River Waterworks.

Investigations are being carried out for the augmentation of the supply under the Territory's Development Loan. A Consulting Geophysicist has been engaged to examine the potential of the area of the springs.

It is considered that it will prove economic to develop these springs to their maximum capacity before further consideration is given to the augmentation of the pumped supply from the Caledon River which requires full purification treatment.

New Mokhotlong Water Supply

The existing water supply to the remote mountain station at Mokhotlong consists of an open furrow about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles long which gravitates water from a stream fed by springs. The drinking water is obtained from a small spring in the area of the township.

Progress on the construction of the new piped water supply has been slow due to the difficulties of supervising the work and of access for materials. However, it is now expected that the supply will be opened in the new year. The scheme comprises a small intake chamber, approximately 4 miles of plastic piping and a 35,000 gallon terminal reservoir in the area of the township. The supply will be chlorinated and reticulation will be laid in plastic piping.

Development of Water Resources

Mention has been made at page 24 of this Report of the progress of the investigations now under way to confirm the possibilities of the Ox-bow Hydro-electric Power and Water Supply Scheme.

2. PUBLIC WORKS

Buildings

The Building Section of the Public Works Department carried out new works to a total value of £92,156 during the year under review.

The re-building of Leribe Police Lines comprising 39 Type "D" Junior Service Staff Quarters, Ablution/Laundry and Latrine Blocks was completed. Five quarters were built departmentally, but the remaining 34 and outbuildings were let out to contract, the lowest tender of £19,380 being accepted. At Butha Buthe the re-building of the Police Lines comprising 11 Type "D" Junior Staff Quarters, Ablution/Laundry and Latrine Blocks was started.

Work on a double-storied structure for the National Councillors' Quarters is almost complete. The work is being done departmentally and entirely by Basuto artisans and labourers under European supervision. A second similar block situated next to the first block and containing 40 bedrooms, has been commenced and is being built in the same way.

Amongst the more important of many other smaller buildings completed during the year were three Type "9" Senior Service Staff Quarters and extensions to Basutoland High School, Secretariat, and Public Works Department Headquarters all in Maseru.