

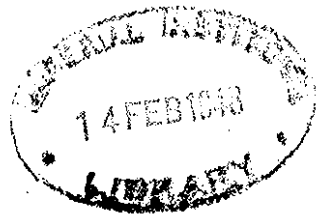
S. 173



909711

Basutoland

1946



PRICE 2s. 6d. NET

COLONIAL OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT ON BASUTOLAND FOR THE YEAR 1946

Contents

	PAGE
PART I: CHAPTER I. Review of the main events of the year 1946	3
CHAPTER II. Development Plans	8
PART II: CHAPTER I. Population	15
CHAPTER II. Occupations and Labour	16
CHAPTER III. Public Finance and Taxation	19
CHAPTER IV. Currency and Banking	25
CHAPTER V. Commerce	25
CHAPTER VI. Agricultural and Livestock Services Development, 1946	30
CHAPTER VII. Social Services	
1. Education	38
2. Health General	42
The Botsabelo Leper Settlement	44
Military Pensions Board, 1946	45
3. Housing	45
4. (a) Soldiers' Welfare	46
(b) Social Welfare	47
CHAPTER VIII. List of the more Important Legislation of the year 1946	48
CHAPTER IX. Justice, Police and Prisons	49
CHAPTER X. Public Works	55
CHAPTER XI. Communications and Transport	56
PART III: CHAPTER I. Geography and Climate	58
CHAPTER II. Early History	59

[Contents continued overleaf

LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1947

Theko's to Ntaote's. The point of entry into the mountains will connect the highland area with a railhead at Maseru, and will bring some of the most populous (and consequently most badly eroded) areas in direct contact with the lowlands. The scheme was originally estimated to cost £175,000, but it is now estimated that the cost may be £11,000 higher owing to the increase in the cost of plant.

The advantages which this mountain road would provide are obvious, not only in connection with the economic development of the highlands, but also in the increased administrative control which would then be possible, and the supervision of agricultural methods among the people of the mountain area. It is the intention of the Government to proclaim a strip on either side of this road as an Agricultural Improvement Area, and to make the acceptance of this by the Basutoland National Council a condition of the construction of the road.

The sum allocated for the construction of bridle-paths, the improvement of river-crossings and of existing lowland motor-roads has been reduced to £35,000, and will be devoted to the most essential needs. It is proposed to construct a bridge across the Orange River at an estimated cost of £15,000 in the near future.

Construction of Bridle-Paths.

In 1946, 35 miles of new bridle-path was constructed in difficult country and two boat crossings were established on bridle-path routes.

Improvement of Main Roads.

The low-level bridge across the Silver Spruit at Quthing was completed.

Surveys of low-level bridge sites were made on the main road between Teyateyaneng and Butha Buthe.

Scheme D. 684. Maseru Water Supply.

This scheme has been approved at a cost of £49,500.

Tender documents and plans for pipes, specials, valves and fittings have been prepared and tenders called for in the public Press.

Maseru Electric Light.

A scheme is under preparation for the provision of adequate lighting facilities for Maseru. The existing plant is owned by a private company whose contract expires in March, 1948, and is not likely to be extended.

Scheme D. 692. District Water Supplies.

The first instalment of this plan, costing £5,440, has been approved, and under this scheme the water supplies at Butha Buthe, Teyateyaneng and Quthing will be improved.

Buildings.

Owing to lack of funds, no scheme under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act has been prepared for the construction of offices, staff quarters and other public buildings which are urgently required. Building financed from revenue is, however, steadily if slowly going on, and much work was accomplished during the year, particularly in the construction of native staff quarters at District centres.

the latter part of 1946 in our dispensaries, with very good results. Protein deficiency is noticed mostly amongst children in the form of nutritional oedema, which yields to treatment with hydrolysed protein. It unfortunately is impossible to obtain any supplies of this substance at present.

Venereal diseases do not vary much in number from year to year, and in 1946 the number seen in the dispensaries were: syphilis, primary, 270; secondary, 3,517; tertiary, 2,098; hereditary, 1,273; and gonorrhoea, 1,970.

Food Supplies.

Generally during the last seven years the crops have been poor, owing to drought, which has been most marked since 1944. The cost of food has increased, but there seems to have been more money in circulation.

The number of vegetable gardens throughout the country is increasing, but the results vary a great deal in the different areas, depending on the availability of water.

Water Supplies.

The protection of village water supplies has been continued during the war period, and since 1939, 453 springs have been dealt with.

Sanitation generally is primitive. Some of the hospitals are provided with water-borne sewage, and there are a limited number of houses in Maseru provided with these facilities.

At Matsieng, which is the Paramount Chief's village, water-borne sewage has been installed in the Chief's house, as well as a communal lavatory for the villagers and people attending at courts.

At all Government stations the disposal of sewage is done by the bucket system. The general native population in villages do not have any conveniences.

The Botsabelo Leper Settlement.

The Leper Settlement, which is four miles from Maseru, falls under the Medical Department for General Administration, though it has a separate departmental vote. It is staffed by a Medical Superintendent, Medical Officer, European Matron and Sister, two African-trained nurses, with a European staff of clerk, compound manager, farm bailiff and artisan. There is a large African staff, comprising office clerks, dispensers, guards, mechanics and casual labourers. Since 1940 the Superintendent has been doing the medical work in addition to his own duties to relieve the Medical Officer for war service.

The number of leper patients on 31st December, 1946, was 685. The population of the settlement during the last eight years has averaged about 700.

The following table shows the addition and losses during the year 1946:—

<i>Additions</i>	
New cases admitted	86
Recurrent cases readmitted	41
Deserters readmitted	8
Total additions	135

one month may be granted, and persons serving a sentence of two years or more may be released, and granted a licence to be at large for the period of the remission earned.

Religious Facilities. No resident chaplains are attached to the prisons, but visits by ministers of any religion to prisoners of their own denomination are allowed and encouraged. Voluntary services are held by ordained or lay ministers in each prison on Sundays.

Statistics. During 1946, 2,724 persons were admitted to prison in the Territory, of whom 1,742 were committed to penal imprisonment. Comparative figures for 1945 were 2,257 and 1,357, respectively. The daily average of persons in prison was 517·88 as compared with 421·28 in the previous year.

Chapter X: Public Works

(A) BUILDINGS

During the year building construction continued to be difficult, owing to shortage of materials and skilled labour.

The Basuto National Treasury came into being on 1st April, 1946. The main National Treasury Office at Matsieng is a handsome building in sandstone costing £1,800; and National Treasury Offices at the nine District headquarters were ready for occupation by that date.

Fifty-three African staff quarters distributed at all administrative centres were completed during the year. These houses are constructed in burnt brick or concrete blocks with corrugated-iron roofs. Two are six-roomed, for senior African national officials, the majority have five rooms, and the remainder four rooms.

Five European staff quarters were completed in Maseru and one in Leribe during the year, and a rest house was built at Matsieng.

In addition five more houses are under construction.

A Public Works Department office-building was constructed in Maseru, as also a dispensary building from sectional Army huts. An office building was purchased in Maseru for the Education Department.

In the districts, additions to the African Mental Detention centre at Mohale's Hoek were completed, and a small office building for the Agricultural Department was built at Mafeteng.

African teachers' quarters were built at Matsieng Intermediate School, and at the High School in Maseru, police stables were erected at Mohale's Hoek, and a few other small buildings were put up throughout the Territory.

It is worthy of notice that among non-Government building work under construction are: (a) a fine community hall for Africans in Maseru. This is the gift of Messrs Frasers, Ltd.; (b) Mrs. C. L. Collier is donating a handsome library for the African community, and a start has been made on its construction; (c) Mr. E. H. Stephens, O.B.E., has made a gift of a fine library to the European community of Maseru.

(B) PUBLIC UTILITIES

The water supplies in Maseru and the other District centres are owned and operated by Government. Its institutions, hospitals, gaols, police

camp and its African and European staff represent by far the largest consumers. During 1946 a grant for £49,500 under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act was approved for the augmentation of the Maseru water supply on conditions to be decided upon in three years time. Similarly, a first instalment for a free grant to provide funds to augment the water supplies of District Headquarters was approved.

The only electricity supply in the Territory is at Maseru. Here the undertaking which supplies electricity to the township and the Leper Settlement four miles distant is owned and operated by the firm of Reunert & Lenz, engineers, of Johannesburg. This firm has a fifteen-year concession due to expire in March, 1948. The future of the undertaking is now being considered closely, as the present concessionaries do not wish to extend their control for a further period.

Chapter XI: Communications and Transport

RAILWAYS

The Territory is linked with the railway system of the Union of South Africa by a short branch line from Maseru to Marseilles on the Bloemfontein-Natal main line. One mile of this line is in Basutoland. The South African railway runs near the boundaries of the Territory, and goods are transported by road to the nearest railway station across the border.

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

ROADS

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

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

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

The by-roads are in some instances unsuitable for any type of traffic except ox-wagons. They are maintained by traders and others to whose stations they lead, and annual Government grants are made towards their upkeep.

On the eastern side of Basutoland, in the Qacha's Nek district, a short

(c) *Offices.* An office building was built at Matsieng, the seat of the Paramountcy in 1942.

(d) *Quarters, etc.* A new officers' mess was built in 1940 at Maseru, and was occupied by the staff of the African Pioneer Corps during the period of recruitment. One house was built and three others purchased during the war period.

(e) *African Staff Quarters.* A few African staff quarters have been constructed annually since 1939, but it was not until 1944 that Government embarked on a large-scale programme of building which is referred to earlier in the Report, in the chapter on "Housing".

Water-works.

New Pumps and settling reservoirs for river water were constructed at Maseru in 1940 at a cost of £4,000. A small filter and chlorinating apparatus was installed in 1943, and this plant has enabled Maseru to carry on, until the major scheme costing £49,500 approved under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act in 1946 has been completed.

6. EDUCATION

Summary of Events since 1938.

A new system for the allocation between the three recognised Missions of the amount available for grants had been under consideration and discussion for some time. (The grants were to be distributed according to qualifications of teachers, and not average attendance.) However, in 1941, when the scheme was to come into effect, it became apparent that the implications of the scheme had been misunderstood by the Missions, one of which in particular found itself in difficulties. Consequently a special arrangement was made involving temporary, supplementary assistance towards the maintenance of its "registered" schools ("registered schools" are schools which had been accepted as eligible for grant assistance, should it ever be possible to increase the grants-in-aid sufficiently). In the following year it was found impossible to reach any solution of the problem of allocating grants-in-aid which would be acceptable to all the Missions. The matter was referred to the High Commissioner, who therefore decided to stabilise the grant position by fixing each Mission's grant until further notice at a figure which would enable it to pay the salaries of its existing teaching staff in aided schools and also to spend, if it wished to do so, £20 on the salary of a teacher in each of its registered schools. The total annual figure for grants to Missions was fixed at £58,300, at which it remained until 1946.

The financial position was further complicated by the introduction of cost-of-living allowances to teachers, which was approved in 1944 with retrospective effect from January, 1943. The annual cost of these allowances has been about £40,000—a sum which the Basutoland Education Fund has not been able to bear. The reserve in the fund was soon used up, and general revenue had to meet the deficit. In March, 1946, therefore, the fund ceased to exist, and all education expenditure came under the Education Vote.

As a consequence of the financial and other difficulties, the long-