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COLONIAL REPORTS

Swaziland
1952

LONDON: HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1953.

CONTENTS

| | | |
|-----------|--|----|
| PART I. | Summary of events of the year... .. 1 | 1 |
| | Development in Swaziland 1 | 1 |
| | Education Department 3 | 3 |
| | Native Land Settlement Department 4 | 4 |
| | Rural Development 4 | 4 |
| | Veterinary Department 5 | 5 |
| | Agricultural Department 6 | 6 |
| | Medical Department 8 | 8 |
| | Geological Survey Department 11 | 11 |
| | Hydrographic Survey 12 | 12 |
| | Public Works Department 12 | 12 |
| | Roads 13 | 13 |
| | Staffing 13 | 13 |
| PART II. | Chapter I Population 14 | 14 |
| | Chapter II Occupation, Wages, Labour Organisation 16 | 16 |
| | Chapter III Public Finance and Taxation ... 19 | 19 |
| | Chapter IV Currency and Banking 26 | 26 |
| | Chapter V Commerce 26 | 26 |
| | Chapter VI Production 28 | 28 |
| | Chapter VII Social Services 30 | 30 |
| | (i) Education 30 | 30 |
| | (ii) Health 32 | 32 |
| | (iii) Housing 34 | 34 |
| | (iv) Social Welfare 35 | 35 |
| | Chapter VIII Legislation 35 | 35 |
| | Chapter IX Justice, Police & Prisons 38 | 38 |
| | Chapter X Public Utilities 45 | 45 |
| | Chapter XI Communications 48 | 48 |
| PART III. | Chapter I Geography 50 | 50 |
| | Chapter II History 56 | 56 |
| | Chapter III Administration 63 | 63 |
| | Chapter IV Weights and Measures 67 | 67 |
| | Chapter V Newspapers and Periodicals ... 67 | 67 |
| | Chapter VI Bibliography 68 | 68 |

ORE RESERVES

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|
| Probable Ore | 20,800 tons | containing | 77.27 | long tons | metallic tin |
| Prospective Ore | 10,400 | | 38.64 | " | " |
| TOTAL | 31,200 tons | | 115.91 | " | " |

That is, a total tonnage 31,200 tons of ore containing 0.37 per cent metallic tin. This is, of course, for one pegmatite only. There are many others in the vicinity. Sufficient work has been done to justify the opening up of a small mine, since ore of this grade is being successfully worked in other parts of Southern Africa. The drilling results of the two chrysotile prospects showed that the fibre present was in unpayable quantities. The results of drilling the scheelite occurrence would seem promising, but assay results are still to come in.

Advice on underground water supplies has been given in connexion with the selection of boreholes to be drilled by the Veterinary Department which has recently acquired a percussion-shot drill. Some eight sites were selected by various members of the department in this way.

HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY.

The measuring weir commenced last year across the Little Usutu River near Matapha has been completed, except for minor adjustments.

A similar type of weir has also been constructed across the Great Usutu River on the upper side of the Sir Evelyn Baring bridge in the Usutu Forests area.

The recording devices will shortly be installed to enable readings to be taken of the flows in these rivers at these points.

Other weirs are to be constructed as soon as weather conditions permit.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The following general works were undertaken by the Building Section of the Department in addition to the construction of both African and European houses, details of which are given elsewhere,

by these developments, the Sub-Department was able to complete several comprehensive electrical installations in Government buildings, the biggest of which was the wiring of the £50,000 extensions to the new hospital in Mbabane.

WATER SUPPLY.

Mbabane. Tenders have been invited and are in process of being considered for piping, specials and the necessary mechanical equipment for water treatment. These are at present being analysed.

It is intended to invite tenders early in the New Year for carrying out the construction work on the scheme, including pipe laying, by contract. New mains were installed in Miller Street and the old mains removed.

Bremersdorp. The yield and quality of the water from the boreholes put down last year were found to be unsatisfactory after tests were taken. Immediately the results were known it was decided to draw up an interim scheme to provide relief, pending the completion of investigations for a larger and more permanent scheme.

The supply will be taken from the Mzimnene River which runs through the township and will increase the quantity of water to 150,000 gallons per day.

The scheme will include the provision of additional pumping facilities and the installation of an up-to-date filtration plant early in the New Year.

The supply to individual properties will be metered and the total cost of the scheme will be £10,000.

Stegi. A new well was sunk and stand-by pumping set installed early in the year.

Consultants were engaged to prepare a scheme for a permanent water supply and the final report together with estimates of cost are awaited.

Goedgegun. A new engine has been installed for pumping purposes and steps are being taken to draw up a scheme for the treatment of the water on modern lines.

Pigg's Peak. A new pumping plant and an additional reservoir will be provided early in the New Year in order to

keep pace with the development taking place in this area.

Hlatikulu. Two pumping plants have been ordered to supplement the existing supply.

CHAPTER XI COMMUNICATIONS

As there are no railways in Swaziland every effort is being made to extend the road system, improve road surfaces and also to realign and regrade existing roads where necessary.

The Mileages of existing roads in the Territory are:—

| | | |
|--------------|---|------------|
| Trunk Roads | — | 205 miles. |
| Main Roads | — | 492 miles. |
| Branch Roads | — | 443 miles. |

During the past year additional heavy earthmoving equipment was acquired and a T.D. 24 Bull Dozer has been engaged for some months past on a major re-alignment between Kubuta and Hlatikulu, which will greatly facilitate the export of agricultural products from the Southern Districts of the Territory.

Improvements are also being made to the Main Road in the vicinity of the Swaziland Irrigation Scheme, leading to the Border Gate at Grenshek in the North Eastern District.

The development of a new route to link Mliba with the Swaziland Irrigation Scheme (Colonial Development Corporation) has continued.

This work has been delayed somewhat due to the heavy programme of work in hand elsewhere in the Territory.

The survey from the quarry at Rocklands on the Pigg's Peak road to the Horo Bridge Gate has been completed.

A.T.D. 18A Crawler Tractor arrived in November and was put into commission immediately on the proposed re-alignment.

To date approximately two miles of the new roadway has been formed. This route is an important one as it will reduce time and wear in the transport of the produce from the Plantations at Pigg's Peak to the Union.

A survey for a new road from the Main Oshoek—Mbabane road, leading to the Barytes Mine was completed and the formation of this road is now in hand.