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REPORTS OF MANDATORY POWERS

submitted to the Council of the League of Nations

in Accordance with Article 22 of the Covenant and considered

by the Permanent Mandates Commission at its Sixth Session (June-July 1925).

III

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

REPORT

OF THE

ADMINISTRATOR

OF

SOUTH-WEST AFRICA

FOR THE YEAR

1924

SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS — LEAGUE OF NATIONS

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NOTES BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

This edition of the reports submitted to the Council of the League of Nations by the Mandatory Powers under Article 22 of the Covenant is published in execution of the following resolution adopted by the Assembly on September 22nd, 1924, at its Fifth Session :

“ The Fifth Assembly . . . requests that the reports of the Mandatory Powers should be distributed to the States Members of the League of Nations and placed at the disposal of the public who may desire to purchase them.”

The reports have generally been reproduced as received by the Secretariat. In certain cases, however, it has been decided to omit in this new edition certain legislative and other texts appearing as annexes, and maps and photographs contained in the original edition published by the Mandatory Power. Such omissions are indicated by notes by the Secretariat.

The annual report on the administration of South-West Africa for the year 1924 was received by the Secretariat on June 17th, 1925, and examined by the Permanent Mandates Commission on June 30th and July 1st, 1925, in the presence of the accredited representative of the South African Government, Mr. J. Smit, High Commissioner in London for the Union of South Africa. (See Minutes of the Sixth Session, pages 58-74, 75-79.)

The observations of the Commission on this report are contained in document A.14.1925.VI, pages 7 and 8.

The comments of the accredited representative are to be found in document A.21.1925.VI.

The references in this report to pages in previous reports refer to the original edition published by the Mandatory Power, which the Secretariat has not yet been able to have reprinted.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF SOUTH-WEST AFRICA FOR THE YEAR 1924.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Excellency
the Governor-General.*

Administrator's Office,
Windhoek,
21st April, 1925.

The Right Honourable the Prime Minister
of the Union of South Africa.

Sir,—I have the honour to present a report on the Administration of South-West Africa for the year 1924, under the following heads :—

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I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

GYS. R. HOFMEYR,
Administrator.

I.—LEGISLATION.

§ 1. The following legislation was passed during the year :—

By the Union Parliament. — Act 27, amends the tariffs of customs and excise duties in certain respects.

Act 30, provides for the naturalisation of aliens in the mandated Territory. The text of this Act is published under § 5 of this report.

By the Governor-General. — Proclamation No. 49 of 1924 (Union) applies the provisions of the Customs and Excise Duties Amendment Act No. 23 of 1923 to Walvis Bay.

Proclamations — South-West Africa. — Proclamation No. 1 slightly amends the Police Proclamation of 1921 and provides that the Administrator may assign any duties to the Police.

Proclamation No. 2 amends the Dog Tax law in the following respects : —

- (a) The existing tax is reduced by half.
- (b) A special tax of £5 is imposed in respect of dogs of the greyhound strain, or of the kind known as the kaffir hunting dog or dogs of a similar kind ; greyhounds or whippets registered in accordance with the rules and regulations of the S. A. Kennel Club are exempted from this tax. The object of provision (b) is the protection of game, and the law of the Transvaal in this connection has been followed.

Proclamation No. 3 provides for the payment of licence duty by brewers of beer and distillers of wine, brandy and other spirits.

The licence fees payable by a brewer and distiller is £1 and 2s. 6d. respectively per calendar year, and the penalty for brewing beer or distilling spirits without a licence is a fine not exceeding £100 or in default of payment imprisonment for any period not exceeding 12 months.

Proclamation No. 4 applies the provisions of Section 15 of the Union Deeds Registries Act No. 13 of 1918 as applied to South-West Africa to registered mortgage bonds on land hypothecated to the late Landwirtschaftsbank fuer Suedwest Afrika, or to the existing Land and Agricultural Bank.

Proclamation No. 5 amends sub-section (2) of Section 6 of the Land Bank Proclamation as amended from time to time.

Proclamation No. 6 amends the Native Administration Proclamation No. 3 of 1917 by defining the term " Officer in charge of Native Affairs ".

Proclamations Nos. 7 and 17 amend the Game law in various respects, principally :

- (a) The Administrator may by notice in the Gazette prescribe, fix or alter the period of the close season for the whole Territory or for any district or portion of a district, or in respect of any species of game, or impose a limit upon the number of any species of game which may be killed upon a game licence.
- (b) The fee payable for big game licences by persons domiciled outside the Territory has been altered. Formerly no distinction was drawn between persons domiciled in and outside the Territory, but it was decided to follow the law of the Cape Province in this connection. To-day the position is as follows : —

A person domiciled in the Territory must pay £20 for a licence authorising him to kill or capture 16 head of big game and to hunt such small game as may be open. £5 for a licence authorising him to kill or capture five head of big game, £3 for a licence to hunt small game during the open season and 15s. for a monthly licence to hunt small game.

A person not domiciled in the Territory must pay £25 for a licence authorising him to kill or capture 16 head of big game and to hunt small game ; the fees for small game licences only are the same as those applicable to persons domiciled in the Territory ; but he may only obtain a £5 licence authorising the killing or capturing of five head of big game if he is the owner of land in the Territory, and then he is confined to hunting on his own land.

- (c) The Administrator may authorise the killing or capture of big or small game without payment of any fee provided he is satisfied that such game is required for any public museum, zoological garden or scientific institution or for scientific purposes or for domestication or acclimatisation.
- (d) No person may take away, disturb or destroy the eggs of any game birds except upon a permit issued by the Administrator who must be satisfied that such eggs are required for breeding or scientific purposes.
- (e) The owner or occupier of land may destroy game injuring the crops or plants in fenced cultivated lands or gardens.
- (f) A written permit signed by the Magistrate of the District must be obtained to hunt game on Crown Land, and the Administrator may fix a fee for such permit. As regards hunting on privately owned land the consent of the owner or occupier is necessary.
- (g) Any dog unaccompanied by its owner or the person having control of it found in pursuit of game on any land may be destroyed by the owner or occupier thereof.

It may be added that during the last shooting season practically all game birds, including guineafowl, Namaqua partridge, ostriches, etc., were protected on account of their value as locust destroyers.

As regards ostriches, very close observations were made and the conclusion was arrived at that their value in this direction was negligible, while on the other hand they do a tremendous amount of damage to the veld. Very strong representations were made by farmers all over the country and after investigation it was decided in October last to remove the restriction upon the destruction of ostriches which may accordingly now be destroyed as vermin.

Proclamation No. 8. The laws relating to Arms and Ammunition were not very satisfactory, and it was therefore decided to consolidate and amend them, and Proclamations Nos. 10 of 1915, 4 of 1920 and 77 of 1920 and the Ordinance of the German Governor of the 25th March, 1897, were accordingly repealed and replaced by Proclamation No. 8 of 1924.

The main provisions of the Proclamation are : —

- (a) No cannon, arms or ammunition may be imported into or exported from the Territory without permit.
- (b) No person may possess any arm without a licence or purchase ammunition without a permit issued by the Magistrate of the District, who may in his discretion limit the number of arms or quantity of ammunition any person may possess or purchase, and he may without assigning any reason refuse any application for a licence to possess an arm or permit to purchase ammunition.
The fee for a licence to possess a rifle is 10s. and in the case of any other arm 5s.
- (c) A licence to possess or a permit to purchase any arm or ammunition may not be issued to any native or coloured person without the sanction of the Administrator.
- (d) Any European Police officer may require any person to produce any arms or ammunition in respect of which he may be licensed, together with his licence therefor.
- (e) A licence-holder may sell any arm or ammunition held by him out of hand or through a licensed auctioneer.
- (f) No person may deal in arms and ammunition without a dealer's licence which costs £20 per annum, and before issuing such licence the Magistrate must satisfy himself that the applicant is a fit and proper person to deal in arms and ammunition and that his premises are suitable and reasonably safe for the storage of arms and ammunition.
- (g) A dealer may not deliver any arms or ammunition to any person unless he produces a permit signed by the Magistrate of the District authorising him to purchase the same.
- (h) Every dealer must keep a register shewing all arms and ammunition in his possession and particulars of the purchase, sale or disposal thereof by or to Europeans. A separate register in the prescribed form shewing all arms and ammunition sold to or purchased from natives or coloured persons must be kept.
- (i) Every dealer must not later than the 15th January and July in each year furnish a return of his transactions in arms and ammunition in respect of the preceding six months to the Magistrate of the District in which his premises are situate.
- (j) The registers of any dealer are subject to inspection at all reasonable times by a European member of the Police or any other person authorised thereto in writing by the Magistrate of the District.
- (k) Every Magistrate must keep a register of licences and permits issued by him.
- (l) The manufacture of cannon or rifle ammunition or the component parts thereof is prohibited except under permit.

Proclamation No. 9 provides for the establishment of an Administration Fund for each native reserve established under the Native Administration Proclamation of 1922.

This law is more fully dealt with under the heading "Native Affairs" § 54.

Proclamation No. 10 slightly amends the Half-Holiday Proclamation, 1921.

Proclamation No. 11 slightly amends the Shop Hours Proclamation.

Proclamation No. 12 prohibits the export of wild birds from the Territory except under a permit issued by the Administrator.

Proclamation No. 13 recognises Albert Mouton as the Provincial Kapitein and certain persons as the Members of the Volksraad of the Rehoboth Community pending the holding of a proper election in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the Community. This matter is more fully dealt with under the heading "Rehoboth Bastards." *Vide* § 13.

Proclamation No. 14 amends the Diamond Industry Proclamation by extending the definition of the word "premises" to include any ship or boat.

Proclamation No. 15 amends the Pounds and Trespasses Proclamation No. 5 of 1917 by providing for the payment of the proceeds of pound sales to pound masters in certain circumstances.

Proclamation No. 16 reduces the restriction upon the export of ewes from the Territory to woolled sheep and any ewes in lamb. Woolled ewes may only be exported on a permit which may be issued only if it is clear that the sheep it is desired to export are of no further economic value as breeding stock.

Proclamation No. 18 limits the tax payable by holders of retail liquor licences upon liquor sold, to a maximum of £180 per annum.

Proclamation No. 19 prohibits the sale or alienation or the purchase or acquisition of any cattle not branded with the registered brand of the owner thereof; and further imposes a penalty upon any transferor of stock who fails or neglects to provide, or any transferee who fails or neglects to obtain from the transferor a certificate of transfer.

Proclamation No. 20 makes similar provision in regard to the sale or alienation or acquisition of stock by or from a native, and provides further that any native acquiring stock must apply within one month for the same to be branded.

Proclamation No. 21 alters the limits of the periodical court, Walvis Bay.

Proclamation No. 22 applies the Girls' and Mentally Defective Women's Protection Proclamation to the Rehoboth Gebiet. This was done at the request of the Raad.

Proclamation No. 23 regulates immigration into the Territory and the removal of undesirable persons therefrom. Section (5) of the London Agreement, a copy of which was embodied in the report for 1923 (see page 4) provides that the Immigration law of the Union of South Africa shall be applied to South-West Africa and this has been done.

Proclamation No. 24 substitutes the title "Officer in charge of Agricultural and Veterinary Services" for "Principal Veterinary Officer" in the Diseases of Stock Proclamation of 1920. The title of the officer in question was altered as indicated during the year, and this formal amendment therefore became necessary.

Proclamation No. 25 amends the Liquor Licensing law in certain respects, the effect being to prohibit the sale or supply of "weissbier" to natives.

Proclamation No. 26 was repealed by Proclamation 32 which extended the provisions of the Co-operation Proclamation of 1922 to societies or companies which had failed to apply or qualify for registration thereunder. This was done to facilitate the dissolution and liquidation of such societies or companies.

Proclamation No. 27 governs compensation for injuries suffered by workmen in the course of their employment or for death resulting from such injuries, etc. This law is substantially the same as the law of the Union, and was framed in accordance with Section (10) of the London Agreement.

Proclamation No. 28 makes provision for the better protection of children and for the prevention of destitution and for the relief of wives and families left destitute, and for the enforcement in the Territory of maintenance orders made in the British Dominions or Protectorates or Mandated Territories and *vice versa*.

Proclamation No. 29 provides that upon receipt of a written notification by an owner of land that he renounces his ownership in favour of the Administration, accompanied by a written order for cancellation of the registered title of such property signed by the Administration, the Registrar of Deeds may make an endorsement of cancellation against the relative records and entries in the Deeds Registry, whereupon the free and unencumbered dominium in such land vests in the Administration.

Proclamation No. 30 applies the Locust Suppression Proclamation to the Rehoboth Gebiet.

Proclamation No. 31 transfers all the powers vested in the Kapitein and Raad of the Rehoboth Community by the Constitution of the Gebiet to the Magistrate of the District of Rehoboth and transfers the powers of the Rehoboth Courts to the Magistrate's Court, etc. This law is more fully dealt with under the heading "Rehoboth Bastards." See § 13.

Proclamation No. 33 applies certain of the provisions of the Union Mental Disorders Act No. 38 of 1916 to the Territory.

Proclamation No. 34 makes provision governing the residence of natives in urban areas and the administration of native affairs in such areas; for the registration and better control of contracts of service in urban areas, and the regulation of the ingress of natives into and their residence in such areas.

This Proclamation is substantially the same as the Union Natives (Urban Areas) Act of 1923, and is more fully dealt with under the heading "Native Affairs." See § 54.

Proclamation No. 35 extends the Burgher Force Proclamation and provides that any male European natural born or naturalized British subject who is liable for service under the principal Proclamation may be called up even though his name may not appear on the lists framed in accordance with the principal Proclamation.

It also provides that any person volunteering for active service shall while so serving be amenable to the provisions of the principal Proclamation.

Proclamation No. 36 extends the existence of the Advisory Council to the 31st December, 1925, or until such earlier date as the Administrator may fix by Government Notice in the *Gazette*.

II.—ADMINISTRATION.

STAFF CHANGES.

§ 2. Mr. G. E. B. Froot, Inspector of Mines, retired on pension and was succeeded by Mr. L. G. Ray of the Union Mines Department.

§ 3. An exchange was effected between Mr. A. Goodall who had rendered most valuable services as Officer in charge of Veterinary and Agricultural Services for several years and Mr. R. S. Garraway of the Union Agricultural Department.

§ 4. There have also been two changes in the Magisterial Branch. Mr. P. Wither, Magistrate of Grootfontein, was transferred to the Union on promotion and Mr. H. G. Scott, of the Union Native Affairs Department, came to South-West Africa to fill the magisterial vacancy so caused. Mr. Thomas also of the Union Native Affairs Department was appointed as magistrate of Outjo.

AUTOMATIC CITIZENSHIP.

§ 5. This has now proceeded a stage further. The following is the text of Act No. 30 of 1924, passed by the Union Parliament, viz. :

WHEREAS it is expedient to make provision for the naturalization of aliens in the mandated territory of South-West Africa (hereinafter called the Territory), to confer British nationality upon certain subjects of the late enemy powers domiciled therein, and to provide for certain other incidental matters :

BE IT ENACTED by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, the Senate and the House of Assembly of the Union of South Africa as follows : —

1. From and after the commencement of this Act the Naturalization of Aliens Act, 1910 (Act No. 4 of 1910), shall be of force and effect within the Territory and for the purposes of the application thereto of the said Act the Territory shall be deemed to form part of the Union.

2. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Naturalization of Aliens Act, 1910, as so applied to the Territory, every adult European who, being a subject of any of the late enemy powers, was on the 1st day of January, 1924, or at any time thereafter before the commencement of this Act, domiciled in the Territory shall, at the expiry of six months after the commencement of this Act, be deemed to have become a British subject naturalized under the said Act of 1910, unless within that six months he signs a declaration that he is not desirous of becoming so naturalized. Such declaration shall be in a form prescribed by the Administrator of the Territory and shall be signed before a magistrate within the Territory or if such an adult is absent therefrom, before a person specially approved by the Administrator.

(2) Every person naturalized as aforesaid shall, except as is otherwise provided by law, be entitled to all the rights, powers and privileges and be subject to all the obligations to which a British subject is entitled or subject, within the Union and the Territory.

(3) As soon as possible after the expiry of the said six months, lists shall be compiled, in accordance with the instructions of the Administrator, of those persons who have become naturalized under this section. Every such list, when complete, shall be published in the *Gazette* and in the *Official Gazette* of the Territory and shall, as so published, be conclusive evidence that the person whose name appears therein is a British subject naturalized under this section :

Provided that if the Administrator is satisfied that a person's name has been included in, or excluded from, any such list owing to error or that such person was unable to make the declaration aforesaid within the prescribed period and his name has been included in any such list the Administrator may cause the necessary alterations to be made therein.

3. No person by whom a declaration has been signed under section *two* shall be deemed to have surrendered any right or privilege which, immediately prior to his signing it, he possessed within the Territory, as an alien, in respect of the acquisition or holding of any professional or trading licence, or the carrying on of any trade, business or occupation, nor shall he in any such respect be deemed to have suffered any other prejudice, but his rights, powers, privileges, obligations, duties and liabilities shall remain those of any other alien under the law for the time being.

The Act came into operation on the 15th September, 1924.

§ 6. It may be added that the period of six months fixed by section 2 (1) expired on the 14th March, 1925, and the provisional lists show that only about 250 of the persons affected by the Act filed declarations declining naturalization, and that over 2,900 have automatically become naturalized.

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR.

§ 7. In September last the Prime Minister made an exceedingly important announcement in Parliament with reference to the form of government in the Territory. He stated that it was desirable that the people should enjoy a measure of self-government and that a form of constitution would be granted them.

§ 8. In order to obtain a personal knowledge of the conditions obtaining in South-West Africa, to ascertain the views of the people and to enable him to arrive at some conclusion as to the form of constitution which might be granted to the Territory, the Prime Minister in October and November paid a visit to South-West Africa which, owing to pressure of work, was unfortunately rather brief and he was accordingly unable to visit many centres of interest. At the same time a great deal was crammed into the tour and every centre on the railway line was visited, also Gobabis which is 120 miles from the nearest railhead.

§ 9. He was everywhere enthusiastically received and there can be no doubt that generally the visit was productive of much good inasmuch as it convinced the people that

the Union Government was taking an interest in them and it inspired many with fresh hope who were very despondent as a result of the prevailing depression.

§ 10. Many petitions were presented to him and were most sympathetically dealt with but the principal question raised naturally was the future form of Government. He however made it clear that his tour was one of investigation and he made no definite statement upon the point.

CONSTITUTION FOR SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

§ 11. Following upon the Prime Minister's statement in Parliament and his visit to South-West Africa, there has naturally been much speculation with regard to the form of Government which will be granted to the Territory. Suggestions and views more or less extravagant have been published in the local press, but the matter was very carefully considered in December last by the Advisory Council which represents all sections of the community, and the following resolutions were taken : —

1. That a Legislative Council (hereinafter called " the Council ") be established for the Territory of South-West Africa.

2. That the Council consist of at least twenty-four (24) members half to be elected by voters as hereinafter provided and half to be nominated by the Administrator.

3. That every white male British subject of the age of 21 years and upwards who has resided in the Territory for a period of not less than 12 months before the date on which any registration of voters takes place and who is not subject to any of the legal incapacities hereinafter mentioned shall be entitled to be registered as a voter.

4. That no person shall be entitled to be registered as a voter who shall have been —

- (a) convicted at any time of murder unless he shall have obtained a free pardon ;
- (b) convicted at any time of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine which imprisonment shall not have expired at least three years before the date of the commencement of registration unless he shall have obtained a free pardon ;
- (c) in receipt within 12 months of the commencement of any registration of voters of relief from public funds.

5. That any person (save as herein excepted) who shall be qualified to be registered as a voter in or for any electoral district shall be qualified and entitled to be elected or nominated a member of the Council ; provided that in the case of a nominated member he shall be 30 years of age and upwards.

That no person holding any office of profit under the Administration, no unrehabilitated insolvent, no person whose estate shall be under liquidation under assignment in trust for his creditors, no person of unsound mind and no person who has acted as a registering or revising officer in connection with the framing or revision of a voters list for any electoral district shall be eligible to be elected or nominated a member of the Council.

6. That the registration of voters, the preparation of the lists of voters and all other matters relating to the qualification and election of and the vacation of seats by elected members shall be as prescribed by the Administrator.

7. That the duration of the Council shall be a period of three years, but that the Administrator may from time to time prorogue and dissolve the Council.

8. That as the grant of representative government at this stage will be in the nature of an experiment the principle of limited powers and responsibility is conceded.

That the Government of the Union will, however, at the earliest moment when such a course is justified, assign to the Council the fullest possible powers and responsibility.

That for a beginning the Council shall be empowered at the very least, to make ordinances in relation to matters coming within the following classes of subjects : —

- (a) Agriculture to the extent as defined by the Union Government ;
- (b) Municipal Councils, Divisional Councils (if established) and other local institutions of a similar nature ;
- (c) The establishment, maintenance and management of hospitals and charitable institutions ;
- (d) Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones ;
- (e) Prisons and Reformatories ;
- (f) Public Health ;
- (g) Public Works ;
- (h) Fish and Game Preservation ;
- (i) Forestry ;
- (j) Roads and Outspans ;

- (k) Stock Brands ;
- (l) Markets and Pounds ;
- (m) Census and Agricultural Statistics ;
- (n) Shop Hours and Half-Holidays ;
- (o) Such other subjects as may from time to time be specifically assigned to the Council by the Union Government.

9. That the Council may recommend to the Administrator the passing, amendment or repeal of any law relating to any matter in respect of which it is not competent to make ordinances, provided that as soon as any such laws are promulgated copies thereof shall be forwarded to the Chairman of the Council for the information of the Executive Committee and of the Council.

10. That the Council shall further advise the Administrator on such matters not specifically assigned to it as the Administrator may refer to it for an expression of its views.

11. That the Council shall have the right and shall be given the opportunity of expressing its views on the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure and on all proposed laws involving taxation save where such taxation is merely incidental.

12. That ordinances passed by the Council shall not take effect until assented to by the Administrator, who may reserve the same for the signification of the pleasure of the Union Government.

13. That the Council shall possess and exercise executive powers. As soon as the Council has been endowed with sufficient powers and responsibility the Administrator shall in consultation with the Council define by Proclamation its executive powers which shall be executed through the Executive Committee.

14. That the annual estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Territory as a whole shall be drafted by the Administrator. That such estimates after submission to the Council for an expression of its views shall be finally considered by the Administrator and transmitted by him to the Union Government for approval.

15. That an Executive Committee be appointed to consist of two members elected by the Council from amongst its members, two members of the Council nominated by the Administrator and the Chairman of the Council who shall be *ex officio* a member of the Executive Committee and preside over its deliberations.

16. That the Executive Committee shall subject to Resolution 13 for the present be empowered to prepare draft ordinances for submission to the Council and shall advise the Council generally in regard to the matters assigned to it.

17. That as soon as possible after the first voters list has been prepared, the Advisory Council shall divide the Territory into electoral divisions providing for the election of at least 12 members which divisions may return more than one member. In the event of the Advisory Council being unable to come to a unanimous decision then the electoral divisions shall be determined by the Administrator.

That the list of electoral divisions determined upon be published in the *Gazette*.

18. That the Council shall elect a Chairman who shall preside over its deliberations and who shall have and exercise a casting vote.

19. That the Chairman of the Council shall authenticate and transmit to the Administrator all ordinances and resolutions passed by the Council.

20. That messages by the Administrator to the Council shall be communicated to it by the Chairman.

21. That all powers not conferred upon the Council shall both as regards administration and legislation continue to be exercised by the Administrator.

22. That this Council strongly urges upon the Union Government the advisability of giving effect to the above resolutions during the next ensuing Session of Parliament.

23. That all debates and discussions in the Council shall be conducted in the English and Dutch languages, and all journals, entries, minutes and proceedings of the Council shall be made and recorded in both such languages, provided always that any member may address the Council in the German language.

24. That the seat of the Council shall be at Windhoek, provided that with the sanction of the Administrator it may hold its meetings elsewhere in the Territory.

25. That the Council shall meet at least once every year.

26. That there shall be freedom of speech in the Council, and no member shall be liable to any action or proceedings in any court by reason of his speech or vote in such Council.

27. That subject to the Standing Rules and Orders governing the procedure of the Council its meetings shall be open to the public.

28. That the Chairman and members of the Council shall be paid such allowance as may be determined by the Administrator in consultation with the Advisory Council.

29. Any proposed alteration to this Constitution shall be submitted to the Council but shall not be adopted unless agreed to by two-thirds of the total number of the members of the Council.

§ 12. These resolutions have been transmitted to the Prime Minister for consideration in framing the Bill which is to be introduced at the current Session of Parliament.

REHOBOTH BASTARDS.

§ 13. The hopes expressed in last year's report that opposition to the agreement entered into with the Kapitein and Raad would disappear have unfortunately not been realised. On the contrary the opposition stiffened and developed into direct defiance of the Union Government and of the Administration resulting in drastic legislation.

§ 14. In January 1924, the Raad attempted to hold an election in terms of the constitution of the Community which requires that the Raad be elected annually and that the election be held not later than the 15th January in each year.

The attempt, however, was thwarted by the action of the opposition which openly preached independence, a doctrine which naturally appealed to the large majority of the burghers and gradually gained ground. In April 1924, the opposition took matters into their own hands, summarily and without affording them an opportunity of being heard declaring the existing Raad to be disenfranchised and ineligible for re-election, and held an election which was absolutely irregular and contrary to their own constitution.

Two bodies were elected, a Raad and a "Parlements Raad," the latter not being provided for in the constitution.

The persons so elected were known as the "New Raad" and the members of the constitutional Raad as the "Old Raad", and for the sake of convenience they will hereafter be referred to as such.

§ 15. The Old Raad immediately appealed to me and I invited them and the New Raad to interview me at Windhoek with a view to effecting a satisfactory settlement if possible. The Old Raad accepted but the New Raad declined the invitation.

§ 16. The Old Raad satisfied me that the election had been irregular, and was incidentally inconsistent with the Rehoboth Agreement. In the circumstances, although it was clear that the New Raad represented the majority of the burghers in the Gebiet, there was no alternative but to declare the election void.

Proclamation No. 13 of 1924 was accordingly passed setting the election aside, ordering a new election to be held by the 16th June, 1924, and recognising the Old Raad as the Raad of the Community until such time as an election complying with the terms of the constitution was held.

The New Raad protested against this Proclamation, claiming that they were the lawful Raad of the Community, and signifying their intention of functioning notwithstanding the Proclamation. The Old Raad, which was recognised as the constitutional governing body, at once proceeded to make arrangements for an election and every endeavour was made to induce the New Raad to participate, but they resolutely declined to do so, notwithstanding the fact that the Old Raad actually nominated a number of their supporters for election.

The election was held on the 16th June, 1924, but really proved abortive owing to the attitude of the New Raad which deliberately prevented its supporters from voting. The result was that only about eighty out of over five hundred burghers voted, and the Old Raad was re-elected. The election was in all respects regular so that the Old Raad became the constitutionally elected Raad of the Gebiet, but the New Raad continued to function and, as they represented the majority of the Community, they were the *de facto* Government, while the Old Raad, though the *de jure* Government, was practically impotent to do anything.

§ 17. In July the Old Raad expressed its inability to carry on under existing conditions, and it was then proposed to take certain steps with a view to settling the difficulty, but the New Raad sent a deputation to Cape Town to interview the Prime Minister, and at the same time despatched a petition direct to the League of Nations, in which they asked practically for their independence.

After discussing their grievances with the deputation the Prime Minister suggested a fresh election. Alternatively, if this course was unacceptable, he undertook to recommend to the Union Government the recognition of the New Raad as the Raad of the Community, provided they sent him written proof that the majority of the burghers desired this to be done and provided the Old Raad resigned. It was made clear that the Rehoboth Agreement should meantime remain of full force and effect, but that if and when the New Raad was recognised as the Raad of the Community they might, if they so desired, raise the question and the Government would hear and consider their representations as to how far amendment of the Agreement might be necessary and desirable.

§ 18. The New Raad accepted the alternative conditions and a written reply on the lines indicated was given and explained to them. They returned to Rehoboth, suppressed the contents of the Prime Minister's letter and informed the burghers that they had got all they wanted; that the Prime Minister had recognised them as the Raad, and that they no

longer had anything to do with the Administration. They also telegraphed to the Prime Minister that the majority of the people desired the recognition of the New Raad, and asked that he now fulfil his promise.

They were reminded that written proof was required, and it was suggested that this take the form of a memorial signed by the majority of the burghers. This the New Raad flatly refused to give and said their assurance should be accepted. On several occasions they went to Windhoek and interviewed the Deputy Administrator, who explained again and again what was required of them. They took up the position that they would give nothing in writing, and although the powers given to the Administration under the Mandate were made so clear to them that there could be no misunderstanding, they made it quite evident that nothing would satisfy them except the immediate expulsion of the Old Raad, the cancellation of the Rehoboth Agreement, which they repudiated, and the grant of virtual independence. It was simply futile to reason with them.

§ 19. The Old Raad also registered an emphatic protest and declined to resign, and the Prime Minister personally addressed a long letter to the Community through the Deputy Administrator, copies of which were distributed throughout the Gebiet, but this had no effect. Matters were in the circumstances allowed to stand in abeyance in view of General Hertzog's impending visit to South-West Africa, but in the meantime the attitude of the New Raad towards the Administration and even towards the Prime Minister became more insolent and defiant than ever.

§ 20. On the 3rd November, 1924, the Prime Minister met both Raads and the burghers at Rehoboth Railway Station, and he then impressed upon the New Raad that they would have to act constitutionally before they could be recognised; that they would have to obey such of the laws of the Administration as applied to the Gebiet, and that the Union Government would see that this was done. Copies of this speech were circulated throughout the Gebiet.

§ 21. Believing that the Prime Minister's visit had had a good effect, I invited the two Raads to visit Windhoek with a view to settling various details. Representatives of both Raads came, but those of the New Raad were obstinate and resolutely declined to consider any compromise with the Old Raad.

I suggested a fresh election, the majority of the candidates to be nominated by the New Raad, and undertook to recognise the thus elected body as the constitutional Raad, but this suggestion like all previous efforts was treated with contempt.

§ 22. At the end of November the New Raad asked for an interview with me in connection with certain regulations issued by the Old Raad relative to the export of wood and grass from the Gebiet, and on the 1st December they wrote the following letter to the Magistrate, Rehoboth, in reply to a message I sent them through the Magistrate, intimating that I was prepared to interview them:—

“ Burgher Magistrate's Office,
“ Rehoboth,
“ 1 December, 1924.

“ Respected Local Magistrate,

“ Your esteemed letter addressed to me has been laid before the present Raad, and the following reply is communicated to you:—

“ Hitherto we have done what was in our power, but all to no purpose, and we withdraw ourselves once and for all and shall no more ask your counsel or advice and also the letter of His Honour the Administrator which was delivered to us is no longer of any assistance, and we remain henceforth totally independent of you; because we openly see that the Magistrate and also even the Administrator persist in forcing the people against their will to bow to the deposed Raad and also even to the agreement.

“ We as the chosen of the Community (Ryk meaning literally Empire) are obliged from now on to expose (or publish) this state of affairs in our territory (Gebiet) in all newspapers even to Europe. The position is impossible for us, because if the treatment which is now being meted out in Rehoboth and which is absolutely strange continues the people of Rehoboth will be the only people having no right to their own property.

“ Furthermore we wish to impress upon you that we shall not obey any law promulgated by Nels Klazen (*i.e.*, an official of the Old Raad). We are only bound to obey the members of the Raad; to obey the laws made by those elected by the community (Ryk) to impose laws or order upon land and people, and we impress upon you that we withdraw ourselves from you and we remain the chosen Raad and serve the laws of our fathers which are still independent.

With respect,

“ On behalf of the Parlements Raad, Kapitein and Volksraad (signed by 10 members of the so-called Parlements Raad and Volksraad). ”

¹ Norz. — The letter is in parts ungrammatical and unintelligible but the foregoing is translated as nearly as possible.

It will be seen that the letter of the New Raad, is nothing short of a declaration of independence, and in fact that is what they aim at. They have quite flatly refused to obey the Administration's laws, holding that the Administration has no power to make these laws. They openly advised the Natives to follow their example — indeed it was alleged that in some instances they had ordered the Natives under threat of expulsion from the Gebiet to do so. Every endeavour has been used, to bring these people to reason and the utmost patience has been exercised, indeed it becomes a question whether the Administration has not been too patient and whether its leniency has not been regarded as weakness.

§ 23. On the 4th December the Old Raad addressed the following letter to the Magistrate, Rehoboth : —

“ Raad Office,
“ Rehoboth,
“ 4th December, 1924.

“ The Magistrate,
“ Rehoboth.

“ Respected Sir,

“ Be so good as to communicate the contents of this letter to His Honour, the Administrator of South-West Africa, namely : —

“ As the disordered state of affairs in Rehoboth has reached a stage which exceeds our powers, I as acting Kapitein and Counsellor am constrained to notify you, not without deep regret, and as I know what the consequences have been and may be unless an end is put to it speedily ; and as nothing is unknown to His Honour, from the negotiations of the agreement up to now. It is known to His Honour that from the commencement of the agreement the leaders of the opposition have with their lies stirred the Community up against the Government, the Union Government and the Raad and even now continue with their lies, and continue to incite not only our own Community, but worse, the Natives, so we think it our duty since we are powerless to prevent the position and as the leaders ever since the coming of the Prime Minister and the friendly advice given by you on the 17th November last are drifting further. The position is so serious that notwithstanding their ridiculous letters to the Raad and the Government they are boasting about the letters which they have sent representing that the Government have no right to interfere with Rehoboth. Not only that, but it has now come to this that some of the members of our Raad are in danger of their lives, as they have openly declared they will take the Raad prisoners and what may the result be because none of us will allow ourselves to be taken prisoner. Therefore we invoke the assistance of the Administration to remove the principal leaders and inciters from the midst of the Community. Not that we wish to prescribe to His Honour but because we know the circumstances of the people of the country, we ask His Honour not to delay long, but to take action quickly so that an end may be put to the critical situation.

“ The Raad as lawfully responsible for the interests of the Community impress upon you that the lawful Provisional Kapitein and Raad were styled ‘ ex burghers ’ by the leaders of the opposition, and we are afraid of the Natives as they are so excited that it is unsafe for our party as well as for the European inhabitants of the district. We have omitted nothing that is unknown to you and the Administration cannot permit lawlessness to continue so.

“ We conclude in anticipation of speedy action because everything depends on the 14th and 15th inst. Then the decision will be made.

“ With hope,

“ Your obedient servants.

“ On behalf of the Kapitein and Raad (signed by the Provisional Kapitein and 7 members of the Raad). ”

§ 24. Since the Old Raad appealed for protection and was incapable of functioning and the New Raad and its supporters took up an attitude of defiance and independence, resulting in a state of lawlessness in the Gebiet, it became necessary to take immediate action and as a first step Proclamation No. 31 of 1924 was issued, a step which was approved by the Old Raad.

This Proclamation which came into operation on the 16th December, 1924, preserved the constitution of the Community and the laws framed thereunder but temporarily dispenses with the Kapitein and Raad and the Courts of the Community and any officials appointed by the Raad, and transfers the powers vested in them to the Magistrate and his Court.

Severe penalties are imposed on any person or body of persons exercising or usurping or attempting to exercise or usurp the powers, functions and duties transferred to the Magistrate.

§ 25. A strong Police patrol was then sent into the Gebiet to investigate the state of affairs there. Their reception was exceedingly hostile and a large number of Burghers immediately came into Rehoboth armed with rifles — summoned apparently by the New Raad which sent various impudent messages to me demanding the immediate withdrawal of the Police threatening to hold the Administrator responsible for any bloodshed which should occur, etc. The patrol, however, was very tactfully handled and its appearance certainly had a good effect upon the natives in the Gebiet. A considerable amount of useful information was gleaned.

As the natives were being misled, I sent them special friendly messages through the Magistrate who visited various points in the Gebiet for the purpose of personally speaking to them.

§ 26. Copies of the Proclamation were sent to the New Raad and were circulated all over the Gebiet. The New Raad and many of their supporters ostentatiously returned their copies to the Magistrate. I also addressed various messages to the members of the New Raad and to their "Provisional Kapitein" through the Magistrate warning them of the consequences of disobeying the recently issued Proclamation. The letters conveying these were simply returned.

§ 27. On the 12th, 13th and 14th January, 1925, in defiance of the Proclamation and at the instance of the New Raad another election was held, which was in any event irregular, and naturally only persons belonging to the New Raad's faction were elected respectively as Kapitein and members of the "Volksraad" and "Parlementsraad." The Magistrate was formally notified of the results of the election and the books and accounts which he had taken over from the Old Raad were demanded of him, but of course he refused to comply. These elections, they were informed, could not be recognised, and they were again warned against contraventions of the Proclamation or continued disobedience to comply with the laws of the Territory operating in the Gebiet. The difficulty of obtaining reliable evidence in matters of this sort will be realised. It follows that the supporters of the New Raad would not lay a charge or give evidence.

§ 28. As definite steps to enforce the laws of the Territory had become imperative, the Community was warned that unless the Cattle Branding Law was complied with by the 1st March, 1925, prosecutions would be instituted. It was felt that it would be desirable even then still to allow a reasonable period in order to meet the possible excuse that sufficient time had not been allowed for branding irons to be obtained. As was anticipated, however, no steps were taken to comply with the law and a number of the leaders were accordingly summoned to appear before the local Magistrate.

In the first case the accused failed to appear and a warrant was immediately issued for his arrest which, notwithstanding a protest on the part of the New Raad, was effected without trouble by a European Police Sergeant accompanied by one Constable. In the second case the accused answered to his summons. In both cases the accused were found guilty and sentenced.

§ 29. The New Raad then telegraphed to His Excellency the Governor-General requesting that further proceedings be stayed to avoid bloodshed and that a Commission be sent to enquire into matters.

A message was also sent to the Magistrate stating that in no circumstances would Piet Diergaard who was appointed a Magistrate by the "New Raad" and who had also been summoned on a charge of contravening the Branding Law be delivered up. The Magistrate replied warning the New Raad against resistance. On the return day, namely, the 28th March, Diergaard and others who were summoned for the same day failed to appear and a couple of Police were sent to execute warrants of arrest upon them, but were prevented from doing so by the New Raad and supporters, numbering in all about one hundred. They were armed with sticks. The Police were immediately instructed to concentrate at Rehoboth to maintain law and order, and one hundred and thirty-five men were sent. Meantime the New Raad had summoned armed burghers from all sides to Rehoboth and the last news received was that about 200 Hereros were also in the village.

§ 30. The following telegram (in Dutch) was also sent by "Kapitein, Volksraad, Parlementsraad Burgers, Rehoboth" to the Secretary for South-West Africa at Windhoek on the 30th March, 1925 : —

"Position since Wednesday very serious and we earnestly hope no violence committed. Whole community refuse to accept branding irons under the agreement seeing we did not accept agreement. Humbly request that Magistrate take no further steps. Raad and Burgers refuse submit to imprisonment."

To this the following reply was sent (in Dutch) : —

"Your telegram to-day. Contents noted. Magistrate reports that certain persons who had contravened the ordinary laws of South-West Africa and for whose arrest warrants of apprehension had accordingly been issued by his Court are being protected by your Community against such arrest. You will appreciate that the laws of the land must be obeyed by all subjects irrespective of rank, standing or colour. I therefore trust that your Community will realise how dangerous the consequences of resistance to the execution of the law will be and that they will follow

wiser counsel. I understand from your Magistrate that you have sent a telegram to the Governor-General to which you desire a reply and that he on your behalf has asked by telegraph that answer be expedited."

On the instructions of the Prime Minister the following message was telegraphed (in Dutch) on the 30th March, 1925, to the Magistrate, Rehoboth, for delivery to the New Raad to the telegram to the Governor-General:—

"In name of the Government I must inform you that your request for further enquiry cannot be entertained. The Government has already shown the utmost measure of patience and tolerance to the people of Rehoboth in order to make them realise the folly of their conduct and in the hope that they would come to reason and submit to law and order. As instead of following the good advice of the Government they showed more and more that they were out to create lawlessness and disorder, the Government has no alternative but to instruct that the law shall be carried out and maintained, and that where this is not done the guilty parties shall immediately be tried and punished. The people of Rehoboth must either obey or they must undergo the necessary punishment. The choice lies with you and you will be held responsible for every drop of blood which may be spilt."

On the 31st March the Magistrate, Rehoboth, telegraphed the reply of the New Raad, which was as follows:—

"Inform Prime Minister that we stand resolutely in our rights. We do not accept laws of the agreement. That is our attitude and decision which we place before you."

§ 31. About 400 Rehoboth Burghers with about 200 Hereros assembled in the village of Rehoboth and openly defied the Administration. The Rehoboth burghers possess modern rifles. Practically all of them underwent military training under the German regime when they were obliged to furnish a considerable number of men annually for training and service.

§ 32. The most serious aspect of the attitude of the opposition party in Rehoboth, not only in this instance, but during the past eighteen months, has been the effect on the natives who have apparently come to regard the Gebiet as a sort of haven where no law exists—the laws of the Administration being simply set at naught by the New Raad and the laws of the Community although nominally operative not being enforced.

When the police patrol visited the Gebiet in December last the attitude of the natives incited by the opposition section, was openly hostile, and now a large number joined the recalcitrants in Rehoboth. It follows that the natives do not wish to see our laws enforced in the Gebiet. The manner in which the opposition party has defied the Administration has made the natives defiant too.

§ 33. The position in the Gebiet was being closely watched by natives throughout the Territory, and it was felt that an initial disaster might have widespread results. The number of Police available was inadequate to cope with the situation and it therefore became necessary to call up the Defence Force in the southern districts and concentrate them at Rehoboth. At my request three aeroplanes were also despatched by the Union Government to Rehoboth.

Martial law was declared, but only as a safety measure and it was not rigorously applied.

§ 34. Rehoboth village was surrounded before daybreak on the 5th April, 1925, which completely surprised the recalcitrants, and an ultimatum was sent to the so-called Kapitein and New Raad demanding surrender within one hour. This was not complied with and under cover of the aeroplanes the Police and Defence Force entered the village and took a block of buildings occupied by the recalcitrants, who thereupon surrendered, no bloodshed having occurred. Six hundred and thirty-two persons surrendered, made up as follows: Rehoboths, 289; Hereros, 218; Hottentots, 75; and Klip Kaffirs, 50. A large number of rifles, clubs and sticks were taken from them, the majority of the rifles being loaded; these people were well organised and their intention clearly was to offer forcible resistance from which they were prevented only by the unexpectedly rapid concentration of the Administration's forces on the spot and the completeness of the preparations made. The rank and file were released, but the leaders were immediately put upon their trial, and those found guilty were punished.

§ 35. I desire to record the grateful thanks of the Administration to the Air Force, the Defence Force, the Volunteers and Police who took part in this operation. Regard being had to the shortness of the mobilisation order, the state of the country as a result of the rains, and the ravages of horse-sickness, the response of members of the Defence Force and Volunteers was most gratifying.

Thanks are also due to the Railway Department who rendered excellent service under adverse conditions.

§ 36. I should like to emphasize that the trouble which has occurred did not arise particularly out of the Branding Law, to which in principle the Rehoboth people have no more objection than any of the other laws of the Administration applied to the Gebiet under the Agreement. The position is that they object to the application of any of the laws of the Administration—and they repudiate the Agreement. The Branding Law was merely selected as it was the most convenient for bringing matters to an issue. The result would have been precisely the same had any other law been selected.

VISIT OF ADMINISTRATOR TO GENEVA.

§ 37. On the instructions of the Union Government I proceeded to Geneva in May 1924, and appeared before the Mandates Commission.

I have already submitted my report upon my visit, and no more than a passing reference to my visit need be made here.

From the reports of the Permanent Mandates Commission and the Council of the League of Nations it will be seen how highly the action of the Union Government in sending the highest official in the Territory was appreciated.

I venture to say that the visit was productive of much good, inasmuch as I was enabled to bring home clearly the position in South-West Africa, and the problems with which the Administration is faced, and generally the visit established mutual understandings, confidence and cordial relations which cannot but facilitate matters in the future.

I desire to express my grateful appreciation of the courtesy and assistance extended to me by the chairman and members of the Commission.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

§ 38. It can hardly be said that the year 1924 was a favourable one for the Territory — at all events from an agricultural and pastoral point of view. After the heavy rains of the preceding season the year opened promisingly, but this promise was not fulfilled.

The rainfall was very poor, indeed some parts of the country had no rain at all, and the distress which would ordinarily have flowed from this was accentuated by a severe infestation of locusts, which in parts destroyed such crops as there were and denuded the veld of grass. The locust campaign is more fully dealt with under the heading "Agriculture" — see paragraphs 148 and 149 — and reference is made here to the invasion only in view of its effect upon the economic position of the country.

The drought and locusts caused serious losses of stock and it is reported that in several districts the losses amounted to 30 per cent. of the livestock holdings.

§ 39. The following brief summaries of the reports submitted by the Magistrates of the various districts in this connection are of interest : —

Aroab. — No change for the better. Farmers hard pressed for cash. The chief industry of the district is stock farming. The market for sheep remained firm and the demand for prime stock exceeded the supply. Many farmers sustained loss through wire worm. A number of farmers trekked into Aroab district for pasturage. The settlers make no attempt to go in for agriculture on an extensive scale, although the possibilities in this direction are good and sufficient cereals can at least be produced to meet local requirements. The locust invasion was severe, but was successfully coped with and many swarms were destroyed.

Bethanie. — The prolonged drought has proved very detrimental to the farming community and progress has been seriously affected.

Gibeon. — Very little rain during the year, but farmers have been able to dispose of their stock at fair prices and the financial position is improving. Serious locust infestation — over 8,000 swarms destroyed.

Gobabis. — Stock has increased all round. Revenue collections practically double those of last year. Shortage of labour. Little damage by locusts. General rainfall of district about 17 inches. Large and small stock do well in district. Experiments with merino sheep proving most successful. Artesian water found in southern portion of district.

Grootfontein. — Mining vigorous and healthy. Farming decaying and insolvent. Drought delayed ploughing. Farmers short of cash with which to pay expenses of ploughing fields and discouraged by ravages of locusts during 1923 and presence of hoppers during last summer. In May invasion of flying locusts from the Kalahari destroyed something like 90 per cent. of the crops in a few days time. Cattle industry suffered setback by prohibition of sales to Ovamboland. Stock increasing.

Karibib. — Losses in cattle and small stock due to drought. Development of marble and tin industries continues and they absorb all available labour and have consequently improved the financial position of the natives. Prospects of district good. Karakul sheep industry progressing steadily. Since the Magistrate, Karibib, submitted his report the marble quarries have closed down. It is, however, stated this is purely a temporary measure.

Keelmanshoop. — The prolonged drought has had a bad effect. The export of small stock has decreased by approximately 12,000 as compared with the previous year. The increase of revenue over the previous year, however, is over £2,000. The prospects of discovering oil in the district are favourable.

Luderitz. — The conditions are satisfactory from an industrial point of view, due to the diamond mines and the cray-fish industry. Trade is improving. The cray-fish industry will improve as soon as the French rate of exchange improves. The cost of living is still high. Farming in the district has been poor during the year on account of the drought which has been serious.

Mallahöhe. — The economic conditions of the district are improving.

Okahandja. — Farming conditions improved in spite of drought and scarcity of water. Commercial firms show slight increase in sales. Six insolvencies during the year. Property sales increased by more than £7,000 over previous year.

Omaruru. — Past year regarded from economic point of view as one of the worst experienced by farming community — considerable losses in stock due to drought and locusts.

Oljiwarongo. — As a result of drought and locusts the cattle are in poor condition, and losses in both cattle and sheep have been enormous.

Outjo. — The economic conditions are improving. The district suffered in the past owing to the embargo placed upon the export of stock, but this has now been removed with consequent benefit to the farmers. The rainfall for the year was, however, exceedingly low being only six inches.

Rehoboth. — The portion of the district outside the Gebiet is suitable for stock, especially merino sheep. The Gebiet too is excellent for this purpose, but quite apart from the indolent habits of the people, the present unfortunate unrest and political trouble in the Gebiet have militated against any progress there. The people do not make the best use of what they possess and by nature they are indolent, improvident, and retrogressive. Business in the Gebiet shows a downward tendency owing to the stoppage of trade in stock.

Swakopmund. — Trade is fair in spite of drought and locusts. New firms established at Walvis Bay are doing well. Customs revenue shows a gratifying increase. The fishing and whaling industries are progressing satisfactorily. Roughly 12,000 barrels of whale oil were exported during the year. Walvis Bay has improved considerably as a result of the operations connected with the dredging of the harbour, the construction of the wharf and the cold storage works.

Warmbad. — The conditions are bad and extreme poverty obtains. The Administration has to provide for pauper relief and has to support about 150 coloured children at various Mission institutions. It likewise supports a number of European children at school hostels. The revenue showed a decrease as compared with the previous year, and expenditure was heavy, due mainly to the cost of education, indigent rations and locust destruction.

Windhoek. — Farmers have suffered severely through drought and locusts. Notwithstanding this about one million pounds of butter were exported from the district. No change in house rents. Four civil debtors were lodged in gaol though there were 183 civil imprisonment orders.

§ 40. During 1924 only 33,416 cattle and 159,755 sheep were exported, showing a decrease of 41 per cent. and 23 per cent. respectively as compared with the exports during 1923. Of these only 763 were exported overseas. On the whole the prices realised were good.

§ 41. The Registrar of Deeds reports that no reduction of registered debt has occurred, and the position as compared with 1923 is as follows : —

The total value of bonds passed during the year 1923 was £699,339 16s. 2d., as against £611,693 10s. 9d. during 1924. Cancellations and part payments of bonds aggregated £222,530 0s. 3d. and 2,944,259.46 marks in 1923 and £165,403 7s. 9d. and 2,695,699.16 marks in 1924.

In the result these figures (taking the mark at the value of a shilling) shew an increased indebtedness of approximately £311,505 6s.

§ 42. The report of the Master of the Supreme Court shows the position in regard to insolvencies, etc., to be as follows : —

	1923	1924
Voluntary surrenders accepted	13	11
Compulsory (Final) Sequestrations	16	18
Assignments registered	8	1
Company Liquidations : Registered : —		
(i) Voluntary Winding-up (<i>i.e.</i> , "Local") ..	7	3
(ii) Winding-up by Court : —		
including "foreign" voluntary and compulsory liquidations "recognised" by the Court	5	4

§ 43. The report of the Land Bank Board depicts rather a gloomy picture, but it will be seen that the Board regards the present position as a passing phase, a view in which I concur.

§ 44. The following points represent the other side of the picture. Since the close of the year magnificent rains have fallen generally and if only the locust pest can be staved off, the farmers should have an excellent season during which a brisk slaughter stock export trade to the overseas and to the Union, is anticipated.

The revenue for the nine months ended 31st December, 1924, is very much lower than the revenue for the corresponding period of any year since martial law was raised, but this is due entirely to an exceedingly bad contract the Administration was forced to conclude last year in regard to the sale of diamonds. This, however, is the only head under which loss can be shown, and an examination of the other items of general revenue reveals an increase all round which is exceedingly gratifying since the remaining heads represent a reflex of the country's position. It may be added that although rates were not increased at all, the Railways in 1923 showed a profit of roughly £39,000, and during 1924 a substantial increase.

During the year work was commenced in earnest upon the Cold Storage buildings and the dredging of the harbour at Walvis Bay. Both operations are proceeding very satisfactorily, the walls of the main buildings of the cold storage works are in some cases almost complete, and it is expected that the works will be finished and operating about the end of the current year. This marks an important step towards the progress of the country. The dredging of the harbour is also proceeding satisfactorily.

In December the first pile of the new wharf was driven in. Unfortunately some difficulty has been encountered owing to the character of the soil which has hampered progress with the wharf, but I am confident these difficulties will soon be overcome and that the completion of the wharf will not be much delayed.

The Customs figures for the year show a very gratifying increase, the imports for the nine months ended 31st December, 1924, being £1,776,052. The exports amounted to £2,850,193, as compared with £1,050,787 and £2,319,124 during 1922 and 1923 respectively, and this notwithstanding the fact that the value of the diamonds exported was much lower than during 1923.

Shipping traffic at Walvis Bay has increased to such an extent that the wharf accommodation now being constructed under the existing contract will not meet requirements and an extension is under consideration.

The water pipe-line from Rooibank to Walvis Bay was practically completed by the end of December, and as a matter of fact the water has now actually been brought into the town. This will make a very great difference to the place, the supply being inexhaustible and infinitely greater than Walvis Bay can possibly require for many years to come, however rapidly it may develop.

In May last the railway from Windhoek to Kapps Farm was opened and the further section from Kapps Farm to Ondekaremba was completed and opened two months later. The section from Windhoek to Ondekaremba is roughly 31 miles.

The extension of the line from Ondekaremba to Witvlei is also under consideration, and I have every hope that the Government will decide to include this in the railway construction programme for the current year. This will open up a valuable strip of country which has great capacity for production.

As regards mining everything is proceeding very favourably and the country has considerable possibilities in various minerals.

The South-West Africa Mines, Limited, which has considerable capital has commenced tin mining on a fairly large scale in the Karibib district. Machinery costing, it is understood, from £30,000 to £40,000, has been installed, and the results are now being awaited with much interest.

§ 45. On the whole, therefore, notwithstanding the drought and locusts, a very considerable amount of development is being undertaken in the country, and there is no question that the year has seen substantial progress.

ARMS AND AMMUNITION.

§ 46. Permits for the importation of the following arms and ammunition were issued during 1923 and 1924 :—

Year.	Rifles.	Combina- tion and Shot Guns.	Pistols and Revolvers.	Miniature Rifles.	Ball Cartridges.	Shot Cartridges.	Pistol and Revolver Cartridges.	Miniature Cartridges.
1923	263	85	104	—	228,924	45,100	20,139	90,015
1924	270	70	63	54	278,960	47,990	7,218	135,050

The following were exported during 1924 :—

Year.	Rifles.	Combina- tion and Shot Guns.	Pistols and Revolvers.	Miniature Rifles	Ball Cartridges.	Shot Cartridges.	Pistol and Revolver Cartridges.	Miniature Cartridges.
1924	56	21	12	5	3,104	1,125	310	935

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

§ 47. Though in some parts of the Territory, Natives, especially Hereros, have evinced restlessness and assumed a truculent attitude, Magisterial reports indicate that, generally speaking, with the exception of the Bastards and Natives in the Rehoboth Gebiet, the Natives have been law-abiding and well behaved. These reports further state :

- (a) that the labour question remains acute, one contributory cause, it is alleged, being the fact that some farmers underpay and underfeed their natives, to which these employers have retorted that an improvement in pay will depend upon an increase in efficiency on the part of the natives ;
- (b) that there is an absence of drunkenness on the part of natives, an indication that illicit liquor selling to natives is on the decrease, though this crime is still prevalent in the Windhoek and Luderitz districts ;
- (c) that the health of the community, both European and non-European, in the Territory is good, though in certain districts an outbreak of malaria occurred during the rainy season, while at Luderitz there was a severe recrudescence of influenza during the winter which affected the native labourers on the mines. Infectious diseases are on the decrease, though syphilis is prevalent amongst the Bastards and natives in the Gebiet. A small hospital and dispensary are wanted but it is almost impossible to do anything in this direction until the co-operation of the community is secured. At present they will have nothing to do with any measure initiated by the Administration, even though such measures may admittedly be for the benefit of the community ;
- (d) that game is plentiful as also is unfortunately vermin, though effective measures, mostly poisoning, are taken by farmers for the extermination of the latter ;
- (e) that stock thefts have increased in certain districts, probably due to the severe drought which adversely affected the natives and the bushmen ; and
- (f) that crime generally continues to fluctuate, increasing in some districts and decreasing in others.

IMPORTATION OF LIQUOR.

§ 48. The following return indicates the liquor (in gallons) imported during 1923 and 1924 :—

Year.	Wine.	Brandy.	Whisky.	Liqueurs.	Rum and Gin.	Meth. Spirits.	Beer.
1923	21,977	18,419	6,456	1,136	1,531	3,998	23,632

The quantity of wines imported in 1924 is considerably higher than in 1923 ; the increase in brandy is compensated for by the decrease in the importation of whisky. The quantity of methylated spirit shows a decrease. It is not possible to compare the quantities of beer as the figures for 1923 are only for 6 months.

Year.	Wine.	Brandy.	Whisky.	Liqueurs.	Rum and Gin.	Meth. Spirits.	Beer.
1924	27,013	20,849	4,821	1,857	1,184	3,110	56,837

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

§ 49. The revenue for the year unfortunately shows a big decrease as compared with the previous year. The general revenue remains entirely satisfactory everything considered, but the drop is due to the unfavourable contract which was concluded with the Diamond Syndicate under which, as will be seen from the report of the Inspector of Mines, we only sold 449,846 carats valued at £1,224,441 as compared with 495,675 carats valued at £1,656,700 during the preceding year.

I am glad to be able to say that much more favourable contracts have now been made for the sale of our diamonds during the current year, and a substantial increase in revenue from this source is expected for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1926.

§ 50. The report of the Controller and Auditor-General upon the accounts for the financial year ended 31st March last is attached hereto, together with a copy of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ending 31st March, 1925.¹

REVENUE.

§ 51. The following is a statement of the revenue collected for the nine months ended 31st December, 1924, as compared with the collections for the corresponding period of the preceding year : —

	1923 ²	1924
Customs and Excise	£69,285	£60,694
Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones	35,537	38,833
Mining Profits and Royalties	383,328	136,823
Licences : Liquor, Trading, Game, Arms, etc.	12,984	15,718
Stamp Duties and Fees	8,633	8,774
Estate and Transfer Duty	7,052	9,847
Native Revenue	1,219	2
Land Revenue, including Land Tax, Lease Rents and Grazing Fees	11,762	16,418
Sales of Crown Land	10,405	15,049
Forest Revenue	57	—
Rents of Government Property	6,558	11,797
Interest on Loans	24,138	17,208
Fines and Forfeitures	3,489	4,159
Departmental Receipts	13,950	19,609
Miscellaneous Revenue	6,881	11,744
	<u>£595,278</u>	<u>£366,673</u>

It will be seen that practically every item shows a substantial increase. Payment of Customs and Excise Revenue for the quarter ended 31st December, 1924 was not received until after the end of the year, and is therefore not reflected, but the amount due was £31,211 17s. 10d. — so this also shows an increase.

EXPENDITURE.

§ 52. The following statement shows the total estimated expenditure under each vote for the current financial year and the actual expenditure during the nine months ended 31st December, 1924 : —

Vote.	Vote.	Estimated expenditure for financial year ending 31.3.25.	Actual Expenditure during 9 months ended 31.12.24.
1.	Administration	£51,390	£43,515
"	2. Agriculture	50,600	37,950
"	3. Audit	2,264	1,267
"	4. Customs and Excise	2,760	2,189
"	5. Defence	2,500	108
"	6. Education	98,446	61,793
"	7. Water Boring	72,270	45,277
"	8. Justice	50,565	35,434
"	9. Lands, Deeds and Surveys	30,800	17,865
"	10. Mines	5,470	2,987
"	11. Native Affairs	16,750	10,369
"	12. Pensions and Gratuities	7,200	6,155
"	13. Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones	62,890	38,813
"	14. Prisons and Reformatories	20,260	12,303
"	15. Interest and Redemption Charges	19,000	1,200
"	16. Public Health	18,400	10,230
"	17. Public Works	119,110	77,436
"	18. S.W.A. Police	126,240	94,680
	Total Ordinary Expenditure	<u>756,915</u>	<u>499,591</u>
	Total Capital Expenditure on Railways, Land Bank and Land Settlement	147,000	76,243
	TOTAL	<u>£903,915</u>	<u>£575,834</u>

¹ Note by the Secretariat of the League of Nations : These separate documents have not been reprinted.

² Native Revenue is now paid into Reserve Accounts.

DIRECT EXPENDITURE ON NATIVES.

§ 53. The amount directly expended in the interests of natives and coloured persons during the nine months ended 31st December, 1923, was £22,638 0s. 8d. The amount expended during the remaining three months of the financial year was £15,741 18s. 6d., bringing the direct expenditure for the year to £38,379 19s. 2d.

The following is a statement of direct expenditure in the interests of natives and coloured persons during the nine months ended 31st December, 1924 : —

Vote and Sub-head 1924-1925 Estimates.	Service.	Provision.	Expenditure for 9 months ended 31.12.24.
1Q. ..	Settlement of Rehoboth Community	9,000	144
11A. ..	Native Affairs, salaries of District Staff	9,390	6,136
6F. ..	Mission Schools	5,500	3,655
11B. ..	Native Affairs — Subsistence and transport	2,460	845
11C. ..	Incidental Expenses	400	357
11D. ..	Native Labour, Recruiting Incidental Expenses (including rations for Ovambos until employment is procured)	1,000	249
11E. ..	Subsidies and allowances to Chiefs, Headmen, Presents and Rations (includes Headmen in Settlement where no municipality exists)	1,000	379
11F. ..	Construction and maintenance of Tanks in Native areas	1,000	243
11G. ..	Fencing and Water supplies and maintenance, etc., Native Reserves	1,500	2,160
16A. ..	Salaries of European and Native Hospital Attendants in Native Hospitals	2,610	1,711
16D. ..	Maintenance of Native Hospitals, Purchase of Stores, Equipment, etc.	2,750	2,447
17P. ..	Huts, Native Location, Walvis Bay	5,000	Nil
		£41,610	£18,326

As explained in the report for 1923 a very considerable proportion of the direct expenditure upon Natives is concealed in other votes from which it is hardly separable. For example, Vote 7 — Irrigation Sub-Head D, Boring — includes a substantial amount in respect of Boring in Native Reserves solely in the interests of natives. Vote 16 — Public Health — includes the expenses of Medical officers who attend to natives, the maintenance of native hospitals, while practically all that is spent on the suppression of venereal diseases goes on natives.

It will be observed that the amount spent on native education has increased substantially.

III.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

§ 54: From an economic point of view the year under consideration was as unfortunate for the natives as for the Europeans.

Speaking generally the natives of this country are a pastoral people no matter what form their employment takes, and all their savings are invested in cattle or small stock whilst many employed as farm servants receive their wages in kind. As they do not, to any marked extent, indulge in agricultural pursuits the drought and locust visitation have affected them as seriously as, if not to a greater extent than, the Europeans who have other channels for the investment of their money and greater facilities for obtaining assistance from the Administration or from commercial concerns.

Except during the earlier part of the year — prior to the locust infestation — when their small stock had, to some extent, benefited from the results of such rain as had fallen, they have had practically no market with the result that they have experienced considerable difficulty in regard to the payment of their grazing fees. As the year advanced the position became more acute and they sustained many losses owing to drought and scarcity of pasturage.

¹ Owing to the decision to call in expert advice in regard to the building of the huts so as to ensure greater comfort to the natives in the damp climate at Walvis Bay the work has been delayed. The work will be proceeded with immediately. As regards the Rehoboth community, the amount provided was carried forward from last year's estimates. In view of the trouble which has occurred in the Gebiet the money has not been paid over yet. It may be explained that the remaining farms promised to the community could not be acquired, and the Raad therefore agreed to the substitution of a promise by the Administration to spend £8,000 in the Gebiet on approved services in the public interest.

§ 55. These adverse conditions have affected the revenue of the country and also retarded the progress of the native policy of the Administration, but as the present rainy season has opened with great promise, it is hoped the current year will bring about an improvement.

§ 56. Signs are not wanting which indicate that the mental outlook of the natives has undergone a change in this country, and that they are no longer content to accept placidly the treatment and conditions to which they were accustomed in the past. They seem also to have become more conversant with the methods adopted by Europeans in voicing their grievances and have not been slow in taking advantage of this knowledge. The intercourse with coloured persons and natives from the Union is, to a great extent, responsible for this, and I feel convinced that they keep in closer touch with the political and industrial questions affecting the natives than is generally imagined or believed. I think also that they have begun to realise their value as an economic asset, and I am afraid that this is not being sufficiently appreciated by many of their European employers.

§ 57. A census was taken in 1921, when the native population which was partly enumerated and partly estimated, was returned as 177,482. This included estimates of those living in Ovamboland, the Kaokoveld, the Okavango and the Bushmen on our North-Eastern border, and as these persons are living under natural conditions there is no reason to suppose that their increase has been otherwise than normal. In regard to those resident in the Territory proper, *i.e.*, inside the Police Zone, estimates by the Magistrates of the various districts show their number to be in the region of 81,823, which is a substantial increase on the census figures.

In the absence of births and deaths statistics an estimate of the population is unreliable, but as the natives, generally speaking, are living under healthy conditions it may fairly be assumed that their numbers are increasing steadily, and so is their stock which is estimated to amount to 79,402 head of large and 527,062 of small stock, Keetmanshoop, Okahandja, Omaruru and Grootfontein showing the largest totals.

STAFF.

§ 58. As compared with the previous years there has been an addition of one officer to the staff in the person of Mr. A. G. Strachan, who will succeed Mr. Dickman as Officer in charge of Native Affairs, Kuring Kuru, whilst the latter will, in exchange, take over the duties of Superintendent of the Waterberg East Native Reserve. Mr. Strachan is a Native Affairs official of the Union, and we have also been fortunate enough during the year to secure the services of other officers of experience in that department, *viz.*: — Mr. Thomas, Magistrate of Outjo, Mr. Scott, Magistrate of Gibeon and Mr. Liefeldt, Clerk to the Native Commissioner. In addition to these gentlemen we have as Magistrates with experience in native affairs Major Manning and Messrs. E. Manning and A. F. Kriel, so that taking it all round there is a fair leaven of officers conversant with native management in the service of this Administration. As the Superintendents of the various reserves are not conversant with the language of the natives under their control and as it is essential that they should be in a position to explain the laws and the wishes of the Administration on the one hand and on the other bring to the notice of the Administration any matters relating to the welfare of the natives, the question of providing them with reliable interpreters who can, at the same time, fulfil the duties of messengers is under consideration.

TRIBAL AFFAIRS.

§ 59. A matter of interest during the year was the release of Jacobus Christian, Stephanus Christian and Klaas Isaacs, leaders of the Bondelzwarts, who were sentenced to various periods of imprisonment by the Circuit Court in connection with the 1922 rebellion. In conveying my decision to these prisoners I informed Jacobus Christian that as an indication of goodwill towards him and his tribe I was prepared to appoint and recognise him as the Government Headman of the tribe with a subsidy of £48 per annum, and that on the other hand I expected him to assist the Magistrate and the Superintendent of the Reserve, under whom he would serve, in carrying out the laws and the wishes of the Government, and further, that he would use his influence in inducing all the able-bodied young men of his tribe to take up remunerative employment, and in this way assist in improving the lot of the people. Jacobus Christian, on behalf of himself and the other prisoners thanked me for the clemency extended to them, and accepted the appointment as headman of the tribe, at the same time promising that he would use his utmost endeavours to carry out the duties attaching to the post. Subsequently he wrote me a letter confirming what he had said.

His conduct since then has proved his sincerity, for reports from the reserve show that all able-bodied men from the reserve have taken up employment and those engaged by the Railway Department are giving a good account of themselves.

§ 60. Frederick Maherero, eldest son of the late Herero Chief, Samuel Maherero, who was permitted to return to this Territory from Bechuanaland in order to be able to bury his father, who had died at Serowe, in the burial place of the Herero Chiefs of the past at Okahandja, has returned to Bechuanaland. On the eve of his departure he addressed a large assembly of his tribe in the Windhoek location and impressed upon them the necessity

for their remaining loyal to the Government and not concerning themselves with any disputes which other tribes might have with it. He also warned them of the effects of drunkenness which he said caused degeneration. Unfortunately the Hereros in the Rehoboth Gebiet did not take his advice.

In an interview with me a few days before he left he was informed that in the event of his desiring to return to this country at some future date an application to that effect would receive consideration.

§ 61. In the Keetmanshoop district a section of the Hereros resident in the Native Reserve at Tses took up a defiant attitude in regard to the branding of their cattle, having somehow got the impression that the provisions of the Native Stock Brands Proclamation, 1923, were intended to deprive them of these and vest the ownership thereof in the Government. A number of the ringleaders were charged before the magistrate and convicted, but were forcibly rescued from the police by a large mob of natives before they could be lodged in gaol. After some negotiations between the authorities and the natives, in the course of which the latter adopted a very determined and defiant attitude, taking up the position that as they were all opposed to the provisions of the branding law they were all equally guilty with the prisoners, 97 men and 78 women trooped into the gaol. There they remained for three days, and it was only after they had been addressed by the Native Commissioner, who had gone down from Windhoek for the purpose, that they saw the error of their ways and undertook to carry out the provisions of the law. The majority were released, but those who were identified as having taken a leading part in the rescue of the prisoners were tried and convicted by the Magistrate at Gibeon who had been sent down to Keetmanshoop to deal with that aspect of the matter.

With the exception of Rehoboth, I think this is the last we shall hear of any objection on the part of the natives to the carrying out of the provisions of the branding law, for 38,730 head of cattle have already been branded, and the Magistrates report that they are experiencing no difficulty in enforcing the law.

§ 62. In March, 1924, the natives living on the farm Okatumba, which in 1916 was set aside as a temporary measure for their accommodation until a permanent reserve could be provided, were given notice to vacate the place by the 1st May as it was required for land settlement purposes. Some of them obeyed this order and proceeded to the reserve at Epukiro. In the meantime the farm in question had been allotted to a European farmer, and as the progress in providing water in the reserve had not come up to expectations, the remaining natives, numbering about 108, have steadfastly refused to vacate the farm taking up the standpoint that they are being required to remove from a place where they have open water sufficient for their requirements to one where the supply is not even assured. This was not so, as I had given instructions that these were only to be removed to the place of their own choice after a sufficient supply of water had been provided. Their excuse was therefore not a genuine one. On the 31st December they were interviewed by the Native Commissioner upon my instructions and told that they were to vacate the farm by the 31st January. Here they again referred to the water question and expressed dissatisfaction and refused to leave. It was pointed out to them that before the Epukiro reserve was set aside for them, the natives had been invited to express their views and after careful examination of the place they had stated they were perfectly satisfied. After the Administration had gone to great expense to prepare the reserve for them they had suddenly turned round and for no apparent reason had simply said the place was no good and they would not go. Argument and persuasion had no effect, and it was only after they realised that they would be forcibly expelled that they left.

It must be explained that the natives involved in this affair did not represent the majority of the natives at Okatumba. A large number had already left, and these were a few dissentients who for reasons best known to themselves did not wish to move.

§ 63. The only disturbance of any importance occurred in the location at Windhoek on the 16th August when a raid was organised by the Police in order to put a stop to beer-drinking and drunkenness, which had been prevalent for some time past. Unfortunately, the date chosen was that which terminated the period of grace given by the location superintendent to the natives within which to take out their employment passes, and they thought they were about to be arrested for having failed to take out these passes. Accordingly, they resisted arrest and threatened the Police, but as they were in a drunken state the Police very wisely retired, and so avoided consequences which might have been fatal to the natives concerned. The ringleaders were subsequently arrested and prosecuted, and received salutary sentences.

TAXATION.

§ 64. The natives in this Territory contribute very little towards the revenue of the country. The only tax paid by residents in the reserves held under German treaties is the dog tax, which is levied under Proclamation No. 16 of 1921, and which has been reduced from time to time and now is 5s. per dog, rising by amounts of 2s. 6d. according to the number of animals kept.

In reserves established by this Administration under Section 16 of the Native Administration Proclamation, 1922, in addition to dog tax, grazing fees at the following rates are paid :—

Large stock from 1 to 25	2d. per head per mensem.
26 upwards	3d. " "
Small stock from 1 to 100	1/4d. " "
101 upwards	1/2d. " "

No resident, however, may graze more than 100 head of large and 300 of small stock in a reserve without the special permission of the Administrator.

Natives residing in urban locations in addition to dog tax pay a tax of from 1s. to 2s. to the local authority to cover such items as site rent and water and sanitary rates. In addition to this, those grazing stock upon a municipal commonage are required to pay the fees prescribed. Approximately £3,358 9s. 10d. was collected from natives during the year for grazing fees and £1,016 7s. 9d. for dog tax. The figures for the various reserves under these headings are not available yet but will be supplied later.

§ 65. All revenue collected in native reserves is paid into the native reserve funds, details of which are given elsewhere, and are expended in promoting the interests and welfare of the residents of each reserve (see § 92).

NATIVE LABOUR.

§ 66. A reference to the discussions which took place in the German Landesrat in May, 1912, and to the report of the British Consul at Luderitz just before the outbreak of the war will show that the late Government was faced with the same problem as ourselves, viz., the shortage of labour.

Indeed the advisability of importing Indian and Chinese labour for mining purposes in order to relieve the demands of the farming community was seriously considered. Since then the question has become more acute owing to the influx of settlers and the increased activity connected with mineral development, besides which the conditions of labour from the point of view of higher wages, better rations and fixed hours of employment offered by mining and industrial concerns are more attractive to the natives than those the farmers are in a position to provide.

§ 67. In mining concerns natives are recruited in the Union on a shift basis at wages ranging from 1s. 8d. to 2s. 4d. per shift, whilst those recruited in Ovamboland receive from 9d. to 1s. 3d. per diem. All are given quarters, rations and free medical treatment when ill, and upon the expiration of their contracts are repatriated at the cost of the companies concerned. Natives employed on the tin fields and marble quarries in the districts of Omaruru and Karibib are paid wages ranging from £2 per month to 2s. per day with rations, whilst other industrial concerns, such as the crayfish factories at Luderitz pay their natives and coloured employees anything from 3s. to 4s. 6d. a day *without* quarters, or food, females being paid from 2s. 6d. to 3s. per day.

The wages of domestic servants vary in different towns from £1 per month with food to £5 without, women receiving from 10s. to £2 10s. per month with food, though the latter amount is rare.

Farm labourers do not reach these standards. They average for males 15s. per month with food and females 10s.

In the district of Warmbad most farmers are compelled to pay wages in kind owing to their having no market for their stock on account of the drought, and this may possibly account for the impoverished state of the natives there.

In the districts of Gibeon and Maltahöhe cases have come to light where farmers have resorted to the practice of paying their servants wages by means of I.O.U.'s, which they have failed to redeem upon the termination of the contracts. In one instance the natives complained and the offender was punished by the Magistrate, but in another the natives refused to do so as their master usually treated them well.

§ 68. There has also been a tendency upon the part of employers to withhold a portion of their servants' pay whenever a dispute arises.

Out of 50 cases of contravention of the provisions of the Masters and Servants Proclamation heard in the Magistrate's Court, Otjiwarongo, two individual farmers were concerned in no less than 25 of these, and the remarks of the Magistrate seem to indicate that though the relations, generally speaking, between farmers and their servants had been good, the two individuals referred to had established a record in the opposite direction.

I mention these matters because I think they account to some extent for the complaints by farmers that the natives are becoming more impertinent and defiant day by day, and although I am quite aware that there are numerous farmers who, on account of the treatment of their servants are able to obtain all the labour they require, yet it is incidents such as these that prejudice the native mind against the farming class as a whole and drive to industrial concerns people whose natural avocation is a pastoral one.

§ 69. Another factor which no doubt affects the supply of farm labour is the insecure position in which native servants who have grazing rights upon their master's farms find themselves when a drought occurs or when their stock begins to show a substantial increase, for their employers under such circumstances are forced to dispense with their services and they are then at a loss to know where to go.

It is hoped that when all the reserves have been provided with an adequate supply of water this factor will to some extent be eliminated—at any rate for some years to come.

§ 70. A further factor is the tendency upon the part of the natives to drift to the towns where they are exposed to temptations to which they only too readily succumb and very soon lose their veld sense and better qualities. The introduction of the provisions of the Urban Areas Proclamation of 1924 to the town of Windhoek where there are two locations accommodating a very large number of natives may serve as a corrective and the results achieved in this direction will doubtless lead to the law being applied to other towns having locations in which a considerable number of natives have collected.

§ 71. In regard to mining concerns the largest employers of labour are the diamond mining companies at Luderitz, and to indicate the position in which these companies find themselves at the end of the year, I feel I cannot do better than quote from a report which I have received from the Officer in Charge of Native Affairs, Luderitz, who wrote at the close of the year as follows:—

“Mine labour is more than 2,000 under present requirements. The Ovambo labour strength has dropped from 3,648 on the 1st May to under 2,000, and repatriations are likely to still further reduce this figure before the end of the year. During the six months June to November inclusive, only 334 have been received, and 71 only in the last three months.

“One of the representatives of the local Chamber of Mines who visited Ovamboland recently, expressed the opinion that Ovambos would come forward in increased numbers before the end of the year, but, so far, no signs have been observed of this being realised. Enquiries have been made at this office from boys arriving, as to failure of others to come forward but no reasonable theory has been advanced.

“Bechuanas and Basutos have decreased since the 1st July from 2,818 to under 1,900. The Consolidated Diamond Mines, whose strength on the 1st July was 5,553, are down to 3,700. This company is at present in dire straits for native labour, and is endeavouring to obtain 200 boys from Steinkopf, Namaqualand, under conditions as arranged with the Secretary for South-West Africa, also a few from the Upington district. It is not anticipated that recruits from Bechuanaland and Basutoland, where good rains have fallen and boys are busy ploughing, will be obtained in any numbers until January or February.

“Re-engagement is not popular among Basutos, though a small proportion of Bechuanaland natives re-engage, and it would seem to be an advantage if Union recruits were engaged for a minimum period of nine months (270 shifts), as for the Rand Mines, instead of six months (180 shifts) as at present, for, not only would this help mine labour supply, but natives would be able to return with very much larger savings than they are at present able to do, since deductions for rail fares, advances, etc., would be the same as at present, and the proportion of earnings available for saving would be far greater.

“During the last six months the Consolidated Diamond Mines have been supplied with 200 natives of mixed nationalities from the local location. These boys are paid at the rate of 2s. 5d. per day and all found (no clothing) and are employed in workshops, stables, etc.

“Since the recruitment of Bechuanas for the Consolidated Diamond Mines in July, 1923, 2,653 have been supplied from Francistown through Mr. Haskins, the N. R. C. representative, and 657 through Hadley's organisation, from Taungs and Mafeking.

“Hadley has also supplied 1,596 Basutos, making a total of 4,906 from both sources to date. The number received this year is 1,723 Bechuanas and 1,596 Basutos—3,319 to the end of November.

“The labour strength of the other mines is also steadily falling and various expedients have, as mentioned in my monthly reports, been resorted to, to augment supply.

“The Namaqua Diamonds, Limited, Charlottental, which company early in the year obtained two batches of Union natives from Cape Town, on terms and conditions of service very similar to those given to Basutos and Bechuanas, but slightly higher rate of pay, has obtained a further batch of 52 boys from the same source, as the last of the original boys are now being repatriated. This company is also obtaining 30 Steinkopf Hottentots on the same conditions as the Consolidated Diamond Mines, and continues, as for years past, to obtain a number of the Xosa type from the Upington district.

“The South-West Diamonds, Limited, has been able to obtain a few Berseba Hottentots to replace repatriated Ovambos.

“The main reason for the present shortage of labour can be ascribed to the fact that our chief source of labour supply, Ovamboland, has, for the time being at any rate, failed.”

§ 72. The failure of the native labour supply is no doubt attributable to several causes. Owing to increased activity on the mines more and more labour was called for and every endeavour was made by the Native Affairs officers in Ovamboland, which is the principal source of supply in the Territory, to meet requirements. Recruits came forward well, and a steady average flow of 530 per mensem was maintained until about the end of June.

It may here be stated that these natives were sent to Tsumeb for medical examination before being passed for the mines, and it would seem that in the anxiety to procure labour the medical examination was not as thorough as it might have been, and natives who were not thoroughly fit for this class of employment under the trying climatic conditions of Luderitz were passed.

§ 73. In view of reports received by the Administration, the Medical Officer of Health and the Commissioner of Natives were sent to Luderitz to investigate matters.

The report of the Medical Officer in so far as it relates to the health aspect of the matter will be dealt with later (see § 286). Suffice it to say here that an unsatisfactory state of affairs was disclosed. Subsequently a large number of Ovambos were re-examined, and about 400 were repatriated. Some of these labourers had only recently arrived from Ovamboland, and it follows that their repatriation so shortly after having undertaken the long journey on foot from Ondonga to Tsumeb, and after having been passed as fit by the Mines Medical Officer at Tsumeb, resulted in their circulating reports which prejudicially affected recruiting. Only 71 recruits were obtained during the last three months of the year.

§ 74. This matter opened up the general question of recruiting of native labourers, and some months ago a conference was held at Windhoek between the Deputy Administrator, Dr. Orenstein, an authority upon questions of sanitation, etc., Dr. Fourie, Medical Officer to the Administration, the Native Commissioner, and representatives of the various mines.

As regards recruiting, it was decided that the then existing arrangements under which natives provisionally recruited by the Native Affairs Officers in Ovamboland were sent to Tsumeb on foot—a very trying and arduous journey of roughly 150 miles over sandy and waterless country — and possibly rejected there, was most undesirable, and could not but affect recruiting. It was therefore decided to station a Medical Officer at Ondonga, and all recruits are now medically examined there.

Moreover, in accordance with Union practice a certain standard of fitness has been definitely prescribed, and any native not complying with this standard is rejected. As a safety measure every recruit is again examined on arrival at the place where he is to be employed, and this serves as a check on the original examination.

§ 75. Quite apart from the reports spread by the recruits repatriated as above described, however, the Native Affairs Officer, Ovamboland, reports that recruiting was affected by a long spell of influenza which continued intermittently for at least four months during the second half of the year, and while it was not of a very virulent type and not many deaths occurred, thousands suffered from its effects.

§ 76. While it is true the number of recruits obtained during the last three months of the year was exceptionally low experience has shown that there is invariably, even under favourable conditions, a marked falling off during those months, so that this number cannot be attributed solely to the causes mentioned.

§ 77. As a result of the conference referred to above, conditions at Luderitz have been greatly improved, and it is anticipated that the confidence of the Ovambos will soon be restored.

§ 78. Then the fact of medical examination at Ondonga will unquestionably facilitate matters, since this will ensure only recruits who are in all respects fit being sent forward, and so eliminate the effects which the complaints of rejects who would otherwise fruitlessly have undertaken the arduous journey to Tsumeb must inevitably have had upon the recruiting.

§ 79. The Administration has arranged for a store to be opened at Ondonga, in the hope that this will also stimulate recruiting, inasmuch as it is considered this step is greatly to the advantage of the natives themselves. Prices will be subject to the control of the Administration, and natives will be able to obtain what they require on the spot. Hitherto labourers on discharge have purchased large quantities of stuff in the Territory, which they have been obliged to carry from Tsumeb to their homes.

§ 80. Owing to the shortage of labour in the Territory, the Basutoland Administration was approached and sanctioned recruiting in Basutoland. As will have been seen from the foregoing, a considerable number of Basutos have been recruited. Recruiting also continues in Bechuanaland, with the consent of the Union Government.

NATIVE RESERVES.

§ 81. During the year two new reserves were proclaimed. The first, known as the Waterberg East Reserve, in which area are to be accommodated Hereros and Klip Kaffirs, is situated in the district of Otjiwarongo, and is 311,000 hectares in extent; the second is the Gibeon Reserve in the district by that name and is intended for the accommodation of the Witbooi Hottentots and a number of Hereros. It is 38,782 hectares in extent, and adjoins the village of Gibeon, so that it can easily be controlled by the Magistrate.

§ 82. The reserves of Otjihorongo in the district of Omaruru and Otjimbingwe in the district of Karibib have still to be proclaimed. The former is about 335,360 hectares in extent, and is intended for the use of Hereros in the districts of Omaruru and Outjo, and the latter which in addition to the farms Audawib Ost and Otjimbingwe comprises certain land taken over from the Rheinische Missionary Society about 77,498 hectares in extent and is required for the accommodation of various natives in the district of Karibib. The delay in the case of the former is due to the difficulty of obtaining adequate supplies of water, and in the case of the latter the actual area of the reserve remains to be determined. This will be settled as soon as possible.

§ 83. With the proclamation of these reserves the programme of the Native Reserves Commission of 1921 may be regarded as having been completed, but there remains for consideration the farms Fuerstenwald, and Eros, in regard to which the position, according to German records, is as follows : —

During the wars between the Germans and the various native tribes of this country the Bergdamaras remained loyal to the Government and for this loyalty were rewarded by Major Leutwein in 1894 with rights upon the Okombahe Reserve in the district of Omaruru which they enjoy to-day.

There appears to have been a considerable section of this tribe living in the location in Windhoek and Klein Windhoek and this section represented by their headman Frans and their Missionary, Mr. Becker, pressed upon the Government their claim for a reserve in the district of Windhoek, with the result that the two farms in question were allotted to them. It is, however, doubtful whether these farms are suitable for reserve purposes and the matter is now engaging the attention of the Administration. A deputation of the natives interested recently discussed this matter with me, and the Native Affairs Officer, Windhoek, is now investigating the position.

WATER SUPPLY.

§ 84. The chief difficulty militating against and delaying the settlement of natives in the various reserves is the water question. At Otjituo in the district of Grootfontein this has been met by the purchase of the adjoining farm Vormdorst, 4,992 hectares in extent, which has a plentiful supply as well as a suitable residence for the Superintendent, for £1,800. When the necessary pumps have been provided and erected it is hoped that any further calls in this respect will be met from the Native Reserve Trust Fund. In the Waterberg East Reserve in the district of Otjiwarongo boring operations are being undertaken with a view to supplementing the water supply which, though plentiful after the rainy season, usually gives in toward the end of the year. This supply is located in the Omurambas, pans and certain water holes in their vicinity, and the policy now is to endeavour to obtain sufficient quantities in those portions of the reserve lying away from these and particularly in the sand veld.

§ 85. Five holes were sunk in the Otjohorongo reserve in the district of Omaruru, of which three were successful, yielding 30,000, 15,000, and 5,500 gallons per diem, respectively. At one of these " Omajetje " a horse gear pump and trough have been erected and it now remains to make similar provision in regard to the other two holes.

§ 86. In the reserve at Otjimbingwe in the district of Karibib the water question presents no difficulty, but such is not the case at Ovitoto in the district of Okahandja. There the position is unsatisfactory. The reserve is very mountainous and it is difficult to procure water. Well-sinking was tried during the year with indifferent success and the Magistrate, upon the advice of the Irrigation Branch, has recommended the construction by the Administration of a dam which it is considered will solve this difficulty. No money for this undertaking has been available hitherto, but something will have to be done sooner or later and the question of advancing the sum necessary will be considered as a charge against the Trust Fund of the Reserve.

§ 87. In regard to Epukiro in the district of Gobabis, three boreholes with appliances for obtaining water are complete and steps are being taken to prospect for suitable sites away from the Omurambas which run through the whole length of the reserve. The Boring Engineer has been instructed to increase the number of drills in the reserve and to expedite matters as much as possible so as to render possible the removal to Epukiro of the natives still occupying the farm Orumbo, and those in the vicinity south of the Nosob River. It is hoped to effect this during the current year.

§ 88. Seven holes were sunk in the Tses reserve, of these three yielded a supply of water so salt as to be quite unfit for use whilst the remainder gave a return of 20,000, 11,000 and 7,200, 24,000 gallons per diem respectively. In order to turn this to account the holes will have to be equipped with the necessary windmills, tanks and troughs as they are too deep to be operated by a horse-gear pump.

There are no funds with which to meet this expenditure at the moment, but it is intended to make a beginning by drawing on the Reserve Trust Fund, which amounts to about £250.

§ 89. In November last the inhabitants of the Bondelzwarts Reserve in the district of Warmbad requested to be supplied by the Administration with a windmill and six bakkies pumps. At the time there were no funds to meet this expenditure and it was not possible to

accede to their request, so the Magistrate was instructed to point out to them the advantages of starting a Trust Fund out of which such expenditure could be met, and to say that the Administration will be prepared to consider any proposition submitted by them, however small the contribution may be. With the exception of dog tax they contribute nothing to the revenue of the country — at least by way of direct taxation. Their Reserve was granted to them on conditions which absolve them from payment of grazing fees, and since they are very poor there is little prospect of their creating a substantial Trust Fund. The Administration will, therefore, no doubt have to come to their assistance, and the matter will be considered next financial year.

§ 90. While progress has been made with the reserves, a great deal still remains to be done in the way of fencing, augmenting water supply, etc., but the position is being tackled in earnest, trust funds have been started, the natives themselves appear to recognise the importance of these and I am sure that a great advance will be made during the current year.

DIPPING TANKS.

§ 91. Provision will also have to be made for the construction of sheep dipping tanks in most of the reserves. Up to the present portable tanks have been used, and in all probability will continue to be used until permanent ones can be constructed at a more reasonable cost than the tenders submitted demand.

To erect one on the Ovitoto Reserve at a spot about twelve miles from Okahandja, the lowest tender received was £120, and this required the Administration to provide certain bricks for use in its construction. For the construction of one in the Epukiro Reserve only one tender for £125 was received, but on condition that the Administration supplied the cement and the gates required for the kraals.

Tanks have been provided for the reserves at Fransfontein, Okombahe and Tses (Fahlras).

TRIBAL TRUST FUNDS.

§ 92. To cover the cost of services such as water supply, dipping tanks, etc., Proclamation 9 of 1924, which came into force on the 1st April was passed. This provides for the establishment of a Trust Fund for each native reserve into which are to be paid all revenues accruing to the Administration from such reserve as the Administration may determine.

The revenue so derived may, subject to the approval of the Administrator, be expended on : —

- (a) The advancement of scholastic, agricultural and industrial tuition or demonstration.
- (b) Improvement of the breed of livestock.
- (c) Prevention or eradication of disease in livestock.
- (d) Construction and maintenance of roads, fences, dams and irrigation works generally.
- (e) The establishment and maintenance of hospitals.
- (f) The prevention or abatement of any nuisance.
- (g) Generally any object which in the opinion of the Administrator is in the interests and welfare of the inhabitants of the reserve.

Provision is made for the establishment of a board in each reserve with the Magistrate or Superintendent as chairman, and the headman or headmen and not more than six adult native males domiciled or possessing substantial interests in the reserve who must be elected by the male residents of the reserve, for the purpose of assisting or making suggestions in the administration of the fund.

In addition to any taxation which may be imposed in the ordinary way, the Administrator may upon a resolution passed by the majority of the adult native male residents of any reserve levy an annual rate upon every adult male domiciled in such reserve or upon the owner of any stock habitually kept therein.

The following revenues have been assigned by the Administration for such purposes : — dog tax, grazing fees, proceeds of sale of wood and grass in reserves and rentals of trading sites thereon.

§ 93. Up to the present only the natives in the reserves at Otjihorongo and Okombahe in the district of Omaruru have agreed to an annual levy of 10s. per adult male resident in the reserve or the owner of any stock habitually kept thereon, but the Magistrate has since reported that owing to losses in stock due to the prevailing drought, these persons are in arrear with the payment of their grazing fees, and will probably find great difficulty in meeting this levy.

At none of the other reserves has any levy been agreed to, but it will no doubt require time, tact and patience before the natives can be brought to realise the benefit of this measure, which, for its success, will depend greatly upon the influence which the Magistrates and Superintendents exercise over their charges.

§ 94. The following revenue was collected in the various proclaimed reserves during the period 1st April (when the Proclamation came into operation) to 31st December, 1924 : —

District.	Reserve.	Dog-Tax			Grazing Fees.			Total.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Bethanie	Soromas	21	12	6	38	6	2	59	18	8
Gobabis	Epukiro	11	2	6	..	..	..	11	2	6
"	Aminuis	6	5	0	..	..	..	6	5	0
Grootfontein	Otjituo	39	10	0	452	0	0	491	10	0
Gibeon	Gibeon .. .. .	..	..	..	70	11	4	70	11	4
Keetmanshoop	Vaalgras (Tses)	36	2	6	212	7	2	248	9	8
"	Berseba	3	0	0	..	..	..	3	0	0
Okahandja	Ovitoto	32	2	6	450	10	11	482	13	5
Otjiwarongo	Waterberg East	23	17	6	70	15	9	103	13	3
Omaruru	Otjihorongo	31	12	6	156	18	9	188	11	3
Warmbad.. .. .	Bondels	6	12	6	..	..	..	6	12	6
		£211	17	6	£1,460	10	1	£1,672	7	7

In terms of the grant by the German Government, the occupants of the Berseba and Bondels Reserves do not pay grazing fees, but in order to secure uniformity an effort is being made to induce natives in these and other treaty reserves to submit voluntarily to the imposition of grazing fees, the money thus raised to be paid into their reserve funds.

§ 95. Speaking generally, and apart from the water question, there is reason to believe that the natives are becoming quite contented with the policy of the Administration so far as it relates to the reserves, and are submitting quietly to the regulations governing their presence therein.

Magistrates of the districts in which there are reserves and the Superintendents of reserves have been instructed to exercise the utmost vigilance to see that the reserves do not become havens for loafers.

§ 96. In connection with the labour shortage complaints have been received that numbers of able-bodied natives were simply idling in the reserves and the complaints were thoroughly investigated. I am satisfied as a result of the enquiries made that these allegations were unfounded. No doubt it was assumed in ignorance of the actual conditions that there must in the ordinary course be a number of loafers in the reserve and the assumption was therefore stated as a fact. The allegation may be applied with some truth to the Rehoboth Gebiet, which is of course not a reserve.

§ 97. The conditions there are peculiar and there is no doubt that a certain portion of the Rehoboth community has encouraged natives in the idea that there they are immune from the laws of the Administration, and in fact have gone so far as to incite them definitely not to obey such laws and have held out threats of expulsion from the Gebiet if the laws are complied with.

They have undoubtedly exercised a very evil influence over the natives there, and unfortunately the effect has not been confined to the Gebiet. It spread to natives outside. To some extent the natives are not to blame. They knew the Rehoboth Community was granted a limited measure of self-government but not how limited, and they regarded the burghers as masters of the Gebiet. The threats of expulsion from the Gebiet placed them on the horns of a dilemma, especially as some of them have resided in the Gebiet for very many years and in fact some are burghers of the Gebiet.

I feel sure, however, that the recent occurrences at Rehoboth have disillusioned the natives and that they now realise that they must obey the Administration. I have no doubt too that the action taken by the Administration will have a very salutary effect on those natives outside the Gebiet who showed a tendency to follow the example set them by the Rehobothers. The position of the natives in the Gebiet is being considered and as soon as provision can be made elsewhere those at least who have acquired no rights, vested or moral, entitling them to remain in the reserve, will be removed where they will be under more healthy influences.

LAWS.

§ 98. The Proclamation creating native reserve trust funds has already been dealt with.

The most important measure promulgated during the year was the Natives (Urban Areas) Proclamation No. 34 of 1924. This Proclamation adopts all the main provisions of the Union Natives (Urban Areas) Act of 1923, and omits only those which are not applicable to the conditions obtaining in the Territory.

It was felt absolutely necessary to make provision for the better control of natives in urban areas in the interests of the natives as well as Europeans. Experience has shown that

there is a strong tendency for natives, both men and women, to drift into urban locations, where in many cases they neither want nor seek employment. As they simply loaf and do not earn money honestly they resort to illicit liquor selling, prostitution, gambling and other means to obtain it and generally degenerate. Under the new law a proper system of registration is provided for, and the Administration will be able to exercise effective control and keep urban locations clear of loafers. But this is not the sole object of the Proclamation which makes for improved conditions of residence for natives in urban areas, while the service contract is in fact a protection to the native. Not an uncommon complaint is that Europeans withhold wages or pay less than the amount agreed upon, etc. The service contract will form proof of the conditions of employment.

§ 99. Regulations prescribing methods of registration, etc. and the forms to be used have been framed under the Proclamation and these are published in the *Official Gazette* of the 2nd January, 1925, twelve copies of which have been forwarded to the League of Nations.

Hitherto the Proclamation and Regulations have only been applied to Windhoek and Walvis Bay.

§ 100. Regulations under Section 20 of the Native Administration Proclamation, 1922, have been published and they set forth the duties of the Superintendents and Headmen, the conditions under which residence in the reserve is permitted, provisions relating to the cutting of wood and burning of grass, the number of stock each native is allowed to graze in the reserve and the tariff of grazing fees as well as instructions relating to health and orderly government. (See Government Notice No. 68 appearing in the *Official Gazette* of the 16th June, 1924, page 1651.)

RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS.

§ 101. During the year no extension of missionary enterprise was recorded with the exception of Ovamboland, where the Damaraland Mission established itself in the Ovakwanyama area and the Roman Catholic Missions were admitted to that territory under certain conditions and as they have only recently commenced to function I am not in a position to offer any comments upon their activities.

At one time Luderitz was the centre of the Native political movement in this country. Several Unions were in existence there, the chief of which were the Universal Negro Improvement Association and a Cape Coloured institution known as the International and Commercial Workers' Union, but these have practically died out and it is only the South-West Africa National Congress which still has some adherents and occasionally holds meetings. In Windhoek there is a branch of the African Peoples' Organisation chiefly supported by Cape Boys who watch the interests of their members very carefully. They have always been loyal supporters of the Administration and do not appear to interfere with matters where their own welfare is not concerned.

SLAVERY.

§ 102. Reports from the officer-in-charge of Native Affairs at Kuring Kuru show that the position is gradually improving. The actual bartering in slaves has ceased, and on each visit to the area affected he found that a further number of slaves had been voluntarily released. In a report dated 30th November last he states : —

“ I have little or anything to add to all my previous reports. There is a distinct decrease in the number of slaves held in bondage. Some, I understand, remain willingly, having no other means of subsistence, others will eventually either return to their relatives or wait until an opportunity offers for them to start their own fields. The fact should not be overlooked that quite a number of these slaves consider themselves morally bound to remain with their masters until the cattle for which they were sold are repaid. Others, whose lives become impossible or who are less conscientious are now freeing themselves by leaving. The pledging theoretically was only for a limited period but the owners rarely showed any signs of fairness when dealing with slaves, claiming all sorts of additional cattle besides the price paid originally. This made it necessary for me to tell the natives that remuneration would only be given in such cases as were reasonable or justified.”

OVAMBOLAND.

TRIBAL AFFAIRS.

§ 103. Of the eight tribal areas in Ovamboland four, namely, Ondonga, Ongandjera, Ukuambi and Ukualuthi are ruled by tribal chiefs, and four, namely, Ukuanyama, Ombarantu, Ukualukathi and Eunda by headmen, each of whom is responsible for a separate section of people and area. The policy since our establishment has been to allow natives to rule themselves according to ordinary native law and no attempt has been made to change this or in any way to interfere with native custom, in accordance with which the whole population still

live. Through the influence of Government officials, however the different tribal heads have more or less come to look to the Native Affairs Staff for advice and guidance in determining their affairs, especially as far as the more complicated and inter-tribal or sectional questions are concerned. In this way it has been possible to obtain an increasing and stronger control over the different people. Cattle raids, fights, robberies, etc., which only a few years ago were very common occurrences are now seldom heard of. The one disturbing element in recent years has been Chief Ipumbu of the Ukuambi tribe. But I am glad to state that he too has of late been more amenable. Being of a most suspicious and erratic temperament, the utmost care and tact are necessary in any dealings with him. Tribes on the whole stand in fairly good relationship with one another, although the two strongest chiefs, Martin and Ipumbu, are watching one another rather closely and are not on personal friendly terms. The same, but to a much lesser degree, applies to the relationship between chiefs Shanika and Muala, whilst Ipumbu is also regarded with much suspicion by the latter. It is a pity that owing to an absurd Ovambo custom chiefs are not allowed to leave their respective areas, otherwise an inter-change of visits would to my mind create a better feeling and understanding throughout the country.

§ 104. The most peaceful, orderly and progressive tribe is undoubtedly the Ukuanyama. Many refugees from other areas in search of better conditions settle with these people and the area is becoming very crowded. This influx from the north has been very marked during the past year. Most of the big ruling and influential headmen of the Angola Ukuanyamas, attracted by the flourishing conditions under which their fellow-tribesmen live, have moved over with their followers, stock, etc., the latest arrivals being chieftainess Kalinasha and followers. She is the younger sister of the Ukuanyama chieftainess Dilekerus, who came across some three years ago with a very considerable following and herds of stock.

§ 105. The Ombarantu, though smaller, are another virile and flourishing people and also frequently receive batches of immigrants from the Ombandjas in Angola. This, as well as the Ukualukathi and Eunda tribes, is also ruled by headmen under our direct supervision. The latter two areas were placed under the chieftainship of Muala of Ukualuthi in 1916 by Major Manning, when, owing to petty jealousies amongst headmen, and during the famine and when cattle raids and robberies were the order of the day, proper supervision was very essential. At the beginning of last year, however, at their own request and that of Muala they held a new election and some six old headmen were chosen to conduct their affairs, which up to the present they have done very satisfactorily. The remaining tribes Ondonga, Ukualuthi and Ongandjera are all progressing satisfactorily — Ondonga easily the biggest, is more under mission influence than any of the others and is the most civilised — Ongandjera once powerful and the oldest of all the tribes has, owing to past famines and migrations to other tribes, principally to Ondonga and Ukualuthi, dwindled down to a population of some 3,000—4,000. In dry seasons this area becomes very arid and parched, and water is said to become increasingly scarce. Chief Shanika is an old man of about 70 with a strong flow of Bushman blood in his veins. He has never enjoyed much authority over his people, but his tribe is comparatively quiet. His neighbour, Chief Muala, closer to the river, rules over a fertile and orderly country.

§ 106. There have been no deaths of natives of any consequence during the last year, with the exception of one of Chief Martin's principal headmen named Penda and one in Ukuanyama named Ishiku. Successors were, according to tribal custom, at once appointed.

§ 107. No serious political disturbances have taken place during the year. Generally speaking the population has been far more orderly and peaceful than at any other time since the advent of our Administration in this country, which, taking all things into consideration and the fact that the Ovambos are fully armed, is highly satisfactory.

DROUGHT AND FOOD SUPPLIES.

§ 108. Although drought, grazing and water conditions were severe last season and crops not good, natives still have a sufficient, though by no means plentiful, supply of grain on hand to meet requirements until the next crops are reaped. Chiefs and the richer headmen store enough as a rule to last them over at least two seasons. The staple food of the Ovambo is millet (Omahangu) and kaffir corn. The latter is used principally for beer-making, but as food (Pap) it is also served by the richer classes. Melons, pumpkins, beans and tobacco are also grown. The rainfall for the season registered 18.77 inches and coming at regular intervals was enough to ensure crops and grass, but there was never a sufficient downpour to fill the pans and native waterholes, consequently water conditions in the past season were very bad indeed. The soil is very rich and in good seasons crops do exceptionally well. The value of manuring is well understood by Ovambos. With more advanced agricultural methods harvests would no doubt be better and more certain, even in off seasons. Locusts were reported from many quarters during the year, but the damage done was not considerable.

HEALTH.

EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

§ 109. During the second half of the year this country found itself in the grip of intermittent influenza for at least four months. Although the death roll was not heavy, thousands suffered from the effects.

Venereal. — A big percentage of Ovambos are said to suffer, and according to information received from the District Surgeon it would appear that the disease is spreading and that it is continuously being introduced from the south by returning labourers. The Administration has for some time past been issuing free drugs to the District Surgeon Dr. Rainio of the Finnish Mission Hospital, for the treatment of this disease, and further supplies will, if possible, be issued to the Missions which have just opened in the country.

Leprosy. — Four cases of leprosy have up to date been brought to the notice of the District Surgeon. Measures as to the disposal of the patients are under consideration.

Malaria is always prevalent and is the disease from which natives suffer most in the country although, because of a certain amount of immunity, they are by no means affected in the same way as Europeans. Near the river, and north, along the Angola border, malaria is more severe than in other parts. The general health of the Ovambos is good.

EDUCATION.

§ 110. Although the Finnish Mission Society has for the past 54 years been carrying on mission work in the country, it cannot be said that they have from an educational point of view, or what is generally understood by the term, taught the Ovambos much. Tuition in their schools has principally been of a biblical nature. After all these years it is impossible for instance to find interpreters, since natives have been taught in their own language, nor are skilled labourers, carpenters or blacksmiths to be found. On the other hand the missionaries through self-sacrificing work, often under trying conditions, have succeeded in christianising many thousands, which has done away with rank savagery in certain tribes. Of late, however, and since closer attention has been paid to educational needs of the Ovambos by the Administration, the Finns have made special efforts to instruct on broader lines and in this connection a missionary in charge of the educational section of their work was sent to Angola to visit the American Missions and study more advanced methods as also the industrial side of the mission work. During the year, two further denominations have been granted permission to extend to Ovamboland, namely, the Damaraland Mission and the Roman Catholic Mission. The former have opened in the Ukuanyama area and have now begun with general mission work. Their agriculturist, Mr. Crossby, has already held demonstrations in ploughing for cotton planting, etc. The Roman Catholic Mission has opened in the Ukuambi area. As these denominations were admitted to the country on the condition that the bulk of education imparted by them is to be of a practical nature, it is hoped that both the Ovambos and the State will materially benefit thereby.

§ 111. The following figures supplied by Missionary Waananen represent the approximate number of schools, teachers and pupils of the Finnish Mission as at the end of the year : —

	1923	1924
Training school	1	1
Other schools	162	167
Scholars and pupils	5,073	4,689
Teachers (Europeans) : Male	1	1
Teachers (Europeans) : Ladies	6	9
Teachers (Natives) passed through full course in Mission Training School	32	61
Teachers, other	224	233

The work of the other two denominations has not yet sufficiently advanced to enable figures to be supplied.

STATISTICS.

ESTIMATED POPULATION.

§ 112. No proper census has ever been taken in Ovamboland. The estimated population has at times been given as 90,000-100,000, but this figure is considered to be too high. The great famine in 1915 reduced the population to a very great extent, but the Ovambos have since then increased very steadily indeed. Migrations from Angola have also added to

their numbers. The following is considered a fair estimate of the different tribes in order of population : —

Ondonga	40,000
Ukuanyama	25,000
Ombarantu	6,000
Ukuambi	5,000
Ukualuthi	4,000
Ongandjera	3,500
Ukualuthi and Eunda	1,200
Kunene River Settlements, Hereros and Ovatsimbabas	300
	<hr/>
	85,000

Stock : Large — 50,000. No previous estimates made. Small stock — (Goats) 70,000. No previous estimates made.

Native stock is generally considered to be fast increasing. There are very few sheep in Ovamboland.

Rainfall : (Inches). As recorded at Ondonga Station : 1922, 10.22 ; 1923, 17.53 ; 1924, 16.88.

Temperature : 1922, Max. F. 99.0, Min. F. 35.1 ; 1923, Max. F. 101.1, Min. F. 34.2 ; 1924, Max. F. 99.4, Min. F. 36.2.

OKAWANGO.

§ 113. Towards the close of the year a small body of Police was sent on an extended camel patrol to Kuring Kuru and thence up the Okawango River and thence to Grootfontein.

In the course of an interesting report the non-commissioned officer in charge of this patrol states the four tribes of the Okawango who were visited, namely, the Kaungari, Bunja, Sambiu and the Diriko tribes are all on very friendly terms, and that each of the Chiefs leans very much on the Native Affairs Officer (who is stationed at Kuring Kuru) for support and maintenance of his authority over his people.

§ 114. The health of the natives residing in the Okawango district appears to be good, and according to Mr. Carr, the representative of the Medical Department, the infantile mortality compares favourably with that obtaining in the rest of the country. Once the natural tendency of the natives to seek the services of the witchdoctor has been overcome, they take advantage of the free medical services offered by the Administration. There would appear to be a great deal of venereal disease amongst the natives, but difficulty is experienced in combating this disease as natives are reluctant to undergo a course of treatment extending over a number of weeks. However, the Administration cannot do more than it is doing. Supplies of drugs are sent to the Medical Orderly at Kuring Kuru who deals with as many cases as he can.

A number of cases of iritis were observed, even amongst the Bushmen along the road.

Malaria. — This disease is very severe, but appears to affect minors more than adults.

Phthisis. — Quite a number are stated to succumb to this disease. This statement is an interesting one in view of the tropical climate on the Okawango, and natives from this area are not sent to Luderitz. This will be further enquired into.

Scurvy. — Very few cases are known of or have come to notice.

LABOUR.

§ 115. Regard being had to the facts that the natives in the Okawanga area have been accustomed to live more or less in idleness, that the country is exceedingly fertile and that they can easily grow an abundance of food ; and considering further the distance they have to travel to Grootfontein over very trying and waterless country, it is considered the number of natives coming down for work is entirely satisfactory.

As previously stated these natives are recruited only for the mines and farmers in the north of this Territory.

CRIME.

§ 116. There is very little crime of any importance to report. Petty offences are dealt with by the Chiefs and if they are unable to deal with the case the officer in charge of Native Affairs is called in as arbitrator. The usual penalty under the Ovambo custom for murder is ten head of cattle ; for attempted murder one or two head ; if blood is drawn in a Chief's kraal one head is the penalty and is payable to the Chief in whose area the offence was committed. The fines in the other cases go to the relatives or complainants as the case may be.

Serious crimes are very rare amongst the natives, that is of course as far as can be ascertained.

VETERINARY SURGEON'S REPORT.

§ 117. The patrol was accompanied by Mr. Flynn, one of the Veterinary Surgeons in the employ of the Administration, and the following are extracts from his report : —

“ *Diseases among Domestic Stock.* — At every available opportunity cattle were inspected all along the route, and yet, despite careful observation and enquiry, no evidence of the existence of disease amongst cattle, sheep or goats could be found, with the possible exception of Malignant Catarrh. One of the Brothers attached to the Diriko Mission Station told me that occasionally he gets cases of this disease. I am unable to offer any statement on the subject, as I personally encountered no cases during my visit. The natives stated their only losses were from old age and crocodiles. This evidence was corroborated by the Missionary Brothers, who struck me as being men of superior intelligence, some of whom have been fourteen years on the Okavango. No Lung-sickness exists there, nor has done within the native memory. Certainly the missionaries have never encountered it during their period of residence in the district.

“ A pustular disease was observed in dogs at Diriko, from which a larva — *Cordylobia anthropophaja* — was extracted.

“ Horse sickness is said to occur in the district. Apart from these I could discover the existence of no other disease amongst domestic or wild animals.

“ *Ticks* : These were looked for on all occasions, but only a few blue ticks were discovered.

“ *Poisonous plants* : The *Urginea Burkei* and the *Orginea Altissima* are very common, particularly the former. Bulbs resembling Tulp were frequently found, but as they were not in bloom identity could not be established. Several specimens were collected and have been planted with a view to identification later. One variety of the latter which is reputed to be extremely poisonous in the raw state, is eaten as a delicacy by the natives. They state that when it is boiled for sixty hours continuously, with frequent changes of water, the poisonous properties are destroyed. It has a sweet and not unpleasant taste and seems to take the place of sugar in their dietary. Specimens of two other reputed poisonous plants, locally known as Mumbeti and Muliangive, both shrubs attaining a height of from two to three feet, were collected, and together with the tulp, have been despatched to Onderstepoort for identification. It is said that if cattle have access to water within eighteen hours after eating these plants, they die within a few minutes. If a purgative is administered and water withheld, recovery takes place and is complete in twenty-four hours.

“ Reverting to Slangkop, it was learnt with considerable surprise that no cases of poisoning occurred. This may be explained on the ground that the plants may have low toxic content, or what is more likely, that the very early appearance of succulent grasses on the flats makes it unnecessary for the animals to seek other green plants.

“ The younger camels of the patrol showed evidence of enteritis with rapid loss of condition at a point east of Diriko. This was ascribed to poisonous plants. On a former patrol it is understood there was a similar occurrence in the same area.

“ The Okavango natives own considerable numbers of stock. Judging roughly by those seen in kraals adjacent to the Kuring Kuru-Diriko-Andara road, it is believed the total would exceed twenty thousand, and everywhere it was ascertained there is an appreciable annual increase. Large numbers of Portuguese natives are settling down in the district but as far as could be learnt they do not bring any stock with them ; then the requirements of those returning from work have also to be filled. These factors, combined with the large part played by milk and butter in the native dietary, make for a big local demand for cattle. Exchange is usually effected by barter. In one observed instance, in which the exchange was by purchase, the price for two cattle, with no great pretensions to good type or stature, was five pounds ten shillings each. It would appear that they prefer to exchange their stock for commodities rather than cash, but even so, there is no great inclination to sell until food shortage, as in a bad season, forces their hands. When asked if they wished to export their cattle, the answer was invariably in the negative.

“ *Types of Cattle.* — At Kuring Kuru the cattle can be described as of the ‘ Ovambo ’ type, small and lean ; their condition was very fair. Proceeding eastwards along the river, type and condition materially improved up to the Mission Station at Diriko. The cattle owned by the missionaries — about two hundred and fifty in number — crossbred brown Swiss Afrikanders, and Simmenthaler, are excellent and in prime condition, in fact, the finest I have seen in South-West Africa. Going further eastwards the type gradually deteriorates to Andara where the class and condition are poor.

“ *Grazing and Soils.* — Very extensive flats, often a thousand yards deep in breadth, adjoin the river. These are submerged during the rainy season. In the dry season burning of the grasses is practised, and, whilst still the vegetation on

the higher ground presents a withered appearance, these flats are covered with luxuriant pasturage in the very early spring. They evidently retain the moisture throughout the whole year, as it was observed that patches of mealies planted along the edges were well advanced towards maturity. At the time of our visit, despite the fact that no rains had yet fallen in that particular locality (whilst not professing to know very much about the subject) these flats appeared to me to be ideal for the growing of cotton.

“ The natives cultivate that portion of the high ground sloping towards the river, which has been completely denuded of trees. The ‘ fields ’ extend but for a very short distance inland. The right bank of the river presents a striking contrast to the Angola bank with the latter’s untouched forest and complete absence of habitation.

“ The soil for the most part is of the light brown variety, easily worked with a slight admixture of sand, and evidently very fertile. Extensive cultivation on modern lines is carried out by the missionaries at Diriko and Andara, but the native would not appear to have benefited much by their example.”

IV. — ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

A. HIGH COURT AND CIRCUIT COURT.

Sittings.

§ 118. There were three terms of six weeks each for civil work, during which the Court sat on 30, 29 and 23 days, respectively. The Judge also sat on 50 days during vacation. This made a total of 132 daily sittings for civil work, as against 147 during 1923, 142 during 1922, and 135 during 1921.

The two criminal sessions of the High Court held at Windhoek lasted 12 and 8 days, respectively. In the first half of the year, Circuit Courts sat at Windhoek, Grootfontein and Otjiwarongo for 15, 10 and 5 days, respectively ; and in the second half of the year at Windhoek and Swakopmund for 3 and 1 days, respectively. This made a total of 54 sittings for criminal work, as against 50 during 1923, 36 during 1922 and 27 during 1921.

The total daily sittings for civil and criminal work during 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924 have numbered 162, 178, 197 and 186, respectively.

CIVIL WORK.

§ 119. The following table shows the civil matters heard and finally disposed of during the last *four* years : —

Description of Case.	1921	1922	1923	1924
Illiquid cases	97	98	56	58
Excepticns.	2	11	8	4
Cases for Provisional Sentence	23	32	12	13
Applications and Motions.	170	214	216	191
Civil Appeals from Magistrates’ Courts	12	11	7	9
Civil Reviews from Magistrates’ Courts	1	1	3	2
	305	367	302	277

The following civil matters were withdrawn or lapsed during 1924 : 96 illiquid cases, 2 cases for provisional sentence, 17 applications and 1 appeal.

In addition to the matters already mentioned, the following civil matters occupied the time of the Court, being part-heard : 4 illiquid cases, 2 cases for provisional sentence and 8 applications.

On the last day of the year 53 illiquid cases, 9 cases for provisional sentence, 13 applications and 2 civil appeals were pending.

The decrees of divorce and judicial separation granted by the court during the last four years are as follows : —

	1921	1922	1923	1924
Divorce on the grounds of :				
(a) adultery	6	3	3	2
(b) malicious desertion	20	13	7	12
Judicial separation	3	2	0	0
	<u>29</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>14</u>

§ 120. During 1924, 2 Advocates, 1 Attorney, Notary and Conveyancer, and 1 Sworn Translator were admitted to practise. One Attorney and Notary Public who had been convicted of a contravention of the Usury Proclamation was struck off the Roll on the application of the Law Society. At the close of the year there were on the Roll 11 Advocates, of whom 4 were practising, and 54 Attorneys, of whom 39 were practising.

§ 121. *Insolvencies.* — The estates of 18 persons were compulsorily sequestrated and 11 voluntary surrenders accepted, as against 13 and 16 respectively, during the previous year. In addition to these matters, the estates of two other persons were provisionally placed under compulsory sequestration, but the orders were subsequently discharged. There were 7 rehabilitations.

§ 122. 5 Civil imprisonment orders were granted as against 4 in 1923.

The Court granted leave to sue by edictal citation in 17 cases.

The Court decided 9 appeals from, and 2 applications for review of, civil judgments of Magistrates' Courts. In 7 cases the Magistrates' judgment was upset, and in 4 cases confirmed. In 4 trial cases exceptions were taken to the pleadings, the exceptions being upheld in all cases.

CRIMINAL WORK.

§ 123. There were 31 criminal trials during the year, as compared with 43 in 1923, 44 in 1922 and 38 in 1921.

The following table shows the number of persons convicted during the last four years : —

	1921	1922	1923	1924
Europeans :				
(a) Males	7	11	8	13
(b) Females	—	—	1	—
Natives :				
(a) Males	30	24	27	18
(b) Females	1	2	—	—

The crimes of which persons were convicted in 1924 were as follows : —

Offence.	Europeans.	Natives.
Murder	—	2
Assault to murder	—	1
Culpable homicide	—	1
Assault to do grievous bodily harm	1	3
Rape	—	2
Assault to rape	—	3
Sodomy	1	—
Housebreaking and theft	—	2
Stock theft	1	4
Fraud	1	—
Forgery and uttering	1	—
Perjury	1	—
Usury (contravening Sec. 5, Proc. 26 of 1921)	2	—
Contravening Insolvency Law (failure to keep proper books)	1	—
Contravening Diamond Industry Laws	4	—
	<u>13</u>	<u>18</u>

§ 124. One trial in which there was a conviction for murder was that of a Rehoboth Bastard who to gain a sum of £5 2s. 6d. in cash and some clothing and groceries had murdered another Bastard in the desert, on the way from Walvis Bay to Rehoboth. The prisoner was sentenced to death, but the sentence was commuted to one of imprisonment with hard labour for life.

The other conviction for murder was that of a Cape Coloured man who was employed by the Administration as a game-ranger at Okakweyo, a lonely station near the Etosha Pan. The accused had given shelter to a Bushman family, consisting of an old man, a young man and his wife, and their three children. The youngest child was just learning to walk. This family and the accused and a bushman who was employed in the capacity of a runner were

the only human beings within a radius of many miles. The accused raped the woman, and when her husband threatened to report the matter, murdered the whole family. The accused admitted that he had killed three of the Bushmen, but asserted that his runner, who was called as a witness for the Crown, had instigated the crime and had himself killed three of the Bushmen. For his appalling crime the accused was sentenced to death, which sentence was duly carried into effect.

During the year the first prosecutions under the Diamond Industry Protection Proclamation took place. In every case the accused was a European.

§ 125. The following is a summary of sentences passed by the High Court in all cases during the year:—

Sentence.	Europeans.	Natives.
Imprisonment with hard labour without the option of a fine	2	4
Detention in a Juvenile Adult Reformatory	—	1
Imprisonment with hard labour and lashes,	—	8
Fine with alternative imprisonment	10	—
Suspended sentence	1	—
Indeterminate sentence	—	3
Death	—	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	13	18

§ 126. Four applications in criminal matters were heard by the Court.

The Court decided 8 appeals from decisions by Magistrates in criminal cases. In 2 cases the Magistrate's decision was upset and in 6 cases confirmed. Five criminal cases were withdrawn.

During the year the proceedings in 597 criminal cases tried by the Magistrates and Special Justices of the Peace were reviewed. The sentences in 62 cases (or 10.45 per cent.) were set aside or reduced, and compared with the previous year the standard of the work of the lower courts appear to have declined slightly. The Reviewing Judge, while confirming the proceedings, remarked on irregularities in 100 cases. In 36 other cases the records had to be returned for further information or for explanation. In 1923 the number of review cases was 556.

§ 127. *Taxation of costs.*— The number of bills of costs submitted for taxation was 241 in 1924 as compared with 352 in 1923.

The bills on presentation totalled £7,938 and they were passed at a total of £6,918.

SHERIFF'S WORK.

§ 128. The following return shows the civil process handed to the Sheriff for service and execution during the last four years:—

Nature of Process.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>Civil Process to be served:</i>				
Summonses	188	177	121	98
Subpoenas	40	32	26	13
Notices, Petitions and Affidavits	32	55	63	91
Pleadings	25	15	21	22
Orders of Court	39	48	51	60
Total Civil Process for service	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	324	327	282	284
<i>Civil Process to be executed:</i>				
Warrants for attachment of Insolvent Estates ..	27	36	26	28
Writs of attachment to found jurisdiction—				
(a) against movable property	1	4	3	6
(b) „ immovable property	4	9	14	7
Writs of execution of judgments of High Court—				
(a) against movable property	65	73	42	21
(b) „ immovable property	7	16	22	35
Writs of execution of judgments of Union Courts—				
(a) against movable property	—	1	—	—
(b) „ immovable property	—	—	1	—
Writs of execution of awards of Debts Settlement Board—				
(a) against movable property	25	61	21	7
(b) „ immovable property	2	9	8	1
Writs of personal arrest	5	5	3	2
Total Civil Process for execution	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	136	214	140	107
Total Civil Process for service and execution ..	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	460	541	422	391

It will be noticed that while the civil process for service has remained steady, there has been a decrease in process for execution, and that this decrease is to be found largely in the writs issued in execution of awards of the Debts Settlement Board. That Board ceased to exist on 31st March, 1922, and it is natural that the writs issued on its awards should diminish in number.

Sales of land attached in execution took place in 22 cases.

The following return reflects the civil process handed to the Sheriff for service and execution during the last *four* years : —

	1921	1922	1923	1924
Summonses	19	18	34	14
Indictments	19	18	34	14
Notices, Petitions, Affidavits and Orders of Court	24	26	51	26
Subpoenas	136	69	124	95
	<u>198</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>243</u>	<u>149</u>

§ 129. The fees collected by the Registrar were £1,391 as compared with £1,367 for the previous year.

B. INFERIOR COURTS.

CRIMINAL WORK.

§ 130. The following analytical statement shows the number of cases reported to the Police and tried in Inferior Courts during the year : —

Offence.	Reported during the Year.	Pending inquiry brought from previous year.	Sent for trial under Arrest, Bail or Summons	Withdrawn before arrest by Police.	Withdrawn before arrest at request of complainant.	Undetected.			Found false on inquiry.	Which have not been completed or closed during the year.
						Warrant issued.	Insufficient evidence.	Undetected.		
Against the State ..	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Against the Administration of Justice	112	10	90	—	—	1	4	4	7	16
Against Public Peace	5	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Against Public Order	124	9	102	4	5	—	2	4	7	9
Against the person	590	45	405	31	73	2	36	4	40	44
Against Property ..	1,475	299	755	20	103	14	33	281	244	324
Statutory	3,457	183	2,836	91	158	41	26	93	105	290
Offences against Revenue	379	12	365	6	1	—	10	1	4	4
Grand Total ..	<u>6,143</u>	<u>559</u>	<u>4,556</u>	<u>152</u>	<u>341</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>387</u>	<u>408</u>	<u>689</u>

Serious crime again shows a decrease except in the case of stock theft which shows a somewhat upward tendency.

Only 87 Preparatory Examinations were held during the year as compared with 106 during 1923. Of these only 19 were considered of a sufficiently serious nature to warrant indicting for trial before the High Court, 34 cases were remitted to the Magistrates' Courts for trial, and 9 cases were outstanding at the close of the year awaiting further information.

The following statement represents an analysis of the offences in respect of which Preparatory Examinations were held : —

PREPARATORY EXAMINATIONS, 1924.

Analysis of Crime.

Crime.	Charges.	Europeans.		Natives.		Total.
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Abduction	2	1	—	1	—	—
Assault (common) ..	1	1	—	—	—	—
Assault with intent to murder	2	1	—	1	—	—
Assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm	6	1	—	3	3	—
Assault, indecent ..	1	1	—	—	—	—
Attempt to defeat ends of Justice	1	1	—	—	—	—
Attempted Extortion ..	1	1	—	—	—	—
Bestiality	1	—	—	1	—	—
Bigamy	1	—	—	1	—	—
Concealment of Birth ..	1	—	1	—	—	—
Criminal Injuria	1	1	—	—	—	—
Diamond Law	5	4	—	1	—	—
Escape Custody	2	—	—	2	—	—
Forgery	2	—	—	2	—	—
Game Law	3	5	—	—	—	—
Housebreaking, Intent commit crime	2	—	—	2	—	—
Housebreaking, with intent to steal and theft ..	14	—	—	16	—	—
Incest	1	1	1	—	—	—
Insolvency	5	6	—	—	—	—
Locust Proc.	1	1	—	—	—	—
Malicious Injury property	2	2	—	—	—	—
Murder	6	2	—	4	—	—
Perjury	3	3	—	—	—	—
Procuring abortion ..	1	—	—	1	—	—
Rape	8	—	—	8	—	—
Railway Management ..	1	—	—	1	—	—
Robbery	1	—	—	1	—	—
Sodomy	1	1	—	—	—	—
Stock Theft	10	6	—	9	—	—
Theft	20	9	—	12	—	—
Trespass Pounds Proclamation	1	1	—	—	—	—
	107	49	2	66	3	120

Total :
Europeans 51
Natives 69

Total :
Males 115
Females 5

The Attorney-General is inclined to ascribe the apparent falling-off in serious crime to the insufficiency of Police in the Territory rather than an improvement in public morals. This is, however, not supported by the figures given in the foregoing statement of cases held in Inferior Courts. While admittedly the Police Force is small, it has not been reduced, its efficiency has increased and no additional extraneous duties were cast upon the Police last year, there was no reason why they should not have performed their duties in regard to the investigation of crime as effectively as they did during the previous year. On the contrary a larger number of cases involving a greater number of persons were sent to trial than during the previous year when 5,521 cases were reported and only 3,935 cases were sent to trial.

CIVIL WORK.

§ 131. The following statement reflects the Civil work disposed of by Magistrates' Courts during the year : —

Magistracy.	Number of cases.	Amounts claimed.	Number of judgments.	Amounts awarded.	Number of C.I. orders.
		£		£	
Aroab	3	146	3	146	—
Bethanie	10	255	7	109	—
Gibeon (including Mariental) ..	35	1,851	12	859	—
Gobabis	28	992	15	677	—
Grootfontein	91	5,127	89	3,784	4
Karibib	68	1,257	44	858	12
Keetmanshoop	188	4,029	137	2,218	14
Luderitz	298	3,884	167	2,423	25
Maltahöhe	14	622	2	282	—
Okahandja	113	2,076	71	1,106	1
Omaruru	63	1,911	26	1,097	2
Otjiwarongo	22	1,264	15	754	6
Outjo	12	325	2	64	—
Rehoboth	13	579	6	239	—
Swakopmund (including Walvis Bay)	209	6,434	123	3,676	37
Warmbad	33	1,186	15	648	—
Windhoek	698	25,762	447	18,479	183
Total for 1924	1,898	57,700	1,181	37,419	284
Total for 1923	2,128	77,678	1,098	45,460	202

V. — MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT.

A. ESTATES OF DECEASED, ABSENT AND REPATRIATED PERSONS, OF MINORS UNDER GUARDIANSHIP, MENTAL PATIENTS, ETC.

§ 132. 1. Estates registered : —

(i) Records of files at commencement of periods :

	1923	1924
(a) Estates of Deceased Persons	1,186	1,270
(b) Estates of Absentees	531	532
(c) Estates of Repatriates	30	30
(d) Estates of Mental Patients	12	13
(e) Estates of Minors under Guardianship ..	80	81
(f) Estates of German Files (deceased and insolvent, absentees, guardianship, etc.)	1,287	1,287
	<u>3,126</u>	<u>3,213</u>

(ii) New Estates opened :

(a) Deceased Persons	84	81
(b) Minors	1	—
(c) Mental Patients	1	1
(d) Absentees	1	1
(e) German Files recorded	—	2
	<u>87</u>	<u>85</u>

(iii) Grand Totals at 31st December

2. Wills registered of Deceased Persons	53	40
Wills registered of Living Persons	3	5
Total number of Wills registered as at 31st December	<u>429</u>	<u>474</u>

	1923	1924
3. Bonds of Security registered	60	61
Total number of Bonds registered as at 31st December	<u>560</u>	<u>621</u>
4. Numbers of parcels of effects belonging to Sundry Estates on hand as at 31st December	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
5. Appointments made of :		
(a) Executors	62	66
(b) Tutors	1	2
(c) Curators (" Dative " and " Bonis ")	3	4
Total for the year	<u>66</u>	<u>72</u>
6. (a) Fees collected in revenue stamps :		
Grand totals for	£483 9 6	£458 7 3
(* Includes an amount of £65 6s. " binding " fees which should be earmarked for expenses in connection with the binding of records.)		
(b) Commission collected on " unclaimed " moneys	£99 18 0	£6 12 2
7. Liquidation Accounts accepted and filed as complete	129	112
8. Security Bonds for Minors' Portions registered	13	8
9. Master's Reports to Court	9	7 ²
(* Exclusive of reports in connection with proceedings against executors, etc., of which no record is kept.)		
10. Sworn Appraisers appointed	2	—

B. INSOLVENCY BRANCH (INCLUDING COMPANY LIQUIDATIONS).

§ 133. 1. Number of sequestrations :

(a) Voluntary surrenders accepted	13	11
(b) Compulsory (Final) Sequestrations	16	18
(c) Assignments registered	8	1
(d) Company liquidations :		
(i) Voluntary Winding-up (<i>i.e.</i> Local)	7	3
(ii) Winding-up by Court : Including " foreign " voluntary and compulsory liquidations recognised by the Court	5	4
2. Certificates of appointments issued to :		
(a) Trustees	31	36
(b) Assignees	8	1
(c) Curators Bonis	1	14
(d) Liquidators (in " Company " matters)	7	2
3. Security Bonds registered	66	53
(Note : These figures include bonds in terms of section 9 (2) (b) of the Insolvency Act.)		
4. Liquidation Accounts " confirmed "	38	46 ³
(* Exclusive of accounts of Curators Bonis and accounts in respect of " Foreign Company " liquidations recognised by the Court.)		
5. Fees collected in revenue stamps :		
Grand totals for	£411 14 10	£467 2 6'
(* Includes an amount of £34 18s. 6d. " binding " fees which should be earmarked for expenses in connection with the binding of records.)		
6. Rehabilitations granted	Nil	6
7. Master's Reports to Court	2	10 ⁵
(* Exclusive of reports in connection with proceedings against trustees, etc., of which no record is kept.)		

C. GUARDIANS' FUND BRANCH.

	1923	1924
§ 134. 1. Ledger Accounts standing open :		
(a) Deceased Estates—amounts awaiting allotment at end of	14	7
(b) Minors' Accounts	158	174
(c) Absentees' Estates	7	8
(d) Sundry Creditors and unclaimed moneys	1	1
(e) Absent, Foreign and Unknown heirs	44	59
Totals	224	249
2. Guardians' Fund Intromissions, 1924 (exclusive of German paper money) :		
(a) Balances as at 31st December	£18,253 16 3	£19,875 2 9
(Invested by Administration).		
Cash at Bank (working balance)	1,242 2 8	407 18 7
Totals	£19,495 18 11	£20,283 1 4
(b) Sundry receipts during the year	£7,696 12 7	£6,335 8 5
Sundry payments during the year (<i>i.e.</i> exclusive of advances received from and amounts repaid to the Administration in respect of Guardians' Fund working balance)	11,658 7 10	6,142 5 8
(c) Interest credited on Minors' Accounts	611 13 10	521 6 6
(These amounts the Administration has to earmark out of interest earned by it in respect of the investment of Guardians' Fund moneys, the difference representing revenue due to the Administration. The figures represent the position as at the end of the respective <i>financial</i> years, as interest is calculated at the 31st March in each year.)		
(d) Paper money Account :		
Receipts during the year	—	—
Payments during the year	26,246.90 mks.	5,342.76 mks
Balances as at 31st December	5,342.76 mks.	Nil

§ 135. In dealing with insolvencies the Master makes the following comments : —

“ One would have felt more pleased with the decrease (small though it be) in the figures compared with the previous year, were it not common knowledge that this decrease is no indication of a substantial turn for the better. Apart from the fact that the figures given are *exclusive* of (a) voluntary surrenders declined by the Court or not proceeded with after the notices of surrender were published (3), (b) compulsory sequestration orders discharged by the Court on the ‘ return ’ day (2) and (c) assignments declined (9), it should be borne in mind, firstly, that private compromises or compositions with creditors are not officially recorded, secondly, that a very considerable number of *deceased* estates found to be insolvent and administered as such under section 48 (3) (b) of Act 24 of 1913 are not included among the insolvency returns and, thirdly, that many official insolvencies are prevented by the debtor not possessing sufficient ‘ free residue ’ to warrant an application to Court for the surrender or sequestration of his estate. Whilst not wishing to paint too gloomy a picture of the future, I feel fairly certain that the present rate of financial failures is not likely to decrease to any appreciable extent during the coming year.

“ I think it can be taken for granted that there are still a number of people in this Territory who have been on the verge of insolvency for some time past, to whom assistance (if forthcoming at all) will at this stage be too late for all practical purposes, and who are therefore bound, sooner or later, to go under. Until all such cases have been eliminated I can see no prospect of a substantial improvement. An unsatisfactory feature nowadays is the fairly large proportion of insolvent estates which, on liquidation, instead of paying out a dividend to concurrent creditors, require them to make a contribution. The result is that creditors appear to become more and more reluctant to prove their claims. It has also become a notorious fact (one on which I believe the Court has also commented already) that the schedules filed by debtors in connection with the surrender or sequestration of their estates can very rarely be relied upon as giving a true index of the debtor's financial position. When the actual liquidation of the estate subsequently takes place, the result is vastly different to what the schedules disclosed ! The principal cause of this must undoubtedly be put down to the extremely low prices realised for movable and immovable assets owing to the financial conditions existing here.

“ It may also be remarked here that during the year a fair number of cases had to be reported to the Attorney-General for apparent contravention of the insolvency law. ”

In connection with the Master's remarks, I should like to say that the economic position has in the past unquestionably been bad, and it was inevitable that a number of people should go to the wall, but these have been people whom it was impossible to save. In view of the depression, instructions were given to all branches of the Administration not to press its debtors unduly, and everybody who could be pulled through was to be assisted as far as possible. Banks and other creditors were enjoined to do likewise, and I know that throughout every consideration was shown to debtors. I am convinced we have definitely turned the corner, though even so, more people must go to the wall in the process of stabilization.

VI. — AGRICULTURE.

EXPORT OF SLAUGHTER STOCK.

§ 136. This has continued to be the chief, and in the great majority of cases, the only source of revenue for the farmers in South-West Africa. The Officer in Charge Agricultural and Veterinary Services reports that 30,709 cattle were exported to the Union during 1924, 763 to Europe, and 1,944 to Ovamboland, giving a grand total of 33,416 as compared with 55,354 in the previous year. The number exported during 1923 was abnormally high and was due to the exceptionally good season enjoyed during that year, when our cattle were in prime condition and found an excellent market in the Union, where severe drought prevailed and the cattle were in poor condition. During 1924 the position was reversed owing to the drought and the ravages of the locusts in South-West Africa, whereas in the Union slaughter stock was in good condition, and this affected the demand for South-West African cattle. This mainly accounts for the drop in the export figures for 1924.

There can also be little doubt that the abnormal export which took place in 1923 to supply the demand in the Union has had its effect on the numbers available. A few shipments of live cattle were consigned to the Continent during the year. The first of these shipments was organized by a group of farmers, who are to be complimented on the enterprise. The prices realized, together with the Beef Bounty and other assistance granted by the Administration in the way of free loading, resulted in a reasonable profit being made on the consignment, upon which the organizers are to be congratulated. At the same time, and without being pessimistic, I must point out that the venture was fortunate inasmuch as the market was short of stock when this consignment arrived.

The second shipment, sent by the Imperial Cold Storage, was less fortunate, and resulted in a considerable loss to the consignors. From these experiments it is clear that if the trade is to be developed the Territory must be in a position to send regular shipments and to supply the class of animal wanted in England.

There has been some talk of endeavouring to supply "store" cattle to England. I very much fear that we are not yet sufficiently advanced for this branch of the business, and until we are in a position to keep up regular supplies of young, well-bred cattle of the uniform type required, I think it would be a great mistake to attempt to enter this highly specialized market. The need for standardization and for producing a good class of beef animal is being more and more appreciated every day, and the efforts which are being made towards improvement are so encouraging that I believe the day is not far distant when ranchers will be producing "store" cattle for both the Union and Overseas markets. It will, however, be only the properly bred animal which will have any demand at all in competition with the stock from Canada, Argentine, etc.

DAIRY INDUSTRY.

§ 137. There has been considerable activity in this industry when circumstances permitted of a good supply of milk. Butter was exported to the Union on quite a large scale, as also a considerable quantity of cheese, but the Veterinary Department again draws attention to the dangers which exist in combining dairying and ranching in the same herd, and the detrimental effects of milking cows under "veld conditions" on the standard of slaughter oxen. It is hoped that the efforts of the Agricultural Technical Adviser will bear fruit in good time and that if farmers desire to go in for dairying they will do so properly, with a few good cows, for which they can grow and supply feed all the year round.

RAISING CROPS.

§ 138. Owing to the lack of facilities such as transport, lack of open water, irregular rainfall and distance from markets, agriculture on the whole is not at present very extensively carried on in South-West Africa; the main industry being stock farming. Parts of the country, however, possess great agricultural possibilities, and in certain parts, such as Grootfontein, Gobabis and parts of the artesian area, many farmers are dependent on this branch of the industry.

The Agricultural Adviser, who assumed duty early in the year, has made a general survey of the agricultural districts and particularly of Grootfontein, where the farmers are more dependent on agriculture than elsewhere.

Prior to his advent it was felt that most of the efforts to raise crops, either under dry-land conditions or under irrigation, were on wrong lines, but co-operative experiments in which 40 farmers are at present participating, have now been initiated, while a qualified manager (Mr. Wiseman, B.Sc.) has been appointed to the Government Experimental Farms at Tigerquelle and Ackerbou, where he is conducting experiments on scientific lines. These experiments will enable the Administration to demonstrate to farmers their mistakes and to advise them as to what crops they can grow successfully and profitably in various localities. It is thought cotton would do admirably in the northern portion of the Territory and particular attention is being paid to this.

FENCING.

§ 139. It is pleasing to note that several districts have adopted compulsory fencing, every progressive farmer recognising the benefits to be derived from enclosing and camping his farm, and every encouragement is being given by the Land Bank to this end.

MERINO SHEEP FARMING.

§ 140. There are promising indications that this industry will become firmly established in many parts of the country particularly in the South where the majority of the Union farmers are importing merino sheep. There are of course certain drawbacks at present, the chief of which are the poor quality of farm labour, the absence of proper jackal proof fencing, and the fact that farms are not divided into camps, each with an adequate water supply. A popular fallacy exists in South-West Africa that the merino is a delicate sheep and that the conditions in the Territory do not suit it. Probably a good deal of the prejudice against the merino sheep has sprung from the fact that the German Government introduced Saxony merinos which with their fine open fleeces could hardly be expected to answer under our dry dusty conditions. But experience is gradually dispelling this impression and I am convinced that soon merino farming will become the most important industry in the South.

With a view to giving a stimulus to importation and to assisting the farmers the Union Government has agreed to grant a rebate of 1/2 of the railage costs upon purebred merino sheep imported into South-West Africa for breeding or stud purposes. During the year the Administration imported about sixty ewes and a good ram which are now at Neudam. The Administration is also prepared to purchase good rams for farmers on easy terms of repayment.

KARAKUL SHEEP FARMING.

§ 141. This industry appears to be making steady progress. A depôt for the marketing of pelts has been established in Windhoek during the year, and a proper flock register has also been started by the Karakul Breeders' Association in conjunction with the Veterinary Division. It is believed that this industry has a future before it, and that if farmers keep up a regular supply of high quality pelts they will always get a good market for them, although it is not considered that Karakul sheep farming will ever be as profitable as wool-farming. It is a specialised industry which requires a lot of knowledge and attention.

HORSE BREEDING.

§ 142. In common with the rest of South Africa, this branch of farming, it is regretted, is rapidly dying out in South-West Africa. South-West Africa is undoubtedly eminently suited for horse breeding and it seems a pity that this branch of farming should be allowed to languish. Apparently it is not considered a paying proposition, and farmers are concentrating their efforts in other directions with the result that to-day it is difficult to secure suitable horses in the Territory for our Police Force small as it is. The Administration is, however, considering means of reviving the industry and it is intended as a start to import a couple of good stallions for stud purposes.

DISTRIBUTION OF PURE BRED BULLS.

§ 143. One hundred and forty-nine bulls, mostly yearlings, were purchased by the Administration in the Union for sale to farmers on easy repayment terms. They were secured in December, 1923, at very low prices, owing to the drought then existing in the Union. It was intended to acclimatise and accustom them to veld conditions before disposing of them. Unfortunately the bad season which followed after they arrived at Windhoek affected them adversely and retarded their growth. Twenty-four died, death in two-thirds of the cases being due to vegetable poisoning. The poison must have been eaten in the absence of sufficient green grass. The remaining bulls are hardy well-bred animals and are now available for distribution.

§ 144. In addition to supplying breeding-stock to farmers from those purchased directly by the Administration under its distribution scheme, the Agricultural Department has from time to time acted as agents for farmers by obtaining truck load lots of bulls and sheep for them, thus saving them considerable expense and uncertainty. In this connection it may be

stated that the 50 per cent. rebate now allowed by the Railway Administration on breeding stock will no doubt benefit South-West African farmers considerably and act as a tremendous stimulus to the importation of good breeding stock. Generally speaking the bulls distributed so far have done quite well, though in some cases through ignorance they have been injudiciously utilised, and naturally with prejudicial results.

The following figures showing the stock purchased or bred by the Administration for distribution amongst farmers during the year are interesting : —

(a) Number of bulls distributed to farmers under scheme	..	..	..	25
(b) Number of bulls obtained for distribution to farmers..	..	..	..	149
(c) Number of bulls bred at Neudam	..	..	..	29
(d) Number of sheep obtained by Administration for farmers	..	..	..	218
(e) Number of sheep bred and sold <i>ex</i> Neudam	..	..	..	55

In addition to the bulls obtained by the Administration for farmers, there have been numerous importations by private owners, notably the Imperial Cold Storage Co., Ltd., and Liebig's Extract of Meat Co., Ltd., the latter firm getting out a particularly good consignment from England.

SCHEDULED DISEASES.

§ 145. *Anthrax*.—This continues to be the most serious stock disease in South-West Africa, though it is pleasing to note that the number of reported outbreaks was less in 1924 than in the previous year. The seriousness of Anthrax from the economic point of view is emphasised in a statement appearing in the *Queenstown Daily Representative*, of the 14th February, 1925, in which it was reported that the United States Government regulations to minimise the risk of the importation of Anthrax in hides and skins are likely to have a seriously prejudicial effect on skin and hide exports from South Africa, as the U.S.A. Government demands the certification of the immunity of skins on very stringent lines, practically calling for the history of every skin for six months prior to shipment.

The chief danger with regard to Anthrax appears to be confined to certain definite areas in South-West Africa and compulsory inoculation against the disease during 1925 will be considered.

The total number of outbreaks during 1924 was 38, and the total number of doses of Anthrax Vaccine issued was 43,265.

Blackwater : Sponsiekte.—This disease which is practically confined to the northern districts has continued to take a somewhat heavy toll of young stock in certain areas, but if only the owner reports its occurrence in time, the disease can be quite easily kept in check with the new liquid vaccine (Filtrate) manufactured at Onderstepoort, of which the Veterinary staff and farmers speak very highly.

The total number of outbreaks during 1924 was 58 ; the total number of doses of Blackwater Filtrate issued was 22,520, and the number of Bloodsmear slides examined was 550.

Dourine.—This disease still occurs* in some parts of South-West Africa, notably the Windhoek and Rehoboth districts. It is an extremely difficult disease to eradicate under the best of conditions, and the position is made more difficult by the fact that large troops of practically wild horses are running on unfenced farms.

NON SCHEDULED DISEASES.

§ 146. *Lamsiekte*.—This disease continues to be a menace to ranching operations in many parts of the country, and seems to be more prevalent during the dry seasons. The Agricultural Technical Adviser has started a series of "Phosphorus Deficiency" surveys, in conjunction with the Veterinary staff which it is trusted will prove instructive and useful. The systematic administration of bone-meal has been proved to be a preventive measure of great value and some farmers have also had a certain amount of success in the administration of phosphates as a preventive against the disease. Experience however tends to show that when certain areas have been definitely established as Lamsiekte areas, the most practical course to pursue is to use the farms for other stock during drought, to graze cattle on them only after good rains have fallen and to remove the cattle directly the farm begins to get dry.

Vegetable Poisoning.—Mortality from this cause continues to take a fairly heavy toll, particularly of small stock, in various localities. It still remains a subject requiring a great deal of systematic investigation.

REGISTRATION OF BRANDS.

§ 147. The number of brands registered during the year were :

Europeans	..	..	..	..	..	..	440
Natives	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,820 (under the new system of
Native Reserve	..	..	..	..	..	..	639 branding from March, 1924).

LOCUSTS, SEASON 1923-'24.

§ 148. Towards the end of July 1923 this Administration, in conjunction with the Union, organised a campaign against Locusts under the direct control of the Department of Agriculture and Veterinary Services, Windhoek, the expense being borne in equal shares with the Union Government. District Locust officers and Local Locust officers for each district were appointed, and poison depôts were established. At the commencement there was difficulty in getting ample supplies from the Union, but this drawback was soon overcome.

Seventeen District Locust officers and two hundred and thirteen Local Locust officers were actually employed, besides other temporary assistants, employed as occasion demanded wherever the locusts made their appearance. Locusts commenced hatching at the beginning of August before spring rains had fallen and ceased about the end of June last. The total cost for the eleven months' duration of this campaign was about £34,000. Between 80,000 and 100,000 swarms were destroyed, inclusive of many swarms of flyers.

SEASON 1924-'25.

§ 149. Early during September last, steps were again taken to organise a fresh campaign on the same lines as during the preceding season. There are still big supplies of the old treacle poison on hand in the Territory, but owing to the difficulties of transport, scarcity of water and the rapidity with which it can be sent from point to point and for economic reasons, the Arsenite of Soda powder, which is just as effective as the treacle poison, and which can be utilised for dusting or spraying purposes is favoured. Up to the end of the year the infestation was not serious and all outbreaks were easily dealt with but since the heavy rains have fallen general hatching of eggs has occurred, and the position has become serious. However everything possible is being done to cope with the position, though it is as yet too early to predict the result. It is hardly necessary to emphasise the difficulties under which the Administration is labouring in dealing with this problem—the vastness of the country, the huge unoccupied areas, the sparse population, the scarcity of water, the difficulties of transport, the scarcity of labour, the contiguity of the Kalahari Desert which is the most fertile breeding ground for locusts and from which this country has been invaded by vast swarms of fliers.

SCAB REGULATIONS.

Administration of Regulations.

§ 150. The system adopted in the Territory and which was reported on at length in the annual report for 1923 is working very satisfactorily and good results have been achieved.

SIMULTANEOUS DIPPING.

§ 151. This has continued during the year with satisfactory results, and the area from the southern border up to the Windhoek-Karibib districts with the exception of Rehoboth has been dipped. It is hoped to complete the simultaneous dipping of the whole country during 1925. Scab has not been eradicated entirely where simultaneous dipping has been carried out, but it is now possible to trace outbreaks to their source which is the first great step to complete eradication. The Rehoboth district still remains a badly infested scab area. Although the Gebiet has been proclaimed a "restricted area," the smuggling of sheep in and out of the territory still continues. The Administration is, however, determined to deal with this area, and steps are now being taken to enforce the scab law rigorously in the Gebiet.

EXPORT OF SHEEP TO THE UNION.

§ 152. The numbers of infected stock arriving at the Union Abattoirs have once more shown a satisfactory decrease compared with that of the previous year. The pressure brought to bear on speculators has had an excellent effect in compelling farmers to clean their sheep.

During 1924, 159,755 small stock were exported to the Union Abattoirs. The number of visibly infected sheep according to reports received from the Union authorities was only 46, of which 15 were in the ova stage only, and the total number declared infected, which includes all ova stages and contacts, was 6,046 or 3.78 per cent. of the total number exported.

The Police continue to display zeal in the performance of their duties in connection with the eradication of scab, and I desire to record my appreciation of the excellent work they did during the year under review.

DIP DEPÔTS.

§ 153. These have been kept at every Police Post throughout the country and at one or two subsidiary places. In a sparsely populated country like South-West Africa they have been a tremendous help, and I have no hesitation in saying that simultaneous dipping could never have been carried out without them.

AGRICULTURAL CENSUS.

§ 154. An agricultural census taken towards the close of the year gives the following returns of stock in the Police zone :—

No. of Owners.	Sheep and Goats.	Cattle.	Horses.	Donkeys.	Mules.	Pigs.
3002 Europeans	1,200,145	485,159	16,895	27,455	1,961	6,065
296 Bastards	62,791	12,791	1,070	1,377	2	—
9253 Natives	683,071	78,962	2,422	8,158	20	67
	<hr/> 1,946,007	<hr/> 576,912	<hr/> 20,387	<hr/> 36,990	<hr/> 1,983	<hr/> 6,132

Owing to the trouble with the Rehoboth Community it was impossible to obtain accurate figures in respect of the Rehoboth Gebiet. The majority of the opposition section declined to give information.

NEUDAM EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

(a) *Experimental Farm Work.*

§ 155. Experimental cattle breeding has continued with the same satisfactory results as previously. Owing to the drought the cattle on the farm were not in prime condition, but they withstood the adverse conditions admirably.

(b) *Pure Bred Cattle.*

§ 156. Last year's importation of about 70 pure-bred cows have, like previous smaller importations, done exceptionally well in spite of the adverse conditions. There have been a few casualties ; but, considering the bad season, these have been extraordinarily low. These cattle retained their condition wonderfully well, indeed, better than the grade and ordinary stock on the whole. The Manager of the Experimental Farm is now quite confident that pure-bred cattle can be profitably imported into and raised in this locality. The idea that pure-bred cattle cannot maintain themselves on the natural grazing of this country has been proved unfounded. With a little common-sense in grazing arrangements they will keep in better condition than the same carcass weight in ordinary or scrub cattle.

During 1925, 29 pure-bred bulls were raised on the farm and transferred to the bull distributing depôt at Gamas.

(c) *Sheep : Pure-bred Karakuls.*

§ 157. Every attention is still being given to the breeding of these sheep, and it is both pleasing and interesting to note the gradual but sure improvement towards the ideal without sacrificing in the least size or constitution—on the contrary, improvement in these directions is also being effected.

The uniform conformation of the young sheep is marked, and one of the farm's young stud rams was described by the Union Sheep and Wool Expert, who visited the farm during the year as having the appearance of a sire in every sense of the word. The breeding of the brown Karakul is still being carried on with every prospect of success. During the year 55 rams were disposed of by Public Auction at an average price of £19, £38 being the highest price fetched. At this sale there was a good attendance of buyers and steady prices were paid for all classes of rams.

(d) *Grade Karakuls.*

§ 158. These, with the exception of about 60 Brown Grades, are being bred to the Black-Head Persian for the purpose of raising slaughter stock for the farm use, and also as a means of observing the prepotency of the Black-Head Persians on high grade Karakuls. The grade " Browns " are still being graded up with a view to producing ultimately a saleable Brown Karakul Pelt.

(e) *Black-Head Persians.*

§ 159. These sheep are still upholding their reputation for retaining their condition in adverse circumstances. The sheep imported originally did not take readily to the grass veld. Coming as they did from the Karoo, many of them were reduced to skeletons, and some died, no doubt owing to some deficiency in the grass veld. This assumption is supported by the fact that during the year 100 young rams were imported from an area where the veld is more grassy and these sheep have done remarkably well. The majority were sold to farmers all over the Territory, and not a single complaint has been received. Of those undisposed of, none have died.

(f) *Merinos.*

§ 160. The small stud of 60 odd ewes imported during the year have done exceptionally well; 3 deaths only have occurred. It is still too early to report on the Merino as a commercial proposition in this locality. Of the 50 odd rams imported from the Union for distribution to farmers, 14 are still on hand.

(g) *Pigs.*

§ 161. It was considered advisable to keep a few pigs on the farm. The very best of the progeny will be sold to farmers as the demand arises. A certain number will be kept and raised to the baconer stage and sold by public auction. The idea is to find exactly the cost of production, the principal feed to be lucerne, pumpkins, roots and other possible farm produce, and finished off with grain, which for the most part is imported. Thirty-seven pigs have been imported for distribution to farmers, and of these eight are still on hand.

(h) *Crops.*

§ 162. The conditions during the year were anything but favourable for crop growing. However, substantial crops of lucerne, rye, pumpkins and mangels were grown under irrigation. A small experimental plot of cotton was tried, and in spite of the adverse conditions a very useful crop was harvested. Thus far lucerne has been found to be the best all round crop on the experimental farm.

TIGERQUELLE AND ACKERBOU.

§ 163. These two farms in the Grootfontein district have hitherto not been conducted on scientific lines, and the desirability of closing them down was considered. Recently, however, it was decided to make better use of them, and Mr. A. Wiseman (B.Sc.) was appointed as manager. As indicated above, experimental crops are being grown and some pure-bred stock is being maintained for acclimatisation and distribution to farmers.

It is not proposed at the moment to operate on a very large or expensive scale, and the intention merely is to give farmers a lead in crops which it will pay them to grow, dairying, etc.

Particular attention is being devoted to fibre plants and cotton which it is thought will answer well in certain parts of the territory.

SEED SUPPLIES.

§ 164. Many complaints have been received regarding the poor quality of seeds supplied by firms in the Union, and the Agricultural Board did a great deal to assist farmers in this direction. The assistance of the Union Agricultural Department has also been sought and promised.

In order to assist farmers in the Grootfontein district where distress was particularly acute the Administration arranged to supply seed on easy terms of repayment. Most farmers took advantage of this scheme.

VELD DAM CONSTRUCTION.

§ 165. The experiment in the construction of ground farm dams by the Administration, as an object lesson, is proving successful, several dams already completed having survived the strain of the recent heavy rains.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

§ 165 A. The Administration has decided to participate in the Wembley Exhibition for 1925.

VII. — EDUCATION.

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

§ 166. There has been marked progress in the activities of the Education Department during the year. The work done in the schools has improved considerably. This is mainly true of the country schools, where the improvement is due directly to increased earnestness on the part of the teachers and indirectly to the fact that the Department has been successful in enlisting the services of more highly qualified teachers than in the past.

EUROPEAN EDUCATION.

§ 167. Steps have been taken to meet the special needs of pupils in South-West Africa. A school geography compiled by one of the Inspectors of Schools and edited by one of the secondary teachers is at present being printed, while arithmetic books in the German language

to suit the special requirements of South-West Africa are being compiled by a number of the German-medium teachers. Considerable progress has been made in manual training, and the work will be extended considerably during 1925.

COLOURED AND NATIVE EDUCATION.

§ 168. Nama and Herero reading sheets for beginners are in the press. They have been compiled by the principal of the Okahandja Training School for native teachers. Other students of these languages were asked to help by criticising and making suggestions. The pictures were prepared by a competent artist who has a thorough knowledge of the customs and mode of living of the South-West African natives, and it is felt that the reading sheets are correct and suitable in every detail. It is proposed now to proceed with the compilation of suitable primers in the Nama and Herero languages.

§ 169. The refresher courses held for acting teachers during the summer vacation 1923-'24 have had very beneficial effects on the work in the native schools. A further course was held during the Summer vacation 1924-'25. Each year the number of applicants has exceeded the maximum number that could be admitted, which shows that the native teachers in South-West Africa are imbued with an eagerness to improve their status. This is a very promising sign for the future.

§ 170. Reference is made in paragraphs 101 and 110 to the extension by the Damaraland and Roman Catholic Missions of their operations to Ovamboland. The educational work which is to be mainly practical and industrial will be in the nature of an experiment and the results will be almost certain to form a welcome contribution to the solving of the question of the best curriculum for the coloured and native schools in South-West Africa.

STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT.

§ 171. In the following tables the figures for 1924 are compared with those of the previous year :—

		EUROPEAN.						1923	1924
<i>No. of Schools :</i>									
High							1	1	
Secondary .. .							1	2	
Primary							22	22	
Farm							14	18	
	Total						38	43	
<i>Hostels :</i>									
No. of hostels ..							17	18	
No. of boarders ..							590	744	
<i>No. of Pupils :</i>									
English speaking ..							498	476	
Dutch speaking ..							999	1,309	
German speaking ..							431	547	
	Total						1,928	2,332	
Pupils in Primary Classes							1,821	2,237	
° Pupils in Secondary Classes							107	95	
	Total						1,928	2,332	

The last table clearly reflects the policy of the Education Department. It does everything in its power to see that every European child gets primary education. The result is that the support available for secondary education is thereby somewhat restricted.

<i>Teachers :</i>							1923	1924
Certificated ..							86	110
Uncertificated ..							11	4
	Total						97	114
<i>Private Schools :</i>								
No. of Schools ..							16	20
No. of Pupils ..							450	681
No. of Teachers ..							39	48

§ 172. Since 1st January, 1924, the Realschule at Windhoek and the Volks-Realschule at Swakopmund are being subsidised on the £ for £ principle. This subsidy has been granted for a period of two years and is not to exceed per annum half the expenditure on these schools for the year 1923. The provision on the estimates for this subsidy is £2,600 per annum.

COLOURED AND NATIVE.

§ 173.

Schools.	1923.	1924.
Rhenish Mission	23	26
Roman Catholic Mission	14	15
English Church Mission	2	2
Wesleyan Mission	1	1
Total	40	44

Enrolment.	1923	1924				
		Nama.	Herero	Rehoboth.	Other.	Total.
Rhenish Mission Schools	1,557	1,422	254	173	47	1,896
Roman Catholic Mission School	575	313	49	—	198	560
English Church Mission School	73	11	—	—	126	137
Wesleyan Mission School	42	13	—	—	12	25
Total	2,247	1,759	303	173	383	2,618

No. of Teachers.	1923		1924	
	Full Time.	Part Time.	Full Time.	Part Time.
Rhenish Mission School	30	6	39	15
Roman Catholic Mission	15	—	18	1
English Church Mission School	3	—	4	1
Wesleyan Mission School	1	—	1	—
Total	49	6	62	17

The part-time teachers are engaged in teaching industrial subjects, mainly needlework to the girls.

§ 174. A distinct industrial bias has been given to the Rhenish Mission School at Otjimbingwe by the appointment of a full time European Principal who is qualified to teach, and is mainly engaged in teaching industrial subjects.

UNAIDED MISSION SCHOOLS.

§ 175.

	1923		1924	
	No. of Schools.	No. of Pupils.	No. of Schools.	No. of Pupils.
Rhenish Mission	9	373	8	270
Roman Catholic Mission	5	96	5	90

Under this heading reference must be made to the work in Ovamboland. The work is almost solely in the hands of the Finnish Missionaries who report that there are 112 schools, 165 native teachers and 2,355 pupils under their control.

§ 176. At the fourth session of the Permanent Mandates Commission the following questions were raised :—

- (a) The desirability of establishing a Native Advisory Council.
- (b) Instruction in hygiene in native schools.

Upon these points the Director of Education expresses the following views in which I concur :—

Native Education Advisory Council.

No such council exists. The difficulties in the way of forming such a council are many and are due to the following facts :—

1. The number of native tribes.
2. The number of native languages.
3. The number of churches of different denominations working amongst the natives.

A council representing all these interests proportionately will be unwieldy. Moreover the native is accustomed to be ruled by a headman. He understands auto-cruacy. He does not understand why he should subject his will to that of an equal merely because that equal happens to have the majority on his side. Rule by majority is something he has to be educated up to. He is not yet ready for it.

In the meantime the natives convey their wishes to the Department through their missionaries and the Department consults the Missionaries concerned before deciding important points. The relationship prevailing between the Department and the various missions is one of co-operation and mutual trust. A vacation course for native teachers has just been completed. The course lasted 6 weeks and was attended by 25 teachers. The Superintendent in his report states :

“ The Education Department will be pleased to learn that, in the present time of unrest and rumours of unrest among the native tribes, it possesses the full confidence and loyalty of its native teachers. ”

Hygiene in Native Schools.

Instruction in Hygiene in Native Schools is at present confined to the insistence on bodily cleanliness and healthy condition in and about the school.

The following regulations placed on the statute books in the course of the year 1924 will indicate what the Administration is doing in this matter :—

Regulation : The cost of charges for water and sanitation in respect of mission schools established and maintained with the approval of the Director shall be defrayed by the Administration.

VIII. — DEEDS REGISTRATION.

§ 177. The attached comparative statement' shows the work accomplished in the Deeds Office and the revenue collected in connection therewith during the years 1923 and 1924.

The figures indicate a further decline in the total number of Deeds of all kinds which passed through the Deeds Office during the year in comparison with the previous year. The decline in the number of Transfer Deeds passed and registered is very slight considering the severe slump in the Land and Money markets for the past two years.

The statement also shows a considerable drop in the value of property transferred in comparison with the previous year, the decrease being over £66,000.

§ 178. The scarcity of unencumbered land for security of loans accounts for the decrease in Bonds, and it may be also due to the tightness of the money market. The number of Bonds passed in 1923 was 383 as against 288 in 1924. The total value of Bonds passed during the year 1923 was £699,339 16s. 2d. as against £611,693 10s. 9d. during 1924. Cancellations and part payments of Bonds aggregate £222,530 0s. 3d. and 2,944,259.46 Marks in 1923 and £165,403 7s. 9d. and 2,695,699.14 Marks in 1924. In the result these figures (taking the mark at the value of a shilling) show an increased indebtedness of approximately £311,505 6s. The total existing debt (registered and uncanceled) as recorded in the debt registers in this office is approximately £4,546,653 1s. 9d. and 15,493,455.83 Marks.

§ 179. During 1924, 11 Companies (including four Foreign Companies) were registered with a total nominal capital of approximately £2,000,000 as compared with 12 Companies (including seven Foreign Companies) with a total nominal capital of £1,133,210 for the year 1923.

¹ See following page.

Description.									VALUES.							
	No. of Deeds.		Transfer Duty.		Stamp Duty (Act 1911).		Fees.		Farms.		Erven.		Total 1923.	Total 1924.		
	1923	1924	1923	1924	1923	1924	1923	1924	1923	1924	1923	1924				
Ante-nuptial Contracts.. .. .	78	83	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Marks.	£ s. d.	Marks.
Bonds :																
Special registered	261	219	—	—	854 15 0	546 5 0	195 15 0	164 5 0	—	—	—	—	510,071 7 6	—	293,999 8 3	—
Land Bank registered	78	36	—	—	117 14 0	59 5 0	58 10 0	27 0 0	—	—	—	—	90,420 0 0	—	39,000 0 0	—
Notarial registered	44	33	—	—	180 6 6	113 13 6	22 0 0	17 0 0	—	—	—	—	98,848 8 8	—	278,694 2 6	—
Ceded	150	134	—	—	212 19 0	160 6 0	37 10 0	33 10 0	—	—	—	—	142,628 16 8	1,053,391.27	131,021 2 7	615,763.95
Substituted Debtors	30	26	—	—	—	—	15 0 0	13 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Properties released	12	18	—	—	—	—	3 0 0	4 10 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancellations and Part Payments	351	278	—	—	—	—	87 15 0	69 10 0	—	—	—	—	222,530 0 3	2,944,259.46	165,403 7 9	2,695,699.16
Transfers : Registered	383	377	8,724 12 8	7,817 10 0	1,175 2 6	962 4 6	288 15 0	281 3 0	289,601 11 1	230,652 19 1	197,725 6 9	190,303 19 0	487,326 17 10	—	420,956 18 1	—
Certificates—																
of Substituted Title	95	44	—	—	—	—	71 9 0	34 5 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
of Registered Title	69	39	683 15 5	277 6 2	—	—	53 5 0	29 13 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
of Township Title	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
of Partition Title	2	2	—	—	—	—	1 12 0	1 10 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
of Consolidated Title	8	9	—	—	—	—	6 0 0	6 15 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deeds of Grant	17	19	70 7 2	89 14 7	—	—	4 5 0	4 15 0	2,742 3 8	4,246 5 10	144 0 6	95 17 9	2,886 4 2	—	4,342 3 7	—
Deeds of Donation	1	4	—	—	—	—	0 10 0	2 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mining Claims :																
Converted	185	9	—	—	—	—	56 5 7	447 13 4	—	—	—	—	58,239 1 0	—	562,576 5 0	—
Ceded	9	10	—	—	—	—	1,624 14 6	31 13 7	—	—	—	—	997,199 5 0	—	8,985 0 0	—
Powers of Attorney :																
General	117	100	—	—	29 5 0	25 0 0	14 12 6	12 10 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Special	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Substitution	74	12	—	—	3 14 0	0 12 0	2 12 6	0 12 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Servitudes	13	10	—	—	—	—	6 10 0	5 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Settlers' Leases	149	259	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fencing Advances	—	46	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Patents	—	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade Marks	—	230	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Revocation of Patents	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assignment of Trade Marks	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous :																
Amendments	76	46	—	—	—	—	19 0 0	11 10 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Certificates	19	10	—	—	—	—	2 7 6	1 5 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Copies of Lost Bonds	2	1	—	—	—	—	15 0	0 5 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Copies of Documents	169	188	—	—	—	—	4 10 6	58 4 6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Information, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	23 9 6	23 3 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Penalties	—	—	—	—	—	—	18 2 0	4 19 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Waivers	17	15	—	—	—	—	4 5 0	3 15 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Substituted Bonds	22	10	—	—	—	—	2 15 0	1 5 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	31 9 0	12 13 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Supporting documents	—	—	—	—	—	—	102 5 6	83 16 6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous Companies Registrations :	—	—	—	—	—	—	36 13 6	31 5 6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cession of Leases	15	14	—	—	—	—	7 10 0	7 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Existing and Foreign Companies	14	11	—	—	—	—	14 0 0	11 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2,460	2,325	£9,478 15 3	£8,184 10 9	£2,651 16 0	£1,950 6 0	£2,906 3 7	£2,037 11 11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

§ 180. A Patents, Designs, Trade Marks and Copyright Proclamation came into force on the 1st January, 1924. With a view to the possibility that in the future the Union Patents Act may be applied to this Territory as if it were a Province of the Union of South Africa, it was decided with the concurrence of the Union Minister of Justice to prepare a Proclamation to cover a transitional period only and all that was needed for present requirements was a simple system of registration and protection and one which can be administered in an inexpensive and convenient manner. The Proclamation is a modified form of the Patents Law at present in force in the Union of South Africa.

§ 181. Before this Proclamation came into force there was no law or system of registration in South-West Africa, giving protection to owners or legal possessors of inventions, Trade Marks and Copyrights. Under the German regime, however, all Patents, Trade Marks, etc., registered in Germany were protected in the German Empire and its colonies at the same time. This created a serious stumbling block to the issue of a Patents Proclamation in the Territory in view of the Peace Treaty of Versailles (Article 311) which provided protection for Patents, etc., registered in Germany, and it was thought advisable by the Minister of Justice to postpone its promulgation.

§ 182. The obstacle has in a way been overcome by the introduction of Clause 22 in the Proclamation which provides that “ any person who is entitled to any rights of the nature contemplated by Article 311 of the Treaty of Peace signed at Versailles on the 28th June, 1919, may, upon the proof of his title, and *without payment of any fees*, obtain registration of his Patent, Design, Trade Mark or Copyright as the case may be under this Proclamation.”

§ 183. A number of applications for Patents, etc., was also lodged with the Administration pending the promulgation of a Patent Law and the Administrator was asked to issue a special Proclamation authorising the Registrar of Deeds to grant priority in date and number to these applications. After careful consideration the request was refused on the ground that a substantial benefit would be conferred upon such persons who lodged applications prior to the taking effect of the Law over those who abstained from so doing by reason of the fact that no legislation existed on the subject and being unaware that any advantage would result by this procedure. All Patents, Trade Marks, etc., lodged with the Administration before the Proclamation came into force have now been registered upon fresh applications under the Proclamation without apparently any hardship to the applicant.

§ 184. The Union Patent Rules, Regulations, Forms, Fees, etc., have been adopted as far as applicable and are in force in the Territory.

§ 185. During 1924, 230 Trade Marks were registered and 31 Letters Patents issued.

IX. — LAND SETTLEMENT.

§ 186. The following table shows the progress of Land Settlement in South-West Africa since the year 1920 :—

Year.	No. of Holdings.	No. of Settlers.	Area in Hectares.	Valuation.
1920	169	203	1,595,872	£144,364
1921	245	311	2,125,154	£173,139
1922	169	216	1,163,600	£125,451
1923	79	101	765,461	£57,916
1924	123	157	1,047,322	£78,949
	785	988	6,697,409	£579,029

1 Hectare = 1 1-10th Cape Morgen.

Comparing the figures of 1924 with those of the previous year, the progress can be regarded as satisfactory. The fact should also be borne in mind that in 1921, when the largest number of farms was allotted, the Government had a much larger number of good farms available for allotment than in 1924, though it must not be assumed that good farms are becoming scarce — on the contrary there are hundreds of good farms still vacant — but the Administration still adheres to its policy of not advertising and allotting farms without a permanent water supply. Experience has shown that the allotment of waterless farms is a very dangerous policy. Judging from the increasing number of enquiries received regarding land settlement, it is apparent that the public of the Union are beginning to realize the vast possibilities of South-West Africa and are anxious to acquire land in the territory.

§ 187. As a result of locust infestation and drought, the progress of settlers has been severely handicapped. A large number of boreholes gave out, and as a result settlers are now

giving the question of dam construction their serious attention. Generally speaking, settlers with dams on their holdings have not felt the effects of the drought to the same extent as those who were dependent on boreholes. Settlers can obtain advances from the Administration for the construction of dams, but although the terms of repayment of such advances are very favourable, few settlers have hitherto availed themselves of these facilities.

§ 188. It is pleasing to note that in the southern districts a large number of settlers have started farming with Merino sheep. The results have been most gratifying and this class of farming has undoubtedly come to stay. The number of merinos available for breeding purposes is, however, small, and importations from the Union are being undertaken on a large scale.

§ 189. Fencing is being undertaken by a large number of settlers, the Land Bank offering loans on very favourable terms. The ultimate benefits to be derived from fenced farms in the Territory can scarcely be exaggerated.

SURRENDERS AND CANCELLATIONS OF ALLOTMENTS UNDER THE LAND SETTLEMENT PROCLAMATION, 1920.

§ 190. There is a very considerable decrease in the number of surrenders of allotments, a fact which tends to show that settlers are gradually becoming established. It has, however, been necessary to cancel a number of allotments due to the fact that conditions of lease have not been complied with. The Administration spends vast sums of money on land settlement and in fairness to the tax-payers it must see that the conditions of land settlement are fulfilled. Forty-one allotments were either cancelled or surrendered.

NUMBER OF FARMS GAZETTED UNDER THE LAND SETTLEMENT PROCLAMATION, 1920.

§ 191. The number of farms gazetted as available for allotment during the year is 177 as against 127 in the previous year. It is hoped to gazette a further 200 during 1925.

OPERATIONS UNDER THE CROWN LAND DISPOSAL PROCLAMATION, 1920.

(1) *Sales and Allotment of Farm Lands.*

§ 192. The following table reflects the position since 1921 :—

Year.	No. of holdings.	No. of allottees.	Area in Hectares.	Valuation.
1921	33	36	209,096	£19,685
1922	8	9	65,903	6,014
1923	16	18	78,723	6,944
1924	73	84	573,448	39,264
	130	147	927,170	£71,907

The increase in the number of allotments during 1924 is due to the fact that a large number of farms have proved too small for the requirements of farmers and additional land was therefore allotted. It may be argued that a farmer who already owns a certain amount of land should not be allowed to acquire land from the Government. Experience, however, has shown that it is sound policy to enable the established farmer to extend his operations and thereby become a greater asset to the State.

(2) *Sales of Township Erven.*

§ 193. One hundred and forty-six township erven were sold, the amount realised being £3,811. The increase is due to extensive sales in the Walvis Bay Township.

(3) *Government Grants.*

§ 194. Nineteen Government grants were issued during 1924, involving an area of 69,800 hectares.

CANCELLATION OF TITLE.

§ 195. Seven titles to properties were cancelled, the owners thereof having failed to comply with the conditions under which they were acquired from the late German Government.

LAND BOARD.

§ 196. The Land Board met on 81 days during 1924 and dealt with 1,565 matters submitted to it.

FINANCIAL.

§ 197. Three hundred and fifty-one applications for monetary assistance were received from settlers during the year, representing an amount of £82,939. Advances granted under Section 17 of the Land Settlement Act amounted to £21,128, and advances under Section 44 of the Act to £34,941. Applications for advances amounting to £26,870 were refused. Advances granted under the Crown Land Disposal Proclamation amounted to £1,845.

REVENUE.

§ 198. Collections during the year were as follows :—

Land Sales	£12,005
Interest	1,740
Lease Rents	3,439
Advances Recovered	3,893
Total	<u>£21,077</u>

REMISSION OF RENT.

§ 199. The amount of rent remitted under the provisions of Proclamation No. 197 of 1921 (Union) is £1,918.

X. — LAND SURVEY.

DIAGRAMS FOR REGISTRATION.

§ 200. During the early part of the year the demand for diagrams decreased, but later on there was a considerable increase bringing the total number of sets up to practically the same as the preceding year, but the actual number of drawing items exceeded that of 1923. There has also been a marked increase in the demand by Government offices for plans, diagrams, maps, blue-prints, etc.

REVENUE.

§ 201. The revenue shows a considerable decrease in comparison with 1923, but this is due to :—

- (a) All survey fees in connection with Government Surveys being now collected by Lands Branch, whereas for the previous year some of these fees were still collected by the Surveyor-General's Office.
- (b) The demand for diagrams by the public embraced few properties on which the survey fees still had to be paid.
- (c) Diagrams were required more for urban than rural properties, the cost of the former being considerably less than that of the latter.

	1924	1923	Increase.	Decrease.
Survey and calculation fees	226	464	—	238
Stamp Fees	427	892	—	465
	<u>£653</u>	<u>£1,356</u>	—	<u>£703</u>

TOWNSHIPS BOARD.

§ 202. During the year under review the Board held three meetings. Various inspections in connection with the layout of townships and townlands were made. The townships chiefly affected were Tsumeb, Aus and Gobabis.

ADMISSIONS OF LAND SURVEYORS.

§ 203. There were no admissions during the year under review.

XI. — BORING OPERATIONS.

BORING ON OCCUPIED AND UNOCCUPIED GOVERNMENT FARMS.

§ 204. It is very gratifying to report that the general progress has been satisfactory although difficulties of many kinds had to be faced and overcome. The chief of these was the exceptional drought experienced in 1924 which caused scarcity of water and grazing and some loss of animals, increased transport difficulties considerably hampered operations, and entailed extra expense in providing fodder for animals in order that operations might be continued with the minimum of interruptions.

§ 205. The following comparative statement of the boring operations on Crown Lands (*i.e.*, for settlement purposes) during 1923 and 1924 shows that substantial progress was made notwithstanding :—

	1923	1924
Number of boreholes completed	118	190
Number of boreholes in progress	42	42
Aggregate depth in feet	43,780	56,277
Aggregate yield in gallons per diem	2,042,180	3,355,430
Average depth of boreholes in feet	313	278
Average yield of boreholes in gallons per day	14,590	17,850
Approximate cost per foot	22/6	19/9
Number of machines employed	33	37 1/2

Details of artesian boreholes have been shown under a separate heading in order to reflect the true position.

It is estimated on a conservative basis that 660,000 hectares of prairie land were opened up for settlement during the year under review.

BORING CHARGES.

§ 206. It may here be stated that in August last a change was made in the tariff of charges for boring for settlers.

Formerly a daily charge was made, but it was found that this operated very hardly in some cases depending of course upon the character of the ground. Where the rock is hard or badly broken progress is necessarily very slow, and under the old system the unfortunate settler would have to pay heavily in many cases for an unsatisfactory yield of water. On the other hand, a borehole drilled under favourable conditions might be completed in a few days and give a magnificent water supply.

It was felt that everything considered it would be fairer to distribute the burden, and payment on a footage basis was therefore introduced, a rebate being granted in the case of partially successful boreholes.

BORING FOR FARMERS AND RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION.

§ 207. A number of boreholes were sunk during the year for private farmers in various parts of the country. Considerable boring for the Railway Administration was done.

The following comparative table reflects the work carried out during 1923 and the year under review :—

	1923	1924
Number of boreholes completed	12	17
Number of boreholes in progress	2	3
Aggregate footage drilled	2,427	3,677
Aggregate estimated yield in gallons per diem	297,260	160,955
Average depth per borehole in feet	202	240
Average yield per borehole in gallons	24,770	10,730
Number of machines employed during the year	2 1/2	3 1/2
Approximate cost of boring per ft.	13/6	11/6

It will be observed that although a greater footage was drilled the results obtained were not nearly so high. This was due to the number of unsuccessful holes drilled for the Railway Department in the Warmbad District, which from a boring point of view, is unsatisfactory.

BORING FOR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

§ 208. Boring under this sub-head was chiefly confined to Native Reserves, Schools and the Neudam Experimental Farm. No extraordinary difficulties were encountered. The following statement reflects the position under this sub-head :—

	1923	1924
Number of boreholes completed	32	26
Number of boreholes in progress	5	3
Aggregate footage drilled	5,381	5,143
Estimated yield per diem in gallons	256,040	271,060
Average depth per borehole in ft.	168	190
Average yield per borehole in gallons	8,000	10,420
Number of machines employed	3 3/12ths	3 1/2
Cost per foot	25/-	17/6

Here while the footage drilled was less the cost was substantially reduced as compared with 1923, and the results obtained were very satisfactory.

Good supplies of water have been found at the Kub and Stampriet schools and Hostels. Unfortunately the results obtained in the Okambahe and Epukiro native reserves have been very disappointing. An additional drill has been sent to the latter to expedite the operations, and is drilling in a different part of the reserve where the indications are promising.

BORING FOR LESSEES OF GOVERNMENT FARMS.

§ 209. The operations in progress for the South-West African Gold Storage Company were brought to a conclusion during the year, eight boreholes yielding adequate supplies having been sunk.

The work performed and the results obtained under this sub-head are shown in the appended schedule :—

	1923	1924
Number of boreholes completed	5	5
Number of boreholes in progress	2	Nil
Average footage drilled	2,391	1,870
Estimated yield in gallons per diem	246,000	108,000
Average depth per borehole in feet	398	374
Average yield in gallons per diem	41,000	21,600
Number of machines employed	1	1 1-12th

The decrease in the yield per borehole is due to :—

- (1) One borehole having to be abandoned.
- (2) Smaller yields generally being obtained.

ARTESIAN BOREHOLES.

§ 210. During 1924 eight artesian boreholes have been completed under the following sub-heads :—

(a) For Lessees	1
(b) For Government Departments	1
(c) For Crown Lands	6

Boring for artesian water in the lower Nossob was very satisfactory. During the year five boreholes were completed and gave yields ranging from 50,000 to 109,000 gallons per diem of flowing water. A very fine water supply was found on the farm Eerstebegin in the Dune country — the yield is estimated to be at least 300,000 gallons of flowing water per diem.

The following statement gives details of the artesian boreholes drilled during 1924 :—

No. of boreholes drilled.	Aggregate footage drilled.	Estimated yield per diem.	Dept to which service is rendered.
1	346	732,000	Lessee. Govt. Dept. Crown Lands.
1	245	400,000	
6	3,109	937,000	
8	3,700 ft.	2,069,000 glns.	

§ 211. A monthly reading of pressure and gauging of artesian boreholes had been taken from October, 1923, to August, 1924, and the following represents the valuable information obtained :—

Number of boreholes gauged and pressure tested	20
Minimum pressure observed on lowest yielding boreholes in pounds per square inch	22 lbs.
Maximum pressure observed in lowest yielding boreholes in pounds per square inch	26 lbs.
Minimum flow observed on smallest yielding borehole in gallons per diem ..	30,000
Maximum flow observed on smallest yielding borehole in gallons per diem ..	30,000
Minimum pressure observed in highest yielding borehole in pounds per sq. inch ..	25 lbs.
Maximum pressure observed in highest yielding borehole in pounds per sq. inch ..	30 lbs.
Difference between minimum and maximum pressure observed in highest yielding boreholes in pounds per sq. inch	5 lbs.
Minimum flow observed in highest yielding borehole in gallons per diem ..	689,000
Maximum flow observed in highest yielding borehole in gallons per diem ..	689,000

Although the pressure varies very considerably, it will be observed that the flow remains constant.

TOTAL COMPARATIVE SCHEDULE OF BORING.

§ 212. The subjoined schedule shows the combined operations carried out during 1923 and 1924 :—

	1923	1924
Number of boreholes completed	167	246
Number of boreholes in progress	51	48
Number of artesian boreholes completed	18	8
Aggregate depth drilled in feet	53,983	66,967
Aggregate yield in gallons per diem	8,962,400	5,964,445
Average depth per borehole in feet	257	262
Average yield per borehole in gallons per diem exclusive of artesian water	15,000	12,200
Number of machines employed	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$
Average footage drilled per machine	1,267	1,482

The yield from the artesian boreholes has dropped considerably owing to a large reduction in the number of completed boreholes in the Auob valley drilled during the year, a reduction of over four million gallons per diem being registered. The smaller average yield over the ordinary boreholes is caused by the poor results obtained in the Native Reserves, and also due to natural causes which vary from year to year and over which no control can be exercised. The footage drilled has increased considerably.

§ 213. APPLICATIONS FOR DRILLING MACHINES.

Applicants.	Outstanding 1.1.24.	Received during year.	Completed during year.	Outstanding 31.12.24.
Crown Lands	320	237	134	423
Farmers and Railway	5	8	10	3
Government Departments	12	3	12	3
Lessees of Govt. Farms	2	1	3	Nil.
	339	249	159	429

Of the above-mentioned applications 34 were cancelled during the year.

DRILLING PLANT AND TOOLS.

§ 214. The percussion drills continue to give good service while the cost is considered economical. No serious accidents or breakdowns to the plants were recorded.

TRANSPORT.

§ 215. Drought and locusts seriously hampered transport though no serious setback to boring operations was recorded.

LABOUR.

§ 216. Difficulty was experienced in recruiting the necessary native complement, resulting in delays, but since the visit of the Honourable the Prime Minister to South-West Africa recruits have come forward more readily.

WINDMILLS.

§ 217. The position during 1923 and 1924 is reflected in the following schedule : —

Particulars.	1923	1924
Applications received	104	104
Applications cancelled	14	10
Windmills supplied	61	74
Applications outstanding	90	95

Considerable activity was in evidence during the year in the erection of other plants besides windmills.

XII. — LAND AND AGRICULTURAL BANK.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

§ 218. The term of office of Dr. E. J. P. Jorissen and of Colonel J. A. D. Kruger expired on the 31st March, 1923, in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of the Land Bank Act. His Honour the Administrator was pleased to re-appoint them for a further term.

There were no other changes during the period under review. The Board of Management at present consists of the following gentlemen :—

- Mr. William Alexander Rennie (Accountant of the Administration, as Chairman).
- Dr. Eduard Johan Pieter Jorissen.
- Lieut.-Col. Jacobus Andries Diedrich Kruger, D.S.O.
- Capt. Thomas John Carlisle.

The Board of Management held 26 meetings during the year 1924, of an average duration of six hours each.

INSPECTION OF FARMS.

§ 219. During the year 366 farms were inspected on behalf of the Bank, chiefly in the Northern areas of this Territory. In addition to this in many instances the Magistrates and Police furnished reports on farms to the Bank which were highly appreciated.

These reports disclosed far from satisfactory conditions amongst the farming community. The prolonged drought and the destruction of grazing, wrought by innumerable swarms of locusts, have proved a severe handicap and loss to farmers. Many of the farmers have had to leave their farms because of the grazing having been destroyed, and at some expense they have had to secure grazing elsewhere. Also, owing to the paucity of the rainfall during the year the water supply on many farms was badly affected. Not infrequently has it happened that farms, where the grazing was good, had to be temporarily abandoned because the water had given out or very considerably diminished in quantity.

In the circumstances which have prevailed since June last in the northern districts, especially in Otjiwarongo and Omaruru, farmers have had to refrain from milking their cows, and consequently their incomes from cream deliveries to the Kalkfeld Creamery and from butter production on their farms have entirely ceased or have fallen off very considerably.

§ 220. The following comparative statement of the monthly butter production at the "Kalkfeld Creamery" during the first ten months of each year, gives an insight into the difficulties and loss resulting from the bad physical conditions which have afflicted the farmers in the north.

Comparative Statement of Butter Production at the Kalkfeld Creamery. 1923 and 1924.

Months.	Manufactured in		Manufactured in	
	1923	Suppliers.	1924	Suppliers.
	lbs.		lbs.	
January	1,996	17	19,508	64
February	1,650	22	23,470	75
March	8,750	28	24,460	82
April	12,078	39	27,608	88
May	13,838	51	28,056	90
June	22,232	52	15,456	82
July	21,784	54	4,116	70
August	16,016	49	6,220	53
September	12,040	50	2,670	44
October	12,488	46	2,461	29
Total	122,872		164,025	

It will be observed that in May, 1924, the high water mark in deliveries was reached when 90 farmers delivered cream and 28,056 lbs. of butter were manufactured. From June to October, when the effects of the drought and the visitation of locusts were being felt, there was a graduated falling off in the number and quantity of deliveries. The Manager of the Creamery has informed the Bank that had normal conditions prevailed he would have been able to turn out regularly 50,000 lbs. per month as from June last.

§ 221. An unsatisfactory feature of the inspection reports is the fact that in not a few instances mortgagors appear to have removed or disposed of permanent improvements affecting the water supply on their farms, such as windmills, pumping gear, engines, piping, etc. As such improvements form part of the security under the bond, the Bank had deemed it necessary to circularise its mortgagors and warn them against the dismantling and removal of such improvements. In one or two instances the threat of prosecution has resulted in the return and re-erection of the structure removed.

LAND BANK OUTSTANDINGS.

§ 222. From the financial statements (see Schedules "F" and "G" of this section of the Report) it will be observed that Past Due Interest and Overdue Instalments amount to considerable sums, viz., £9,317 17s. 6d. and £5,013 0s. 5d., respectively.

The adverse conditions described earlier in this report prevented debtors from meeting their engagements. Many who have been good payers in the past seem to have fallen in arrear during the last six months. This, however, is merely a passing phase which with the advent of good rains is bound to give place to more hopeful conditions. Meantime, however, the Board of Management has treated its debtors with the utmost leniency. Any other policy would have needlessly distressed its mortgagors without conferring any corresponding advantage on the Bank.

§ 223. Under the Mortgagors' Temporary Financial Relief Proclamation No. 36 of 1923, the Bank granted relief to its mortgagors to the following extent :—

Overdue Interest Capitalised	£3,218 2 5
Overdue Instalments Capitalised	701 17 7
	£3,920 0 0

This meant a significant reduction of the outstandings as at 31st December, 1923, but since then notwithstanding solemn warnings to the effect that the Bank would not countenance any tendency on the part of debtors to fall in arrear with current payments, outstandings have gradually mounted up.

§ 224. The following extract from the Annual Report of the Land and Agricultural Bank in the Union, expresses precisely the attitude which the Board of Management of the Bank in South-West Africa has adopted towards its debtors in the adverse circumstances which have prevailed in this country during the past three years :—

"The Board during the bad times recently prevailing has felt that it would not be carrying out the object for which the Bank was established if it were to proceed to extreme measures in every case where the debtor fell in arrear. The Bank was established to keep the farmer on the land and to help him to progress. If, when

successive bad seasons and crop failures prevent him from paying promptly the Bank were to sell him up without delay, many would be utterly ruined, who if given time would pull themselves right again, and the Bank would have failed in its principal object. If the Board is satisfied that a debtor has fallen in arrears through circumstances not due to his own neglect or carelessness, and that if given time, there is every likelihood of his being able to pay, it refrains from taking drastic action. It would be difficult to justify any other attitude, as the Bank was intended to be something more than an ordinary investing institution.

“ Admittedly it must, and does, look to the question of security, but its advances are made on a considerable safety margin — the advance is 60 per cent. of the fair agricultural and pastoral value of the land and this margin is sufficient to justify interest being allowed to accrue.

“ At the same time the Bank would not hesitate to realise the property of a debtor who is in arrear, if he abandoned that property or ceased to devote his attention to farming.”

LANDWIRTSCHAFTSBANK ASSETS.

§ 225. The statement appearing hereunder discloses the present book value of these assets. During the past year the Bank collected £12,635 4s. 8d. In terms of section 6 (2) of Proclamation No. 10 of 1922, £10,715 4s. 11d. of the amount collected was appropriated to the Capital Account of the Bank.

	Value at 31.12.23	Value at 31.12.24.
1. Mortgage Bonds	£133,154 5 5	£99,393 18 10
2. Past due Interest	16,055 15 0	4,483 7 7
3. Book value of properties bought in	Nil.	28,940 8 3
4. Overdue Interest on same	Nil.	6,064 9 8
5. Bills Receivable	2,546 11 7	1,828 13 0
6. Sundry Mortgagors	2,753 17 9	2,807 6 6
7. Other Sundries	155 1 6	Nil
8. Relief Loans under Proclamation 36 of 1923	Nil	6,310 0 0
		<hr/>
Less Credit Balances	—	149,828 3 10
		37 15 1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£154,665 11 3	£149,790 8 9
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Remarks appearing under the heading “ Outstandings ” are equally applicable to the outstandings in respect of “ Past Due Interest ” shown in the above account.

§ 226. It may be observed that in connection with these Landwirtschaftsbank securities relief was granted by the Bank under the Mortgagors’ Temporary Financial Relief Proclamation of 1923 to the following extent :—

Overdue Interest Capitalised	£4,054 11 8
Overdue Instalments Capitalised	2,255 8 4
	<hr/>
Total	£6,310 0 0
	<hr/>

§ 227. The Board of Management being convinced of the worthlessness of the under-mentioned Landwirtschaftsbank securities, passed a resolution authorising the Manager to write them off as irrecoverable :—

Balance 1st Bond and Interest — F. Buchheim	£194 9 10
Promissory Note Sterling Loan (Estate M. Teinert)	74 6 6
Promissory Note Sterling Loan — P. Berges	79 0 8
Estate B. Kuch	108 5 0
1st Bond and Interest — J. Goetz	425 5 2
	<hr/>
	£881 7 2
	<hr/>

APPLICATIONS FOR ADVANCES AND BONDS ISSUED.

§ 228. Schedule “ A ” discloses the number of applications received and dealt with by the Board, the total amount granted on loan during the past twelve months, and the number and amount of bonds issued.

Schedule “ D ” shows the nationality of applicants to whom loans were granted and the respective ratios to the total number of bonds passed. A further schedule “ E ” indicates the purposes to which loans were applied.

DIPPING TANK AND FENCING ADVANCES.

§ 229. No advances for dipping tanks were granted during the year ; only two applications were made but these were subsequently withdrawn.

§ 230. In respect of Fencing applications, Schedules " B " and " B 2 " give the number received, and the number and amount granted, also in connection with the latter the distances it was proposed to fence. Up to the present the aggregate amount granted for fencing purposes is £30,659, but it will be observed that only £15,427 13s. 6d. (*vide* balance sheet) stands registered against applicants. Fencing in this country appears to be a slow process, owing chiefly to the large extent of the farms ; although five months are allowed for the erection of fencing, which is two months longer than the time allowed in the Union, very few farmers are able to complete their fences within that period. The time has invariably to be extended by from two to four months, sometimes longer, as farmers complain that their native labourers leave them in the lurch rather than face the work which fencing entails.

§ 231. The following is a full list of the districts which have been declared as obligatory areas for fencing under Proclamation No. 57 of 1921, viz., Grootfontein, Otjiwarongo, Omaruru, Okahandja, Windhoek.

In most of these districts there is great activity being evinced in connection with fencing.

CO-OPERATION.

§ 232. No progress in Agricultural Co-operation was made in South-West Africa during the past year, the two societies registered under the Co-operation Proclamation have long since ceased to function and will probably be removed from the register if they remain inactive much longer.

A Proclamation was recently promulgated in order to facilitate and accelerate the liquidation of the old German district Vereins. When all these ill-fated Vereins have been disposed of and forgotten, it might be possible to establish agricultural co-operation on a better and sounder basis. At present they form an obstacle to the organisation of more stable societies, and the Administration is considering means for facilitating the liquidation of those unfortunate societies.

SALES OF PROPERTY BONDED TO THE BANK.

§ 233. During the year under review the Bank was obliged to sell 28 farms under the powers conferred on it by section 37 of the Land Bank Act. The statement shown in Schedule " H " indicates the total number of farms which the Bank unfortunately has had to sell up to the 31st December, 1924. The reasons which prompted the Bank to foreclose and go to sale are stated.

It will be seen that in order to protect its bonds the Bank up to date has had to acquire a number of farms, the total capital of which amounts to £21,483 10s. 9d. To this extent the funds of the Bank have been locked up and rendered unproductive of interest.

§ 234. The management is doing its utmost to find buyers for the farms thrown on its hands, and has already succeeded in disposing of several of them at advantageous prices. Up to the present the Bank has experienced no loss whatsoever on the sale of these farms. During the past six months many farmers from the Union have visited South-West Africa with the object of investigating the position and making enquiries about available farms.

Several large properties have already been acquired, the buyers of which are at present taking occupation and purchasing breeding stock. There is the prospect of quite a significant number of farmers from the Union coming to South-West Africa during the next year or so, to settle down as stock and dairy farmers.

ACCOUNTS.

§ 235. Schedules " F " and " G " are statements of the financial position of the Bank as at the 31st December, 1924, the termination of its year book.

The Profit and Loss Account it will be seen shows a credit balance of £559 9s. This gain would have been much greater if so significant a part of the Bank's funds had not been rendered unproductive of interest. During the year under review the Board of Management considered it advisable to write off £1,908 from the Reserve Account in respect of a loss, which the Bank sustained through the almost complete destruction by the floods of 1923 of a property along the Swakop River, at Goanikontes, which was bonded to it.

REDUCTION OF INTEREST.

§ 236. The Administration decided to reduce interest on all bonds due to the Land Bank from 7 per cent. to 6 per cent. with effect from the 1st January, 1925.

GENERAL.

§ 237. The Board offers the following general remarks :—

“ The past year in many respects has been the most distressful year which the Bank has thus far experienced. Notwithstanding the relief accorded to the majority of its debtors under Proclamation No. 36 of 1923, in the capitalisation of arrears, many of them are again behind in their payments. The Board is, however, convinced that the misfortunes of these debtors is largely due to the adverse natural conditions, against which all their efforts have been unavailing.

“ During the first half year it verily seemed as if an improvement had set in and that the country had turned the economic corner, there was a more hopeful spirit abroad, the market for slaughter cattle showed signs of betterment, and other factors, such as the success of the trial shipment of cattle to the English markets and increased attention to dairy produce gave prospect of better times in the immediate future.

“ Since the settlement of the reparation tangle in Europe, the economic situation throughout the world has improved, and will continue to do so, unless something catastrophic occurs to bring about another disastrous set-back. The process of recovery from a depression is, however, at the best of times, very slow, and it may be many months before things better themselves.

“ In the meantime it behoves the farmers to reflect on what possibly can be done to meet the changed conditions.

“ Owing to the stabilisation of Germany's currency she is likely soon to offer a better market than heretofore for South-West African beef and other products. The English market has already been tested and its possibilities gauged.

“ Mr. Samuel Procter, who is to be commended for the public spirit exhibited by him in promoting the trial shipment of cattle to England, wrote in regard thereto :

‘ There is no doubt that the quality of our oxen is below that of any other stock coming on to the English market, and they would in consequence be first to feel any glut or serious fall in values. ’

“ This only corroborates what is already well known that the majority of our cattle are unsuitable for the overseas trade except perhaps to Southern Europe. It is, therefore, incumbent on our stock farmers to improve the quality of their herds by securing blood sires and mother stock through co-operative effort or by purchase from or through the Administration.

“ There is no shorter cut to effecting all-round improvement in the quality of livestock than through the establishment of a dairying industry. The erection of creameries, pasteurising plant, cheeseries and bacon factories at suitable centres, capable of serving a reasonable number of farmers, would go far towards aiding the farmer to supplement his income and at the same time to increase the quality, and thus the exportability and saleability of the slaughter cattle bred by him. Apart from the fact that the promotion of dairying and kindred industries would improve the quality of livestock, and add to the earning capacity of the farm, the standard of efficiency in farming operations generally would be improved. Greater attention would be devoted to increasing the grazing capacity of farms, by fencing, by bettering the water supply, by propagating grasses and edible shrubs, by collecting and storing hay and by endeavouring to raise lucerne or other crops for ensilage. It is suggested that the farmers direct their energies to the improvement of their supplies of water by making such supplies available on every part of their farms.

“ It is becoming more and more apparent that the lack of effective organisation amongst farmers themselves is a drag on their progress to-day. Some form of co-operative organisation for the collective sale of their products within South Africa and overseas is what is urgently needed ; without such organisation it is patent that the opening up, development and maintenance of regular markets are well nigh impossible. It is suggested that some form of organisation amongst farmers for collective sale of cattle should be devised by the Agricultural Division of the Administration, in order to obviate the dangers arising from unscrupulous speculation, and to ensure to the farmers the full fruits of their production.

“ The Karakul skin industry has made good headway ; an increasing number of farmers is giving attention to this branch of sheep farming. A buyers' agency has been established in Windhoek by certain dealers in Karakul pelts, operating in Leipzig. This agency is proving a great convenience to breeders here, as they are now able to obtain an advance on the skins they wish to consign to the continental markets.

“ The keeping of a small flock of Afrikaner sheep on every farm would appear to be advisable. There is invariably a ready sale for slaughter sheep at lucrative prices. Many farmers depend largely on their slaughter sheep to meet their monthly expenses, but on the other hand farmers in the north declare that it is impossible to keep sheep owing to the thieving habits of the natives.

“ There is still a world shortage of wool which from all accounts is likely to last a generation or two. The Merino sheep farmers in the southern districts have done

well with their clips during the year under review. Flocks have increased to a significant extent, more farms for wool production have been taken up and the demand for breeding sheep is a large one, so that to-day it is impossible to acquire breeding ewes at less than about 40s. each.

“ There is plenty of land in the Otjiwarongo district, in that part called the Zandfeld, where the Board is of opinion that woolled sheep should do excellently. Up to the present, however, none of the farmers in that area have farmed with Merinos, but the Board is endeavouring to encourage them to do so.

“ Native labour for farm purposes is still a vexed question. Farmers complain of the inefficiency, indolence and truculence of the labourers obtainable. ”

With regard to these general remarks, a reference to previous annual reports will show that for years past the Administration has been preaching the urgency of improving cattle both for export and dairy purposes and that it has been doing its utmost in various ways to bring this about, *e.g.*, by selling pure-bred stock on easy terms of payment, etc., that it has advocated the establishment of farmers' co-operative societies, indeed the Manager of the Land Bank himself was sent out to explain the principles of co-operation and to endeavour to induce farmers to take steps in this direction, but for various reasons he was quite unsuccessful and the reasons militating against success still exist, so there seems to be little prospect at the moment of doing anything in this direction, but efforts will not be relaxed and it is hoped to achieve something in the not very distant future.

The need for creameries, etc., is of course obvious and the number is rapidly increasing. Last year a large creamery was commenced by the Imperial Cold Storage at Omaruru, and a creamery and cheesery was erected at Rehoboth Station. The establishment of creameries at Grootfontein and elsewhere is under consideration.

The Agricultural Technical Adviser was specially employed to travel round the country and to endeavour to educate farmers to make the best use possible of their farms and such matters as the propagation of grasses and edible shrubs and the need for growing lucerne and collecting hay are, of course, matters falling directly within his scope, and to which he is paying attention.

Schedule “ A. ”

THE LAND AND AGRICULTURAL BANK OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

Return of applications for Ordinary Advances under Act No. 18/1912 amended and applied to South West Africa by Proclamation No. 10/1912, dealt with during the year ended 31st December, 1924.

	Applications received.			Applications withdrawn before consideration.		Applications granted.			Applications not entertained by Board.		Amount lapsed, withdrawn and refused by applicants.		Bonds passed in 1924.	
	No.	Amt. £	Aver. £	No.	Amt. £	No.	Amt. £	Aver. £	No.	Amt. £	No.	Amt. £	No.	Amt. £
Applications forward 1921 .. b'g't from	17	19,900	1,171	—	—	15	13,325	888	2	2,200	5	3,725	6	7,500
Applications forward 1922 .. b'g't from	10	11,800	1,180	—	—	10	8,400	840	—	—	1	500	6	5,750
Applications forward 1923 .. b'g't from	21	23,398	1,114	—	—	14	12,250	875	7	8,998	2	650	11	8,700
Applications received during 1924	59	75,148	1,274	1	400	41	50,290	1,227	13	13,450	8	8,165	12	15,150
	107	130,246	1,217	1	400	80	84,265	1,053	22	24,648	16	13,040	35	37,100

Schedule " B. "

THE LAND AND AGRICULTURAL BANK OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

Return of Applications for Fencing Advances under Act No. 18 of 1912 as amended and applied to South West Africa by Proclamations No. 10/1922 and No. 31/1923, dealt with during the year ended 31st December, 1924.

	Applications received.			Applications withdrawn before consideration.		Applications granted.			Applications not entertained by Board.		Amount lapsed, withdrawn and refused by applicants.		Bonds passed in 1924.	
	No.	Amt. £	Aver. £	No.	Amt. £	No.	Amt. £	Aver. £	No.	Amt. £	No.	Amt. £	No.	Amt. £
Applications forward 1922 .. b'g't from ..	3	3,220	1,073	—	—	3	1,945	648	—	—	1	1,100	1	470
Applications forward 1923 .. b'g't from ..	17	8,296	488	1	150	14	5,610	401	2	535	3	1,195	11	4,415
Applications received during 1924	78	30,149	386	4	1,160	70	21,994	314	1	700	4	1,780	28	9,945
	98	41,665	425	5	1,310	87	29,549	340	3	1,235	8	4,075	40	14,830

Schedule " B 2. "

THE LAND AND AGRICULTURAL BANK OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

Statement indicating Total amount of advances for Fencing purposes granted up to 31/12/24, shewing aggregate length of fencing in kilometres and miles and also average cost per kilometre and mile.

Period.	Number of Fencing Advances.	Total Amount Granted.	Length of Fencing		Average Advance	
			in kilometres.	in miles.	a kilometre.	a mile.
1923	4	£1,110	89	56	£12	£20
1924	87	29,549	1,749	1,093	17	27
Totals	91	30,659	1,838	1,149	17	7

Schedule " C. "

THE LAND AND AGRICULTURAL BANK OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

Analysis of advances made under Act No. 18 of 1912 during the year ended 31st December, 1924.

Amount of Advance.	Number.	Total Amount.
Over £2,500	3	£8,700
Over £2,000 but not exceeding £2,500	2	4,800
Over £1,500 but not exceeding £2,000	3	5,500
Over £1,000 but not exceeding £1,500	4	5,550
Over £500 but not exceeding £1,000	13	9,350
Not exceeding £500	10	3,200
Totals	35	£37,100

STATEMENT SHEWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF LOANS ACCORDING TO NATIONALITY.
(Issued during the year ended 31st December, 1924.)

Nationality of Mortgagors.	Number of Mortgagors.	Total amount of Bonds Passed.	Ratio to total Number of Bonds Passed.	Average Amount per Bond.
		£		£
German	19	19,150	54.29	1,008
Dutch	13	12,500	37.14	962
English	2	5,200	5.71	2,600
Others	1	250	2.86	250
Totals	35	37,100	100.00	1,060

Schedule "E."

LAND AND AGRICULTURAL BANK OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA.
Purposes for which Advances were made during the year ended 31st December, 1924.

Im- provements.	To purchase Stock.	To redeem		Other Bonds.	Other debts.	Purchase Land.	Total.
		Landwirt- schafts- bank Bonds.	Land Bank Bonds.				
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
2,044	440	1,674	8,146	15,060	1,226	8,510	37,100

Schedule "F."

THE LAND AND AGRICULTURAL BANK OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA.
Statement of Liabilities and Assets for the year ended 31st December, 1924.

LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.		
<i>Capital Fund</i> Account No. 1. — Moneys received from Administration	£	s. d.	<i>Advances on Mortgage:</i> Under Act 18 of 1912	£	s. d.
<i>Capital Fund</i> Account No. 2. — Moneys received in respect of Landwirtschaftsbank securities	436,000	0 0	Plus instalments due but unpaid	405,541	8 8
<i>Administration</i> in respect of Landwirtschaftsbank unrealised assets	38,817	15 1	Financial Relief Loans. — Under Proc. 36 of 1923		
<i>Sundry Creditors:</i> Undrawn balances in re Ordinary Loans	£965	1 8	Advances for Dipping Tanks: Under Act 20 of 1911	161	10 8
Undrawn balance in re Fencing Loans	£3,041	9 6	Plus instalments due but unpaid	5	3 10
Sundries	2,677	17 1	Advances for Fencing Un- der Act 17 of 1912		
<i>Administration of S. W. Africa.</i> — Interest accrued but not yet due	6,684	8 3	Advances in Respect of Farm Properties acquired: Under Section 37 of Act No. 18 of 1912	19,623	6 9
<i>Fees and Expenses.</i> — Valuators	87	4 0	Interest in Arrear	1,860	4 0
<i>Officials Superannuation and Retirement Gratuity Fund</i>	270	1 6	Less Special Reserve to meet contingencies	841	9 9
<i>Reserve Account</i>	£1,930	8 11	<i>Sundry Debtors</i> in respect of Landwirtschaftsbank bonds, etc.		
Less Loss Brock (Goanikontes) written off during year	1,908	17 9	<i>Sundry Debtors:</i> Past due Interest	7,457	13 6
<i>Profit and Loss Account.</i> — Profit at 31/12/24	559	9 0	Other Sundries	10,098	9 4
			Interest accrued at 31/12/24 but not yet due on all loan ac- counts	7,317	11 5
			<i>Bank Premises:</i> Book value at 31/12/24	7,424	19 1
			Less Depreciation	312	16 7
			<i>Furniture and Fittings:</i> Book value at 31/12/24	684	2 5
			Less Depreciation	68	8 3
			<i>Stamps on Hand</i>		
			<i>Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd:</i> Cash on Hand		
				5,142	12 6
				£638,265	6 5
				£638,265	6 5

We hereby certify that this statement has been compiled from the books of this Bank and to the best of our knowledge and belief is correct.

(Sgd.) W. A. RENNIE.

(Sgd.) J. T. TAYLOR,

„ E. JORISSEN.

Manager.

„ J. A. KRUGER.

(Sgd.) J. G. VAN BACKSTROM.

„ THOS. J. CARLISLE.

Accountant.

Members of the Board of Management.

Windhoek, 20/2/25.

Schedule "G."

THE LAND AND AGRICULTURAL BANK OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA.
Profit and Loss at 31st December, 1924.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Interest Paid	23,519	8	6	By Interest Received	11,293	11	3
„ Administration Expenses	4,595	13	6	„ Interest Accrued	7,317	11	5
„ Depreciation	381	4	10	„ Past due Interest	9,317	17	6
				„ Fees Collected under 4th and 5th Schedules of Act No. 18 of 1912	298	7	4
				„ Commission	662	14	6
				„ Rent	72	0	0
To Balance, Gain to Reserve Fund	559	9	0	„ Farm Rents	93	13	10
	£29,055	15	10		£29,055	15	10

We hereby certify that this Statement has been compiled from the books of this Bank, and to the best of our knowledge and belief is correct.

(Sgd.) W. A. RENNIE. (Sgd.) J. T. TAYLOR,
 „ E. JORISSEN. Manager.
 „ J. A. KRUGER.
 „ T. J. CARLISLE, (Sgd.) J. G. VAN BACKSTROM,
 Members of the Board of Accountant.
 Management.

Windhoek,
20th February, 1925.

Schedule "H."

THE LAND AND AGRICULTURAL BANK OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA.
Statement of Farm Properties sold under Section 37 of the Land Bank Act.

	No.	Amount.
In respect of Landwirtschaftsbank bonds	14	£22,634 2 8
In respect of Land and Agricultural Bank bonds	14	21,594 4 10
	28	£44,228 7 6
1. Instances in which Insolvencies and Assignments occurred ..	7	11,325 17 9
2. Instances in which debtors requested the Bank to attach and sell	3	2,252 6 7
3. Instances in which debtors were being sold up by other creditors	3	7,397 8 5
4. Instances in which debtors' farms were sold because they were abandoned	14	19,954 9 3
5. Instances in which debtors were incorrigibly in arrear with interest and other payments	1	3,298 5 6
	28	£44,228 7 6

XIII. — MINES.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY.

§ 238. During the year 1924 no fresh legislation has been brought into force dealing with mining matters.

PROSPECTING.

§ 239. There has been an increase in the number of prospecting licences issued during the year, but fewer claims have been registered.

The rise in the price of tin combined with the lead given by the South-West African Mines, Ltd., has led to considerable pegging around the Erongo Mountains in the Omaruru and Karibib districts.

Towards the latter part of the year attention was attracted to the Gold deposits in the Ondundu Otjiwapa area, and an occurrence of Graphite was pegged over a large area in the Otjiwarongo district. Semi-precious stones are again attracting attention and claims have been

registered in the Swakopmund, Karibib and Omaruru districts by persons connected with the cutting industry in Germany who are now in this country. Coal and Oil having been reported in the Gibeon and Keetmanshoop districts, a detail geological survey has been taken in hand and it is hoped that negotiations which are now proceeding will lead to the start of prospecting of this area by means of boring during the course of the year 1925.

While one regrets that nothing of commercial importance has, as far as one is aware, been located during the year, a lot of useful work has been done and a continuance of the present activity may, one feels, at any time be rewarded with success.

MINING.

§ 240. The improvement shown in 1923 has been well maintained throughout the year and the larger scale of operations started in the previous year on the field in the area South of Luderitz was maintained as far as labour conditions would allow. There has been an increase of activity in the North on the Copper-Lead-Zinc and Vanadium deposits. Tsumeb mine has not only increased the tonnage of ore mined, but has pushed ahead development with quite satisfactory results and has put into commission a new shaft and some new plant. Tin mining has been somewhat disappointing in spite of the good prices ruling. It is to be hoped, however, that with the start with the first plant of any size confidence in the possibilities of Tin mining in this country may be established and more capital become available for the proper exploitation of some of the promising propositions in the widely spread Tin belt.

The mining outlook for the coming year is, on the whole, encouraging and we may reasonably expect that the improvement shown in the past two years will not only be maintained, but even surpassed.

PRODUCTION.

§ 241. 1. *Production and value of Diamonds.* 1909 to 1924.

Year.	Diamonds won. Carats.	Number of Diamonds per Carat.	Diamonds Sold. Carats.	Price per Carat.	Total Value.
				Sh.	£
1909-10	560,977	5.0	560,977	29.83	836,000
1910-11	798,865	5.75	798,865	26.775	1,069,000
1911-12	816,296	6.5	816,296	25.602	1,045,000
1912-13	959,965	6.09	902,157	29.36	1,324,500
1913-14	1,570,000	4.97	1,284,727	42.01	2,698,500
1914, April to end July	438,980	—	438,980		
1914, August to British Occupation.	—	—	57,808 (unsold in 1912-13) 285,873 (unsold in (1913-14)	40.0	1,565,322 (estimated).
	74,078.	(Seitz Diamonds).	74,078	112.06	415,074
1915, October to end year (Pomona only)	13,409	3.59	13,409	50.7	34,033
1916	144,920	5.02	144,920	45.3	328,224
1917	364,761	5.56	364,761	45.9	834,314
1918	372,139	6.02	372,139	57.0	1,060,087
1919	462,180	5.33	462,180	95.39	2,204,326
1920	606,424	5.173	230,751	138.66	1,599,849
1921	171,321	6.8	121,557	81.034	492,513
1922	144,156	7.56	297,600	53.17	791,211
1923	433,229	6.5	495,675	66.8	1,656,700
1924	492,696	7.1	449,846	54.43	1,224,441

2. *Exports of Copper, Lead and Crude Copper — Lead Ore, 1907 to 1924.*

Year.	Quantity. Long Tons.	Value.
		£
1907-8	18,500	—
1908-9	33,850	—
1909-10	39,172	—
1910-11	35,860	284,860
1911-12	31,506	187,685
1912-13	45,555	326,170
1913-14	51,249	396,435
1916	11,970	242,436
1917	4,877	127,844
1918	7,569	142,794
1919	6,606	125,088
1920	30,591	186,270
1921	44,255	300,254
1922	39,826	427,823
1923	43,317	446,210
1924	50,495	571,152

3. *Exports of Tin Ore : 1915 to 1924.*

Year	Quantity. Long Tons.	Value.
		£
1915	75.7	685
1916	28.0	3,333
1917	94.3	12,518
1918	74.2	11,872
1919	113.3	20,370
1920	166.0	33,200
1921	104.4	10,950
1922	259.7	28,860
1923	233.3	34,995
1924	209.3	31,399

4. *Exports of Vanadium Ore : 1920 to 1924.*

Year.	Quantity. Long Tons.	Value.
		£
1920	277.6	13,880
1921	387.1	19,055
1922	711.03	35,551
1923	1,166.8	59,217
1924	1,604.5	83,433

5. *Salt.* — 397.5 long tons of Salt were extracted from deposits near Swakopmund. This was disposed of locally.

6. *Iron.* — The Otavi Mines and Railway Company produced 6,431,712 long tons of iron ore from their mine at Kalkfontein. The ore was railed to Tsumeb to be used as flux for smelting.

7. *Gold.* — 147,166 oz. of alluvial Gold were extracted by a Mr. Kerkhof from his claims near Ondundu Otjiwapa, District Omaruru. The gold was sold to the Standard Bank, Omaruru.

8. *Number of Persons, European and Native, employed in each class of Mining Averages, 1924 :—*

	White.	Coloured.	Total.
Diamonds	419	5,885	6,304
Copper	224	1,687	1,911
Tin	25	545	570
Vanadium	28	547	575
Miscellaneous	6	76	82
	—	—	—
	702	8,740	9,442
	—	—	—

9. Revenue from Minerals (1924) :—

	£	s.	d.
Diamonds Tax (provisional)	119,749	0	0
Prospecting Fees	2,958	11	6
Prospecting Licences	141	12	6
Claim Taxes	4,016	8	3
Output Royalties	22,554	1	8
Sundry Deposits	181	2	0
Stamps Cancelled	437	11	0
Total	£150,038	6	11

§ 242. Compared with 1923 the output of diamonds shows an increase of 12 per cent. and this figure would have been considerably exceeded had the labour supply been maintained. The export of copper and lead and crude Copper-Lead ore shows an increase, both in tonnage and in value, over any of the previous eight years and the tonnage falls not far short of the record established in 1913-14, the amount realised being considerably in excess of the figure for that year. The addition of new plant and increased price of Lead should lead to a further increase in the coming year. The further decrease in tin is due to transport difficulties and cessation of production in certain areas pending erection of plant. The production of vanadium during the year continues to be satisfactory, showing an increase, both in tonnage and in value, over the previous year.

§ 243. It will be noted that this year for the first time Gold figures in the mineral output. The small amount produced is the result of four months working on alluvial by one man. During the coming year an appreciable increase should be shown.

LABOUR.

§ 244. An average of 702 whites and 8,740 natives were employed on mining and prospecting during the year, as compared with 531 whites and 6,111 natives during 1923.

In spite of recruiting of native labour from Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Namaqualand and the Transkei, there was during the closing months of the year a serious shortage of labour on the diamond mines. The attempt to stimulate recruiting in Ovamboland has not up to the present been successful and the higher standard of physical fitness required for the diamond mines has tended to increase the labour shortage. Diamond mines will have to rely very largely on Union labour in the future, and arrangements have been made for the current year to obviate a recurrence of a labour shortage such as occurred during 1924 which is so disastrous to the economic and efficient running of any mining concern.

DIAMOND DETECTIVE DEPARTMENT.

§ 245. At the commencement of the year a Diamond Detective Department was established at Luderitz by the Diamond Board of South-West Africa, the cost being borne by the Board.

The Department is under the control of an officer with long experience in diamond detective work in the Union. Prior to its establishment there was no effective control over illicit diamond traffic which must have been carried on to a very large extent. The Department, however, appears to have done excellent work. Several important arrests were made during the year, convictions were secured and it is thought these have had the effect of checking illicit traffic very materially.

XIV. — POLICE.

§ 246. The actual strength of the Force on the 31st December, 1924, was :—

Divisional Inspector	1
Sub-Inspectors	3
Head Constables	5
Armour Staff Sergeant	1
Sergeants	47
Constables	212
Nativa N.C.O.'s and Men	219
	488

The Criminal Investigation Department on the same date consisted of :—

Inspectors	2
Detective Head Constables	2
Sergeants	5
Constables	3
Native N.C.O.'s and Men	15
	<hr/>
	27
	<hr/>

Total Europeans, 281 ; Natives, 234.

The total authorised strength of the Police (including the Criminal Investigation Department) was 285 Europeans and 239 Natives.

EFFICIENCY.

§ 247. During the year promotion examinations were held and the excellent results proved conclusively that the standard of efficiency had improved considerably. The candidates were subject to a written test in the following subjects :—

- S.A. Criminal Law and Procedure.
- Laws of South-West Africa.
- Charge of Office Routine.
- Police Duties.
- Care of Arms and Musketry.
- Drill.
- Police Proclamation and Regulations.
- Standing Orders of the Force.
- Horsemanship.

Interest in the Civil Service Lower Law Examination continues unabated, and a further number of candidates offered themselves for examination during the year, the majority of whom succeeded in obtaining a pass.

CONDUCT OF THE FORCE.

§ 248. The improvement recorded last year has continued throughout 1924, and generally the position of affairs may be regarded as highly satisfactory. Acts of insubordination and breaches of discipline are matters of rare occurrence.

CRIME.

§ 249. The position generally in the Territory has undergone no material change as compared with the previous year. There has been an increase of 15.8 per cent. in the number of cases reported.

The following indicates generally the position during 1924 :—

(1) Cases reported to the Police	6,143
(2) Cases sent for trial	4,556
(3) Cases not completed	689
(4) Cases closed for want of sufficient evidence	111
(5) Cases found false on enquiry	408
(6) Cases withdrawn before arrest by Police	152
(7) Cases withdrawn by complainant	341
(8) Persons convicted :	
European Males	557
European Females	17
Native and Coloured Males	3,516
Native and Coloured Females	179

	Cases sent for trial.	Persons sent for trial.	Persons convicted.
1924	4,556	5,380	4,269
1923	3,935	4,687	3,735
Increase	621	693	534

ILLICIT LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

§ 250. During 1924 the following cases were disposed of :—

Europeans selling to Natives	22
Natives selling to Natives	1
Possession of Kaffir beer, Native Males	267
Possession of Kaffir beer, Native Females	Nil
Possession of other liquors, Native Males	33
Possession of other liquors, Native Females	Nil

Careful observation of the position fails to reveal the fact that organised illicit traffic is conducted. The convictions reflected in the foregoing represents isolated cases, the facts in connection with which do not indicate that the persons concerned are resorting to practices of this nature as a sole means of livelihood.

Generally the licensed houses are properly conducted and there is no reason to believe that other than legitimate business is undertaken.

At the close of the year the following licences were current :—

Hotels	71
Bottle Stores	31
Wholesale	14
Club	9
Railway Refreshment Rooms	2
Distillers	3
Brewers	1

STOCK THEFT.

§ 251. During the year the undermentioned stock was reported lost and subsequently recovered :—

	Lost.	Recovered.
Horses	258	126
Mules	24	15
Donkeys	311	80
Cattle	4,173	1,385
Sheep	2,983	448
Goats	863	246
Camels	7	2

The foregoing particulars do not in any way reflect the true position in regard to the recovery of stock. It has become the practice to report strayed stock as stolen and only in rare instances is subsequent recovery advised.

SUPPLIES.

§ 252. The system of control continued to be satisfactory, and a saving of approximately £2,700 on issues to Police animals during the year under review has been effected.

The amount referred to is made up as follows :—

	Entitled to.	Value.	Actual Issues.	Value.
Grain	914,690 lbs.	£5,260	763,777 lbs.	£4,390
Lucerne	914,690 lbs.	3,670	507,598 lbs.	2,030
Grass	174,425 lbs.	480	105,355 lbs.	290
		£9,410		£6,710

The position is regarded as satisfactory particularly in view of the fact that a dry season was experienced with its attendant scarcity of grazing.

The total value of fodder issues to other Government Departments during 1924 was £2,717 7s. 1d.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT.

§ 253. The arrangements under which clothing requirements are drawn from the South African Police are proving satisfactory, and, where items are not forthcoming from this source, supplies are obtained from the Union Defence Forces.

ANIMALS.

§ 254. The mortality figures during 1924 were not as high as compared with 1923. Horse-sickness still remains the principal contributing cause to the animal losses sustained, but compared with the previous year this disease, owing to a diminished rainfall, was comparatively mild. 20 horses died during the year and 12 were destroyed.

More extensive use of camels is now being made for patrol purposes, and at the end of the year the number of camels totalled 99 as compared with 55 for the previous year.

Owing to the fact that in certain districts, particularly the northern portion of the territory, the camel is in his natural habitat, the cost of feeding is negligible, and notwithstanding the increased establishment the cost of feeding has undergone no material change.

XV. — POSTS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

§ 255. The progress of the Department is regarded as satisfactory. The excess of receipts over expenditure was £10,243, approximately £7,713 more than in 1923.

This refers to postal revenue only and does not include collections made on behalf of other Departments such as Customs and sales of Revenue stamps.

The surplus has not been derived from any abnormal sales on account of the overprinting of postage stamps, neither has credit been taken for the payment made on account of telegraph material drawn from the stock account which from 1st April, 1924, was converted into a Standard Stock Account. If this amount were included the above figure would be increased by £8,000.

§ 256. The following comparative statement reflects the activities of the various branches of the Department for the calendar years 1923 and 1924 :—

	1923.	1924.	Decrease.	Increase.
Postal Revenue£	28,267	22,651	5,616	—
Telegraph Revenue£	11,871	14,635	—	2,764
Telephone Revenue£	9,676	13,272	—	3,596
Miscellaneous Revenue£	1,930	8,383	—	6,453
Revenue Stamp Collections£	12,069	10,589	1,480	—
Customs Collections£	2,234	3,623	—	1,389
Expenditure£	54,274	48,698	5,576	—
Offices Open	89	93	—	4
Posting Receptacles	8	12	—	4
Mail Matter Posted	2,052,116	2,434,172	—	382,056
Mail Matter Delivered	2,980,796	3,438,864	—	458,068
Private Bags	105	158	—	53
Main Posts	6	6	—	—
Branch Posts	26	29	—	3
Cost of Inland Mails£	9,107	8,720	387	—
Cost of Ship Letter Mails£	303	57	246	—
Undelivered Articles	7,328	12,152	—	4,824
Money Orders issued	16,707	23,969	—	7,262
Amount£	109,870	149,890	—	40,020
Money Orders Paid	7,328	9,886	—	2,558
Amount£	64,784	85,264	—	20,480
Postal Orders issued	33,166	45,631	—	12,465
Amount£	18,059	23,425	—	5,366
Postal Orders Paid	13,446	17,859	—	4,413
Amount£	7,101	9,186	—	2,085
<i>Union Loan Certificates.</i>				
<i>Issues :</i>				
Sales	1,559	1,007	552	—
Units	16,102	8,565	7,537	—
Value£	12,672	6,852	5,820	—
<i>Repayments :</i>				
Units	1,653	5,468	—	3,815
Value£	1,438	4,594	—	3,156
<i>Savings Bank.</i>				
Accounts Open	1,256	2,000	—	744
Due to Depositors£	35,711	79,178	—	43,467
No. of Deposits	2,655	4,855	—	2,200
Amount£	34,339	87,278	—	52,939
No. of withdrawals	1,332	2,087	—	755
Amount£	24,337	43,810	—	19,473
<i>Telegraph Offices.</i>				
Open	74	80	—	6
<i>Inland Telegrams.</i>				
Forwarded	140,578	146,280	—	5,702
Transmitted	286,852	305,722	—	17,870
Received	124,659	121,630	3,029	—
<i>Radio Traffic.</i>				
Telegrams	2,397	8,191	—	5,794
Words	31,842	100,497	—	68,655
<i>Cables.</i>				
Number	4,216	5,545	—	1,329
Value£	4,124	5,048	—	£924
Telegraph Capital Account£	50,828	36,018	14,810	—

	1923.	1924.	Decrease.	Increase.
Telephone Capital Account .. £	8,742	61,433	—	52,691
Miles telegraph wire working ..	1,022	1,399	—	377
Miles telegraph-telephone work.	1,229	2,349	—	1,120
Miles telegraph-telephone spare	146	—	146	—
Miles rural telegraph and phones	—	595	—	595
Miles telegraph superimposed ..	1,105	1,161	—	56
Miles farm lines	—	570	—	570
Miles exchange system working	697	704	—	7
Miles exchange systems spare ..	372	332	40	—
Public Call Offices	59	78	—	19
Telephone Exchanges	32	32	—	—
<i>Exchange Lines.</i>				
Direct Subscribers	508	548	—	40
Extensions	116	146	—	30
Government connections	183	179	4	—
Government extensions	46	43	3	—
Free Services £	6,310	2,155	4,155	—
Full-time Staff	93	93	—	—
Leave to Staff—days	1,659	2,330	—	671

§ 257. The following table shows the revenue collections during the calendar years 1923 and 1924 :—

	1923.	1924.	Decrease.	Increase.
	£	£	£	£
Postal Revenue	28,267	22,651	5,616	—
Telegraph Revenue	11,871	14,635	—	2,764
Telephone Revenue	9,676	13,272	—	3,596
Miscellaneous Revenue	1,930	8,383	—	6,453
Revenue Stamp Collections	12,069	10,589	1,480	—
Customs	2,234	3,623	—	1,389

EXPENDITURE.

§ 258. This was £5,576 less than the expenditure for 1923.

A saving of £246 on Ship Letter mails was effected as compared with 1923 when the expenditure on the service was higher than usual owing to the washaways on the railway lines.

INLAND MAIL SERVICE.

§ 259. The new contracts for Inland Mail Services take effect as from the 1st April, 1925, and tenders have been invited for three years' Contracts. It is intended to increase the number of posts to parts where the growth of settlement warrants better facilities and other routes are being altered so as to serve public requirements better. An attempt is also being made to introduce Motor Transport Services wherever the circumstances necessitate faster means of locomotion. The Director of Posts strongly advocates the introduction of an aerial mail service, and states that a private company is prepared to provide a reliable service if granted a subsidy of £2,000 or £3,000 per annum, or alternatively to convey any weight of mail matter at a tariff of 2s. per kilometre. In view of the vast distances in the Territory such a scheme would naturally be of incalculable benefit to the country, but I must confess I am sceptical of its practicability. However, the aerial service introduced by the Union Government will be carefully watched and if this proves successful and economical the matter will be considered.

PRIVATE BAG SERVICES.

§ 260. Private Bags have increased by 50 per cent.

MONEY ORDERS.

§ 261. Inland Money Order Commission rates were reduced from 5/8 per cent. to 3/8 per cent. from September, 1924, resulting in an immediate increase in Money Order transactions with consequent benefit to the Post Office revenue and demonstrating how ready the public are to support the Post Office when its rates are reasonable and not in excess of the Bank charges.

A suggestion was also made to the Union Post Office that the rate of commission between the two Administrations be reduced from $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. to $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., but the proposal has thus far not been entertained. It is thought that if this were adopted the revenue of both the Union and South-West Africa would benefit.

SAVINGS BANK.

§ 262. It will be seen from the statement submitted that the Savings Bank has made exceptional progress during the year under review.

The whole of the Savings Bank operations have been doubled within the last two years and this evidence of the tendency towards thrift is very satisfactory.

POSTAL ORDERS.

§ 263. Sales on account of British Postal Orders have increased from 33,166 to 45,631, representing £23,425, and payments from 13,446 to 17,859, valued at £9,186.

UNION LOAN CERTIFICATES.

§ 264. During the year under review there has been a falling off in sales on account of Union Loan certificates, which may be attributed to the increase in the purchase price, viz., 16s. instead of 15s. 6d. per Unit, and the withdrawal of the commission hitherto paid by Treasury authority to Post Office Counter Clerks on the number of Units sold.

FREE SERVICES.

§ 265. Since the 1st April, 1924, Government Telegraph and Telephone traffic has been treated as a paid service with the result that much greater control is exercised by Heads of Branches, greater economy resulting therefrom.

TELEGRAPHS.

§ 266. During the year communication was well maintained throughout the Territory. Telegraphic traffic shows a slight increase in forwarded messages. Receipts in respect of cable traffic shows an increase of approximately £1,000 over that of the previous year, which may be attributed to the decrease in the Land charges of twopence per word on full rate traffic, which took effect from October, 1923.

TELEPHONES.

§ 267. Five new 100-line Auto clearing switchboards have been installed at Windhoek and, in addition, a 40-line Board for Trunking purposes. Farm lines have been provided throughout the Territory and further extension will be undertaken when more funds are available and closer settlement justifies the expenditure.

WIRELESS.

§ 268. The agreement arrived at towards the close of 1923 between the Union Government and this Administration defining the wireless areas of the Slangkop and Walvis Bay Radio Stations has produced satisfactory results. The range of Walvis Bay, viz., 1,500 miles by day and 3,000 miles by night, has been well maintained and proves to be of great benefit to Ship Stations. The number of messages dealt with was 8,191 with 100,497 words, valued at £2,500, as compared with 31,842 words during 1923. From a scientific standpoint the Wireless Station has also contributed its quota to the Meteorological Department of the Union in its efforts to formulate weather forecasts for the benefit of shipping.

XVI. — PRISONS.

ADMINISTRATION.

§ 269. The number of gaols in existence at the close of the year 1924 was eleven. No new gaols were established during the year under review.

PRISONERS IN CUSTODY.

§ 270. The following table shows the number of prisoners and other detained persons in custody at the various gaols on the 31st December, 1924, as compared with the number at the close of the previous year :—

Centre.	Males.		Females.		Total.	Compared with 1923.
	European.	Coloured.	European.	Coloured.		
Gibeon	—	21	—	—	21	20
Gobabis	—	10	—	—	10	4
Grootfontein	—	8	—	—	8	17
Karibib	—	11	—	—	11	11
Keetmanshoop	2	45	—	—	47	12
Luderitz	—	20	—	—	20	19
Omaruru	—	13	—	—	13	15
Outjo	—	9	—	—	9	11
Swakopmund	2	13	—	—	15	16
Warmbad	1	7	—	—	8	16
Windhoek	10	113	1	3	127	130
Totals	15	270	1	3	289	261

The total relative figure in respect of the lock-ups was 29 as compared with 15 on the 31st December, 1923. The daily average number of prisoners and other detained persons in custody at the various gaols during 1924, as compared with 1923, is shown in the following table :—

Centre.	Males.		Females.		Total.	Compared with 1923.
	European.	Coloured.	European.	Coloured.		
Gibeon .. .. .	.49	15.85	—	.03	16.37	19.66
Gobabis	—	8.14	—	.01	8.15	8.78
Grootfontein .. .. .	.19	13.40	—	.14	13.73	25.69
Karibib .. .. .	.06	6.68	—	.02	6.76	10.32
Keetmanshoop	1.05	26.44	.34	.81	28.64	26.128
Luderitz	1.36	22.91	—	.06	24.33	13.01
Omaruru .. .. .	.10	7.56	—	.83	8.49	16.81
Outjo .. .. .	.08	9.39	—	.38	9.85	10.42
Swakopmund .. .. .	.16	21.17	—	1.11	22.44	15.01
Warmbad .. .. .	.55	14.92	—	.10	15.57	18.45
Windhoek	10.02	107.98	.04	2.98	121.02	163.38
Totals	14.06	254.44	.38	6.47	275.35	327.658

The total relative figure in respect of lock-ups was 25.90 as compared with 25.63 in 1923.

Deaths and Accidents. — The number of deaths which occurred among prisoners during the year was five (natives).

No serious accidents occurred during the year 1924.

Health of Prisoners. — The health of the prisoners has been uniformly good during the year. There were no epidemic outbreaks at the gaols.

Escapes. — The number of escapes effected during the year was eleven. Four of the escaped prisoners have been recaptured, while seven were still at large at the close of the year.

Corporal Punishment. — The following table shows the number of lashes applied at the gaols mentioned during 1924 as compared with the figures for the previous year :—

Centre.	No. of lashes applied in 1924.	No. of lashes applied in 1923.
Gibeon	33	87
Gobabis	118	119
Grootfontein	36	36
Karibib	58	54
Keetmanshoop	90	231
Luderitz	28	11
Omaruru	106	102
Outjo	123	12
Swakopmund	20	26
Warmbad	306	216
Windhoek	186	287
Totals	1,104	1,181

Remissions. — During the year 128 remission reports were dealt with. A total remission of 7,903 days was granted in 126 cases. No remission was granted in 2 cases.

BOARD OF VISITORS.

§ 271. During the year the Prison Board of Visitors visited the Windhoek Gaol three times and dealt with 47 cases.

DISCIPLINE (PRISONERS).

§ 272. The discipline in the gaols has been uniformly satisfactory during the year. No serious offences have been recorded.

CIVIL DEBTORS.

§ 273. The following table shows the number of civil debtors detained in the gaols mentioned during 1924 as compared with 1923 :—

Centre.	1924.	1923.
Gibeon	1	—
Gobabis	—	—
Grootfontein	—	1
Karibib	2	1
Keetmanshoop	2	3
Luderitz	2	1
Omaruru	—	2
Outjo	—	—
Swakopmund	6	2
Warmbad	—	—
Windhoek	4	5
Totals	17	15

PRISON INDUSTRIES.

§ 274. Useful work continues to be performed at the Windhoek Gaol and Workshops. Among the prisoners discharged from the Windhoek Gaol each year quite a number have mastered some or other useful trade and so are equipped to make an honest living.

PRISON LABOUR.

§ 275. The demand for prison labour still continues to exceed the supply. As branches of the Administration are given preference in this connection a comparatively small number of prisoners are available for hire to the public. Free prison labour was supplied to the Municipality of Windhoek until the 31st August for the making and repairing of streets and for other undertakings of public interest. From this date prison labour has been supplied to the Municipality at 1s. per unit, the reduction from 1s. 6d. as charged to the public to 1s. per unit being in order to assist Municipalities to improve their towns.

The following table shows the amount of prison labour supplied during 1924 at the centres indicated to the various branches of the Administration and private bodies mentioned :—

Centre.	Public Works.	Police.	Posts and Telegraphs.	Irrigation.	Justice.	Public Health.	Education.	Residency.	Administration.	Municipality.	Private Individuals, Clubs, etc.
Gibeon ..	675	85	113	160	—	—	30	221	1,034	—	390
Gobabis ..	143	4	—	48	4	—	—	232	34	—	—
Grootfontein ..	58	3	—	27	518	163	87	288	513	—	342
Karibib ..	142	204	—	—	76	2	—	60	9	182	198
Keetmanshoop ..	—	338	—	3	222	—	17	212	—	4,838	368
Luderitz ..	1,117	310	—	—	33	—	227	220	—	478	137
Omaruru ..	44	111	6	—	227	—	—	397	—	89	127
Outjo ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	49	—	—
Swakopmund ..	2,252	—	—	—	270	—	—	218	—	38	330
Warmbad ..	760	332	6	22	200	—	—	352	—	—	—
Windhoek ..	4,720	665	—	2,714	243	—	—	56	—	4,241	767
Totals	9,911	2,052	125	2,974	1,793	165	361	2,271	1,639	9,866	2,659

The total amount derived from prison earnings during 1924 was £1,437 11s. 9d., as compared with £1,353 4s. 1d. for the year 1923.

GARDENS.

§ 276. Gaolers are being encouraged, whenever the nature of the soil and other climatic conditions warrant a reasonable hope of success, to lay out gardens and to grow vegetables for the use of the prisoners and the Government School Hostels, etc. The following table shows the centres at which gardens have been laid out up to the present and the approximate quantity of vegetables produced at each centre during the year : —

Centre.	Production for 1924.
Gibeon	6,903 lbs.
Gobabis	502 „
Karibib	55 „
Omaruru	934 „
Outjo	5,707 „
Warmbad	1,150 „
Totals	15,251 „

JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

§ 277. During the year one native was removed to a reformatory in the Union. The total number of juveniles removed to the Union since the promulgation of Proclamation No. 20 of 1922 is : Europeans, 5 ; and Natives, 5.

During the German regime all European Juvenile offenders were sent to Germany, while native juveniles were confined in the ordinary gaols in the Territory.

DIVINE SERVICE.

§ 278. Divine services are conducted at Gibeon, Karibib, Keetmanshoop, Swakopmund, Warmbad and Windhoek by clergymen of various denominations.

XVII. — PUBLIC HEALTH.

MEDICAL PRACTICE.

§ 279. The number of medical practitioners in practice in Southwest Africa at present is 21. They are distributed as follows :—

Windhoek	5
Luderitz	4
Swakopmund	2
Keetmanshoop	1
Warmbad	1
Gibeon	1
Karibib	1
Gobabis	1
Omaruru	1
Otjiwarongo	1
Tsumeb	1
Grootfontein	1
Ondonga and Ovamboland	1
	21

The number and distribution of the District Surgeons were the same as during the previous year. Very little improvement is to be noted in the conditions of medical practice.

Dentists and Chemists and Druggists.—There is no change in the number and distribution of dentists and chemists and druggists to be noted.

HOSPITALS.

(a) State-Aided Hospitals (European).

§ 280. The number of admissions during the year was 476 and the number of deaths in hospital 20. The daily average number of patients was 23.87 and the average duration of treatment 12.31 days. The amounts paid by way of subsidy were as follows :—

1921	£3,058
1922	3,374
1923	2,575
1924	2,267

As the Administration, broadly speaking, subsidises hospitals to the extent of the difference between revenue and expenditure, *i.e.*, when the Hospital Board is not in a position to make ends meet, the decrease in subsidies indicates that the hospitals are becoming more self-supporting.

(b) *Mission and other Hospitals.*

§ 281. (1) *Roman Catholic Mission.* — The number of patients treated in the Hospitals of the Roman Catholic Mission was 853 Europeans and 209 Natives. The daily average number of patients was as follows : — Europeans, 36.5 ; Natives, 12.6.

§ 282. (2) *Finnish Mission.* — During the period 1st July, 1923, to 30th June, 1924, 560 in-patients and 2,981 out-patients were treated in the hospital at Onipa. The daily average number of patients treated in hospital was 22.3. The number of deaths is not recorded in the report submitted by the Mission.

(c) *State-owned Native Hospitals.*

§ 283. The total number of patients dealt with during the year was 1,026, namely, 640 ordinary patients and 386 patients suffering from venereal disease. The average duration of treatment was 37.79 days. Each bed was occupied for an average period of 336.09 days.

The total expenditure on maintenance for the year 1924 was £4,215, as compared with £4,731 for 1923. The average cost per patient per diem was as follows :—

	1922.	1923.	1924.
Windhoek	1/10.7	1/ 7.2	1/11.7
Keetmanshoop	2/6	3/3	2/4.8
Karibib	3/4.6	3/6.76	2/0.5
Omaruru	4/0.4	3/11.8	3/0.8

During the year it was decided to close the Karibib Hospital on the 31st March, 1925, and concentrate the available resources on a hospital at Omaruru for the northern and at Windhoek for the central portion of the Territory. A sum of £6,000 has been provided in the Estimates for the two ensuing financial years for the erection of a new hospital at Windhoek.

(d) *Distribution of Medicines through Missions, etc.*

§ 284. The cost of drugs issued free to Natives through Magistrates, Native Affairs officials, etc., was as follows :—

Quinine	£125 14 6
Other Medicines	88 16 0

HEALTH AND SANITATION.

Health of European Population.

§ 285. The health of the European population was very good during the year under review. With the exception of measles and influenza there was no marked incidence of infectious diseases. Influenza and measles were prevalent over the whole of the Territory during the winter and spring, but were of mild type among Europeans and the mortality was small. There was no unusual prevalence of malaria. From Grootfontein one fatal case of Blackwater fever was reported.

The following infectious diseases among Europeans were notified during 1924 :—

Disease.	No. of Cases.
Anthrax	1
Diphtheria	8
Enteric Fever	33
Malta Fever	5
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	3
Puerperal Fever	1
Scarlet Fever	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2
Erysipelas	1

HEALTH OF THE NATIVE POPULATION.

(1) *Health of the Recruited Workers.*

§ 286. (i) *Luderitz Diamond Fields.* — The health of the native labourers employed on these fields was a matter of grave concern to the Administration during the past year. Early in March an enquiry into the causes underlying the gradual rise in the mortality among labourers was conducted by the Native Commissioner and the Medical Officer to the Administration. The investigation disclosed serious defects in the housing and other arrangements for the welfare of the labourers, which were due to a considerable extent to the influx of large numbers of labourers during the previous twelve months and to the process of re-organisation of the works necessitated by the closing down of some of the old fields and the opening up of new fields as well as the suspension of building operations when the Diamond Market failed. Existing housing accommodation under these circumstances proved to be inadequate and considerable overcrowding resulted. Subsequently it was also ascertained that a considerable number of labourers, who were not physically fit for the work under the conditions obtaining on the Luderitz Fields had been recruited during the time when the labour problem was acute. Representations were immediately made to the Chamber of Mines to remedy the existing state of affairs without delay. The efforts of the Mining Companies in this direction were, however, severely hampered by a severe epidemic of influenza which swept over the fields in April, May, June and July and the effects of which were felt until the end of August. The rapid and alarming rise in the death rate during May and June caused the Consolidated Diamond Mines of South-West Africa to invite Dr. A. J. Orenstein, C.M.G., Chief of the Sanitation of the Rand Mines Limited, to visit Luderitz and advise them on the situation. Dr. Orenstein, accompanied by the Medical Officer to the Administration, visited the fields and the recruiting area of Ovamboland in August, and on the completion of his investigations a conference of the various mining interests was convened by the Deputy Administrator. The Conference met at Windhoek on the 2nd September and unanimously accepted Dr. Orenstein's recommendations.

§ 287. Briefly summarised the requirements contained in those recommendations and approved by the Deputy Administrator are as follows :—

A. *Housing Accommodation* :—

- (a) The construction of the existing types of galvanised iron huts will not be permitted in future. All existing huts of this construction to be lined with 18-inch boards around the bunks and 20 sq. feet of ground space to be allowed for each occupant in the older types and 2 ft. 6 ins. of bunk space with a minimum of 200 cubic feet of air space for each occupant in the latter types. The older type of hut, erected before the 1st April, 1923, to be permitted to continue only at the discretion of the Administration, but, in any case, not after the 1st January, 1927.
- (b) Existing cement block compounds of permanent type to allow 2 ft. 6 ins. of bunk with a minimum of 200 cubic feet of air space per occupant and where the bunks were not yet completed to have concrete partitions on 2 ft. 6 ins. centres. On the door of each living room to be painted its number, the number of its occupants and the floor and air space per occupant.
- (c) *Temporary compounds for future construction.* — Unlined corrugated iron rooms are prohibited. The erection of C.1 huts lined with wood will in future be permitted on temporary works only for a period of 12 months from the date of occupation. Such huts to be of the prescribed type with 30 square feet of floor space per occupant. Not more than 10 occupants to be allowed in each hut.
- (d) *Permanent compounds for future construction.* — No sleeping room to accommodate more than 24 labourers. More than one tier of bunks forbidden. Bunks to be of concrete or other approved impervious material and to be provided with concrete partitions at least two feet high and two feet four inches apart. Floor and air space per occupant : 25 sq. feet and 250 cubic feet per occupant, respectively. Minimum of walls : 9 ft. Roof to be of asbestos or other approved material. Provision to be made in every living room for efficient cross ventilation. Windows : glazed windows capable of being opened in half their area. Ratio of window to floor area to be 1 : 12. Doors to be not less than 6 feet by 2 feet 6 inches and preferably halved.

Standard types A, B and C of permanent compounds for future construction were laid down and accepted by the mining companies.

B. *Minimum Ration scale.*

(1) Mealie meal	.. .. .	600 grammes daily.
(2) Meat, dressed and containing not more than 25 per cent. bone	.. .. .	250 " "
(3) Fresh vegetables, exclusive of carrot tops and maize-husks	.. .. .	200 " "

(4)	Peas or Beans, at least half of which to be germinated.. .. .	90 grammes daily.
(5)	Bread	250 " "
(6)	Fat or oil	30 " "
	or	
(7)	Peanuts	60 " "
(8)	Sugar	60 " "
(9)	Coffee or tea	15 " "
(10)	Jam	30 " "

Notes.

- (1) Only the following vegetables are to be issued, namely : potatoes, cabbage, carrots, marrow, onions, tomatoes, leeks and green maize.
- (2) Vegetables and germinated beans to be cooked and kept hot for as short a time possible and not to be mashed or cut fine before cooking.
- (3) Beans and peas supplied to be of good quality.
- (4) Bread to contain not less than 64 per cent. of wheaten flour and not more than 36 per cent. of mealie meal.
- (5) If any orange or other approved substitute be issued, the vegetable ration may be reduced to 140 grammes per day.
- (6) All cooking utensils and appliances, etc., to be kept clean and serviceable.
- (7) Natives suffering from infectious or contagious diseases not to be employed in connection with the preparation or issue of food and drink.

C. Hospital Accommodation. — Minimum requirements :—

- (1) Floor space : 5.5 square metres for each bed.
- (2) Minimum height of walls : 3.25 metres. Walls to be oil painted.
- (3) Windows to be not more than 2 metres from floor. Proportion of glazed window area to floor space, 1 : 8. All windows to open at least 10 per cent. of their area.
- (4) When roofed with corrugated iron to be ceiled with asbestos or wood and space between ceiling and roof to be ventilated.
- (5) Operating theatre of not less than 25 square metres area with high pressure dressing steriliser.
- (6) One bath plus one shower for every 60 patients or major portion of same, with hot and cold water.
- (7) Every hospital to be provided with a mortuary.
- (8) Staff : One trained European orderly for each 30 beds or major fraction thereof constantly on day duty and at least one such on night duty, provided that where the number of patients exceeds 100 there shall be two such on night duty. Duty register and records of patients to be kept.

D. Recruiting. — A standard of physical fitness was laid down for all natives recommended for the mines whether in South-West Africa or elsewhere. The Chamber of Mines agreed to appoint a medical officer at Ondonga, Ovamboland, for examining recruits.

E. Sanitation. — Standards of requirements were laid down.

§ 288. The mining companies are taking energetic measures to give effect to the above requirements. Sixty-one huts of approved type with accommodation for 696 have been erected on the northern section, and 28 with accommodation for 248 on the southern section of the Consolidated Diamond Mines Fields, while 87 with accommodation for 1,466 are contemplated or under construction at present. Two new hospital wards have been erected at Pomona and new hospital buildings are to be proceeded with at Kolmanskop in the near future. The new ration scale is in operation and is proving satisfactory. Difficulty is, however, being experienced in getting the Ovambos to eat germinated pulses, but in cases where they have absolutely refused to do so, carrots have been substituted. New kitchen buildings are in the course of erection in connection with the new compound at Elizabeth Bay. All the weaklings among the labourers have been sorted out and repatriated. Arrangements have also been made for the transfer to the Windhoek Hospital of every case of tuberculosis and also of convalescent patients, in whom there is a risk of tuberculosis developing. The results obtained in the first batch of patients sent to Windhoek have been remarkably good. In October the Chamber of Mines appointed a medical officer at Ondonga for examining recruits and only those who are up to the prescribed standard are allowed to proceed to Luderitz.

The companies are pushing forward rapidly with their housing and hospital schemes, although they are somewhat seriously handicapped by the scarcity of skilled labour.

§ 289. The average number of natives employed during the year 1924 was 5,891, namely :

Bechuana	1,504
Basuto	734
Other Union Natives	562
Ovambo	2,936
Other South-West Africa Natives	155
	5,891

§ 290. The total number of deaths was 437. The total mortality per 1,000 per annum from the principal causes of death was as follows :—

	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum.
Pneumonia	285	54	9.166
Other Respiratory Diseases	607	8	1.358
Tuberculosis	100	80	13.580
Influenza	1,252	105	17.824
Scurvy	296	52	8.827
Rheumatism	585	11	1.867
Gastrointestinal affections	569	19	3.225
Cerebrospinal meningitis	61	31	5.262
Enteric Fever	119	51	8.657
Other Diseases	1,519	19	3.225
Injuries	216	7	1.188
Total	5,609	437	74.179

An analysis of the above figures showing :—

- (1) mortality of each tribe employed ;
- (2) total death-rate among labourers employed by each of the mining companies ;
- and
- (3) comparative death-rate for each tribe on the various fields ;

is given in Annexures “ A,” “ B ” and “ C ” hereto.

Since August last there has been a marked diminution in the death-rate. The chart (Annexure “ D ”) illustrates the position.

A similar decrease is seen in the monthly number of admissions to Hospital. The daily average number of patients treated in Hospital since the 1st January, 1924, is as follows :—

January	272
February	261
March	239
April	246
May	321
June	334
July	359
August	348
September	205
October	180
November	137
December	99

The number of patients remaining under treatment on the 31st December, 1923, was 228 as compared with 76 on the 31st December, 1924. The Medical Officer to the Administration has since the latter date visited the fields, and he reported that at the time of his visit there were only two cases of respiratory disease in hospital at Pomona and very few at Kolmanskop.

§ 291. The incidence of tuberculosis also shows a marked decrease. Most of the cases of this disease occurred during the months of July to September in patients who had suffered from Influenzal Pneumonia. In a considerable proportion of those who died the post-mortem

examination revealed an old caseous tuberculosis of the glands, generally at the root of the lung. Influenza was prevalent from April to August. The mortality from influenza was as follows :

April	..	..	..	..	..	4.5 per cent.
May	..	..	..	..	..	4.7 per cent.
June	..	..	..	..	..	7.4 per cent.
July	..	..	..	..	..	15.0 per cent.
August	..	..	..	..	..	10.5 per cent.
September	..	..	..	..	..	3.0 per cent.

A few isolated cases were still met with during November and December. The number of cases of scurvy showed a gradual diminution from 125 in January to one in December. The majority of deaths from this disease took place during February, March, April and May. The number of cases of Meningitis has also steadily decreased since the beginning of the year and during the last five months only seven cases were met with. A similar decrease in the incidence of enteric fever has taken place, of which only three cases have occurred since October and none since November.

(ii) *Copper Mines, Tsumeb (O.M.E.G.).*

§ 292. The average number of natives employed by the Otavi Minen und Eisenbahn Gesellschaft during 1924 was 2,044.

The total mortality from all causes of death was 40.11 per thousand per annum, as compared with 30.31 for 1923 and 39.20 for 1922.

The mortality from the principal causes of death for the years 1922 to 1924 inclusive was as follows :—

	1922.		1923.		1924.	
	Deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum.	Deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum.	Deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum.
Pneumonia	23	11.27	14	7.86	6	2.93
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis..	8	3.92	8	4.49	8	3.91
Enteric Fever	—	—	15	8.42	1	.49
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	1	.49
Scurvy	2	.98	—	—	—	—
Influenza	30	14.70	3	1.68	41	20.06
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	4	1.96
All other diseases ..	17	8.33	14	7.86	10	4.89
Injuries	—	—	—	—	11	5.38
Total	80	39.20	54	30.31	82	40.11

§ 293. Influenza was responsible for more than half of the total mortality from disease, viz., 35.22 per 1,000 for the year 1924 among the labourers employed on the Copper Mines of the "Otavi Minen und Eisenbahn Gesellschaft." An extensive epidemic of the disease broke out in July and August, and in October there was a sharp recrudescence among all sections of the community. It occurred in a very severe form among the natives and 41 of the mine labourers died. Respiratory complications were frequent, and the case mortality was high. Measles was prevalent throughout the year, but was of a mild type. There was no undue prevalence of malaria among the native labourers. Scurvy is seldom met with and Pulmonary Tuberculosis is not at all common. The majority of deaths from tuberculosis occurred in patients who had previously suffered from Influenzal Pneumonia. Cerebrospinal Meningitis is likewise uncommon. Only one case of enteric fever was met with during the year. Among other causes of death there were :—

Epistaxis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Apoplexy .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Septic synovitis of Knee ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Purpura hæmorrhagica ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Suffocation .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Organic Heart disease ..	..	..	..	..	..	6

§ 294. The housing of the labourers calls for no comment. They live under more or less natural conditions in a location in mud or brick huts erected by the employers and are free to come and go as they like, when not at work. The ration is ample. It has up to the present not been found necessary to impose any special requirements in these respects on

the Company. The Mine maintains both a European and a Native Hospital for its employees and their dependents. The requirements in respect of hospital accommodation laid down for the Luderitz Diamond Fields also apply to Tsumeb. The number of patients admitted to hospital during 1924 was 591. The daily average number of patients under treatment was 25.4. The high death-rate from injuries is due to a mine accident in March in which 9 natives were killed.

§ 295. It must be admitted that the mortality on the Mines, and particularly on the Luderitz Fields, was startling, but as will be seen from the chart (Annexure " D "), the steps which have been taken have resulted in an enormous improvement in the position during the last three months of the year as compared with the same period of the preceding year, and it is confidently anticipated that this improvement will now be maintained.

A point to which it is desired to direct particular attention is the fact that the influenza epidemic was abnormally acute, persistent and widespread among the natives last year, and the large majority of deaths were due to this cause or to pneumonia, tuberculosis and other lung affections following upon influenza. This was the case not only at Luderitz, but also at Tsumeb and on the South-West Africa Mines in the Grootfontein District where they receive immediate medical treatment and skilled nursing and where the climate is tropical and the natives live under conditions which are identical with — indeed better than — their home conditions. It will be seen that the percentage of deaths from influenza at Tsumeb was actually higher than at Luderitz. Even in Ovamboland according to the report of the Native Affairs Officer at Ondonga the natives suffered to such an extent from the epidemic that for some months recruiting was seriously affected. Influenza has for years past taken a heavy toll of the natives and the fluctuations of the figures are interesting. In 1923 there were only 3 deaths from influenza at Tsumeb and 30 at Luderitz, but in 1924 the number of deaths at Tsumeb (where no exception can be taken to the conditions or the treatment given) increased to 41 or 14 times as many as during the previous year, while at Luderitz the number of deaths was 105, or only 3 ½ times as many as during the preceding year. A point I wish to make clear is that while improvement in housing conditions, etc., must of course affect the death rate, it will not eliminate the trouble, and whatever is done it is certain that the annual epidemic of influenza will continue to claim a large number of victims amongst the natives no matter where or under what conditions they live in the Territory.

As stated in last year's report, for the protection of workers prophylactic inoculation with Lister's Pneumococcal Vaccine is systematically carried out at Luderitz and warm clothing and blankets are issued to each native on arrival.

The statistics disclose that the Ovambos suffered most severely and that the Bechuanas who also come from a tropical area suffered almost as badly. As has already been pointed out the Ovambos were not as carefully selected as they might have been, and the medical test to which they are now being subjected is very much more vigorous than was formerly the case. Then even of those who pass the test only the most robust are selected for the Luderitz Fields, the remainder being sent to Tsumeb where the climatic conditions are the same as the climatic conditions of Ovamboland.

The figures would seem to indicate that the Basutos are much hardier than either the Ovambos and Bechuanas, and regard being had to the climatic conditions and latitude of Basutoland this probably is the case. They have however not been long enough on the Fields to enable a positive pronouncement to be made on this point, but close observation will be kept during the current year.

It will be observed that scurvy was responsible for a considerable number of deaths last year, but careful selection of recruits, the improved conditions, and the ration scale which has been introduced should more or less eliminate this.

(iii) *South-West Africa Company, Grootfontein.*

§ 296. Information on the health of the workers employed by this Company is not available at present.

(2) *Health of Native Population in Urban and Rural areas.*

§ 297. The health of the native population in the urban and rural areas was remarkably good during the past year. Influenza was widely prevalent but except in Tsumeb, Windhoek, the Berseba Native Reserve and Keetmanshoop, the mortality from this cause was small.

The following infectious diseases among natives were notified during the year, viz. :—

	Cases.	Deaths.
Diphtheria	1	—
Enteric Fever	2	—
Leprosy	5	2
Malta Fever	28	—
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	2	—
Puerperal Fever	1	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	77	34
Eresipelas	1	—

The principal diseases for which admission was obtained to the State-owned Native Hospitals during the years 1922, 1923 and 1924 are as follows :—

	1922.		1923.		1924.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases	Deaths.
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	2	1
Dysentery	1	—	1	—	4	1
Enteric Fever	—	—	1	1	2	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	1	—
Leprosy	—	—	1	—	—	—
Malaria	27	—	20	—	16	—
Influenza	100	4	36	—	114	6
Tetanus	—	—	—	—	3	3
Tuberculosis—pulmonary	47	24	28	17	47	14
Tuberculosis—other forms	5	1	3	—	11	1
Snake Bite	2	1	—	—	3	—
Rheumatic Affections	21	—	30	—	23	—
Scurvy	30	—	38	1	15	—
Diseases of Stomach	2	—	2	—	4	—
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	6	1	9	4	5	1
Appendicitis	2	1	2	2	—	—
Hernia	1	—	4	—	4	1
Bronchitis—Acute	20	1	17	2	6	—
Bronchitis Chronic	—	—	2	—	—	—
Bronchopneumonia	5	4	4	—	5	—
Lobar Pneumonia	34	6	30	12	47	7
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	—	5	—	3	—
Cancer	3	—	2	1	3	—
Organic Heart Disease	4	1	5	2	5	1
Mental Disorders	6	1	9	1	8	—
Epilepsy	1	—	1	—	4	1
Apoplexy	2	—	—	—	2	1
Nephritis—Acute	1	1	3	2	1	1
Cystitis	1	—	1	—	3	—
Stricture of Urethra	3	—	12	—	7	—
Diseases of the Eye	8	—	20	—	29	—
Diseases of the Ear	4	—	—	—	3	—
Diseases due to Intestinal Parasites	2	—	2	—	—	—
Diseases of Bones, Joints, etc.	—	—	12	—	37	1
Injuries—						
(a) Fractures	21	—	22	—	9	1
(b) Burns and Scalds	9	3	3	—	3	1
(c) Other Injuries	106	2	64	—	55	1
(d) Self-inflicted	—	—	—	—	2	1
Venereal Diseases—						
(a) Syphilis	183	5	216	3	280	5
(b) Gonorrhœa	35	—	46	1	69	—
Other Diseases	247	7	139	4	134	11
Total	941	63	790	53	969	60

LEPROSY.

§ 298. Three cases of leprosy — one man and two women — were reported from Ovamboland, and two fatal cases of the disease were reported from the Andara-Libebe district of the Okavango River by the Rector of the Catholic Mission at Andara.

MALTA FEVER.

§ 299. Of the 28 cases reported during the year, 27 were from Ovamboland. The District Surgeon is of opinion that the disease is on the increase in that area. It is difficult however to impress upon a raw native like the Ovambo the necessity for precautionary measures.

INFLUENZA.

§ 300. Influenza was prevalent throughout the greater portion of the year. In June a very severe epidemic broke out among the Berseba Hottentots in the Keetmanshoop District and 45 of them died. The outbreak was dealt with by the District Surgeon assisted by a trained staff. Outbreaks of more or less severe type also occurred in most of the districts in the north.

PLAGUE.

§ 301. After the existence of plague infection among wild rodents and small carnivora in certain areas in the Union had been demonstrated by the Union Department of Public Health in 1921, attention was immediately directed by the Administration to a survey of the small mammals of this territory. In 1922 a scheme, outlined by the Director of the South African Museum for a systematic botanical and zoological survey of the territory was approved by the Administrator. Special attention was required to be directed towards insects and animal life in relation to the transmission of disease to human beings and other animals. At the beginning of 1923 three members of the Museum staff made a collecting trip to Ovamboland, but up to the present a report on the results of this expedition has not been received. During the winter of 1923, Captain Shortridge, Curator of the Kaffrarian Museum, Kingwilliamstown, who had completed a small mammal survey of the South bank of the Orange River the previous year, made a similar survey of a portion of Great Namaqualand on behalf of the British Museum. As the result of information on the small mammals of the area supplied by Captain Shortridge, the Administration approached the British Museum with a view to extending the investigation over the whole territory. This was agreed to. During the course of the past year a survey of the area north of the Etoscha Pan, including central and north-western Ovamboland as far as the Kunene River was made by Captain Shortridge, and it is proposed to proceed with this research during the ensuing financial year. The Administration is indebted to Captain Shortridge for the following provisional list of and notes on the small mammals which may possibly come to play a part in the dissemination of plague infection in the Territory :—

1. *Graphiurus (Dormice)*.

A large dormouse is plentiful in the rocky hills around Karibib and also on Brukharos Mountain near Berseba. It probably has a wide distribution in the mountainous country throughout South-West Africa.

A second species, *Graphiurus kelleni*, of small size, the type of which is now in the Leyden Museum was described in 1890 from Damaraland. Further specimens of this species have not been recorded since.

Dormice are of nocturnal habits and seldom, if ever, attracted by cultivation.

2. *Gerbillus (paeba, etc.) (Desert gerbilles)*.

The smaller gerbilles contained in this genus are far more confined to desert areas than the larger genus *Taterona*. Their distribution in South Africa is apparently confined to South-West Africa and parts of the Kalahari. They are seldom attracted by cultivation and therefore less likely to come into contact with domestic rodents than the larger Cape Gerbille and its allies. Nocturnal in habits.

3. *Taterona (Gerbilles)*.

Taterona miliaria stellae occurs rather sparingly on the south bank of the Orange River between Upington and Kakamas. It is just possible that it may also be met with in the adjacent parts in the extreme South of South-West Africa. Elsewhere in Great Namaqualand and Southern Damaraland, the genus has not hitherto been discovered south of the region of the Etosha Pan. From there northwards through Ovamboland at least one species occurs in very large numbers both in forest and open country. The range of *Taterona* in this region will probably be found to have a north and eastward extension. Nocturnal and to a large extent gregarious, attracted by cultivation.

4. *Desmodillus auricularis*—The Namaqualand Gerbille.

As far as has been ascertained up to the present this genus has not been met with in South-West Africa north of the Okahandja-Usakos railway line. It appears to be nowhere very abundant. Specimens have been obtained from the neighbourhood of the Orange River west of Upington, from the Berseba district and from Roobank on the Kuisib River in the vicinity of Walvis Bay.

It is nocturnal in habit, largely insectivorous and usually met with in open, dry, sandy localities.

Further, in order to minimise as far as possible the risk of tuberculosis supervening in patients suffering from pneumonia and other respiratory diseases, every effort is made to induce such to remain in hospital until their health has been completely restored. Provision has been made on the Estimates for 1925-26 for the subsidising of missions operating in Ovamboland who provide for the treatment of tuberculous natives.

This country can still be regarded as free from bovine tuberculosis, and this fact probably accounts for the extreme rarity of abdominal and other forms of tuberculosis usually met with in early life.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

§ 303. The number of patients who came under treatment during the years 1923 and 1924 is as follows :—

	1923.	1924.
(1) <i>At Government Institutions.</i>		
In-patients :		
Syphilis	382	579
Gonorrhœa	54	74
Out-patients :		
Syphilis	184	276
Gonorrhœa	Nil	Nil
Number of intravenous injections of Salvarsan	3,904	5,886
	1/1/22 to 30/6/23	1/7/23 to 30/6/24
(2) <i>By District Surgeons.</i>		
(a) <i>Ovamboland :</i>		
In-patients :		
Syphilis	226	199
Gonorrhœa	23	12
Out-patients :		
Syphilis	125	431
Gonorrhœa	Nil	6
Number of intravenous injections of Salvarsan	131	595
(b) <i>Other Districts :</i>		
Syphilis	112	226
Gonorrhœa	51	88
Number of intravenous injections of Salvarsan	238	635

The total expenditure on the treatment of venereal diseases among natives during the year under review was as follows :—

Drugs	£589 12 8
Maintenance of patients in the various institutions	2,246 6 10½
	£2,835 19 6½

The total expenditure for 1923 was £2,660 8s. 10d.

From the above figures it will be seen that 1,711 cases of syphilis and 143 of gonorrhœa were dealt with in 1924 as compared with 729 syphilis and 128 of gonorrhœa in 1923. The increase is due mainly to the increasing disposition among natives to avail themselves of the extended facilities for free treatment provided by the Administration. In the South the Hottentots are to an increased extent taking advantage of the systematic treatment provided at Keetmanshoop Native Hospital. In this connection the services of the Chief Goliath of the Berseba Hottentots again require special mention. In Damaraland the Hereros and other tribes are coming forward readily for treatment. Among the Hereros considerable numbers of men and women who have suffered from the disease during the German regime have reported for further treatment, the reason given being that they desire healthy children. In the North there has also been an increasing disposition especially among the Klip Kaffirs and Bushmen to submit themselves for treatment by the District Surgeon at Grootfontein. This tendency has also been noted among the tribes of Ovamboland, where large numbers of patients are now being dealt with by the Finnish Mission.

§ 304. The facilities for free treatment which were detailed in the Annual Report for 1923 have been further extended by the erection of venereal compounds, providing accommodation for patients from rural areas while under treatment at Otjiwarongo and Gibeon. Annexure E shows the racial distribution of syphilis amongst patients treated at Government institutions during 1924. Every encouragement is given to natives to report venereal disease

and to submit to treatment, and it will be seen from the figures given that there is a growing tendency to avail themselves of the facilities offered by the Administration.

MENTALLY DISORDERED AND DEFECTIVE PERSONS.

§ 305. The number of patients who were transferred to institutions in the Union during the years 1923 and 1924 is as follows :—

	1923.	1924.
Europeans	5	1
Natives	1	1

The number of patients at present maintained by the Administration in these institutions is as follows : 8 Europeans ; 4 Natives.

The total cost of maintenance during the year under review was £726 3s. 6d., namely, Europeans, £603 8s., and Natives, £122 15s. 6d.

Annexure A.

DEATH RATE AND PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG THE VARIOUS TRIBES.

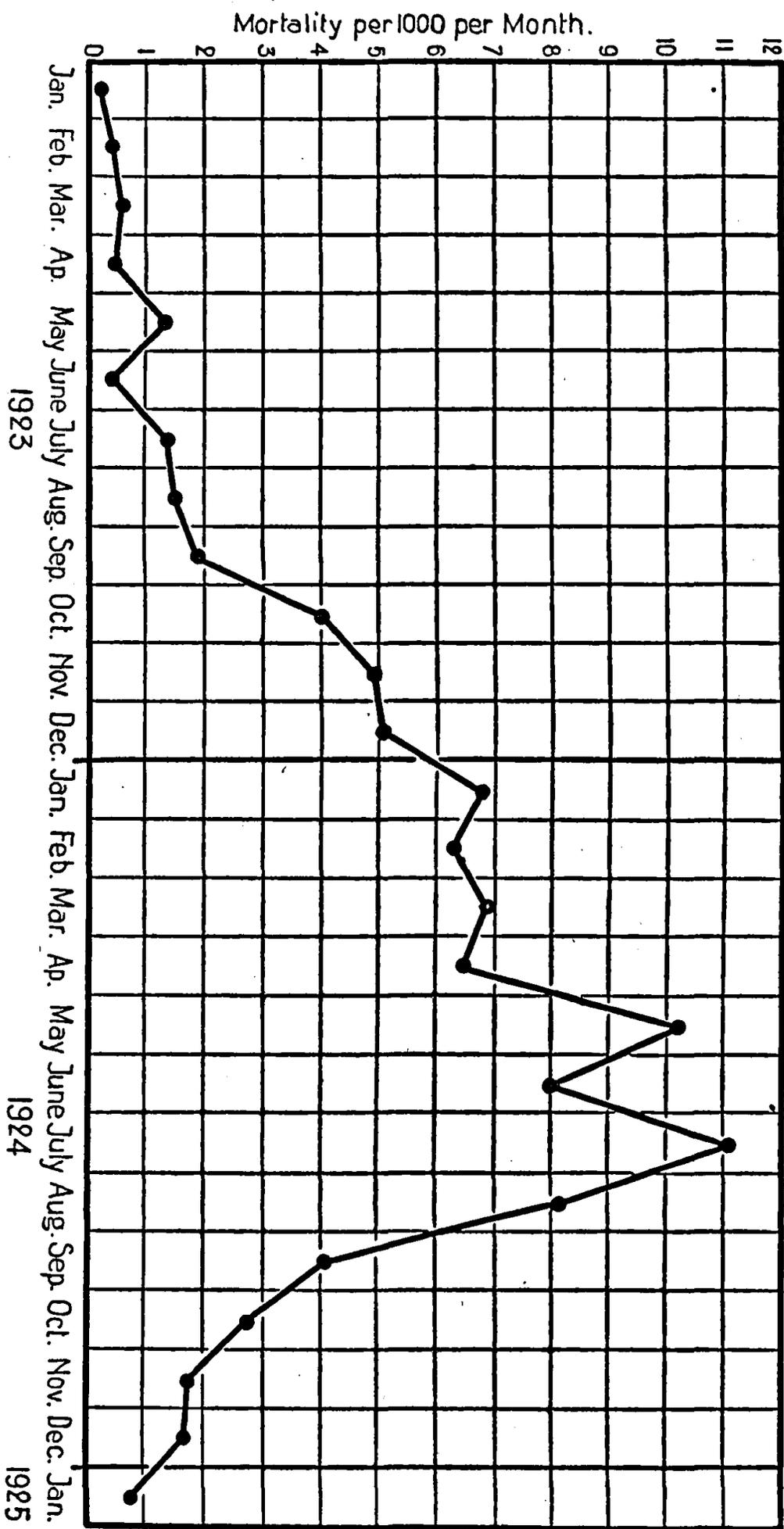
	Ovambo:		Other S. W. A. Natives.		Bechuana.		Basuto.		Other Union Natives.	
	No. of deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum.	No. of deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum.	No. of deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum.	No. of deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum.	No. of deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum.
Pneumonia	35	11.921	—	—	14	9.308	2	2.725	3	5.338
Other Respiratory Diseases	5	1.703	—	—	1	.665	1	1.362	1	1.779
Tuberculosis	57	19.414	—	—	20	13.298	1	1.362	2	3.559
Influenza	105	35.762	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rheumatism	9	3.065	—	—	2	1.330	—	—	—	—
Scurvy	34	11.580	—	—	18	11.968	—	—	—	—
Gastrointestinal Affections	12	4.087	—	—	4	2.660	—	—	3	5.338
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	10	3.406	1	64.516	18	11.968	1	1.362	1	1.779
Enteric Fever	8	2.725	—	—	41	27.261	2	2.725	—	—
Other Diseases	12	4.087	—	—	6	3.989	—	—	1	1.779
Injuries	5	1.703	—	—	2	1.330	—	—	—	—
Total	292	99.455	1	64.516	126	83.777	7	9.537	11	19.573
Average Number Employed	2,936		155		1,504		734		562	

Annexure B.

TOTAL DEATH RATE OF NATIVES EMPLOYED BY EACH OF THE MINING COMPANIES.

	C. D. M.		Namaqua D.		S. W. D.	
	No. of Deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum	No. of Deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum	No. of Deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum
Pneumonia	29	6.362	24	18.750	1	18.868
Other Respiratory Diseases	6	1.317	2	1.563	—	—
Tuberculosis	71	15.577	8	6.250	1	18.868
Influenza	84	18.430	21	16.406	—	—
Scurvy	50	10.970	2	1.563	—	—
Rheumatism	10	2.194	1	0.781	—	—
Gastrointestinal Affections	10	2.194	8	6.250	1	18.868
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	29	6.362	2	1.563	—	—
Enteric Fever	51	11.189	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases	13	2.852	4	3.125	2	37.736
Injuries	7	1.535	—	—	—	—
Total	360	78.982	72	56.251	5	94.340
Average number employed	4,558		1,280		53	

MORTALITY CURVE OF RECRUITED NATIVE LABOUR
ON THE
DIAMOND FIELDS : JANUARY, 1923—JANUARY, 1925.



RETURN SHOWING RACIAL DISTRIBUTION OF SYPHILIS AMONG PATIENTS TREATED IN NATIVE HOSPITALS.

Stage of Disease	Windhoek.				Keetmanshoop.				Grootfontein.				Karibib.				Omaruru.																							
	Male.		Female.		Male.		Female.		Male.		Female.		Male.		Female.		Male.		Female.																					
	P	S	T	C	P	S	T	C	P	S	T	C	P	S	T	C	P	S	T	C	P	S	T	C	P	S	T	C												
Herero ..	4	15	6	—	8	13	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	3	—	2	8	—	—	4	8	2	—	1	4	5	—	3	3	7	0	7	3	2	0
Ovambo ..	4	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	8	2	1	0	1	—	—	2	5	—	—	1	1	—	—	6	2	1	0	8	3	9	0
Damara ..	6	6	1	1	—	5	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	22	13	—	—	17	32	1	1	5	11	1	3	7	7	7	—	3	5	2	0	1	1	1	0
Hottentot ..	—	2	1	2	—	—	2	1	2	13	11	—	—	14	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Bushmen ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	31	1	2	16	52	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Coloured (total)	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
.. (Union)	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Other Races..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Total ..	18	31	10	5	13	18	4	2	20	18	—	—	21	15	—	—	41	53	8	3	34	89	10	2	13	27	5	5	9	12	16	—	15	12	11	—	17	7	12	—

Note. — P. — Primary. S—Secondary. T—Tertiary. C—Congenital.

XVIII. — PUBLIC WORKS.

CONTRACTS.

§ 306. Following the Union procedure, it has been the policy of the Administration to invite tenders for contracts in carrying out such works as were required. Experience has however shown that contracts cannot be readily arranged. The difficulty is not so acute where major works are concerned, but in the case of minor new works and repair work, not only is it practically impossible to obtain any reasonable tenders, but as a general rule no tenders at all can be obtained. During the year under review, in order to complete urgent repairs and minor new works in the northern area, the work had to be carried out departmentally, and then only with the greatest difficulty, as capable tradesmen cannot be obtained at short notice for short periods. The main cause of the present position is that there are no contractors in the country with sufficient capital to enable them to undertake more than one job at one time. There is also hardly sufficient constant work to offer a strong enough inducement to a contractor of any standing from the Union to open up in the Territory. Further, contractors themselves have the greatest difficulty in obtaining skilled labour capable of carrying out the work of the standard required, and the general financial depression tends to aggravate the position. This reacts on the smooth working of the Department, inasmuch as the inability to obtain suitable tenders necessitates continuous supervision over such contracts as are obtained and calls for incessant travelling and supervision on the part of the inspecting staff.

SERVICES.

§ 307. The main expenditure during the year under this Vote has been directed towards providing increased school and hostel accommodation, and provision was made on the Estimates for additions at Stampriet, Grootfontein, Maltahöhe, Omaruru, Keetmanshoop, Swakopmund and Outjo, involving an expenditure of roughly £30,000. Judging from the expansion taking place in education throughout the Territory, expenditure in this direction is likely to increase heavily in the future. The position is similar, though in a lesser degree, with regard to Police accommodation. The Police Stations taken over from the late Government were in the majority of cases built of green brick and in many cases have in consequence become so dilapidated as to be past repairing. In any event, the cost of maintenance is heavy. New Police Stations have been built at Outjo and Otjiwarongo and smaller posts have been established at Kamenjab, Okaukweyo and Namutoni, and there still remains a great deal to be done before it can be said that the Police accommodation throughout the country is satisfactory. Further expenditure is also required to improve and modernise Gaols and Native Hospitals. The cost of providing all that is required in the way of school hostels, Police Stations, etc., would run not into thousands but hundreds of thousands of pounds sterling, and however desirable or even necessary these things may be, the Administration is unfortunately obliged to have due regard to its limited revenue. On the whole, the advance which can be shown by improvements and additions to the public buildings throughout the country since the Mandate was taken over is very considerable.

The following are the principal works completed during the year :—

Gibeon. — Major Works :

Stampriet—School Hostel. Contract amount, £7,450. Completed.

Grooifontein. — Major Works :

School Hostel—Additions. Contract amount, £4,885. In hand.

Keelmanshoop. — Major Works :

School Hostel. Estimated cost, £3,000. In hand.

Maltahöhe. — Major Works :

School Hostel. — Additions. Contract amount, £5,500. Completed.

Omaruru. — Major Works :

School—Additions. Contract amount, £2,748. Completed.

Ouljo. — Major Works :

Police Station. Contract amount, £1,711. Completed.

Public Works Vote :

Kamenjab — New Police Station. Completed.

Otjiwarongo. — Major Works :

Police Station. Contract amount, £1,944. Completed.

Swakopmund. — Major Works :

Walvis Bay—Post Office. Contract amount, £1,422. Completed.

Walvis Bay—Wireless Station quarters. Contract amount, £1,295. In hand.

Walvis Bay—Native Location. Estimated cost, £5,000. In hand.

A School Hostel was purchased at Swakopmund for the sum of £8,000, and repairs effected to the hostel cost another £1,000.

Warmbad. — Major Works :

School.—Additions. Completed cost, £2,116. Completed.

MECHANICAL TRANSPORT.

§ 308. There has practically been no change in the running equipment of this section of the Branch during the year. No new cars have been purchased and no cars have been taken over from other branches. During the year the following mileage was run :—

Administration	6,931
Agricultural Department	2,600
Education Department	3,112
Health Department	1,173
Magistrates	1,628
Native Affairs Department	2,199
Land Board	6,272
Locust Department	3,505
Prime Minister	883
South-West Africa Police	2,774
C.I.D.	255
Survey Department	8
Local Department and P.W.D. Service	16,532
P.W.D. Services, Keepmtanshoop	10,602
Total	<u>58,474</u>

SOLDIERS' GRAVES.

§ 309. All the graves in all areas were inspected during the year and were found to be in good order.