

The general depression has naturally led to a great decrease in activity in prospecting and exploitation. Only 363 prospecting licences have been issued as against 771 last year, and 703 claims registered against 4,472 last year. On the other hand, the number of claims cancelled is very little more, whilst the number of conversions of prospecting into mining claims applied for actually shows an increase. The latter facts indicate that, on the whole, mining ground is still being firmly held, and no doubt any marked improvement in the markets would at once lead to a resumption of full activity.

The position, as a whole, is reflected in the decrease of general mining revenue collected under the Mining Ordinance of 8th August, 1905, from £16,996. 17s. 3d. last year to £7,478. 2s. 4d. this year.

From the gloom and depression of 1921, it is cheering to be able to turn to the prospects for 1922, which are undoubtedly promising. Diamonds may still lag badly, but when they do go ahead again, production will proceed on a sounder and more satisfactory basis. In regard to copper, operations at Tsumeb will be increasing steadily, and should soon be proving the value of that mine as an asset for revenue purposes. Prices of tin show promise of improvement, and it will be strange if some measures are not soon put in progress to prove the value of our lodes, some few, at least, of which may prove payable with tin at a more normal price, if only sufficient capital and efficient management are provided.

In diamonds, 171,320·855 metric carats were recovered during the year, showing a decrease of 435,102·835 carats on the previous year. The average number of stones per carat was 6·8. These figures do not include some 132·830 carats of diamonds recovered by prospecting operations. Diamond deliveries amounted to £494,292, and the tax accruing to the Administration as the result of these deliveries is £42,465. This low figure is principally due to smaller sales, the poor quality of the stones, and the high working costs. The tax for 1920, assessed on sales of £1,599,849, amounting to £494,572. 17s. 1d., was recovered during the financial year 1921-22.

Copper, Lead, Zinc, and Silver.—So far as concerns the production of any one of these metals individually, the year has been one of absolute stagnation, and I have no remarks of any interest to offer.

On the other hand, there has been very gratifying progress in production from the mixed ores of Tsumeb, and it is anticipated that next year the results will continue to show material improvement. Considerable additions to plant are either in progress or immediately contemplated. Amongst these is a new dressing plant and another furnace equal in capacity to the two now available. A new main shaft is also being put down. One result will be that, whilst much more ground will be treated locally, less ore will be exported. This change will be all for good, and the financial results should reflect the benefit. 72,643·41 tons of copper, valued at £435,858, were won, and 42,643·783 tons, valued at £255,864, were exported.

At Walvis Bay there was ready for export on the 31st December, 1921, 5,844·474 tons of copper ore, 378·514 tons of copper matte, and 92·000 tons of raw lead; whilst 1,414·078 tons of copper matte, valued at £42,420, and 197·655 tons of raw lead, valued at £1,970, were exported during the year.

Tin.—The poor price for the metal prevailing throughout the year has resulted in a decrease in production of alluvial tin from 200 tons in 1920 to 155 tons this year, of which 166·006 tons, valued at £33,000, were exported in 1920, as against 104·433 tons, valued at £10,950, in 1921.

I regret to be unable to refer to any steps as having been taken to prove in a practical way the value of any of our lodes. Reports of inspecting engineers are in some cases very favourable, and even optimistic, but that is all one can say. The general impression is that, whilst the great majority of these lodes are below the line of payability, except perhaps under the most favourable conditions, there is certainly a proportion of them which with good management should be able to hold their own in competition with other fields. The day will almost certainly come when the production of this country will be a factor in the world's markets.

Vanadium.—Very satisfactory progress has been made during the year, and, but for some untoward circumstances, the production would this year have more than doubled that of last.

Though these ores are never likely to prove a very big asset, still there is room for considerable expansion on present operations and the outlook is hopeful. 650·393 tons were won during the year, and 381·100 tons, valued at £19,055, exported.

Gold.—Several occurrences have been reported during the year, but none of any particular value have been proved so far. Latterly, some high results have been returned from assays from certain fresh discoveries, and there is at least a possibility that something good may be struck before long.

Marble.—The total value of the output from the quarries at Karibib for the year only amounts to £1,118.

An option has been taken on these properties by a new company, and it is possible that more vigorous exploitation may be started soon.

Precious (other than Diamonds) and Semi-precious Stones.—There have been produced during the year:—

Beryls.....	2·4 kg.
Rose quartz.....	12,200·0 kg.
Topazes.....	36·0 kg.
Tourmalines.....	1,272·0 kg.

Latterly, nearly all attention has been concentrated on tourmaline, of which some fine qualities are recovered in the Karibib district.

There is said to have been a brisk market recently in Germany for the less valuable "precious" and for semi-precious stones, and it apparently continues so far, but such a market is apt to be precarious and will require very careful handling.

Accidents.—During the year four fatal accidents occurred, which is an unusually bad record for this country. One of these occurred at the Groot Otavi Mine of the Otavi Exploring Syndicate, Ltd., one at a tin prospecting proposition in the Erongo, and two at Tsumeb. Three out of the four cases were purely accidental, and no fault was to be imputed to any one. As regards the fourth, however, which was one of those occurring at Tsumeb, inquiries are still proceeding.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The health and medical services for which the Administration is responsible are performed by one whole-time medical officer, stationed at Windhoek, and by eleven part-time medical officers, termed "district surgeons," who, in addition to their official duties, are allowed to engage in private practice.

Local authorities have control of sanitation and other measures necessary to safeguard and promote the public health in their respective areas.

There are seven urban local authorities, viz. at Luderitz, Keetmanshoop, Windhoek, Okahandja, Karibib, Swakopmund, and Omaruru. In rural areas the magistrate of the district is the local authority.

Hospitals.—(1) The military hospitals closed down in March, 1920. Four hospitals, subsidized by the Administration, were subsequently established, viz. at Grootfontein, Outjo, Windhoek, and Luderitz. Each hospital is under the control and management of a Hospital Board, representative of the various sections of the community. The subsidies are based on the revenue derived from patients' fees and voluntary subscriptions and bequests.

In addition to the above, there are three institutions controlled and maintained by religious orders, two by charitable organizations in Germany, and three by mining companies.

These are as follows:—

- (i) The Catholic Hospital, "Maria Stern," in Windhoek.
- (ii) The Catholic Antonius Hospital in Swakopmund.
- (iii) The Catholic Hospital in Gobabis.
- (iv) The Elizabeth House in Windhoek, for maternity cases only.
- (v) The Johanniter House in Keetmanshoop.
- (vi) The Otavi Mining and Railway Company's Hospital at Tsumeb.
- (vii) Hospitals at Kolmanskop and Pomona, district Luderitz, belonging to the Consolidated Diamond Mines of South-West Africa.

(2) Accommodation for native patients is provided in the following hospitals, viz.: Antonius Hospital, Swakopmund; Roman Catholic Hospital, Gobabis; and Civil Hospital, Luderitz; while native hospitals are maintained by the various mining concerns at Tsumeb and at Kolmanskop, Charlottental, and Pomona, in the Luderitz district.

In addition to the above, there are four native hospitals which are directly controlled by the Administration, viz. at Keetmanshoop (18 beds), Windhoek (100 beds), Karibib (12 beds), and Omaruru (8 beds), and in connection with these a staff of five Europeans and twenty-five natives is employed. With the exception of a small revenue derived from patients' fees, the whole cost of these institutions is borne by the Administration.

The hospitals at Karibib and Omaruru were opened on the 1st April, 1921.

The native hospital at Grootfontein was closed down at the beginning of the year, and a compound for natives suffering from venereal disease substituted for it.

Public Health and Sanitation.—(1) The population is almost entirely dependent on the underground water for its water supply, which is generally obtained either from springs or from wells and boreholes. At Luderitz and Walvis Bay, however, water from these sources is not available, and supplies are obtained by the distillation of sea-water. All the urban areas have municipal supplies.

The water is of good quality, but varies considerably in quality according to the season. During exceptionally dry seasons there is often a scarcity, especially in Windhoek, with its increasing population. In no locality is the supply sufficient for an efficient water-borne sewerage system.

During the year under review there has been no instance of the contamination of the water supply in any urban area.

(2) Considerable improvement has been effected in the conservancy system of refuse disposal which prevails throughout this Territory. Cesspools have been abolished, and the pail system is not in universal use. The old-fashioned brick dustbins, which were in evidence everywhere, have been replaced by galvanized iron pails with properly fitting lids, while solid and liquid refuse is disposed of by burial on suitable sites. The system is working satisfactorily on the whole, but there is room for considerable improvement.

Meat inspection and the supervision of the milk supply, etc., leave much to be desired. Even in Windhoek, where there is a public slaughterhouse, the arrangements are of a most primitive nature.

Little interest is shown by the public in matters relating to public health, and the local authorities, with one or two exceptions, are not giving sufficient attention to the subject. Further, the want of experienced sanitary inspectors holding certificates from recognized examining bodies is seriously felt in some of the larger centres. Local authorities are also greatly handicapped by the lack of funds with which to carry out certain necessary improvements.

(3) *Health of the Population.*—The general health of the population has been good. With the exception of a widespread outbreak of influenza towards the end of the winter, there has been no marked prevalence of infectious disease. There was a localized outbreak of enteric fever (seven cases) among Europeans on the mines at Kolmanskop in August, and of diphtheria (twelve cases) among school children at Omaruru in the month of May. During the winter months an epidemic of whooping-cough of a mild type prevailed at Swakopmund. In the northern districts the incidence of malaria was greater than usual, owing to an unusually heavy rainfall in those parts.

Venereal Disease.—The prevalence of venereal disease among Europeans is probably the same as in other similar communities.

Syphilis has existed among the Nama for a considerable period and was brought by them from the Cape Province. Until comparatively recent times the disease was unknown to their neighbours in the north, viz., the Herero. The Herero word *Otji-uava*, denoting syphilis, is said to have been recently introduced into their vocabulary, and to have been coined from the Nama *Tsui-tsoab*, applied to the disease. During the course of the numerous wars between these two tribes, infection was carried to the Herero, but the

disease was not prevalent prior to the German occupation, since when, however, there has been a rapid and widespread dissemination, particularly during and subsequent to the Herero War.

Infection subsequently spread to Ovamboland from the south, and was also carried from the European settlements in Angola.

Venereal disease is not met with among the Bushmen, except in localities like Grootfontein, Tsumeb, and Gobabis, where they come into contact with civilization.

Though there is still considerable difficulty in getting natives who contract the disease to report for treatment, there would appear to be some improvement in this respect owing to the good results obtained from the intravenous use of arsenical preparations by district surgeons.

During the year under review, 464 cases of syphilis among natives were treated by district surgeons, and 2,212 intravenous injections of salvarsan and its derivatives given.

Natives suffering from gonorrhoea do not, as a rule, seek advice unless seriously incapacitated by the disease. Even in Windhoek, where facilities exist for treating such cases as out-patients, but few cases are actually met with.

Mentally Disordered and Defective Persons.—There are no institutions for the reception of mentally disordered or defective persons. Mental patients as soon as they are certified to be insane are sent to institutions in the Union under the provisions of Act No. 38 of 1916 of the Union Parliament.

Native patients who are not a danger to themselves or to others are handed over to the care and control of their relatives.

Anthropological Research.—During the year Miss Bleek continued her philological researches among the Bushmen of the eastern portion of the Territory, and much valuable material has been collected. This is now being collated.

Before obtaining the services of a modeller it was considered advisable to circularize magistrates with a view to securing suitable subjects. The great difficulty has been to assure the natives that they were not required to subject themselves to some system of refined torture, and, after prolonged negotiations, the services of typical specimens have been secured. Modelling will be commenced during the ensuing financial year.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

Savings Bank.—The deposits number 1,682, amounting to £16,945. 12s. 8d., and withdrawals 985, totalling £18,471. 14s. 11d. In comparing this data with a corresponding period in the previous year, these figures represent 543 less deposits to the value of £2,911. 18s. 5d., and six withdrawals with a larger drain on the Bank by £903. 3s. 2d.

The number of new accounts was 246 as compared with 295, closed 182 against 224, leaving 1,005 open as against 922 last year, or a net increase of 83 depositors.

The amount standing to the credit of depositors at 31st December was £23,259. 5s. 4d. or £255. 0s. 11d. less than last year.

The drain on the Savings Bank may be attributed to the prevailing depression and the more tempting interest offered to persons with surplus funds than 3½ per cent. which the Bank offers.

Money Orders.—Money Order business continues to increase in popularity with the public as may be gleaned from the subjoined figures.

Eight thousand seven hundred and twenty-two orders were issued and 3,379 orders paid in 1920, involving amounts of £74,323. 18s. 9d. and £39,543. 13s. 8d. respectively; as against these in 1921 were 10,503 issues and 4,403 payments covering amounts of £78,648. 12s. 6d. and £42,399. 16s. 9d. respectively.

Postal Orders.—In 1920 there were £13,765. 7s. 4d. in issues and £4,277. 15s. 10d. in payments as compared with the amounts for 1921, which were £13,107. 1s. 9d. and £4,825. 13s. respectively.

Cables.—Cable traffic reveals a falling off by comparison with a similar period last year. 3,726 cables were forwarded in 1920 and 3,469 in 1921, the value of which were £5,688. 15s. 1d. and £4,869. 16s. 7d. respectively.

Increased Postal Rates.—On the 1st June, 1921, this Administration, in conjunction with the Union of South Africa, increased the letter rate of postage from 1½d. to 2d. per ounce for letters.

Mail Service.—The extension of mail communication to meet the growth of settlement continues to give satisfaction.

From 1st April, 1922, it is the intention to place main and branch post services on a permanent footing, and to this end tenders are now invited for three years, instead of one as in the past, for the main post services. It is expected keener competition will result therefrom and more reliable services maintained by contractors, who hitherto have not employed plant commensurate with the Department's requirements.

Mail Statistics.—The statistical period for the year under review was 4th to 10th September. The data derived therefrom was as follows:—

Posted.....	40,041	as against	38,800	for 1920
Forwarded.....	28,974	“	18,015	“
Received.....	56,985	“	53,257	“

The total increase over the preceding year was 827,256 articles.
The number of undelivered articles increased from 4,182 to 5,342.

Telegraph Traffic:—

	1920.	1921.	Decrease.
Forwarded.....	145,595	114,986	30,609
Transmitted.....	270,360	213,134	57,226
Received.....	132,120	106,664	25,456

From the above data it will be seen how far the prevailing depression has affected the use of the telegraph.

Persons in business who in prosperous times give little thought to the difference in cost between a telegram and a letter now resort to the cheaper service.

On the unit basis the decrease is estimated at £2,500 for the nine months under review.

Telephones :—

	1920.	1921.	Increase.	Decrease.
Direct Exchange subscribers.....	474	530	56	—
Extensions.....	108	106	—	2
Government Exchange connections.....	189	174	—	15
Government extensions.....	46	42	—	4

Paid subscribers since last April have increased by fifty-six and free Government connections decreased by nineteen.

The following works have been carried out :—

A new office has been opened at Kalkfeld, and offices have been transferred at Gobabis, Otavi, Guchab, and Aus. 1,291 miles of telegraph route were overhauled and 35 miles of telephone erected in the district of Okahandja, establishing a through connection between Okahandja and Otjiwarongo. The telephone route from Haib to Uhabis, a distance of 48 miles, has been dismantled, and the telephone exchange systems of Swakopmund, Omaruru, Grootfontein, and Tsumeb reconstructed.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Staff.—Early in the financial year it was decided to reduce the estimated expenditure of this branch, and it became necessary in June to discharge forty-nine workmen on that account.

Wages.—Wages reached the maximum, i.e. 28s. 9d. per day for skilled workmen early in the year, but have since been reduced to 24s. 6d. per day.

During the year the erections of and repairs to public buildings were undertaken departmentally, involving an estimated expenditure of £18,978. 6s. Tenders were accepted for further necessary services involving a sum of £10,430. 2s. 5d.

Rents.—There are about 580 occupants of Government quarters, a small proportion of whom pay rent. This includes about 240 police and 35 non-officials.

Valuation Board.—A Valuation Board was appointed in May whose duty it was to submit recommendations with regard to the allocation of properties as between the Railway Administration and properties controlled by the Public Works Branch, and to value all properties inherited from the German Administration other than railway properties.

The Board completed the work and submitted their report in October. It was recommended that twenty-nine properties, at a value of £32,095, should be handed over to the Railway Administration. The total value of properties inherited from the German Administration amounted to £722,626 and the urban and village site values amounted to £254,000.

Maintenance of Soldiers' Graves.—This entails very little expenditure, as the greater part is carried out by voluntary effort.

Crosses are supplied as a free service by the Union Defence Department, and arrangements are made here for the distribution and fixing in position.

Statistics are as follows :—

District No. 1 (Windhoek).....	Number of graves	164
" " 2 (Omaruru).....	" "	36
" " 3 (Keetmanshoop).....	" "	168
TOTAL.....		368
Number of bodies exhumed for removal at instance of relations.....		16
Number of re-interments in South-West Africa.....		17
Number of crosses erected.....		190
Number of crosses received during the year—		
Erected.....		42
Awaiting erection.....		69
		111
Number of crosses not yet to hand.....		67

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

GYS. R. HOFMEYER,

Administrator for South-West Africa.

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