

amendments necessitated by the growth of the mining industry is in hand, and will be dealt with in the early part of the year. The necessity for the introduction of a set of regulations in connection with mines, works and machinery has become apparent; these are in preparation.

The introduction of an Explosive Ordinance based on that in force in the Union, together with the necessary regulations, is in contemplation.

PROSPECTING.

Para. 182. During the year under review there has again been an increase in the number of prospecting licences issued (472-608).

Prospecting claims registered (2,078) show a very substantial increase of 1,031 over the number registered in the previous year, whilst prospecting claims cancelled remain the same at 436. The total net increase in prospecting claims held at the close of the year thus being 1,622, comprising 705 precious and 917 base metal claims.

Precious minerals, especially gold, have come in for as much attention during the past year, as have the base minerals.

In addition to an increase in activity at Ondundu-Otjiwapa, where alluvial gold has been produced during the past two years, a great deal of attention has been given to the long known occurrence in the Chuos Mountains, south-west of Usakos. A large number of claims have been pegged in the last six months, but with one exception little useful work has been done up to the present. It is not improbable that systematic exploratory work may open up payable propositions.

What might be called a rush on a small scale occurred as the result of the prospecting and opening of a pyritic deposit, said to contain gold, in the neighbourhood of Keetmanshoop, and an occurrence of "banket" near Witvlei, 110 miles east of Windhoek, which had some twenty years ago received some attention, was again the centre of activity for a short while. Both have, however, died a natural death.

The interest in tin has been maintained, and several extensions of the already known area of this field have been located.

The work done on prospecting claims held in the tin area has not up to the present been what was expected, lack of capital and shortage of labour being largely responsible for this. Signs are, however, not wanting that more capital is now becoming available, and an increased amount of work is being done. The shortage of this metal and its consistently high price has led to a thorough search for possible sources to supplement the supply, and has at last led to the possibilities of these deposits being more generally considered. The necessary exploratory work on a proper scale will most certainly be undertaken in the near future.

During the year certain sections of the Omaruru, Uis and Ugab Rivers were prospected with "Banka" drills by the South-West Africa Company. No alluvial tin deposits of any value were located.

Deposits of tungsten ore were located in several places on the north of the Erongo Mountains in the earlier part of the year, but the very considerable drop in the price of this metal has led to prospecting operations being discontinued.

Lead has also come in for considerable attention. On the well-known galena deposits in the Aiais district a large area has been pegged in addition to that already held, and prospecting work has increased. Other deposits in the Rehoboth district have also been located and are being opened up.

Fluor-spar of satisfactory quality has been located in two places in the north, and those interested in semi-precious stones have been obtaining more encouraging results.

In March the Petroleum Corporation of South-West Africa started drilling operations for oil on one of their prospecting areas in the Keetmanshoop district, in the neighbourhood of Berseba. Considerable trouble was experienced at the outset, and the original hole had to be abandoned. A new hole was started, and has now reached a depth of 700 feet.

A good deal of exploratory work has been done on what is thought to be an extensive line of caves in the marble formation in the Karibib district, in which, wherever opened up, deposits of guano have been found. During the past year systematic sampling of these deposits has been done, and the analyses show them to have both a considerable phosphate and nitrate content, together with calcium derived from the lime formation. The results have been sufficiently satisfactory to warrant the flotation of a company for the purpose of working these deposits on a considerable scale.

MINING AND PRODUCTION.

Para. 183. The subjoined figures show production and export for 1926:—

(1) *Diamonds.*—The diamond market remained good throughout the year, and the volume of trade increased. The total production was considerably in excess of [U.G. 22—'27.]

any year since before the war, when these fields were in their infancy and only the richer portions being worked. The new plant of the C.D.M. at Elizabethbucht did not come into operation until towards the end of the year, and then only a small section was put into commission. The coming year should, given similar good conditions as regards market for the year under review, show a still further increase in production. In the latter part of the year the outside producers' production increased, and there are indications that the northern fields will in this and the coming years contribute much more largely than in the past towards their production. The question of water and transport on this inaccessible area has now been satisfactorily solved. As has been stated in para. 19, the outlook for the future as regards the diamond market is, to say the least of it, uncertain unless drastic steps are taken for a definite control of the output from the alluvial diggings in the Union.

Year.	Diamonds won. Carats.	Number of diamonds per Carat.	Diamonds sold. Carats.	Price per Carat.	Total Value.
1909-10	560,977	5.0	560,977	Sh. 28.83	£ 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	} 40.0	1,565,322 (estimated)
1914, August to British Occupation.	—	—	57,808 unsold in 1912-13.		
	74,078	(Seitz Diamonds)	74,078	112.06	415,074
1915, Oct. 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
1925	515,860	7.2	693,864	56.52	1,961,408
1926	683,801	6.7	726,808	56.42	2,050,688

(2) *Copper Lead in Northern Area.*—The year under review has been a satisfactory one at Tsumeb and the other mines of the O.M.E.G. group. As will be seen, in spite of the acute labour shortage, particularly towards the end of the year, a satisfactory output has been maintained from the mine, and the production of pig lead and copper lead matte is in excess of the previous year. Development work has been pushed ahead, and the ore reserves increased.

Year.	Production.		Export.	
	Quantity. Long tons.	Value. £	Quantity. Long tons.	Value. £
1910-11	37,034	222,000	35,860	284,860
1911-12	38,119	228,700	31,506	187,685
1912-13	55,135	310,800	35,355	326,170
1913-14	75,276	451,600	51,249	396,435
1916	—	—	11,970	242,436
1917	—	—	4,877	127,844
1918	45,104	270,600	7,569	142,794
1919	26,675	120,000	6,606	125,088
1920	36,307	218,400	30,591	186,270
1921	72,643	435,800	44,255	300,254
1922	113,342	680,000	39,826	427,823
1923	114,994	690,000	43,317	446,210
1924	122,823	736,900	50,495	571,152
1925	112,600	788,200	55,788	629,000
1926	119,923	839,000	49,942	538,000*

At Walvis Bay, awaiting export:—

	January 1st, 1926. Long tons.	January 1st, 1927. Long tons.
Copper lead ore	3,824	6,113
Copper matte	646	1,004
Pig lead	90	177

* Includes:—

6,657 long tons Copper Matte, value £169,000.
1,413 long tons Pig Lead, value £43,000.

- (3) *Vanadium*.—The unsatisfactory industrial conditions in Great Britain and Europe generally have been felt during the middle and later portions of the year in the vanadium market. It will be noted that sales of vanadium concentrates are considerably below the figures for production, and in the latter part of the year production on the mines of the South-West Africa Company and O.E.S. was suspended. Considerable progress has been made with equipment of the principal mine of the South-West Africa Company (Abenab), and the new plant on which work is still proceeding will shortly be ready for use. A small plant has already been put into commission by the O.E.S. at Uris Mine. It is to be hoped that estimates of generally increased consumption of vanadium in steel products, similar to that shown of late years in America, will be realised, and that the coming year will see a greater measure of activity in this area as the result of an expanding market.

Year.	Production.		Export.	
	Quantity in Long tons.	Value. £	Quantity in Long tons.	Value. £
		£		£
1920	360·4	18,000	276·6	13,880
1921	650·4	32,500	387·1	19,055
1922	1,981·1	99,000	711·03	35,551
1923	1,452·0	75,500	1,166·8	59,217
1924	2,121·8	110,300	1,604·5	83,433
1925	3,740	194,500	2,234	116,100
1926	2,321*	120,700	1,130	58,000

* Does not include 2,737 tons export ore and ore for treatment produced by O.M.E.G.

- (4) *Tin*.—As in 1925, tin mining, in spite of the continued high prices ruling for the metal, has been disappointing, and no real progress has been made, for which lack of capital is largely responsible. Several small plants are now in course of construction, and a substantial increase in output should from now onwards be recorded. There is further evidence that larger interests are beginning to realise the possibilities of lode mining at present prices, in spite of the probably somewhat erratic tin content, and the close of the ensuing year may see several larger ventures on the way to being established. Labour has, as in other classes of mining, been very scarce.

Year.	Production.		Export.	
	Quantity in Long Tons.	Value. £	Quantity in Long Tons.	Value. £
		£		£
1919	111·2	19,700	113·3	20,370
1920	200·8	40,200	166·0	33,200
1921	155·8	18,700	104·4	10,950
1922	222·7	24,500	259·7	28,860
1923	236·6	35,500	233·3	34,995
1924	217·1	32,500	209·3	31,399
1925	192·7	36,600	190·8	36,250
1926	187·5	37,440	198·9	39,500

- (5) *Lead*.—A small production of galena from the Aiais (Warmbad) and Rehoboth districts is recorded. Working has so far been on a very small scale. It is hoped now that more money is being invested in the Aiais deposits that the output will be increased. It is doubtful from the evidence at present available whether this deposit will be such as to warrant the investment of any considerable capital, but it should afford an opportunity for employment of a fairly large number of persons (possibly phthisis men) who, working on tribute on a small scale, could deliver their product to a central mill. During the year 143·4 tons were produced, valued at £3,000.
- (6) *Gold*.—There is a slight decrease of 80 ozs. on the output for the year 1925. Attention is now being paid to the exploration of the large number of reefs in this area, and results being obtained from the work already done are said to be satisfactory.
- (7) *Iron*.—There has been an increase in the output of iron by the Otavi Mines & Railway Company from their mines in the Kalkveld, the quantity of long tons produced being 17,587 as against 13,937 in 1925.
- (8) *Salt*.—Fair supplies of salt continue to be extracted from the deposits near Swakopmund, though the output during 1926 was somewhat less than that of the previous year.
- (9) *Guano*.—Ninety-six long tons of guano were won by the New Era Guano Co., Ltd., from their claims near Sandfish Harbour. This was sold locally.

REVENUE FROM MINERALS, 1926.

Para. 184. Details of the amount of revenue collected from minerals during the year are shown in the following statement:—

	£
Diamonds tax (provisional)	201,995
Prospecting fees	8,430
Prospecting licences	242
Claim tax	4,933
Output royalty	11,403
Sundry deposits	224
Stamps cancelled	26
	£227,253

LABOUR.

Para. 185. An analysis of the average number of natives employed monthly on the various mines in the Territory is included in the section dealing with native affairs (see para. 53).

XVI. POLICE.

Para. 186. The following particulars reflect the authorized establishment as at 31st December, 1926:—

Divisional Inspector	1
Sub-Inspectors	3
Detective Head Constable	1
Head Constables	5
Sergeants	47
Armourer	1
Constables	204
Native N.C.O.'s and Men	214
	476

The personnel of the Criminal Investigation Department at the end of 1926 was as follows :—

Inspectors	2
Detective Head Constables	1
Sergeants	5
Constables	6
Recruits	7
Native N.C.O.'s and Men	15
	—
	36
	—

	Actual Strength.	Authorized Establishment.
Total Europeans	283	289
Total Natives.. .. .	229	240

EFFICIENCY.

Para. 187. Endeavours to maintain the high standard of efficiency of the Police continue unabated.

Inspections were duly held during the year and the reports submitted indicate an all-round improvement.

CRIME.

Para. 188. The following is an analysis of the disposal of charges laid during the year :—

1. Cases reported to the Police	8,150
2. Cases sent for trial	6,447
3. Cases not completed	701
4. Cases closed for want of sufficient evidence	139
5. Cases found false on enquiry	348
6. Cases withdrawn before arrest by police	332
7. Cases withdrawn by complainants	460

Persons convicted :

European males	653
European females	29
Native and coloured males	4,733
Native and coloured females	291

Year.	Cases sent for Trial.	Persons sent for Trial.	Persons Convicted.
1926	6,447	6,783	5,706
1925	5,319	6,145	4,983

The foregoing statistics show an increase of roughly 15 per cent. over the figures for the previous year.

ILLICIT LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

Para. 189. The number of cases disposed of is given below :—

Europeans selling to Natives	29
Natives selling to Natives	7
Possession of Kaffir Beer, Native Males	587
Possession of Kaffir Beer, Native Females	69
Possession of other liquors, Native Males	42
Possession of other liquors, Native Females	4

As compared with 1925 these figures disclose a further increase, which, however, consists mostly of offences of a minor nature. Organised crime has not yet found a foothold in the Territory and the position with regard to serious crime does not call for special comment.

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A statement showing the number and nature of licensed premises is appended :—

Hotels	73
Bottle Stores	31
Wholesale Dealers	11
Clubs	8
Railway Refreshment Rooms	4
Distillers	4
Brewers	1
Police Canteen	1

STOCK THEFT.

Para. 190. The number of stock reported lost and subsequently recovered during the year is shown hereunder :—

	Lost.	Recovered.
Horses	131	75
Mules	29	16
Donkeys	176	134
Cattle	2,896	3,098
Sheep	2,407	546
Goats	1,421	441
Camels	17	9
Pigs	3	1

SUPPLIES.

Para. 191. An adequate check is being kept on all supplies, issues being made on the most economical lines, and a saving of £1,937 was effected under this head during the year. The position is indicated in the following figures :—

	Entitled to.	Value.	Actual Issues.	Value.
Grain	935,130 lbs.	£4,558	735,922 lbs.	£3,588
Lucerne	898,630 „	2,808	602,136 „	1,882
Grass	73,650 „	169	61,287 „	140
Salt	9,205 „	28	5,387 „	16
		£7,563		£5,626

The total value of fodder issues to other Departments during 1926 amounted to £1,468.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT.

Para. 192. It was found possible to enter into a contract in respect of clothing requirements of European members in 1926, which has resulted in articles of clothing being acquired at more advantageous rates than previously.

ANIMALS.

Para. 193. The following statement shows the percentage of casualties amongst the animals of the Force for the last four years, from which it will be seen that there has been a gratifying decrease in the mortality during 1926 :—

	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Horses	21·41%	26·18%	29·79%	21·4%
Mules	11·11%	7·89%	23·68%	8·6%
Camels	5·57%	5·30%	6·42%	6·2%

XVII. POSTS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

Para. 194. Satisfactory progress has been made by the Department during the year and there was an all-round increase in traffic over 1925, though not as great as the increase shown in 1925 over 1924. The revenue collected during the year exceeded the expenditure of the Department by £7,280. The present European adult population, consisting of approximately less than 14,000, contributes a net revenue of, roughly, £4 5s. per head and the Department can hardly be expected to show a greater percentage of increase in traffic for revenue than that reflected in 1926 until such time as the European population has been substantially augmented.

There has been no extensive increase in expenditure, the only item calling for comment in this connection being the additional subsidy demanded by the Railway Administration to cover the conveyance of mails over the South-West Africa system. The Railway Administration desires a contract for a period of three years as from the 1st April, 1926, to be entered into at a fixed sum of £6,000 per annum. The previous amount was £5,550 per annum. This matter is still under consideration. In spite of the reduction in inland postage from 2d. to 1d. on letters as from the 1st January, 1926, and a further reduction from 1d. to ½d. on letters under one half ounce in weight intended for local delivery, the postal collections disclose an increase of £2,990 over the amount of the previous year. This clearly shows that a cheaper rate of postage does not necessarily mean a corresponding loss in revenue, but on the contrary encourages utilisation of the Post Office.

The activities of the various branches of the department for the calendar years 1924, 1925 and 1926 are reflected in the following statement :—

Heading.	1924.	1925.	1926.	Decrease.	Increase.	Per-centage.
Postal Revenue	£22,651	£28,753	£31,742	—	£2,990	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Telegraph Revenue	14,635	18,300	18,114	186	—	1%
Telephone Revenue	£13,272	£14,527	£16,220	—	£1,693	11 $\frac{3}{4}$ %
Miscellaneous	£8,383	£1,049	£2,642	—	£1,593	152%
Revenue Stamp Collections	£10,589	£14,563	£11,019	£3,544	—	24 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Customs	£3,623	£4,646	£6,753	—	£2,107	45 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Expenditure	£48,698	£54,813	£61,438	—	£6,625	12%
Offices opened	93	96	97	—	1	1%
Posting Receptacles	12	13	14	—	1	8%
Mail Matter Posted	2,434,172	2,884,388	3,470,636	—	586,248	20 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Mail Matter Delivered	3,438,864	4,371,640	4,505,280	—	133,640	3%
Private Bags	158	208	269	—	61	22%
Main Posts	6	6	6	—	—	—
Branch Posts	29	31	32	—	1	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ %
Cost of Inland Mails	£8,720	£8,530	£9,306	—	£776	11%
Cost of Ship Letter Mails	£57	£17	£1	£16	—	94%
Undelivered Articles	12,152	13,347	15,267	—	1,920	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Money Orders Issued	23,969	36,905	47,674	—	10,769	26 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Amount	£149,890	£253,871	£298,692	—	£44,811	17 $\frac{3}{4}$ %
Money Orders Paid	9,886	16,477	18,833	—	2,356	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Amount	£85,264	£168,057	£177,690	—	£9,633	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ %
Postal Orders issued	45,631	53,046	63,211	—	10,165	19 $\frac{1}{4}$ %
Amount	£23,425	£26,178	£39,162	—	£2,984	11 $\frac{1}{4}$ %
Postal Orders paid	17,859	19,391	23,683	—	4,292	22%
Amount	£9,186	£9,711	£11,563	—	£1,852	19%
<i>Union Loan Certificates :</i>						
Issues—						
Sales	1,007	950	806	44	—	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ %
Units	8,565	7,223	7,281	—	58	$\frac{3}{4}$ %
Value	£6,852	£5,778	£5,825	—	£47	$\frac{3}{4}$ %
Repayments	74	65	85	—	20	30 $\frac{3}{4}$ %
Units	5,468	10,004	4,006	5,998	—	60%
Value	£4,594	£8,820	£3,506	£5,314	—	60 $\frac{1}{4}$ %
<i>Savings Bank.</i>						
Accounts opened	2,000	3,002	3,860	—	858	28 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Due to Depositors	£79,178	£110,624	£136,922	—	£26,298	23 $\frac{3}{4}$ %
No. of Deposits	4,855	9,210	10,484	—	1,274	13 $\frac{3}{4}$ %
Amount	£87,278	£118,515	£135,321	—	£16,806	14 $\frac{1}{4}$ %
No. of withdrawals	2,087	3,607	5,449	—	1,842	51%
Amount	£43,810	£87,069	£109,024	—	£21,955	25 $\frac{1}{4}$ %
<i>Telegraph Offices :</i>						
Open	80	81	82	—	1	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ %
Inland Telegrams Forwarded	146,280	171,953	178,905	—	6,952	4%
Received	121,630	142,088	146,807	—	4,719	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Transmitted	305,722	367,788	369,176	—	1,388	$\frac{1}{2}$ %
<i>Radio Traffic :</i>						
Telegrams	8,191	9,555	10,649	—	1,094	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Words	100,497	122,893	132,690	—	9,797	8%

Heading.	1924.	1925.	1926.	Decrease.	Increase.	Per-centage.
<i>Cables :</i>						
Number	5,545	6,703	7,704	—	1,001	15%
Value	£5,048	£6,667	£7,499	—	£832	12½%
Telegraph Capital Account	£36,018	£40,099	£42,217	—	£2,118	5½%
Telephone Capital Account	£61,433	£64,945	£71,436	—	£6,471	10%
Miles Telegraph Wire Working.. .. .	1,399	1,399	1,399	—	—	—
Miles Telegraph - Telephone Wire Working	2,349	2,349	2,411	—	62	2·63%
Miles Rural Telegraph and Telephones	595	595	629	—	34	5·71%
Miles Telegraph superimposed	1,151	1,151	1,161	—	10	·86%
Miles Farm Lines	570	637	828	—	191	29·98%
Miles of Exchange System ..	704	778	856	—	78	10·02%
Miles of Exchange System Spare	332	293	260	33	—	11·26%
Public Call Offices	78	83	87	—	4	4·82%
Telephone Exchanges	32	33	37	—	4	12·12%
<i>Exchange Lines.</i>						
No. of Direct Subscribers ..	548	589	641	—	52	8·82%
No. of Extensions	146	150	175	—	25	16·66%
No. of Govt. Connections ..	179	192	189	3	—	1·56%
No. of Govt. Extensions ..	43	42	42	—	—	—
Free Services.. .. .	£2,155	£2,671	£2,555	£116	—	4½%
Full-time Staff	93	96	*95	—	—	—
Leave to Staff—Days	2,330	2,664	2,697	—	33	1·23%

* 3 vacancies.

Para. 195. It will be seen that there has been a decrease of £3,544 in revenue stamps in comparison with 1925 which is attributable to the diminution of legal documents falling under the Stamp Duty Proclamation.

The revenue derived from Post Office customs shows a steady rise.

MONEY ORDERS.

Para. 196. The reduction in the commission charges on money orders referred to in the reports of previous years has resulted in a steady increase in the business of this branch.

POSTAL ORDERS.

Para. 197. The public seem to give the British Postal Orders preference because of a tacit objection to local money orders which necessitate the furnishing of the names of the payee and remitter. The introduction of a Union issue of Postal Order presents certain difficulties, but this has been suggested to the Union Post and Telegraph Department and the matter is under consideration.

UNION LOAN CERTIFICATES.

Para. 198. The sales of Union Loan Certificates in South-West Africa are small, probably because higher rates of interest on fairly good security are available in the Territory.

SAVINGS BANK.

Para. 199. The Post Office Savings Bank continues to maintain its popularity in spite of the many attractive investments offered by outside institutions.

The value of the business transacted by this branch is shown in the statement above.

CASH ON DELIVERY SERVICE.

Para. 200. The cash on delivery service continues to increase in usefulness and the reciprocity with the Union Post Office is not only appreciated but serves to show that considerable revenue has been lost by not having inaugurated this system earlier.

TELEGRAPHS.

Para. 201. The number of messages forwarded, transmitted and received all show increases over that of last year. There have been no serious interruptions to the Telegraph Service,—119 faults have occurred. Communication with all parts of the Territory is steadily being improved and extended.

TELEPHONES.

Para. 202. Telephone revenue increased by £1,693 over the amount of the previous year. New routes, measuring 94½ miles, were erected while several routes were thoroughly overhauled.

VISIT OF THE MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

Para. 203. The Minister for Posts and Telegraphs accompanied by the Postmaster-General and Chief Engineer of the Union Department of Posts and Telegraphs visited the Territory towards the close of the year. It was agreed that in future neither the Union nor the Territory Postal Administration should effect any change in practice such as alteration of tariff, etc., without first consulting the other Administration.

It was also arranged that the Wireless Station at Slangkop shall in future receive all messages intended for the Union and that the station at Walvis Bay shall confine its activities to South West Africa. Slangkop was formerly too weak to deal with distant traffic, but more powerful apparatus was recently installed so that the Union Postal Administration desire to extend the traffic area which was defined in 1923. To cope adequately with Union traffic Walvis Bay Station was specially equipped and the Union Government will compensate the Territory for its loss as a result of the recent change.

RADIO ACTIVITY.

Para. 204. During April, 1926, the radio equipment at Walvis Bay was augmented by the installation of a 3½ kilowatt CW transmitter. This apparatus has increased the efficiency of the Station considerably.

The mean average daylight range is now 2,107 miles as against 900 miles previously, and the night range 2,780 miles as against an average of 1,800 miles.

The relative increase in efficiency on a percentage basis is 134.11 per cent. and 54.44 per cent. in the day and night ranges respectively.

Radio traffic has increased since use has been made of CW transmission by 13.35 per cent. transmitted and 11.82 per cent. received messages, and exceeded the number of the previous year by 1,094, containing 9,797 words.

XVIII. PRISONS.

ADMINISTRATION.

Para. 205. No new gaols were established during 1926, the number of institutions in South West Africa still totalling eleven. In addition there are eight lock-ups which are controlled by the Police under the supervision of the Magistrates.

PRISONERS IN CUSTODY.

Para. 206. The number of prisoners and other detained persons at the various gaols at the end of the year is reflected in the following schedule :—

Centre.	Males.		Females.		Total.	Compared with 1925.
	European.	Coloured.	European.	Coloured.		
Gibeon	—	10	—	—	10	15
Gobabis	—	16	—	—	16	19
Grootfontein	—	29	—	2	31	7
Karibib	—	10	—	—	10	8
Keetmanshoop	1	44	—	—	45	19
Luderitzbucht	—	52	—	—	52	24
Omaruru	—	15	—	1	16	2
Outjo	—	1	—	—	1	5
Swakopmund	1	21	—	—	22	14
Warmbad	—	4	—	—	4	9
Windhoek	12	141	—	3	156	98
	14	343	—	6	363	220

Thirty persons were detained in lock-ups during 1926 as against 26 in 1925.

The following comparative statement shows the daily average number of prisoners and other persons in custody in 1926 and 1925 at the various gaols in the Territory :—

Centre.	Males.			Females.		Totals.	Compared with 1925.
	European.	Coloured.	Asiatics.	European.	Coloured.		
Gibeon .. ..	.65	14.51	—	—	.35	15.51	11.70
Gobabis	—	15.09	—	—	.29	15.38	11.34
Grootfontein ..	.06	17.56	—	—	.50	18.12	11.83
Karibib .. ..	.05	6.07	—	—	.25	6.37	7.70
Keetmanshoop ..	.16	23.32	.002	—	.82	24.302	26.94
Luderitzbucht ..	1.11	29.95	—	—	.92	31.98	34.50
Omaruru .. ..	.06	8.87	—	—	.11	9.04	7.46
Outjo .. ..	.15	4.92	—	—	—	5.07	8.08
Swakopmund ..	.68	20.61	—	.04	.37	21.70	13.27
Warmbad .. ..	.005	4.81	—	—	—	4.815	5.17
Windhoek	8.38	117.02	—	.12	3.47	128.99	97.36
Totals.	11.305	262.73	.002	.16	7.08	281.277	235.35

The total relative figures in respect of lock-ups were 30.67 as compared with 38.74 in 1925.

DEATHS AND ACCIDENTS.

Para. 207. Four native prisoners died during the year and one committed suicide.

There were no serious accidents to prisoners during the year.

HEALTH OF PRISONERS.

Para. 208. The health of the prisoners generally was satisfactory during the year under review. No epidemic outbreaks occurred at any of the gaols.

ESCAPES.

Para. 209. Thirty-two prisoners escaped during 1926 of which number twenty were recaptured at the 31st December.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.

Para. 210. The following comparative statement reflects the number of lashes applied at the undermentioned gaols during 1925 and 1926 :—

Centre.	No. of lashes applied in 1926.	No. of lashes applied in 1925.
Gibeon	205	90
Gobabis	252	126
Grootfontein ..	—	8
Karibib	22	56
Keetmanshoop ..	141	148
Luderitzbucht ..	31	30
Omaruru	105	93
Outjo	29	36
Swakopmund ..	54	41
Warmbad	32	54
Windhoek	191	180
Totals	1,062	862

EXECUTIONS.

Para. 211. During 1926 one execution took place at the Windhoek Gaol, and two sentences of death were commuted by the Governor-General.

REMISSIONS.

Para. 212. The following table gives particulars of remission reports dealt with during 1925 and 1926 in terms of the Prison Service Regulations :—

Year.	Total No. of Reports dealt with.	No. of cases in which remission was granted	Total No. of Days' remission granted.	No. of cases in which no remission was granted.
1926	133	113	6,281	20
1925	89	87	4,291	2

BOARD OF VISITORS.

Para. 213. The Prison Board of Visitors visited the Windhoek Gaol once during the year and dealt with 17 cases.

DISCIPLINE (PRISONERS).

Para. 214. During the year uniformly satisfactory discipline was maintained in the gaols and no serious offences occurred.

CIVIL DEBTORS.

Para. 215. The number of civil debtors detained in the gaols during the year is shown in the following statement :—

Centre.	1926.
Gibeon	—
Gobabis	—
Grootfontein	—
Karibib	3
Keetmanshoop	2
Luderitzbucht	6
Omaruru	1
Outjo	—
Swakopmund	4
Warmbad	—
Windhoek	8
Totals	24

PRISON INDUSTRIES.

Para. 216. Instruction in certain industrial work continues to be given at the Gaol at Windhoek. A number of prisoners discharged each year have mastered some useful trade or other and are thus equipped to follow honest pursuits.

PRISON LABOUR.

Para. 217. The remarks contained in previous reports as regards prison labour still hold good. This branch is as yet unable to satisfy the demand for prison labour.

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In the following table the amount of prison labour supplied to the various Branches of the Administration at the centres indicated, is shown :—

Centre.	Public Works.	S.W.A. Police.	Posts and Telegraphs.	Irrigation Department.	Justice.	Public Health.	Education.	Residency.	Administration.	Municipality.	Private Individuals, Clubs, etc.	South African Railways.
Gibeon	209	80	—	—	24	—	—	303	447	—	1,040	—
Gobabis	—	19	—	—	—	—	—	210	—	—	—	—
Grootfontein ..	217	106	10	—	127	74	—	299	450	—	1,709	—
Karibib	47	77	—	—	133	—	14	76	—	125	512	—
Keetmanshoop ..	40	215	—	—	174	—	—	201	—	2,545	581½	—
Luderitz	124	185	—	—	—	—	—	163	—	1,978	1,252	—
Omaruru	34	190	3	—	416	—	—	344	—	141	173	—
Outjo	—	—	—	—	2	—	25	36	3	—	—	—
Swakopmund ..	332	4	—	—	161	—	26	171	—	—	1,324	—
Warmbad	—	55	—	—	43	—	11	171	—	—	89	—
Windhoek	14,356	174	—	3,748	—	—	—	—	—	400	—	328
Totals	15,359	1,105	13	3,748	1,080	74	76	1,974	900	5,189	6,680½	328

The amount derived from prison earnings during the year totalled £925, exceeding the amount for 1925 by roughly £300.

GARDENS.

Para. 218. The Administration's endeavours to encourage gaolers to grow vegetables for the consumption by prisoners wherever the soil permits, continues unabated.

From the following table it will be seen that in comparison with 1925 satisfactory progress is being made in the production of vegetables at the various gaols :—

Centre.	Production for 1926.	Production for 1925.
Gibeon	6,264 lbs. 8 ozs.	5,353 lbs.
Gobabis	1,984 lbs.	529 lbs. 8 ozs.
Karibib	221 lbs. 4 ozs. ..	111 lbs. 8 ozs.
Omaruru	529 lbs. 1 oz.	1,545 lbs. 4 ozs.
Outjo	2,085 lbs. 8 ozs. ..	2,155 lbs. 12 ozs.
Warmbad	3,794 lbs.	2,235 lbs.
Total	14,878 lbs. 5 ozs. ..	11,930 lbs.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

Para. 219. Two Europeans and three natives were sent to reformatories in the Union during 1926.

DIVINE SERVICES.

Para. 220. Divine services continue to be conducted at the gaols by various clergymen.

XIX.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

Para. 221. Under the provisions of the South-West Africa Constitution Act 1925, Public Health is one of the subjects which fall within the scope of the legislative powers of the Assembly.

Para. 222. The personnel of the Public Health Branch of the Administration consists of one whole-time medical officer, one whole-time and twelve part-time district surgeons and five Europeans and 30 natives employed in native hospitals. Provision has also been made for the appointment of four district nurses in the more densely populated parts of the rural areas.

Para. 223. There are 27 registered practitioners in the territory, and these are distributed as follows :—

Luderitz and District	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Keetmanshoop	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Warmbad	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Gibeon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Rehoboth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Windhoek	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Gobabis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Karibib	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Swakopmund	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Walvis Bay	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Omaruru	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Otjiwarongo	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Grootfontein	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Tsumeb	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Ovamboland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
								27

Of the above 5 hold whole-time mine appointments, viz. :—

Luderitz Diamond Fields	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
South-West Company, Grootfontein	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
O.M.E.G. Copper Mine at Tsumeb	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
								5

Three hold part-time mine appointments, viz. —

Luderitz	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Swakopmund	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Grootfontein	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

One is a mission doctor in Ovamboland and 13 are district surgeons.

The district surgeons are distributed as follows :—

Luderitz.	Gobabis.	Omaruru.
Keetmanshoop.	Karibib.	Otjiwarongo.
Warmbad.	Swakopmund.	Grootfontein.
Gibeon.	Walvis Bay.	Ondongua.
Windhoek.		

The appointment of a District Surgeon at Aroab has not been possible owing to the lack of support from the public.

Para. 224. There are 8 dentists and 7 chemists in practice in South-West Africa.

Para. 225. Under the Public Health Act No. 36 of 1919 of the Union Parliament, which with certain amendments to meet local circumstances, was extended to South-West Africa by Proclamation No. 36 of 1920, local authorities are responsible for the sanitary and other measures necessary to safeguard and promote the public health in their respective areas and in certain matters receive financial assistance on a well-defined basis from the Administration. The Act provides for the co-ordination of official and private enterprise as regards sanitation and preventive and curative medicine. There are twelve (12) urban local authorities, viz., the Municipalities of—

Luderitz,	Karibib,
Keetmanshoop,	Swakopmund,
Windhoek,	Omaruru,
Okahandja,	

and the Village Management Boards of—

Aus,	Mariental,
Warmbad,	Walvis Bay.
Gibeon.	

Para. 226. The Port Health work is performed by the respective district surgeons at Luderitz and Walvis Bay. Provision has been made for the erection of a disinfecting station at Walvis Bay in the near future.

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Para. 227. The supervision of food supplies falls within the scope of local authorities. Legislation is required on the subject of the adulteration, etc., of foods and drugs, but action is being deferred until a consolidating Act has been passed in the Union.

Para. 228. The German laws regulating the sale of poisons, etc., are still in force but as was the case during the German régime, the position is most unsatisfactory. In March last at a representative meeting of medical practitioners, dentists and chemists and druggists, it was unanimously resolved to request the Union Government to provide for the extension of the provisions of the Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Bill, which is now before Parliament, to South-West Africa. This request has been acceded to by the Union Government. The Act will properly regulate the position.

Para. 229. The Administration has from the very outset devoted special attention to the investigation and remedying of the causes underlying the prevalence of and mortality from endemic diseases. The preventative measures which have been adopted by the Administration and by local authorities, etc., have resulted in a fair measure of success. Scurvy, which was very prevalent among the native population in former years has practically disappeared as a cause of death. There has also been a marked reduction in the incidence of, and mortality from, such diseases as acute gastrointestinal conditions among infants and young children and enteric fever. Malaria is still unduly prevalent in certain areas during seasons with an abnormally heavy rainfall but with the educative propaganda which is being carried on, especially among the rising generation, it is confidently anticipated that similar improvement will result. Liberal financial support is being given to anthropological and biological research by various institutions. Publication of the results of these investigations is appearing in various scientific journals.

Para. 230. During the course of the year under review a system of training in general and maternity nursing for European girls from farms in the outlying rural areas was introduced at the Windhoek Hospital, the main idea being to better equip them for their future lives under rural conditions.

Para. 231. The training of natives as medical assistants is carried out at the Windhoek Hospital (Native) but is meeting with very little success, most of the more intelligent boys preferring employment as domestic servants or in the various industrial concerns. Nearly all the maternity work among the native population is done by native midwives with the result that at the present time the ordinary hospital practice does not offer any scope for the training of women as midwives.

Para. 232. In urban areas the local authorities are giving increased attention to the housing of natives, the prevention of overcrowding, etc., and the inhabitants of locations are required to comply with the local regulations. In the Native Reserves the natives live under more or less natural circumstances and the health conditions in the Reserves are very good as a rule. In Ovamboland tribal life does not permit of the congregation of large numbers in villages or towns, but each family has its own kraal and ground for cultivation. The kraals are never of large size and are situated some distance from each other. The Officer-in-Charge of Native Affairs has been able to induce all the principal headmen of the Ukuanyama Tribe to effect various improvements in their kraals which now present a clean and well-ordered appearance. Among the other tribes, however, he has not met with the same degree of success up to the present.

Para. 233. Professional prostitution is not met with in the Territory.

HOSPITALS.

(a) State-aided Hospitals.

Para. 234. No further hospitals were opened during 1926, but provision is being made in the estimates for the ensuing financial year for the establishment of a cottage hospital at Walvis Bay.

Para. 235. Five hundred and twenty-six patients were admitted to hospitals during the year as compared with 616 in 1925 and the number of deaths in hospital was 23. The daily average number of patients was 17.43 and the average duration of treatment 12.10 days.

Para. 236. The following amounts were paid by way of subsidy during the past three years :—

1924	..	..	..	..	..	£2,267
1925	..	..	..	..	..	£3,227
1926	..	..	..	..	..	£2,977

(b) Mission Hospitals.

Para. 237. (1) *Roman Catholic Mission.*—During the year 869 Europeans and 370 natives were treated in the hospitals of the Catholic Mission at Windhoek, Swakopmund and Gobabis. Of these, 32 Europeans and 16 natives died in hospital. The daily average number of patients was :—Europeans 36.80, and Natives 22.32. The average duration of treatment was 15.45 days in the case of Europeans and 22.02 days for Natives.

Para. 238. (2) Finnish Mission.—During the twelve months ending 30th June, 1926, 806 patients were treated in the mission hospitals at Ondongua and Engela. The daily average number of patients was 42·02 and the average duration of treatment was 18·78 days. There were 43 deaths in hospital. The number of outpatients was 8,339 and the number of attendances, 17,195.

Para. 239. (3) St. Mary's Mission.—Odimbo, Ovamboland. Information on the medical work of the mission during 1926 is not available at present.

(c) *State-owned Native Hospitals.*

Para. 240. The total number of patients treated in these institutions during 1926 was 1,339, as compared with 1,114 during the previous year. The daily average number of patients was 121·22 and the average duration of treatment was 33·19 days as compared with 102·53 and 32·69 respectively during 1925. The number of outpatients was 2,902, and the total number of attendances 7,028.

The total expenditure on maintenance was £4,234 17s. 6d. as compared with £4,417 10s. during 1925. The daily average cost per patient was 1s. 10·11d. as against 2s. 4·33d. during 1925.

Para. 241. The new Native Hospital at Windhoek was completed in October at a cost of £6,000.

The total expenditure incurred in connection with the treatment of natives was as follows:—

(1) Maintenance of Native Hospitals	£4,234 17 6
(2) Maintenance of patients suffering from tuberculosis and venereal and other diseases in Mission Hospitals	376 18 9
(3) Maintenance of Venereal Compounds	440 14 11
(4) Expenditure in drugs for venereal disease and general purposes, including drugs distributed through Magistrates, Missions, etc. ..	1,373 2 3
(5) Maintenance of Mental Patients in institutions in the Union ..	131 5 0
	£6,556 18 5

The corresponding figure for 1925 was £6,172 3s. 8d.

HEALTH OF THE POPULATION.

Para. 242. Health conditions were very good during the year under review. There was a widespread prevalence of influenza during the winter months and again in September and October. The disease was generally of a mild type and outbreaks of considerable severity occurred only among natives employed on the mines in the Grootfontein District. There was also a local prevalence of scarlet fever of a very mild type at Windhoek. Sporadic cases of cerebrospinal meningitis, chickenpox, diphtheria, enteric fever, mumps and whooping cough were met with in various localities. The incidence of these diseases was, however, very small indeed. There was no undue prevalence of malaria. The health of the natives in the various Reserves was also very good. There was no undue prevalence of disease nor were many deaths recorded among them.

Para. 243. A summary of the infectious diseases which were notified during the year is furnished in the following table:—

	Europeans.		Natives.	
	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.
Anthrax	1	—	36	7
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	2	2	59	40
Diphtheria	5	—	10	—
Enteric Fever	35	4	23	13
Leprosy	—	—	14	—
Malta Fever	—	—	84	—
Puerperal Fever	1	1	2	2
Scarlet Fever	86	1	—	—
Tuberculosis	5	2	136	77
Total	135	10	364	139

The principal diseases for which admission was sought to the state aided general hospitals and to state-owned native hospitals during 1926 and the number of deaths from these causes are shown in Schedules 1 and 2. In Schedule 3 are given the causes of death among Europeans during 1924 and 1925.

REMARKS ON THE PREVALENCE OF CERTAIN DISEASES DURING 1926.

Anthrax.—As stated in previous reports anthrax is rarely met with among Europeans. During the year under review only one case was met with, the disease having been contracted through the handling of skins. Among Natives on the other hand small localised outbreaks are of not infrequent occurrence and are generally caused by the eating of meat of animals dying from the disease. In October an outbreak of this nature was dealt with among some Ovambo kraals to the east of Ondongua during the prevalence of an epidemic among cattle: 35 persons were affected and 7 died.

Cerebrospinal Meningitis.—During 1926 there were 2 cases among Europeans, both of which terminated fatally. Of the 59 cases recorded among Natives 25 died. Of these 32 cases with 14 deaths occurred on the Luderitz Diamond Fields, 23 with 15 deaths on the Tsumeb Mine and 4 cases with 2 deaths at Windhoek.

Diphtheria is endemic but has never been very prevalent. Sporadic cases occur from time to time both in the rural and urban areas. During 1926 5 cases among Europeans and 10 among Natives were recorded. There were no deaths.

Enteric Fever was not very prevalent during the year under review. While sporadic cases were met with throughout the year, the greatest incidence of the disease was during the winter months. The total number of cases notified was 58 as compared with 161 in 1925 and 155 in 1924. 35 Europeans and 23 Natives were effected and 4 Europeans and 13 Natives died. Of the cases among Europeans 16 with 2 deaths occurred at Windhoek and 9 with 1 death during the course of a local outbreak on some outlying farms in the Maltahöhe district in November. The majority of the cases among Natives (19 cases with 10 deaths) were recorded from the Luderitz Diamond Fields.

Leprosy is not prevalent among the Native tribes of South-West Africa. Among the Hereros, Klip Kaffirs and Hottentots the disease may be said to be non-existent. Among the Ovambos 19 cases have been reported up to the present. Of these 14 have been reported since the 1st July, 1925. Eleven of the recorded cases are from Angola and were discovered among Natives who had come for treatment to the Finnish Mission. Of the 14 cases which have been recorded since July, 1925, 10 have come from Angola. One patient from Angola and two from Ovamboland have died. Lepers from Angola are repatriated through the Portuguese authorities at Namakunde while those from Ovamboland are treated at the hospital of the Finnish Mission. The question of establishing a small colony in connection with the Mission Hospital at Ondongua for the segregation and treatment of Lepers is under consideration at present. The Mission is in the meantime being supplied with the necessary drugs for treatment.

Malta Fever.—Accurate information as to the prevalence of Malta Fever is not available. In the Southern and Central portions of the Territory cases are met with from time to time among both Europeans and Natives during the dry season. The disease is said to be increasing in frequency in Ovamboland; 79 of the 84 cases recorded in 1926 occurred in Ovamboland.

Malaria.—Owing to the small amount of rain which fell during the early part of the year malaria was not unduly prevalent. Benign tertian fever is the most common but sub-tertian infections are met with in the Gobabis, Otjiwarongo and Grootfontein Districts. There were 2 deaths among Europeans from sub-tertian malaria in Tsumeb in December. No deaths were recorded from Blackwater fever. Quinine to the value of £286 18s. 4d. was distributed free by the Administration for the treatment of malaria among Natives during the year 1926.

Plague.—Continued attention is being given to rodent destruction along the main lines of communication. A whole-time rat-catcher is employed by the South African Railways and Harbours Administration for the purpose and operations are systematically carried out at the ports and at the stations along the railway line. Local authorities are actively participating in these measures. Up to the present no evidence has been found of the existence of plague infection among the small mammals of this Territory.

A further grant towards the survey of the mammals of South-West Africa by Capt. Shortridge has been made by the Administration and it is expected that this survey will be completed during the course of the ensuing year. Accounts of the mammalia collected by him during his expedition to Damaraland and Ovamboland were published in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society 1925 and 1926. The fleas collected from rodents in the Kalahari region during 1925 were submitted to Dr. Ingram, Entomologist to the South African Institute for Medical Research for identification.

Tuberculosis.—The number of cases recorded during the year under review was as follows: Europeans, 5; Natives, 136. 2 Europeans and 77 Natives died from the disease. Of the above 76 cases with 41 deaths were reported from the Luderitz Diamond Fields and 22 cases with 7 deaths from Ovamboland.

Most of the cases occurring on the Luderitz Mines are transferred to the more favourable climate of Windhoek for treatment. The amount paid to the Finnish Mission for the treatment of patients in Ovamboland during the year ending 30th September, 1926, was £114 2s. 3d.

Rabies.—Further cases of suspected rabies were reported from Ovamboland during the past year. The position was investigated by the Principal Veterinary Officer in October last and from information received by him from the Portuguese authorities it would appear that the disease which exists among dogs has already been investigated by them and found not to be rabies. Mr. Garraway fortunately obtained the head of an affected animal and this has been forwarded to the Onderstepoort Laboratory for examination. In the meantime strict precautions are being taken to prevent the passage of dogs to and from Ovamboland.

Venereal Disease.—During the year under review special efforts were made by Magistrates to bring under treatment patients from the outlying portions of their districts. The results have been most satisfactory, a considerable increase in the number of patients who reported at the various treatment centres having taken place. The Natives themselves are coming forward voluntarily in increasing numbers. At Walvis Bay a room has been provided for use by the District Surgeon in the treatment of patients and at Gobabis arrangements have been concluded with the Catholic Mission for the maintenance of patients from outlying farms while undergoing treatment. A further treatment centre was recently established at Rehoboth in connection with the Rhenish Mission. The various missions operating in Ovamboland are with the assistance of the Administration also giving increased attention to the treatment of venereal disease.

The number of patients who came under treatment during the years 1925 and 1926 is as follows:—

	1925.		1926.	
	Syphilis.	Gonorrhoea.	Syphilis.	Gonorrhoea.
(1) <i>At State-owned Native Hospitals:</i>				
Number remaining from previous year ..	40	1	28	7
Number admitted	215	46	376	43
Daily average number	37·37	5·14	49·26	6·22
Average duration in treatment (in days)	47·77	39·97	44·50	45·46
Outpatients:				
Number	283	20	245	29
Number of attendances	1,981	300	1,482	462
Number of intravenous injections of salvarsan, etc.	—	3,124	—	5,835
(2) <i>By District Surgeons.</i>				
(a) <i>At Venereal Compounds:</i>				
Number treated	389	33	584	36
Daily average number	—	41·90	—	67·20
Average duration of treatment	—	26·24	—	35·81
Number of intravenous injections	3,330	—	—	4,845
(b) <i>Other Districts:</i>				
Number treated	192	48	559	56
Number of intravenous injections	—	1,208	—	2,639
(3) <i>By Missions in Ovamboland.</i>				
Number treated	434	66	485	27
Number intravenous injections	—	727	—	1,020

The total expenditure on the treatment of venereal diseases during the year under review was as follows:—

Drugs	£935 2 0
Maintenance of patients in—	
(a) State-owned native hospitals	1,932 15 11
(b) Venereal compounds	440 14 11
(c) Mission hospitals	196 12 0
Total	£3,505 4 10

The total expenditure for 1925 was £2,696 7s. 7d.

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HEALTH OF THE RECRUITED WORKERS.

Para. 244. (1) *Luderitz Diamond Fields*.—The average number of natives employed on these fields was 8,658 as compared with 6,619 during 1925. The total number of deaths was 214 as against 223 during the previous year.

The total mortality per 1,000 per annum was 24.71 compared with 33.69 in 1925 and 74.18 in 1924.

The mortality per 1,000 per annum from the principal causes of death during the year 1924 to 1926 was as follows:—

	1924.			1925.			1926.		
	C.	D.	M.	C.	D.	M.	C.	D.	M.
Pneumonia	285	54	9.166	251	43	6.497	427	76	8.778
Other respiratory diseases ..	607	8	1.358	617	2	.302	809	8	.926
Tuberculosis	100	80	13.580	37	34	5.136	76	41	4.737
Influenza	1,252	105	17.824	1,049	40	6.043	693	27	3.118
Scurvy	296	52	8.827	126	—	—	202	1	.115
Rheumatic Conds.	585	11	1.867	449	—	—	506	—	—
Gastrointestinal affections..	569	19	3.225	572	9	1.359	323	—	—
Cerebrospinal Meningitis ..	61	31	5.262	50	25	3.777	32	23	2.656
Enteric Fever	119	51	8.657	73	40	6.043	19	10	1.155
Other Diseases	1,519	19	3.225	1,319	28	4.230	638	25	2.883
Injuries	216	7	1.188	383	2	.302	353	3	.345
Total.. .. .	5,609	437	74.179	4,926	223	33.689	4,078	214	24.713

NOTE.—C—No. of Cases.

D—No. of Deaths.

M—Mortality per 1,000 per annum.

A gratifying decrease in the mortality is thus again shown.

Influenza was widely prevalent in January and February, May and June, and again in September and October. It was specially prevalent on the fields worked by Ovambo labour and, though generally of a mild type, was accompanied by a considerable increase in the incidence of pneumonia and other respiratory diseases and in the mortality from these cases among the Ovambo. The incidence of tuberculosis rose at the same time, most of the cases occurring in patients convalescent from influenza. The seasonal incidence of cerebrospinal meningitis and enteric fever was the same as in previous years. There was, however, a marked diminution in the number of cases and in the mortality from these causes. Scurvy also was less prevalent than in former years.

The accompanying graphs (A, B and C) show (1) the mortality from all causes among labourers employed during the years 1924, 1925 and 1926; (2) the mortality curves among the Ovambos, Bechuana and Union natives, and (3) the monthly death-rate from the principal causes of death during the year under review.

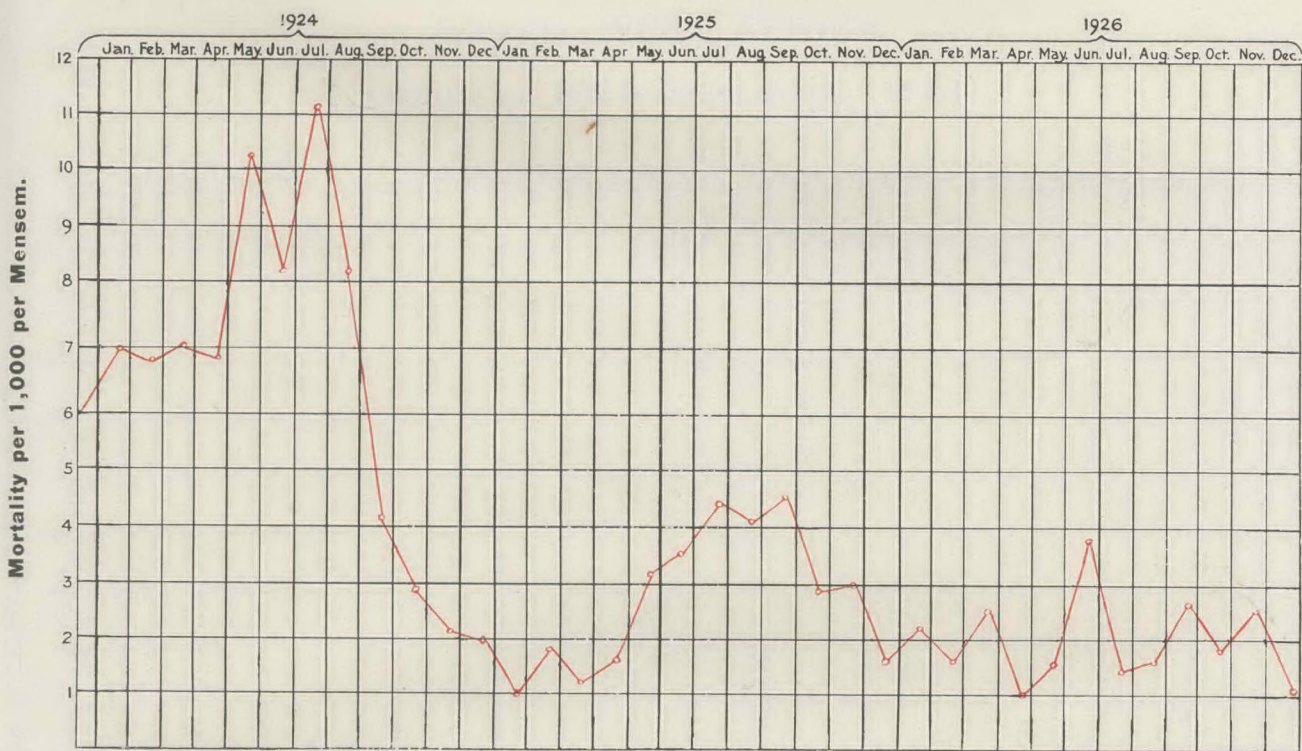
Para. 245. (2) *Copper Mines, Tsumeb (O.M.E.G.)*.—The average number of natives employed by the Otavi Minen und Eisenbahn Gesellschaft during 1926 was 2,254 as compared with 2,397 during 1925. The total number of deaths was 101 as against 59 during the previous year. The total mortality per 1,000 per annum was 44.80 as compared with 24.61 in 1925.

The mortality per 1,000 per annum from the principal causes of death during the year under review as compared with the years 1924 and 1925 was as follows:—

	1924.		1925.		1926.	
	D.	M.	D.	M.	D.	M.
Pneumonia	6	2.93	15	6.26	15	6.65
Tuberculosis	8	3.91	3	1.25	4	1.78
Enteric Fever	1	.49	—	—	2	.89
Dysentery	1	.49	—	—	—	—
Scurvy	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	41	20.96	36	15.02	61	27.06
Cerebrospinal Meningitis ..	4	1.96	—	—	15	6.65
Other Diseases	10	4.89	3	1.25	3	1.33
Injuries	11	5.38	2	.83	1	.44
Total	82	41.01	59	24.61	101	44.80

MORTALITY CURVE OF RECRUITED NATIVE LABOUR ON THE DIAMOND FIELDS

January, 1924—December, 1926.



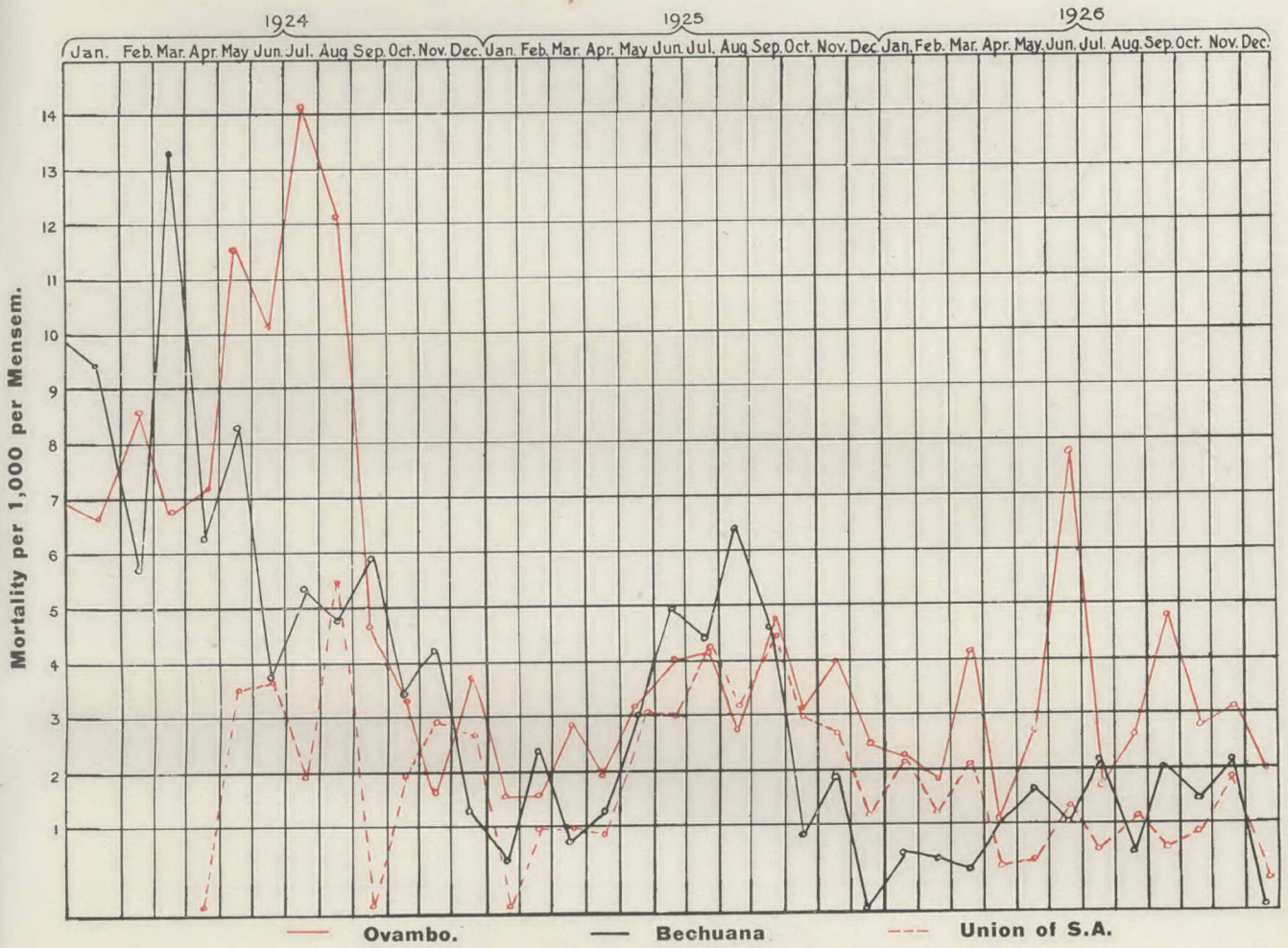
Mean Death Rate per
1 000 per Mensem
= 6.18.

Mean Death Rate per
1,000 per Mensem
= 2.807.

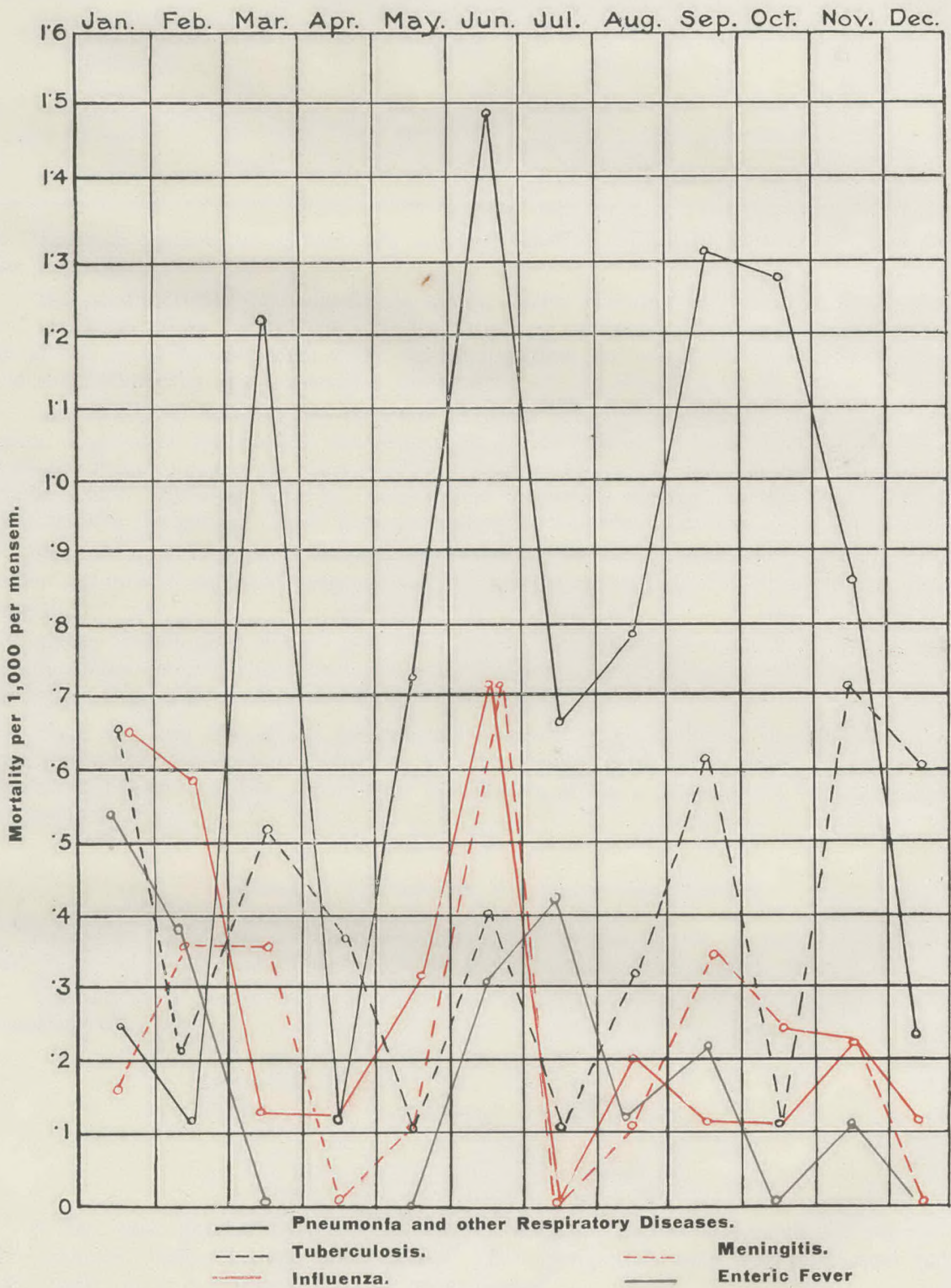
Mean Death Rate per
1,000 per Mensem
= 2.06.

**COMPARATIVE CURVES OF MORTALITY AMONG OVAMBOS,
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA NATIVES, AND BECHUANAS
EMPLOYED ON THE DIAMOND FIELDS IN
SOUTH - WEST AFRICA**

January, 1924—December, 1926



ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AMONG NATIVE LABOURERS EMPLOYED ON THE DIAMOND MINES, 1926



*Para. 246. (3) Vanadium Mines, Grootfontein (South West Africa Company).—*The average number of labourers employed on these mines during 1926 was 947.

The number of deaths was 38, giving a mortality of 40.12 per 1,000 per annum.

The mortality per 1,000 per annum from the principal causes of death during the year under review was as follows —

	No. of Deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum.
Pneumonia	9	9.47
Tuberculosis	1	1.05
Influenza	24	25.26
Scurvy	1	1.05
Other diseases	3	3.16
Total	38	39.99

Accurate statistics of the mortality on the Vanadium Mines during previous years are not available.

The comparatively large death-rate among native labourers employed on the copper and vanadium mines during 1926 was due to several outbreaks of influenza. In January the disease was widely prevalent in the Grootfontein area, but except on the vanadium mines was not attended by any considerable mortality.

In September, however, an epidemic of great severity swept over these fields, and within a period of two months was responsible for 64 deaths, or 46 per cent. of the total mortality from all causes for the year. The main incidence of this epidemic fell on the copper mines. Sporadic cases of cerebrospinal meningitis occurred on the Tsumeb Mines from April to December. There were altogether 23 cases with 15 deaths.

The new mine location at Tsumeb was completed during the year under review. Altogether 203 huts of standard pattern, each with accommodation for six persons, have been erected.

At the Abenab Mine of the South West Africa Company a new native hospital has been erected. This Company has also appointed a full-time medical officer for the Abenab Mine and a part-time medical officer for its other mines and prospecting camps.

*Para. 247. (4) Tin Mines, Karibib and Omaruru.—*The health of the labourers employed on the tin fields continued to be exceptionally good during 1926. The average number employed was 297. There were two deaths, giving a mortality of 6.76 per 1,000 per annum.

MENTALLY DISORDERED AND DEFECTIVE PERSONS.

Para. 248. The main provisions of the Mental Disorders Act of the Union Parliament (Act No. 38 of 1916) were applied to South West Africa by Proclamation 33 of 1924.

The number of persons maintained by the Administration in institutions in the Union is as follows :—

	Males.	Females.
Europeans	8	7
Natives	3	2
	—	—
	11	9
	—	—

Of the above number 4 Europeans—viz. one male and three females and one native—were admitted during the year under review. Two European females were discharged and three native males died during the year under review.

The total cost of maintenance during 1926 was £950 14s. as compared with £733 2s. during the year 1925. Of the total expenditure a sum of £131 5s. was spent on the maintenance of native patients.

[U.G. 22—'27.]

Schedule 1.

DISEASES TREATED AT STATE-AIDED HOSPITALS DURING 1926.

	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.
Anthrax	1	—
Blackwater Fever	1	—
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	3	2
Dysentery	3	—
Enteric Fever	4	2
Measles	3	—
Malaria	41	—
Mumps	4	—
Influenza	28	1
Scarlet Fever	3	—
Tuberculosis—all forms	5	3
Whooping Cough	4	—
Alcoholism	6	1
Scurvy	7	—
Arsenical Poisoning	2	—
Anæmia	6	1
Diabetes	2	—
Rheumatism—Acute	3	—
Rheumatism—Sub-acute	23	—
Syphilis	3	1
Purpura Hæmorrhagica	1	1
Eucephalitis Lethargica	1	1
Disorders of Digestive System	52	1
Appendicitis	36	—
Cancer	3	—
Disease of Gall Bladder	4	—
Pneumonia—all forms	15	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	13	2
Organic Heart Disease	2	1
Diseases of Nervous System	6	—
Nephritis	6	1
Renal Calculus	2	—
Disease of Bladder	3	—
Disorders of Uterus and Appendages	26	—
Disorders of Pregnancy	6	2
Abortion and Miscarriage	12	—
Parturition	71	—
Disease of the Eye	13	—
Disease of the Ear	2	—
Disease of the Nose	3	—
Disease of the Skin	1	—
Disease of Bones, Joints, etc.	52	—
Injuries	26	—
Other Diseases	18	1
	526	23

Of the above number 4 Europeans—viz. one male and three females and one native—were admitted during the year under review. Two European females were discharged and three native males died during the year under review.

The total cost of maintenance during 1926 was £960 14s. as compared with £733 2s. during the year 1925. Of the total expenditure a sum of £131 6s. was spent on the maintenance of native patients.

[L. O. 25—27.]

PRINCIPAL DISEASES TREATED IN STATE-OWNED NATIVE HOSPITALS DURING 1925 AND 1926.

	1925.		1926.	
	C.	D.	C.	D.
Anthrax	—	—	1	—
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	2	1	4	2
Diphtheria	—	—	6	—
Dysentery	4	1	7	—
Enteric Fever	2	—	1	1
Erysipelas	1	—	1	—
Malaria	16	—	61	—
Malta Fever	—	—	5	—
Influenza	114	6	76	2
Purpura Hæmorrhagica	—	—	3	2
Tetanus	3	3	1	—
Tuberculosis :				
Pulmonary	47	14	105	23
Other Forms	11	1	7	1
Snakebite	3	—	—	—
Rheumatism	23	—	24	—
Scurvy	15	—	50	2
Gasteritis, etc.	9	1	7	2
Appendicitis	—	—	1	—
Hernia	4	1	4	1
Acute Bronchitis	6	—	12	—
Pneumonia—all forms	52	7	50	11
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	—	9	1
Cancer	3	—	1	—
Organic Heart Disease	5	1	11	2
Mental Disorders	8	—	24	2
Epilepsy	4	1	5	—
Apoplexy	2	1	—	—
Nephritis—Acute	1	1	1	1
Cystitis	3	—	2	—
Stricture of Urethra	7	—	10	—
Diseases of the Eyes	29	—	13	—
Diseases of the Ear	3	—	—	—
Diseases of Bones, Joints, etc.	37	1	16	2
Injuries :				
(a) Fractures	9	1	14	—
(b) Burns and Scalds	3	1	8	1
(c) Other injuries	55	1	105	3
(d) Self inflicted	2	1	2	—
Venereal Diseases :				
(a) Syphilis	280	5	372	7
(b) Gonorrhœa	69	—	43	—
Other Diseases	134	11	177	5
	969	60	1,239	71

CAUSES OF DEATH (ABRIDGED INTERNATIONAL LIST)—EUROPEANS—YEARS 1924 AND 1925.

Cause of Death.	1924.		1925.	
	Certified.	Uncertified.	Certified.	Uncertified.
Enteric Fever	1	—	11	—
Typhus	—	—	—	—
Malaria	3	3	5	25
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	1	—
Influenza	7	2	5	3
Plague	—	—	—	—
Leprosy	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	—	1	1
Tuberculosis Meningitis	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Bones, Joints and Glands ..	—	—	1	—
Other Tubercular Diseases	1	—	—	—
Syphilis (all forms)	—	—	1	—
Cancer (all forms)	3	1	7	3
Meningitis	6	1	2	—
Cerebral Hæmorrhage and Softening ..	1	1	1	1
Cardiac Diseases	8	—	12	2
Bronchitis	—	1	2	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	9	11	7	8
Miners' Phthisis (Silicosis) without Tubercu- losis	—	—	1	—
Miners' Phthisis (Silicosis) with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	—	2	—
Ulcer and Stomach Duodenum	1	—	—	—
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years) ..	6	1	7	1
Appendicitis	2	—	3	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—	—
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	—	7	—
Puerperal Sepsis	—	1	2	—
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	2	1	—	1
Congenital Debility, Malformation and Pre- mature Birth	10	5	10	4
Suicides	5	—	8	—
Other Violent Deaths	5	—	7	2
Other Defined Diseases, and Unspecified ..	25	11	22	17
Total Deaths	102	39	126	69

XX. PUBLIC WORKS.

CONTRACTS.

Para. 249. Difficulty has been experienced in finding contractors for minor works and repairs to buildings. Apart from the fact that there are few of the smaller contractors with sufficient capital to finance more than one enterprise at a time, there also seems to be a sufficient demand for the services on private contracts to keep the contractors with capital occupied in the larger centres. The men who tender for the smaller jobs generally require close and constant supervision entailing much travelling on the part of the inspecting staff. These causes have militated against the carrying out of building operations with the necessary promptitude.

SERVICES.

Para. 250. The vacant ground adjoining the Government Buildings, Windhoek, has been turned into a garden in which indigenous plants and shrubs will be planted. This will much enhance the appearance of the building and prove of special interest to visitors.

Extensive additions have been made during the year to the Native Hospital at Windhoek, the accommodation and equipment now available being adequate for the treatment of Natives on the most approved modern lines.

At Walvis Bay the completion of the new Native Location, consisting of five blocks each of 10 tenements, has fulfilled an urgent requirement as is evinced by the ready response on the part of the local natives in seeking accommodation at the rental fixed. The water and sanitary services in the Location, as in the township generally, have also been greatly improved as a result of various works undertaken by the Railway authorities in this connection.

The following are the principal works completed or put in hand during the year :—

Magisterial District.	Service.	Amount.	Remarks.
		£	
Aroab	Klipdam School	1,600	Completed.
Luderitz	Aus School Hostel	1,500	do.
Omaruru	Omaruru School Hostel	4,250	In hand.
	Otjihorongo Quarters	780	Completed.
Otjiwarongo	Osere Süd Police Station	1,550	In hand.
Swakopmund	Walvis, Native Location	5,160	Completed.
Warmbad	Ariamsvlei Police Station	2,000	do.
Windhoek	High Court	2,200	do.
	German Boys' Hostel	3,600	do.
	School Street School	2,600	do.
	Native Hospital	6,100	do.
	Boys' Hostel	1,640	do.

MECHANICAL TRANSPORT.

Para. 251. The running equipment of this section was considerably reduced during the year, seven cars being sold and only two purchased.

The following comparative figures reflect the mileage run in connection with the various services of the Administration during 1925 and 1926 :—

	1925.	1926.
Administration	2,103	363
H.H. the Administrator	17,293	18,904
Agricultural	3,933	4,184
Delimitation Commission	—	652
Education	3,573	3,288
Health	1,665	738
Irrigation	—	1,346
Locust Department	1,857	—
Land Board	2,965	10,902
Legislative Assembly	—	1,650
Magistrate	1,133	2,021
Native Affairs	2,447	862
Postal	419	109
S.W.A. Police	2,218	2,873
Surveys	579	561
Repayments	2,592	404
Rehoboth Expedition	6,500	—
P.W.D. Services, Keetmanshoop	10,245	8,442
P.W.D. Services, Windhoek	1,423	4,609
Goods for all Departments	14,730	10,320
	<u>75,675</u>	<u>72,228 mil</u>

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