

356. Return giving number of women in the various reserves, together with the number of children born to them during 1929.

Name of Reserve.	Number of Women.	Number of Births.
Soromas.....	37	11
Gibeon.....	81	8
Aminuis.....	1,002	17
Epukiro.....	579	19
Otjitulo.....	498	10
Otjimbingwe.....	341	11
Berseba.....	666	12
Tses.....	300	1
Neuhof.....	6	—
Ovitoto.....	317	18
Otjihorongo.....	476	15
Okombahe.....	354	11
Waterberg.....	652	20
Franzfontein.....	113	7
Bondels.....	203	44
TOTALS.....	5,625	204

*Temporary Reserves.*

357.

Name of Reserve.	Number of Women.	Number of Births.
Hoachanas.....	74	6
Aukeigas and Furstenwalde.....	281	—
TOTALS.....	355	6

At Aukeigas and Furstenwalde there is no Superintendent which accounts for no births being reported there.

358. The next return shows the number of deaths occurring in the native reserves:—

Name of Reserve.	Population.	Number of Deaths during 1929.
Soromas.....	126	7
Gibeon.....	178	7
Aminuis.....	2,716	24
Epukiro.....	1,913	9
Otjitulo.....	1,321	7
Otjimbingwe.....	950	21
Berseba.....	1,876	13
Tses.....	804	5
Neuhof.....	10	—
Ovitoto.....	1,251	10
Otjihorongo.....	1,462	4
Okombahe.....	1,251	11
Waterberg.....	2,403	14
Franzfontein.....	268	3
Bondels.....	1,074	14
TOTALS.....	17,608	149

*Temporary Reserves.*

Name of Reserve.	Population.	Number of Deaths during 1929.
Hoachanas.....	259	2
Aukeigas and Furstenwalde.....	744	—
TOTALS.....	1,003	2

359. The fact of there being no Superintendent at Aukeigas and Furstenwalde no doubt is responsible for no deaths being reported.

#### C.—ADMINISTRATION.

360. The principal event under this head has been the transfer to the Administration of South West Africa of the administration of the Caprivi Strip, which in the past has been controlled by the Bechuanaland Administration. The transfer had effect from the 1st September, 1929.

361. His Honour the Administrator of South West Africa visited the Strip in August last in order to acquaint himself with conditions there. At the border he was met by representatives of the Bechuanaland Administration. The Chiefs of the various native tribes in the Strip were interviewed. The position was made clear to them, and a brief outline of the Administration's policy in regard to certain matters such as slavery, taxation and so on was given to them.

362. The Officer in Charge of the Strip, who only assumed duty in November last, has hardly had sufficient time to become *au fait* with conditions there, so that no comments on the administration of the Strip since September last are contained in this report, but a report by the Bechuanaland Administration on the administration of the Strip up to the 1st September is embodied later (see paragraphs 434-461).

#### D.—DISTURBANCES AND OTHER MATTERS OF A POLITICAL NATURE.

363. No disturbance or political trouble of any nature has occurred during the year under review. The natives realise that they have much to be thankful for and little to complain of and if the drought had not affected them as unfortunately it has done during the past three years they would be a very contented people.

#### E.—SOCIAL, MORAL, AND MATERIAL CONDITIONS OF THE NATIVES.

364. So far as the social and moral condition of the natives is concerned, there is little or nothing to add to the general remarks contained in paragraphs 411 to 425 of the last annual report. Education is dealt with in the last preceding chapter.

365. *Slavery*.—During the past year a few cases were brought to light along the Okavango River of natives who had obtained other natives by purchase from Angola. These cases were all taken up and the persons responsible were punished and the natives released.

366. One case was also discovered where a native trader from Angola had actually brought a native across the Okavango and had sold him to a member of the Umbunja tribe. The chief of the tribe immediately reported the matter to the Reserve Superintendent at Kuring Kuru, who set off in pursuit of the trader. Unfortunately, however, this man had re-crossed the river and could not be traced. The slave was released and the native who had purchased him was suitably dealt with.

367. The increased vigilance exercised in that area can safely be looked upon to prevent any similar cases occurring undetected and the result of the cases recently dealt with will, no doubt, deter any native from taking the risk.

368. The fact also that a police station has just been established at Andara on the Okavango River will act as a deterrent.

369. As regards the material condition of the natives, it follows that in common with the Europeans they have suffered from the drought, though except in Ovamboland and perhaps in the Aminuis Reserve their losses of stock have not been nearly so severe as might have been expected.

370. The following return shows the stock possessed by natives at the close of 1928 and 1929:—

Area.	Large Stock.		Small Stock.	
	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.
Within Police Zone.....	141,949	144,202	582,668	682,610
Ovamboland.....	141,702	151,310	173,000	180,000
Kaokoveld.....	20,378	20,000	38,876	35,000
Okavango.....	12,000	12,000	5,000	5,000
	316,029	327,512	799,544	902,610

371. These figures exclude the stock owned by Basters within the Police Zone, which totals 19,467 head of large and 84,963 small stock.

372. It will now perhaps be as well to give a brief sketch of the position in various parts of the country.

(a) *Ovamboland.*

373. As was indicated in the report for 1928 (paragraph 435) drought conditions obtained in the country. During 1929 only 7.37 inches of rain fell (where the normal annual rainfall is about 16 inches) and one half of this fell in the month of February. The bulk of the crops failed and other foods such as melons, ground nuts, beans, etc., were exceedingly scarce. As the dry hot months (from August onwards) approached, the position became serious, and the Administration was compelled to send food supplies to Ovamboland. The tribe mainly affected was the Ondonga tribe. One or two tribes such as the Ukuambi and part of the Ukuanyama had reaped sufficient to keep them going with care. The difficulties attending the organisation of relief on a large scale will be realised when it is pointed out that the distance from Tsumeb (the railhead) to Ondongua is approximately 200 miles, the road or track for a great part is sandy and heavy, and supplies had to be conveyed by motor lorry. By the end of December 3,500 bags of grain and meal had been transported and arrangements were made for the despatch of 500 bags in January, 600 in February, and 900 in March of the current year. From Ondongua the supplies were distributed to various suitable centres throughout Ovamboland.

374. Some of the natives were in a position to pay for issues as they received the necessary funds from friends working on the mines and elsewhere in the Territory. Indigents and old people received free issues but those who were fit for labour were employed on works organised for the common benefit. Earlier in the year the Director of Works had been sent to Ovamboland to investigate the possibility of constructing suitable dams, as the development of water supply is such a vital matter. It will be remembered that all attempts at boring proved abortive. On the recommendation of the Director of Works, it was decided as a first step to construct six large dams in various vital areas. These dams then formed the relief works above referred to. These works also served a very useful purpose inasmuch as the natives most urgently requiring relief were concentrated there and this facilitated the distribution of supplies.

375. In October and November fair rains fell and it was hoped the drought had broken. The natives at once sowed their crops, but unfortunately the rains were not followed up and everything was simply scorched. Again in January some rain fell and again the natives sowed. In his last monthly report the Native Affairs Officer reported that if further rains fell, some of the crops which were struggling might pull through, but even so, on account of the lateness of the season, he does not estimate that more than about one half of a normal harvest will be reaped, and he is of opinion that it will be necessary for the Administration to afford further relief to most of the tribes from about October onwards. As a result of the famine, many of the natives are very emaciated and some were affected by lack of milk diet and green vegetable foods. The dry grain and meat diet has not been sufficient and the Administration has at the request of the District Surgeon sent up quantities of arrowroot and meat extract for use where the District Surgeon considers it necessary.

376. The losses of stock have been considerable and owing to the adverse conditions and the condition of the stock the natural increase has been relatively small. It will be noted that the estimated number of stock is considerably less than it was last year (see paragraph 370). It must be emphasised that this is merely an estimate and that it in any case only reflects the number of stock in Ovamboland at the end of the year. Many natives trekked with their stock over the border into Angola where the water and grazing conditions are very much better.

377. One unfortunate result of the drought has been the destruction of large quantities of palms which the natives have tapped for the sap which is palatable and is stated to be nourishing. The younger and softer palms were actually eaten as food.

378. The President of the Finnish Mission states that the drought has had a paralysing effect upon Mission work. See his remarks in paragraph 464.

379. The outlook, however, is not altogether black. The latest news is that further rains have fallen in Ovamboland and there is reason to hope that the drought has broken. Some crops will be reaped, the cattle will be saved and meantime the natives will have the benefit of the "yeldkos," i.e. roots, wild potatoes, berries, and fruits which mature very rapidly after the rains.

*Kaokoveld.*

380. Here too the position has been difficult, and as a result of protracted drought extending over about three years, grazing and water have been scarce, but it has not been necessary to supply the people with food as there is running water in parts of the Kaokoveld (which is not the case in Ovambo-land) and the people have been able to produce maize and pumpkins and other vegetables for their own use. The main difficulty has been lack of grazing, which has caused some loss of stock.

381. Earlier in the year numbers of loose batches of natives residing in the southern Kaokoveld under no chief and no control were collected and sent to the Reserves in the north where it would be easier to control them. One of the principal reasons for this is that lung-sickness is prevalent in parts of the Kaokoveld and there was reason to believe that notwithstanding the regulations prohibiting the movement of stock from the Kaokoveld into the Police Zone, an illicit traffic was being carried on, and that Europeans were purchasing stock from these natives and smuggling the same over the Police Zone. In all about 1,100 natives (men, women, and children) were affected. The continuing drought, however, made it impossible for them all to remain in the north and as a temporary measure most of them have returned to their water holes in the south where they will be allowed to remain until conditions improve and it is safe to send them to the north again.

382. It may be mentioned that the Hereros in the Kaokoveld, most of whom fall under Chief Oorlog, have almost entirely abandoned their tribal life and customs. They live in good thatched square huts which are built on European lines and are generally much better and neater than those of the Hereros within the Police Zone. They adopt more or less a European standard of living. They do not confine themselves to stock breeding as do the Hereros elsewhere; but have large gardens where they grow maize, pumpkins, tomatoes, beans, carrots, etc. The Ovahimba and Ovatsimba on the other hand adhere strictly to wild tribal life and custom. They are constantly on the move in search of new pasture for their stock—the accumulation of which is their only object in life.

*Okavango.*

383. Here the natives have not suffered from the drought. The population is small and is scattered along a river frontage of about 200 miles. They have not very much stock and there has been ample grazing and water for them. Moreover the natives have ample water for the cultivation of their crops, and they catch plenty of fish in the river, so that they are quite well off.

*Within Police Zone.*

384. The natives employed in the towns and on the mines have of course not suffered. They receive their regular pay and food. The same on the whole may be said of the natives employed on the farms, though naturally in common with the Europeans they have sustained some losses of stock.

It is therefore proposed to deal in some detail only with certain of the reserves. The principal problem in the reserves still is the provision of adequate water supply. Stock is increasing and it is necessary continually to increase the area of grazing available.

385. The following statement gives the result of the water-boring operations which took place in the reserves during the year:—

B.H. No.	Area.	District.	Depth.	Yield.	Approximate Cost.
1890.....	Epukiro.....	Gobabis.....	500	1,440	£ 650
1972.....	Epukiro.....	Gobabis.....	335	9,640	420
1649.....	Otjituo.....	Grootfontein.....	180	Nil.	230
1604.....	Otjituo.....	Grootfontein.....	350	17,000	440
1793.....	Otjituo.....	Grootfontein.....	205	12,000	255
1812.....	Otjituo.....	Grootfontein.....	300	14,000	375
1888.....	Otjituo.....	Grootfontein.....	317	9,600	390
2015.....	Otjituo.....	Grootfontein.....	185	14,000	240
1749.....	Okombahe.....	Omaruru.....	394	Nil.	490
1822.....	Okombahe.....	Omaruru.....	302	50,000	380
1887.....	Otjihorongo.....	Omaruru.....	150	40,000	190
1903.....	Otjihorongo.....	Omaruru.....	203	19,000	260
1963.....	Otjihorongo.....	Omaruru.....	410	Nil.	510
2014.....	Otjihorongo.....	Omaruru.....	422	Nil.	505
2064.....	Otjihorongo.....	Omaruru.....	259	Nil.	330
1718.....	Waterberg.....	Otjiwarongo.....	285	21,000	350
1797.....	Waterberg.....	Otjiwarongo.....	258	7,200	305
1889.....	Waterberg.....	Otjiwarongo.....	257	Nil.	310
1994.....	Waterberg.....	Otjiwarongo.....	334	3,640	420

(b) *Waterberg* (See paragraphs 449-456, Annual Report for 1928).

386. During the year heavy losses of stock, particularly of small stock, were suffered from drought and disease. It will, of course, be appreciated that when stock is in low condition as a result of drought it is less able to withstand disease. Many natives trekked from the reserve in search of pasture and water and they also disposed of a large number of small stock. At the end of the year the number of large stock in the reserve was 11,600 as compared with 10,991 in 1928, and of small stock 13,757 as compared with 21,176.

387. In addition to the boreholes mentioned in paragraph 385, the following improvements were effected during the year:—

*Fencing*.—All reservoirs and pumping plants were fenced.

*Water*.—Two pumping plants were erected on boreholes. Four new dams were commenced and are still in course of construction.

*Dipping Tanks*.—One permanent tank was constructed and one portable tank was supplied.

*Buildings*.—A brick house and store were erected by a trading firm which obtained trading rights in the reserve. A house is being built for the Superintendent of the Reserve.

*Roads*.—Approximately 80 miles of road were completed.

No church or school has yet been established. The inhabitants of the reserve are Hereros and they refuse to have either.

*Otjimbingwe* (see paragraphs 457 to 466, Report 1928).

388. At the close of the year the population had dropped to 950 as compared with 1,045 the previous year. The decrease was due to the drought which forced the inhabitants to go out and seek work on farms and elsewhere.

The number of stock too had declined, the figures being:—

	Large.	Small.
1928.....	4,163	20,520
1929.....	2,965	16,023

389. Considerable losses were sustained as a result of the drought, but some of the decrease is due to the fact that trekkers from the reserve took their stock with them.

390. The following improvements were effected during the year:—

Boundary fencing between the reserve and two adjoining farms was undertaken, well-sinking was continued, a small area of ground was planted with prosopis trees (the pods of which form a highly nutritious stock food), and some miles of road were constructed.

Only 55 bags of wheat were produced as compared with 209 bags during the previous year.

The natives are being encouraged to grow anna and prosopis trees in order to provide food for their stock during dry seasons. A few natives cultivate gardens on the banks of the Swakop river which runs through the reserve, and endeavours are being made to secure for them a portion of the contract for the supply of vegetables to the Railways. Some of the natives are taking up citrus growing, being encouraged by the results obtained by a European farmer whose farm lies near the reserve.

391. The area of the reserve was increased by the addition thereto of approximately 308 hectares of Government ground, and the natives purchased out of their reserve fund a portion of an adjoining farm, Okangava West.

(c) *Epuikiro* (See paragraphs 467-471, Report 1928).

392. The population has increased somewhat, the figures being men, 599, of whom 257 are away from the reserve at work; women, 554, of whom 53 are away at work; and children 660. Total 1,913 as against 1,426 in 1928. The number of large stock was 7,562 as compared with 5,739 in 1928, but the small stock dropped from 7,764 to 4,325.

393. The rainfall was poor, and the Magistrate considers that the losses of stock amounted to about 10 per cent. The increase in the number of large stock is no doubt ascribable to the increase in the population of the reserve. Small stock has either died or has been disposed of.

394. In addition to the boring operations referred to in paragraph 385, the following improvements were effected:—

*Water.*—A windmill and reservoir were erected; and a Lister engine was supplied.

*Buildings.*—A new house for the Superintendent is in course of construction.

(d) *Aminuis* (See paragraphs 472-477, Report 1928).

395. *Population.*—The following figures are furnished by the Superintendent:—

	Men.		Women.		Children.		Total.	
	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.
Hereros.....	710	849	720	935	730	661	2,160	2,445
Bechuanas.....	60	69	80	67	90	135	230	271
	770	918	800	1,002	820	796	2,390	2,716

396. *Live Stock.*—The figures furnished last year were incorrect. An acting superintendent who had had little experience was in the reserve and furnished round figures based purely on an estimate. The figures for 1929 are the result of an actual count and reflect the stock registered in the Superintendent's books. There are:—

Large Stock ... 11,588.                      Small Stock ... 25,836.

There is, however, no doubt that the Aminuis Reserve suffered particularly heavily during the past year. Deaths were due not directly to drought, but to "gallamsiekte," which is always more virulent in dry seasons. Gallamsiekte may be described as a deficiency disease. Green grazing supplies certain vital chemical elements, but in the absence of this the stock crave for these elements and they pick up and eat bones lying about the veld. When these bones rot and become infected with the bacillus paratuberculosis, they cause the disease known as gallamsiekte when eaten by susceptible animals. The last preventive is bonemeal, calcium phosphate or some similar preparation, and during dry seasons farmers regularly feed their stock with these commodities.

397. The Superintendent of the Reserve has done his utmost to induce the natives to use bonemeal, and in order that they might satisfy themselves as to its efficacy, he offered to supply a quantity free to some of the more intelligent and progressive of the natives, but with the obstinacy so characteristic of the Herero, they resolutely refused to touch bonemeal, saying they knew it was useless, and they preferred to adhere to their futile native remedies—such as curing by "firing" i.e. burning the forequarters of the sick beast with a hot iron, and so on.

398. Up to the end of December approximately 2,000 deaths of large stock had been reported to the Superintendent. The latter, an able and energetic officer, attributes at least one-third of these losses to:—

- (1) Low standard of cattle, scrub bulls producing progeny with little resisting power.
- (2) Promiscuous interbreeding.
- (3) Failure to castrate bull calves while young.
- (4) Overmilking of the cows to the prejudice of the calves.
- (5) Failure to give salt, although there is in the reserve a large rock-salt formation, and the natives can collect as much as they want for their stock.

399. Improvements in the reserve were confined to the development of water. A number of wells were sunk and two more are at present in course of construction.

400. In the Tses Reserve the natives suffered considerable losses as a result of the drought, but in the remaining reserves the natives have been comparatively well off. The stock losses have been very small, and the figures, as compared with the previous year, show reasonable increases.

401. In addition to the boring referred to in paragraph 385 the following improvements were effected in the various reserves:—

402. *Tses*.—See paragraphs 483 to 490, Report 1928. Eleven miles of boundary fencing were completed. Two dams were constructed, and two wells are being sunk.

403. *Otjhorongo*.—Paragraphs 491-496, Report 1928. Several miles of boundary were fenced. Many miles of roads were constructed. Four windmills and four reservoirs were erected.

404. *Otjiluo*.—Paragraphs 503-507, Report 1928. As part of the existing reserve was waterless the reserve was increased by the addition of 90,000 hectares of land. The new portion offers good grazing, good prospects of water, and facilities for the construction of dams. One dam was built, a windmill was erected, one reservoir was built, an engine and pump were supplied, and a dipping tank was constructed.

The natives will not yet agree to the establishment of a school or a church in the reserve.

405. *Ovitoto*.—Paragraphs 508-514, Report 1928. Several miles of boundary fencing were completed. The whole reserve will shortly be enclosed. A large dam costing a considerable sum of money is in course of construction. A "manga"—a structure used for branding and inoculating stock—was erected and a house for the Superintendent was built.

406. *Bondelswarts* (Paragraphs 520-524, Report 1928).

*Population*.—Men, 225; women, 201; children, 648; total, 1,074. The total population at the end of 1928 was 1,000.

*Stock*:—

	Large.	Small.
1928.....	2,275	10,476
1929.....	2,125	11,576

407. Except for the establishment of a few gardens, improvement of pumps, and supplying a windlass and gardening implements, no development was undertaken during the year.

408. The rainfall has been poor and this has affected the natural increase of the stock; but the Magistrate does not report any losses of stock. The Reserve is not overstocked, the supply of water is ample for present requirements, and the occupants of the Reserve have been infinitely better off in this respect than the large bulk of the European farmers in the South, who have really suffered severely.

409. In October last the Administration saw with surprise certain articles which appeared in the *Johannesburg Star*, the *Cape Argus*, the *Bloemfontein Friend* and one of the Natal papers, all of which are apparently controlled by one company. These articles were printed under the most startling and sensational headlines such as "*Bondelswart Tribe Starving*"; "*Famine Stricken Tribe in South-West Africa*"; "*Many Die of Hunger. Only Fittest May Survive*"; "*Missionaries' Vain Effort to Feed the Sufferers*"; and so on. On investigation it appeared that a young coloured teacher named James Goliath, 23 years of age, employed by the Roman Catholic Mission in the Reserve, for purposes of his own, published an appeal in the Union for assistance for the unfortunate Bondelswarts. Apparently his appeal was responded to and it is alleged that he received from certain gullible people who should have known better but who made no inquiry and who wrote to this coloured youth as "The Reverend Father Goliath," considerable sums of money which he converted to his own use. He is now awaiting trial on these charges. From the very people whom he purported to be assisting, the Bondelswarts, he collected a sum of £35 for the purpose of commencing a tribal fund for development of water and other matters of communal interest. This money he also misappropriated, for which crime he was sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour. The News Editor of *The Star* also wrote a letter to the "Rev. J. Goliath," stating: "If you can see your way to write us a letter stating the conditions existing we shall be only too pleased to publish the same. We have already had in *The Star* a brief reference to the distress, but we feel that much more extended reference is necessary if any good is to be done."

410. What the reply was is not known, but *The Star* subsequently sent a special correspondent to the Reserve to report upon the position; and the result was the extraordinary articles referred to. How and from whom the reporter obtained his information is not known, but one thing is certain, the

main allegations contained in the article, namely that people were actually dying of starvation, and that others were so weak that they could not even move, are absolutely untrue. The following is a specimen extract from one of the articles:—

“ Human forms reduced to mere shadows totter painfully through the bush to the Gabis Mission Station in quest of alms, while others, incapable of movement, lie in their pondoks vainly awaiting food. Those who are not distraught with suffering and hunger are resigned to their fate for their cry for succour has been long unanswered, and, Christians as they are, they pray to be released from a living death.”

411. This description is not merely an exaggeration of the facts; it is absolutely false.

412. The Magistrate was immediately sent through the Reserve and he reported that not a single death had occurred from starvation. This was confirmed by Father Zettl, the Missionary in charge at Gabis. It was also stated that there was no foundation whatever for the statements above produced. Shortly before, the Native Commissioner visited the Reserve, and his meetings were well attended. No complaints were made to him and he observed no evidence of starvation. There is also the fact that Goliath just before had collected from the Bondels a sum of £35 which they paid voluntarily—indeed of their own initiative—to him for the purpose of paying the same into a reserve fund. This would hardly have been done had the condition been as described.

413. The Magistrate has discretion to grant pauper relief in necessitous cases. At the time this was being granted in 14 cases in the reserve. Neither the Magistrate nor the Acting Superintendent considered more necessary. As a matter of fact, most of the indigent natives reside in the location at Warmbad and not in the reserve at all. There, pauper rations are being granted to no fewer than 68 indigent families. Had the Magistrate considered it necessary he could, and would, have extended assistance. Finally, the Administration has for several years allowed a quantity of meal monthly to the Rhenish and Roman Catholic Missions for the purpose of feeding the children in their schools. No representations were received from either of the missions that the ration allowed was inadequate until some time after the article referred to was published, and then, at the request of the missions, the allowance was doubled.

414. It will also be observed that the inhabitants of the reserve possess a considerable quantity of stock which should normally yield sufficient milk for their requirements.

415. That there is poverty amongst them is admitted, but there is a vast difference between poverty and the conditions depicted, and it is obvious that the remedy for poverty is not the indiscriminate distribution of pauper relief which would amply encourage them to live in idleness.

416. The Bondelswart is nomadic by nature and he is essentially a pastoralist. He is indolent and makes a most unsatisfactory servant. It will be noted that there are more men than women in the Reserve. The reverse is the position in all the other reserves. It is complained that the farmers in the south pay inadequate wages. It will be borne in mind that during the past two or three years the farmers in the south have suffered heavily as a result of the protracted drought, and no doubt they have been unable to pay good wages, but the mines at Luderitz have been prepared to take all the physically fit Bondels offering and farmers better situated have been crying out for labour, but the Bondels are not prepared to leave their district, and the complaint that they cannot get suitable labour locally is a mere excuse.

#### *Taxation and Reserve Funds.*

417. In his valuable book upon Native Administration Lord Lugard has emphasized most strongly the importance of taxing the natives and the educative value thereof. His arguments in favour of this can hardly be contested and this Administration has always held the same views. Notwithstanding this, practical difficulties against taxation presented themselves in respect of the areas outside the Police Zone, particularly Ovamboland.

418. The drought and consequent distress suffered by the natives in Ovamboland have, however, perhaps been a blessing in disguise—at all events so far as this important aspect of administration is concerned.

419. As was intimated in paragraph 441 of the Report for 1928, it was proposed to endeavour to secure the agreement of the natives to taxation,



420. The Assistant Secretary for South West Africa and the Native Commissioner proceeded to Ovamboland in April last, and interviewed the various tribes. The advantage of establishing tribal funds was discussed, and eventually every tribe voluntarily accepted the principle of taxation.

421. The necessary legislation is contained in the Ovamboland Affairs Proclamation No. 27 of 1929 and Government Notices Nos. 127, 128, and 129 of 1929.

422. These provide for the setting aside of Ovamboland as a reserve for the sole use and occupation of natives and for the establishment of separate tribal funds for the Ondongua, Ukuanyama, Ukuambi, Ukualuthi, Ongandjera, and Ombalantu Tribes and a fund for the miscellaneous small tribes in Ovamboland other than the above.

423. An annual levy of 5s. is payable on the 1st October in each year by every male member of the various tribes of the age of 18 years or more, whether resident at the time in Ovamboland or not, and a fee of 2s. is charged for any pass issued to a native to leave Ovamboland to visit the Territory for any purpose other than that of taking up employment. Indigent or infirm persons may be exempted from payment.

424. These fees are paid into the appropriate tribal funds which must be expended as directed by the Administrator after consultation with the chief or chiefs, or if there be no chief, with the headmen of the tribe for which the fund has been established, upon objects which in the opinion of the Administrator are in the interest and calculated to promote the welfare of the tribe.

425. As a measure preliminary to the collection of the annual rate, the registration was undertaken of all natives in Ovamboland liable for the levy. Unfortunately owing to the drought the natives were scattered about the country looking for grazing and water, so that a large number who were absent from their homes could not be registered. They will, however, be registered as soon as possible. The registration of natives liable for the levy who are at work on the mines and elsewhere in the Police Zone is also being undertaken. It follows that in view of the distress obtaining in Ovamboland, the natives cannot at present be pressed for payment and it is surprising in the circumstances how well they are voluntarily paying up, especially when it is considered that the registration was only commenced in October and carried as far as it was possible to take it in December. The following table indicates the progress made:—

Tribes.	Total Strength, all Ages and Sexes.	Number Registered to end December, 1929.	Amount Paid in Annual Rate to end December, 1929.
Ondonga.....	45,000	3,700	£171 5 0
Ukuambi.....	7,000	871	0 15 0
Ukuanyama.....	45,000	5,367	507 0 0
Ukualuthi.....	6,100	605	94 10 0
Ongandjera.....	6,600	816	86 5 0
Ombalantu.....	5,200	758	134 0 0
Mixed Ovambo Tribes.....	2,100	178	16 10 0
	117,000	12,295	£1,010 5 0

426. It is proposed to extend the taxation to the natives in the Okavango.

427. The natives in Bechuanaland Protectorate are accustomed to taxation. Notwithstanding this the Bechuanaland Administration did not extend the usual taxation to the Caprivi Strip, and it is a very interesting fact that some time ago the natives wrote and asked to be taxed. From the fact that they were not being taxed like the Bechuanas across the border they inferred that the Government thought they were insignificant—or as they expressed it, that they were not people.

428. A proclamation on the lines of the Ovamboland Affairs Proclamation is being issued, and a similar levy is being imposed.

*Reserve Funds.**Trusts Funds.*

The natives in the reserves in 1929 contributed £9,204. 4s. 4d. towards the Reserve Fund. This is £395 more than they paid in 1928.

The collections are made up as follows:—

Dog tax ... ..	£453	0	0
Forest revenue ... ..	21	7	0
Grazing fees ... ..	7,929	0	0
Rental trading sites ... ..	694	14	7
Annual rate ... ..	106	2	6
	<u>£9,204</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>

430. The following table sets out in respect of each Reserve the balance of the Fund when the year began, the amount added during the year, the amount expended, and the balance at the end of the year:—

Reserve.	Credit Balance as at 31/12/28.	Debit Balance as at 31/12/28.	Collec-tions, 1/1/29 to 31/12/29.	Totals.	Expendi-ture, 1/1/29 to 31/12/29.	Credit Balance as at 31/12/29.	Debit Balance as at 31/12/29.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Soromas.....	478	—	78	556	25	531	—
Gibeon.....	581	—	152	733	21	712	—
Aminuis.....	—	186	1,670	1,484	3,539	—	2,055
Epukiro.....	—	260	713	453	1,016	—	563
Otjitu.....	1,963	—	642	2,605	1,746	859	—
Otjimbingwe....	1,985	—	597	2,582	847	1,735	—
Tses.....	2,503	—	556	3,059	994	2,065	—
Berseba.....	12	—	183	195	117	78	—
Neuhof.....	36	—	19	55	—	55	—
Ovitoto.....	805	—	861	1,666	1,559	107	—
Otjihorongo....	4,352	—	1,237	5,589	1,787	3,802	—
Okombahe.....	1,823	—	490	2,313	341	1,972	—
Waterberg.....	1,650	—	1,939	3,589	1,536	2,053	—
Franzfontein....	286	—	99	385	17	368	—
Bondels.....	196	—	9	205	139	66	—
TOTAL.....	16,670	446	9,245	25,469	13,684	14,403	2,618

Temporary Reserves—							
Gumichas.....	29	—	51	—	1	79	—
Hoachanas.....	130	—	114	—	—	244	—
Aukeigas and Fürstenwalde..	394	—	247	—	10	631	—
Eros.....	27	—	55	—	—	82	—
TOTAL.....	580	—	467	—	11	1,036	—

431. It will be observed from this schedule that the Aminuis Reserve shows a large debit, but this is more than covered by the arrear fees due by the natives of that reserve, who, owing to bad years, have not been unduly pressed for payment. The money has almost all been spent in opening up water, the supply of which is now adequate for the present needs of the stock in the reserve.

432. The amount of £4,400 shown on the Credit of the Berseba Reserve is the balance of a Trust Fund started in 1923 when they disposed of some of their land to get money to liquidate long-standing liabilities. £4,000 of this amount has now been invested through the Public Debt Commissioner on a long term loan. The balance is being transferred to the working fund of that Reserve which at the end of 1929 stood at £78. 1s. 7d.

433. For direct expenditure on Natives see statement in paragraph 85.

*Administration and Legislation.*

434. The Caprivi Zipfel is part of the territory which formerly constituted the German Protectorate of South West Africa. It was therefore "included within the territory over which" the Council of the League of Nations, on 17th December, 1920, conferred a mandate "upon His Britannic Majesty for and on behalf of the Government of the Union of South Africa."

435. The Union Government, as mandatory power, has therefore full power of administration and legislation over the Caprivi Zipfel. It, however, delegated its powers to the High Commissioner for South Africa, and by Governor-General's Proclamation No. 12 of 1922 and High Commissioner's Proclamation No. 23 of 1922, the Caprivi Zipfel was brought under the Administration of the Bechuanaland Protectorate from the 1st January, 1921, and the laws in force in the Bechuanaland Protectorate were declared applicable to the Zipfel. The laws previously in force therein being at the same time repealed with the exception of those mentioned in the Schedule to the Bechuanaland Protectorate Proclamation No. 23 of 1922, namely:—

Indemnity and withdrawal of Martial Law Proclamation, 1920. Dated 31st December, 1920, issued by the Administrator of South West Africa as ratified by Proclamation No. 1 of 1921 of the Governor-General of the Union of South Africa.

Proclamation No. 12 of 1922 and No. 13 of 1922 issued by the Governor-General of the Union of South Africa under the Treaty of Peace and South West Africa Mandate Act, 1919.

High Commissioner's Proclamation No. 9 of 1924 (Promulgated 17th April, 1924), which put in force the German Imperial Mining Ordinance of 8th August, 1905, together with amendments thereto as published in Proclamation No. 24 of 1919 of South West Africa.

436. The sale and importation of arms and ammunition in the Caprivi Zipfel is controlled by Proclamation of the 10th June, 1891, and contravention of the law in this respect is subject to severe punishment.

437. The slave trade is prohibited, as is also the sale of intoxicating European liquors to natives by Proclamation of the 4th April, 1892. The provisions of articles 4 and 5 of the mandate for South West Africa have also been observed.

438. For administrative purposes the Caprivi Zipfel is divided, by the Maschi River, into two parts, the Eastern being administered by the Magistrate resident at Kasane and the Western by the Magistrate resident at Maun. These Magistrates are assisted by a Police staff consisting of two European Sergeants, three native mounted troopers and twenty-five dismounted constables.

439. A Police Station is established at Andara, one at Mbambo (on the border of South West Africa, and one at Boti (on the Portuguese border midway between Andara and the Linyanti River). Every effort is being made to control the spread of Lung sickness by preventing cattle from crossing over from South West Africa and Angola.

#### *Lung sickness.*

440. No outbreak of Lung sickness occurred in the Strip during the period under review but the Buffer Zone on the Batawana Reserve boundary south of Andara and north of the Namasseri River is still in existence, a European stock inspector being stationed at Mohembo, who frequently inspects the cattle on both sides of the Okavango.

#### *European Traders and Licences.*

441. Two trading sites were occupied during the year 1929, namely:—  
Impalala Island:—Mr. J. A. Legge;  
Kabulabula:—Mr. M. Michelsen;  
a rental of £12 per annum being paid as stand rent in each case.

442. A private site of approximately three acres at Katima Molelo is occupied, under the approval of the High Commissioner by Mr. R. A. de Costa Blake at a rental of £30 per annum.

#### *Crops.*

443. Good crops were obtained in the early part of the year.

#### *Schools.*

444. There are 14 native schools, the most important being at Katima Molelo with an attendance of 107 children. A Government Grant of £25 per annum was made to the school at Andara, which is conducted by the Oblate Fathers of German nationality. A grant of £32. 13s. 4d. was made from the Bechuanaland Protectorate Native Fund to the School at Kasika. All the schools, with the exception of those at Kasika and Andara are under the Seventh Day Adventist Mission.

#### *Taxation.*

445. The natives of the Caprivi Strip are not subject to the payment of hut tax, the operation of the Bechuanaland Protectorate Hut Tax Proclamation No. 9 of 1909 having been suspended in the Caprivi Zipfel by virtue of High Commissioner's Notice No. 22 of 1922.

446. As regards Europeans, Poll Tax and Income Tax are in force but yield a very small amount.

#### *Finance.*

447. The following is a statement of receipts and expenditure for the period 1st April to 31st August, 1929:—

<i>Revenue.</i>		<i>Expenditure.</i>	
Licences ... ..	£17 12 6	Personal emoluments (District Administration and Police) ... ..	£847 12 0
Judicial fines ... ..	2 0 0	Stores and equipment ...	130 18 11
Poll tax ... ..	9 0 0	Travelling expenses ... ..	231 6 6
Miscellaneous ... ..	24 17 6	Education ... ..	29 6 8
		Cattle diseases... ..	213 17 6
		Public Works Recurrent	95 4 9
		Administration of Justice	8 10 0
	<u>£53 10 0</u>		<u>£1,556 16 4</u>

#### *Crime.*

448. The inhabitants of the Strip are peaceful and law-abiding. No serious crime was reported in the Eastern portion of the Strip during the period under review. As regards the Western portion, the Rector of the Andara Mission brought against the Chief Disho a number of charges of cruelties practised on certain native Mampukushu Christians at Andara. Action was taken by the Police to investigate these charges and the Chief was called to account in respect thereto. While admitting having sanctioned certain of the illegal acts complained of Disho denied the more serious charges. He was warned of the consequences which would follow further similar actions. (Disho died on the 7th September and was succeeded by his son Andara.)

#### *Missions.*

449. Missions under the Seventh Day Adventist and the German Oblate Fathers are conducted at Katima Molelo and Andara respectively. The latter have erected good buildings and have succeeded in making the Mission self-supporting.

#### *Public Health.*

450. There was an outbreak of smallpox in the Strip which appears to have been a recrudescence of the outbreak which occurred in 1928.

451. A Medical Officer was detailed in September to investigate and he found that the villages in the region of Schuckmansburg and Mamili's villages had been affected between the months of from April to August, 1929.

452. There was a total of 302 cases during that period, with 16 deaths. The Medical Officer vaccinated all contacts numbering 1,500 and recommended that the Strip be placed in quarantine until November 29th.

453. In the Western portion of the Strip, so far as is known, the health of the native population has been fairly good. Medical treatment of an elementary nature is available at the mission station at Andara. Natives of the Strip may also consult the medical officer in N'gamiland.

#### *Native Peoples.*

454. There are two sections of natives living to the East of the Mashi River under the rulership of Chief Mamili and Chika-Matondo, respectively. Mamili's people comprise Bafwi, Bayeyi and a section of Mampukush, whilst those of Chika-Matondo consist of Basubia. West of the Mashi River the land is peopled by the Mampukush, under Chief Disho, who live mainly on the islands in the Okavango River and are adepts at navigating dug-out canoes in the rapids of that river.

455. The Barotse of Sesheke, Northern Rhodesia, again availed themselves of the permission granted to them by the High Commissioner in July, 1923, to cultivate lands on the south bank of the Zambesi River, and there have been no complaints lodged by the local natives in this connection.

456. The Paris Missionary Society, Sesheke, is also permitted by the High Commissioner to cultivate gardens, approximately 4 acres in extent, near Schuckmannsburg, and to keep 8 oxen and 4 cows in the Strip for the benefit of the students boarding at their school.

457. There are also living on the river a good many natives whose chief is Nyangana, residing in South West Africa and near the border. The latter tribe are now under Chief Disho, but constant intercourse and visiting goes on between these people and those under Nyangana.

*Recruitment of Labour.*

458. The Northern Labour Organization of Grootfontein, South West Africa, was, with the consent of the Union Government as Mandatory Authority, granted a licence during the year to recruit natives for employment in South West Africa, but no natives have been attested up to date.

*Tribal Law.*

459. Each village has its Induna or Headman who has authority to adjudicate according to Native Law and Custom amongst his followers. He is generally assisted by the older men. If they do not agree or if the plaintiff or defendant is not satisfied, then the case is taken to the Chief's Kgotla.

460. The Chief's Kgotla or Court is the principal one and its judgments are final except that provision is made under Proclamation No. 1 of 1919 for appeals against the judgments of native chiefs in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, in the first instance to a court composed of the Assistant Commissioner or Magistrate of the district and of the chief, and in the event of their disagreeing, then the Resident Commissioner decides the matter in dispute. When members of a tribe are punished by their own courts the penalty is usually one or more head of cattle. The fines become the sole property of the chief, although he may give some of the cattle to his councillors.

*Population.*

461. The native population of the Caprivi Strip as enumerated in the year 1921 was:—

Males.	Females.	Total.
2,003	2,246	4,249

and apart from officials, the only Europeans in the Territory are a few missionaries and traders.

## XX.—MISSIONS.

462. The various missions operating in the country were asked to furnish brief reports upon the progress made during 1929. The Damaraland Mission has not replied, but the reports of the remaining missions are embodied below:—

*Finnish Mission.**Congregational Work.*

Station.	Churches.	Christian Children Born.	Heathens Baptised.	New-comers.	Married.	Left.	Died.	Members of Congregation.
Olukonda.....	1	100	—	52	5	187	59	1,774
Oniipa.....	1	40	—	41	2	108	17	1,012
Ontananga.....	1	37	19	28	—	76	14	959
Onajena.....	3	74	13	29	14	242	27	2,488
Oshigambo.....	2	50	3	51	5	137	18	1,701
Oshitaji.....	1	72	23	85	15	115	25	2,191
Engela.....	4	364	187	438	92	25	76	8,460
Ukuambi.....	1	46	66	54	26	28	14	993
Ongandjera...	1	43	35	26	11	20	10	727
Ukualuuzi....	1	45	24	119	9	13	10	745
Ukolonkazi....	1	14	5	27	—	—	5	204
Kaoko-Otavi..	—	2	2	2	—	—	1	200
Ombalantu....	1	24	15	40	6	12	7	574
Okavango.....	—	7	26	15	10	6	—	88
	18	918	418	1,007	195	969	283	22,116

463. *The Labourers.*(a) *European—*

Ordained Missionaries ... ..	14
Not Ordained Missionaries ... ..	1
Unmarried Mission Sisters ... ..	25
Women ... ..	12
	<u>52</u>

(b) *Natives—*

Ordained Pastors... ..	10
Teachers ... ..	229
Women Teachers ... ..	15
	<u>254</u>

## COMPARISON.

464. In comparing the past year with the year 1927 it will be noticed that the famine in Ondonga had a paralysing effect on our mission work as also on the whole life of the people:—

	1927.	1929.
Born in Ondonga congregations... ..	477	363
Married in Ondonga congregations... ..	131	41
Died in Ondonga congregations ... ..	96	170
Number of scholars in Ondonga congregations ... ..	3,842	2,522
<i>In the whole of Ovamboland:</i>		
Born ... ..	872	895
Married ... ..	417	195
Died ... ..	180	283
Number of scholars ... ..	7,810	6,062

465. The training institutions did not suffer as much as the elementary schools.

466. The hospital work on the other hand increased and has developed further. Cases of out-patients increased from 34,000 in 1927 to 40,000 in 1929.

467. With great gratitude we mention here that during the past year the Government granted the following amounts to the Finnish Mission in Ovamboland:—

1. For nursing—		
(a) £473. 6s. in cash and		
(b) medicine to the value of ... ..	£286	6 4
2. For the training of school teachers ... ..	100	0 0
3. For the industrial school at Onguediva ... ..	100	0 0

468. The educational and medical work performed by this mission in Ovamboland is dealt with under the Education and Public Health sections of this Report. (See paragraphs 233-336.)

## RHENISH MISSION.

469. The Evangelical Rhenish Mission laboured with a staff of 27 married European missionaries, 1 unmarried, and 2 married farm managers (Gaub), 2 married teachers for manual training (Otjimbingwe and Krantzplatz), 4 teaching sisters (Bethanie, Keetmanshoop, Windhoek, and Karibib), 2 nurses (Rehoboth and Windhoek) and 1 domestic sister (Recreation Home, Swakopmund).

470. The members of the different congregations on the 21 mission stations (Walvis Bay, Swakopmund, Usakos, Okombahe, Omaruru, Outjo, Tsumeb, Grootfontein, Karibib, Otjimbingwe, Okahandja, Windhoek, Gobabis, Rehoboth, Luderitz, Bethanie, Berseba, Gibeon, Keetmanshoop, Warmbad, and Rietfontein-Kalahari) numbered 49,786 at the end of the year. The number of baptisms (christian children and heathens) amounted to 2,337 in 1929 and the number of marriages to 438. 2,180 Persons attended catechumenical classes at the end of the year. Eight chief evangelists who are entrusted with the administration of the sacraments were in our service in addition to 36 peripatetic evangelists who attend to the christians in the rural districts.

471. At the end of the year altogether 3,818 children were instructed in 50 elementary schools by 72 teachers paid by the Education Department and 7 paid by the Rhenish Mission. Besides these 1,220 children received a primary education on the farms in the rural districts from the aforementioned 36 peripatetic teachers.

472. In Okahandja there is the "Augustineum," the training college for teachers of the Rhenish Mission with Dr. Vedder as principal and Mr. Visser as assistant.

473. In the year 1929 24 teachers were appointed upon having passed their examinations after a course of three years' training, and 40 new students were admitted to the college. The evangelists required for missionary work are also trained in this institution.

474. On the Mission's farm at Gaub, near Grootfontein, 3 farmers labour successfully. The Rhenish Mission, moreover, possesses two farms of its own and has two farms in usufruct.

475. *Roman Catholic Mission (Apostolic Vicariate, South West Africa).*(1) *Position of the Mission at the end of the year:*

Mission stations... ..	20	
Fathers ... ..	28	
Brethren ... ..	32	
Sisters ... ..	80	
Native teachers ... ..	25	
Native schools ... ..	24	
Pupils (boys and girls)... ..	776	
Pupils in school for Europeans (Girls' High School, Windhoek) ... ..	112	
Catechetical schools ... ..	1	with 24 candidates.
Hospitals ... ..	5,	3 of which are for Europeans and 2 for Natives. The number of patients in the year under report was 2,087, of which 1,433 were Europeans and 654 natives, with a total number of 27,262 nursing days.
Kindergartens ... ..	2	with 80 children.
Hostels for natives ... ..	7	with 142 children.
Catholics ... ..	6,522,	of which 1,534 are Europeans and 4,988 Natives.
Applicants for baptism ...	570	
Baptisms during the last year ... ..	664	
Marriages ... ..	98	
Divine services on farms or localities where no priests are stationed ... ..	522	

(2) *Staff of the Mission:*

476. The number of Fathers could not be increased during the last year, but was unfortunately reduced by one through the death of the Reverend Father Jacobi who died in the beginning of June in consequence of an operation. Four new Brethren entered the service of the Mission while 2 left it. The number of sisters was increased by 4. One sister died in Swakopmund in consequence of Blackwater Fever which she contracted in Okavango. Two other sisters had to be transferred from the same Mission as they likewise suffered very much from attacks of fever. In Father Jacobi we lost the best connoisseur of the Nama language amongst Catholic missionaries. Five candidates passed their final examination at the training college for teachers at Doebrä. Three of these were appointed at different mission stations.

477. Two were sent to the Native Training Institute at Roma in Basutoland as they intend to enter into Holy orders.

(3) *Extension of the Mission:*

478. In Walvis Bay a school-church was built. In Windhoek the beautiful native church near the native location was completed. A church was, moreover, built at the station Ukuambi in Ovamboland. In connection with this station two country schools were established. In Farkfontein (Mission's farm near Grootfontein) a new spacious school was erected as also a dwelling-house for the sisters. On the Okavango River a new station was founded in the territory of Bunja. The founding of an additional station in the territory of Vakuanjama was regrettably prevented. On the Mission's farm Doebrä a new dam was constructed. In Epukiro a second camp was fenced in and the irrigation scheme in connection therewith was completed. In Usakos a fresh water supply was opened up and the gardens were enlarged. In Klein Windhoek the irrigation schemes were improved by putting up two large reservoirs. In Gobabis a large orchard was laid out.

479. *Roman Catholic Mission (Prefecture, Great Namaland).*

Chief stations ... ..	8	
Secondary stations ... ..	9	
Staff of Mission... ..	45	(14 fathers, 4 brethren, 27 sisters).
Churches and chapels ... ..	15	
Children in primary schools	607	
Catechetical schools ... ..	1	with 16 catechists.
Orphans, about ... ..	100	
Baptized ... ..	206	heathens.
Religious lectures ... ..	2,897	

Educational lectures ... ..	347		
Certified nurses... ..	3		
Assistance in cases of diseases and accidents, about ... ..	8,000		
Sums expended for schools ... ..		£480	2 0
Sums expended for catechumens ... ..		131	8 0
Sums expended on poor and orphans ...		283	7 0

480. I beg to add that we do not accept from the natives any money for religious services, as is done by other religious communities, nor do we take any money for medical aid.

#### WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH.

481. The Wesleyan Methodist Church of South Africa carries on native work throughout the Territory of South West Africa. The present staff consists of the Superintendent Minister (the Rev. A. N. Taylor) with two European and two Native Ministers, who are assisted by two Native Evangelists and a number of local preachers and leaders.

482. Our native membership numbers about two hundred with a large number of adult adherents and Sunday school children at the various preaching places and churches.

483. The Church ministers to all the tribes represented in South West Africa as well as to a number of Natives from the Union.

484. There are two day-schools—at Windhoek and Walvis Bay—as well as Sunday schools, Temperance societies and Guilds.

485. Our Ministers travel large distances from Kalkfontein South to Grootfontein in the North.

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#### XXI.—NATIVE LABOUR.

486. See paragraphs 74-79 of the Report for 1927 and 566-587 of the Report for 1928.

487. There has been no change in labour conditions during the year under review. The total number of natives recruited in the Mandated Territory north of the Police Zone was 7,257 as compared with 6,277 in 1928. Besides these 394 Union Natives and 1,894 Bechuanas were brought in from the south for employment on the Diamond Mines, making the total of natives introduced 9,545 as against 8,159 for 1928. Of these 9,545 recruited natives 1,090 were employed on agricultural labour and 8,455 on mining.



488. The following table gives particulars of the natives recruited in the north:—

RETURN OF NATIVES RECRUITED DURING 1929 IN MANDATED TERRITORY.

Month.	Recruited in Ovamboland.				Recruited in Okavango at Kuring Kuru.				Recruited within Police Zone at Tsumeb.			
	Ovambos.	Angolan Natives.	Total 1929.	Total 1928.	Angolan Natives.	Okavango Natives.	Total 1929.	Total 1928.	Total Mixed Races 1928.	Total Mixed Races 1929.	Total All Races 1928.	Total All Races 1929.
January.....	383	106	489	319	68	8	76	44	75	137	438	702
February.....	301	54	355	604	33	12	45	42	64	96	710	496
March.....	390	121	511	648	9	81	90	45	116	127	809	728
April.....	588	252	840	690	18	62	80	122	79	105	891	1,025
May.....	475	321	796	621	48	31	79	64	94	112	779	987
June.....	218	224	442	432	76	21	97	38	81	118	551	657
July.....	240	218	458	469	—	—	—	18	71	97	558	555
August.....	230	216	446	300	9	—	9	13	110	125	423	580
September.....	117	115	232	179	38	—	38	10	120	201	309	471
October.....	106	79	185	209	39	5	44	2	77	111	288	340
November.....	65	117	182	184	87	3	90	29	15	107	228	379
December.....	158	82	240	246	33	5	38	*	47	59	293	337
TOTALS.....	3,271	1,905	5,176	4,901	458	228	686	427	947	1,395	6,277	7,257

\* Figures not available.

489. The following return gives the Territorial Analysis of the natives employed on the Mines at the beginning of 1929, the number taken into the service, the wastage, and the numbers on strength at the end of the year.

490. Small workings and miscellaneous mines are not included in this return. These concerns are now employing solely local labour:—

	Ovambos.	S. W. A. Natives.	Coloured.	Union Natives.	Bechuanas.	Angolan.	Bastard and Rhodesian.	East Coast.	Total.
In Service on 1st January.....	2,989	569	298	62	933	2,242	247	10	7,350
Add taken on strength during 1929	3,618	917	393	403	1,896	2,075	994	51	10,337
<i>Deduct wastage as shown below...</i>	6,607	1,486	691	465	2,829	4,317	1,241	61	17,687
	3,199	671	289	288	1,747	2,080	1,013	20	9,307
	3,408	815	402	177	1,082	2,237	228	41	8,380
<i>Wastage.</i>									
Discharged and Transferred.....	3,064	642	233	285	1,697	1,892	833	20	8,666
Deaths.....	93	9	15	3	37	107	105	—	369
Desertions.....	42	20	41	—	13	81	75	—	272
TOTAL WASTAGE.....	3,199	671	289	288	1,747	2,080	1,013	20	9,307

#### TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION OF NATIVES ON MINES.

491. The following returns set out under the various tribes the number of natives employed by the different classes of mines, in each case the totals for 1929 being compared with those for the preceding year.

492. It will be observed that the Diamond Mines employed a monthly average of 5,651 natives, being a gain of 978 over the figure of 4,673 for last year.

493. The average for Vanadium, Copper and miscellaneous mines shows a slight increase over 1928, but there is a considerable decrease in the figures for the Tin Mines. This is due not to the shortage of labour but to diminishing activity in that class of mining.

#### DIAMOND MINES.

	Union Natives.	S. W. A. Natives.	Ovamboland & Okavango Natives.	Angolan Natives.	Bechuana Natives.	Rhodesian Natives.	Unclassified Natives.	Total, 1929.	Total, 1928.
January.....	151	368	1,858	1,438	1,091	—	—	4,906	4,189
February.....	178	425	1,918	1,408	1,383	—	—	5,312	4,519
March.....	185	461	1,855	1,370	1,629	—	—	5,500	4,633
April.....	257	474	1,869	1,278	1,786	—	—	5,664	4,392
May.....	308	518	1,910	1,199	1,864	—	—	5,799	4,525
June.....	361	502	2,003	1,226	1,919	—	—	6,011	4,687
July.....	331	477	2,112	1,326	1,952	—	—	6,198	4,734
August.....	309	469	2,042	1,323	1,851	—	—	5,994	4,816
September.....	322	475	2,035	1,329	1,730	—	—	5,891	4,909
October.....	302	486	2,075	1,369	1,693	1	—	5,926	5,002
November.....	225	465	2,072	1,346	1,392	—	—	5,500	4,953
December.....	148	470	2,066	1,321	1,098	—	3	5,106	4,711
MONTHLY AVERAGE.....	256	466	1,985	1,328	1,616	—	—	5,651	4,673

#### VANADIUM MINES.

	Union Natives.	S. W. A. Natives.	Ovamboland & Okavango Natives.	Angolan Natives.	Bechuana Natives.	Rhodesian Natives.	Unclassified Natives.	Total, 1929.	Total, 1928.
January.....	1	129	237	221	—	56	—	644	733
February.....	1	126	233	224	—	61	—	645	682
March.....	1	129	246	213	46	8	1	644	643
April.....	1	129	274	203	—	57	1	665	725
May.....	1	165	237	202	—	62	2	669	758
June.....	1	170	251	229	—	63	3	717	768
July.....	1	174	261	228	—	64	5	733	711
August.....	1	196	279	211	—	55	20	762	671
September.....	4	134	339	175	—	56	5	763	664
October.....	1	133	336	210	1	53	14	748	649
November.....	2	135	333	249	1	54	5	779	638
December.....	1	129	328	240	1	56	5	760	637
MONTHLY AVERAGE.....	2	145	283	217	4	54	5	710	689

## COPPER MINES.

	Union Natives.	S. W. A. Natives.	Ovamboland & Okavango Natives.	Angolan Natives.	Bechuana Natives.	Rhodesian Natives.	Unclassified Natives.	Total, 1929.	Total, 1928.
January.....	4	220	1,284	646	6	42	1	2,203	2,320
February.....	6	237	1,244	608	7	40	2	2,144	2,256
March.....	6	205	1,120	590	7	59	2	1,989	2,176
April.....	6	210	1,200	615	6	57	2	2,096	2,091
May.....	83	205	1,131	684	6	61	2	2,172	2,032
June.....	9	214	1,166	676	5	61	2	2,133	2,082
July.....	8	245	1,176	667	5	66	1	2,168	2,052
August.....	11	251	1,203	704	6	83	4	2,262	2,034
September.....	7	249	1,213	707	6	83	5	2,270	2,000
October.....	6	267	1,210	657	6	85	2	2,233	2,018
November.....	8	276	1,192	671	6	101	2	2,256	2,031
December.....	14	278	1,131	656	6	100	1	2,186	2,046
MONTHLY AVERAGE.....	14	238	1,189	657	6	70	2	2,176	2,096

## TIN MINES.

January.....	12	496	145	—	—	—	1	654	1,026
February.....	16	540	164	—	—	—	1	721	1,023
March.....	5	508	137	—	—	—	—	650	1,045
April.....	6	517	151	—	—	—	—	674	1,024
May.....	5	518	109	—	—	1	—	633	999
June.....	4	433	117	—	—	—	1	555	926
July.....	4	405	121	—	—	—	—	530	743
August.....	3	407	91	—	—	—	—	501	702
September.....	3	412	64	—	—	—	—	479	649
October.....	3	388	50	—	—	—	—	441	631
November.....	4	395	57	—	—	—	1	457	635
December.....	5	418	48	—	—	—	1	472	645
MONTHLY AVERAGE.....	6	453	104	—	—	—	—	563	837

## MISCELLANEOUS MINES.

January.....	4	168	87	—	—	2	—	261	238
February.....	3	170	85	—	—	2	—	260	253
March.....	34	166	71	—	—	9	—	280	235
April.....	4	144	84	—	—	12	—	244	237
May.....	11	153	81	1	2	12	—	260	224
June.....	10	129	79	2	2	13	1	236	220
July.....	11	112	57	7	4	2	—	193	197
August.....	4	106	57	—	—	17	—	184	238
September.....	1	87	48	—	—	24	—	160	245
October.....	26	95	31	3	—	23	—	178	344
November.....	5	120	54	3	—	22	—	204	373
December.....	—	124	55	—	—	21	—	200	379
MONTHLY AVERAGE.....	9	131	66	2	—	13	—	221	265

494. The following is a statement setting out in respect of each of the years 1925 to 1929 the monthly average number of natives of each of the different tribes employed in connection with mining in South West Africa. This statement also shows how the natives employed are divided amongst the different classes of mining.

495. The total monthly average is 9,321 as compared with 8,560 during the preceding year:—

TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS OF NATIVE LABOURERS EMPLOYED ON DIAMOND, COPPER, VANADIUM, TIN OR MISCELLANEOUS MINES, SHOWING THE AVERAGE NUMBER EMPLOYED MONTHLY FOR THE YEARS 1925 TO 1929.

Territory of Origin.	Diamond Mines.					Copper Mines.					Vanadium Mines.					Tin Mines.					Miscellaneous Mines, 1929.	Total for All Mines.				
	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.		1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Union of South Africa..	3,038	3,534	1,250	143	256	9	2	1	13	14	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	7	6	9	3,047	2,538	1,251	166	287
South West Africa.....	194	256	179	100	466	484	212	213	311	238	130	183	149	135	145	204	258	262	499	453	131	1,012	909	803	1,223	1,433
Ovamboland and Okavango.....	1,917	3,254	3,236	2,649	1,985	1,204	985	1,356	1,256	1,189	233	322	269	337	283	50	44	170	331	104	66	3,404	4,605	5,031	4,641	3,627
Angola.....	—	—	—	228	1,328	—	340	363	497	657	—	259	107	171	217	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	599	470	901	2,204
Bechuanaland.....	1,355	1,564	1,645	1,372	1,616	—	—	4	1	6	5	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,360	1,564	1,650	1,373	1,626
Rhodesia.....	—	—	—	—	—	230	234	177	18	70	352	181	89	46	54	—	—	—	—	—	13	582	415	266	75	137
Basutoland.....	241	33	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	245	33	13	—	—
Others.....	16	17	14	181	—	9	13	11	—	2	2	—	1	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	30	26	181	7
TOTALS.....	6,761	8,658	6,337	4,673	5,651	1,936	1,786	2,125	2,096	2,176	726	947	616	689	710	254	302	432	837	563	221	9,677	10,693	9,510	8,560	9,321

## DESERTIONS.

496. Desertions, which in former years were very high on the mines in the North, decreased very considerably in 1929 as the following return will show:—

Year.	Copper Mines.	Vanadium Mines.	Total.
1927.....	870	43	913
1928.....	471	71	542
1929.....	118	74	192

497. The figures for the years 1927 and 1928 do not include all cases. The figures for 1929, however, are complete.

## XXII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

## I.

## HEALTH OF RECRUITED WORKERS.

## A. SOURCES OF LABOUR.

498. The labour requirements for the Luderitz Diamond Fields are met by the recruitment of native labourers in Ovamboland, Bechuanaland, and the Union of South Africa in that order numerically. The copper, vanadium, and tin mines derive their labour mainly from Ovamboland, the Okavango, and recruits who come of their own accord from south-eastern Angola and Barotseland (Northern Rhodesia) to seek employment in the Mandated Territory.

499. The labourers recruited in Ovamboland are examined by the additional District Surgeon at Ondongua. During the past few years only those who are considered absolutely sound were sent to Luderitz Diamond Fields.

500. The recruits are classified by the District Surgeon into three categories according to their standard of fitness.

501. During 1929 natives recruited in Ovamboland were classified as follows:—

Month.	Class A. Any Work.	Class B. Light Mine Work.	Class C. Light Farm Work.	Class D. Unfit.	Total.
January.....	329	69	80	11	489
February.....	237	35	4	4	280
March.....	367	58	82	5	512
April.....	581	110	141	8	840
May.....	518	109	149	20	796
June.....	335	33	66	8	442
July.....	347	47	54	10	458
August.....	269	90	78	9	446
September.....	163	30	41	—	234
October.....	148	17	16	4	185
November.....	139	23	15	5	182
December.....	161	39	34	6	240
TOTAL.....	3,594	660	760	90	5,104

The percentage in each class is:—

Class A .....	70.42
Class B .....	12.93
Class C .....	14.89
Class D .....	1.76

## B. MORTALITY ON THE MINES.

502. As will be seen from the annexure referred to in paragraph 494 the average number of natives employed on the various mines in South West Africa during 1929 was 9,321 as compared with 8,560 in 1928. The figure 9,321 relates to those actually employed in mining operations.

503. In calculating the death rate another 403 souls have to be taken into account as these were included in the return from the Otavi Minen- und Eisenbahn-Gesellschaft. They are apparently not actually engaged in mining operations but are employees of the above-mentioned company.

504. The total number of deaths was 410, giving a death rate of 42.17 per thousand per annum for all mines, based on the average number employed per month.

505. The mortality from the principal causes of death as compared with the previous year was as follows:—

	1928.		1929.	
	Deaths.	Mortality.	Deaths.	Mortality.
Pneumonia.....	83	9.68	109	11.21
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	—	—	4	0.41
Tuberculosis.....	13	1.52	21	2.16
Influenza.....	135	15.76	217	22.32
Sourvy.....	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever.....	4	0.47	—	—
Dysentery.....	—	—	2	0.20
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.....	17	1.99	26	2.67
Other Diseases.....	41	4.79	23	2.37
Accidents.....	8	0.95	8	0.82
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>35.16</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>42.16</b>

506. It will be observed that influenza again was the cause of the majority of deaths.

507. The greatest number of deaths (165) from Influenza occurred on the Copper Mines at Tsumeb.

508. The following statements show the mortality on the various mines and the causes:—

## (a) Luderitz Diamond Fields.

## (i) Mortality from the principal causes of death during the years 1927-1929.

Disease.	1927.			1928.			1929.		
	C.	D.	M.	C.	D.	M.	C.	D.	M.
Pneumonia.....	409	63	9.69	587	63	13.49	761	82	14.51
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	522	3	0.46	443	3	0.65	573	4	0.71
Tuberculosis.....	54	25	3.85	22	4	0.86	9	9	0.59
Influenza.....	186	13	2.00	126	—	—	162	4	0.71
Scurvy.....	130	—	—	95	—	—	43	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.....	18	13	2.00	13	13	2.78	24	17	3.01
Enteric Fever.....	20	13	2.00	5	4	0.85	—	—	—
Dysentery.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	0.18
Other Diseases.....	2,217	37	5.69	1,626	28	5.97	1,648	16	2.83
Accidents or Injuries...	351	4	0.62	249	1	0.22	172	1	0.18
Syphilis.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	—	—
Gonorrhoea.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>3,907</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>26.31</b>	<b>3,166</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>24.82</b>	<b>3,426</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>23.71</b>

NOTE.—C.—No. of Cases; D.—No. of Deaths; M.—Death rate per thousand per annum.

509. The monthly average number of natives employed during 1929 was 5,651 as compared with 4,673 in 1928 and 6,500 in 1927.

510. An Influenza epidemic occurred during the month of October.

(ii) Incidence and case mortality of the principal diseases on the fields among the labourers employed by the various Diamond Mining Companies:—

Diseases.	Consolidated Diamond Mines.			Namaqua Diamonds.						Other Companies.		
				South.			North.					
	C.	D.	M.	C.	D.	M.	C.	D.	M.	C.	D.	M.
Pneumonia.....	604	62	12.05	123	16	13.01	30	3	10	4	1	25
Other respiratory diseases.....	510	1	0.2	24	3	12.5	23	—	—	16	—	—
Tuberculosis.....	5	5	100	—	—	—	3	3	100	1	1	100
Influenza.....	—	—	—	159	4	2.52	—	—	—	3	—	—
Scurvy.....	23	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	10	—	—
Cerebro spinal meningitis.....	24	17	70.83	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric fever.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery.....	1	1	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Other diseases.....	1,315	7	0.08	176	6	3.41	133	2	1.5	24	1	4.17
Accidents.....	161	1	0.62	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis.....	22	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea.....	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>2,666</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>3.53</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>5.84</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3.98</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4.76</b>

NOTE.—C.=No. of Cases. D.=No. of Deaths. M.=Mortality.

(iii) Incidence of the Death Rate from the Principal Diseases among the Various Tribes employed on the Diamond Fields were as follows:—

Diseases	Bechuana.			Union Natives.			Ovambos.			Ovambos from Angola recruited in Ovamboland.			Other S.W.A. Natives.		
	C.	D.	D.R.	C.	D.	D.R.	C.	D.	D.R.	C.	D.	D.R.	C.	D.	D.R.
Pneumonia.....	156	20	12.38	27	1	3.89	257	27	13.60	313	32	24.10	8	2	4.29
Other respiratory diseases....	109	—	—	40	1	3.89	195	1	0.50	219	1	0.75	10	1	2.15
Tuberculosis.....	2	2	1.24	—	—	—	3	1	0.50	4	5	3.76	—	—	—
Influenza.....	—	—	—	10	—	—	75	2	1.01	62	2	1.51	15	—	—
Scurvy.....	9	—	—	1	—	—	7	—	—	26	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro spinal meningitis....	13	9	5.57	—	—	—	4	3	1.51	7	5	3.76	—	—	—
Dysentery.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	0.50	1	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases.....	467	3	1.86	102	1	3.89	552	8	4.03	497	3	2.26	30	1	2.15
Accidents.....	68	1	0.62	26	—	—	39	—	—	33	—	—	6	—	—
Syphilis.....	13	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	9	—	—	1	—	—
Gonorrhoea.....	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>21.66</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>1,139</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21.66</b>	<b>1,172</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>36.14</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8.58</b>
<b>Average Number Employed..</b>	<b>1,616</b>			<b>256</b>			<b>1,985</b>			<b>1,328</b>			<b>466</b>		

NOTE.—C.=No. of cases. D.=No. of deaths. D.R.=Death Rate per thousand per annum.

511. The mean death rate for the years 1925-1929 inclusive, is as follows:—

1925 ... .. death rate 33.69 per thousand per annum.  
 1926 ... .. death rate 24.71 per thousand per annum.  
 1927 ... .. death rate 26.30 per thousand per annum.  
 1928 ... .. death rate 24.82 per thousand per annum.  
 1929 ... .. death rate 23.71 per thousand per annum.

This is the lowest death rate recorded.

(b) *Tsumeb Mines (O.M.E.G. Group).*

(iv) Death Rate per thousand per annum from the principal causes of death from 1925 to 1929:—

Diseases.	1925.		1926.		1927.		1928.		1929.			
	D.	M.	D.	M.	D.	M.	D.	M.	No. cases.	D.	Case mortality.	Death rate per 1,000.
Pneumonia.....	15	6.26	15	6.65	7	2.76	15	6.06	100	27	27.00	10.47
Tuberculosis.....	3	1.25	4	1.78	6	2.37	9	3.68	12	12	100.00	4.65
Other respiratory diseases..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	288	—	—	—
Influenza.....	36	15.02	61	27.06	179	70.64	107	43.23	1,398	165	11.80	63.98
Enteric fever.....	—	—	2	0.89	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	100.00	0.39
Scurvy.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro spinal meningitis..	2	0.83	15	6.65	3	1.18	4	1.61	9	9	100.00	3.49
Malaria.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	—	—	—
Other diseases.....	1	0.42	3	1.33	5	1.97	6	2.42	1,073	1	0.09	0.39
Syphilis.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—
Accidents.....	2	0.83	1	0.44	2	0.79	5	2.00	1,359	6	0.44	2.33
Gonorrhoea.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>24.61</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>44.80</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>79.71</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>59.00</b>	<b>4,322</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>5.11</b>	<b>85.70</b>
Average No. employed.....	2,397		2,254		2,534		2,475		2,579			

NOTE.—D.=No. of deaths. M.=Mortality per 1,000 per annum.

512. The great increase in the number of accidents recorded, viz.: 1,359, as compared with former years will be observed—of these only 19 were reported to the Department of Mines, the remainder being of a minor nature.

513. It will be noted that the chief cause of the high death rate is Influenza, which disease alone accounted for 165 deaths out of a total of 221. The majority of deaths from Influenza occurred in the month of November. From an analysis of the returns the incidence of Influenza was:—

	Cases.	Deaths.
June ... ..	98	22
July ... ..	219	23
August ... ..	164	21
September ... ..	124	12
October ... ..	246	21
November ... ..	445	50
December ... ..	102	16

514. The Influenza wave commenced in June as usual. The number of cases increased during the month of July and subsided somewhat in August, the number of deaths per month remaining the same for the three months. The disease then showed signs of abating but in October there was another wave which reached its maximum in November.

(c) *Vanadium Mines—Grootfontein.*

(v) Incidence of disease and the death rate per thousand per annum for the years 1927 to 1929 inclusive is as follows:—

Diseases.	1927.		1928.		1929.			
	No. of Cases.	Mortality per 1,000 per Annum.	No. of Cases.	Mortality per 1,000 per Annum.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.	Case Mortality.	Death Rate per 1,000 per Annum.
Pneumonia.....	21	33.65	1	1.45	—	—	%	—
Tuberculosis.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scurvy.....	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Dysentery.....	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Malaria.....	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
Influenza.....	5	8.01	27	39.19	298	48	16.1	67.60
Other diseases.....	—	—	4	5.80	281	2	0.7	2.82
Injuries.....	—	—	—	—	78	1	1.3	1.41
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>41.66</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>46.44</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>71.83</b>



515. The average number of natives employed on the Vanadium Mines during 1929 was 710 as compared with 689 in 1928.

(d) *Tin Mines: Karibib, Swakopmund and Omaruru.*

516. The health of the labourers employed on the tin fields during 1929 was good. The average number employed during 1929 was 563. There were only 4 deaths recorded. Death rate per 1,000 was 7.1.

517. The average number of natives employed on the miscellaneous mines was 221, amongst whom no deaths were reported.

C.—REMEDIAL MEASURES ADOPTED.

518. The Administration of the Mandated Territory has been most concerned at the high mortality (particularly from influenza) on the northern mines.

519. The outbreak of Influenza in November under summer conditions was unusual and unexpected. This outbreak was responsible for far more deaths than the usual annual occurrence during the earlier and colder months.

520. The Medical Officer at the Tsumeb Mines remarks as follows:—

“The cause of the spread and distribution of the disease cannot be sought in the relationship of the labourers to the different mining branches, but that this is to be ascribed to the nature of the infection, its manifest desire to attack this or that native tribe; otherwise it would be inexplicable why the disease, as was particularly the case at the time of our last and most serious Influenza wave in November, 1929, should occur so suddenly and disappear so suddenly and completely, in spite of the condition of labour and the external conditions of living remaining constant and equal.”

521. Following upon the discussions at the July Session of the Permanent Mandates Commission in connection with the mortality among mine labourers, as soon as possible after his return to the Mandated Territory from England, Dr. Fourie, the late Medical Officer of the Administration was sent to Tsumeb and Grootfontein to conduct a personal investigation into the causes of the mortality amongst native labourers on the Northern Mines and in particular (1) to obtain information in regard to the mortality amongst the various tribes employed, and (2) to determine whether hook-worm infection existed amongst the labourers.

522. The result of his investigations confirmed the fact that the mortality rates were abnormally high and demanded more definite action.

523. A high mortality was found to exist amongst all the natives recruited from the North, including the Ovambos. Many extra-territorial natives, however, the bulk of whom come from south-eastern Angola of their own accord to seek work in the Territory, had been included as Ovambos and Dr. Fourie thought that if these were separated it would possibly be found that the mortality rate amongst the labourers from Ovamboland itself would be lower. He found that prior to the influx of these Angolan natives, the death rate had been considerably less. He also found that most of the deaths were attributable to influenza and respiratory diseases of either influenza or post influenzal origin. The mortality was highest amongst Okavango, Northern Rhodesia and south-eastern Angolan natives; next lowest amongst the Ovambo and lowest amongst locally recruited natives. Further at Tsumeb the death rate was higher amongst natives employed on the smelter than amongst those working underground.

524. Enquiries had previously been made as to the possibility of industrial poisoning, such as by lead being a contributory cause of the abnormally high mortality on the smelter and this proved not to be the case. These enquiries were addressed by the Inspector of Mines to the managements of mines running smelters under similar conditions in South Africa asking whether any excessive mortality had been observed, and, in each case the reply was in the negative. Search therefore had to be made elsewhere for the cause of these phenomena. It was found to be attributable chiefly to the fact that newcomers arriving in search of work are generally drafted to the smelter in the first instance as the older hands are averse to this form of employment. It is therefore from the boys who have travelled long distances and are in consequence physically reduced and more open to infection that the complement is made up. In the same way the lower mortality amongst locally recruited natives may doubtless be ascribed in the past to the fact of their often being old hands who have worked on the mines before and have so acquired a certain degree of immunity, although in many cases they originally came from the same areas as the natives recruited later. In any case it is proposed to make lead poisoning a notifiable disease in order that information may be available with a view to checking previous investigations.

525. The Medical Officer in the course of his investigations examined 150 stools of native labourers and in some 20 per cent. hook-worm ova were discovered. The majority were from patients in the hospital, only some 30 specimens being obtainable from the compound. He stated that it was impossible during the short time at his disposal to determine the degree of infection amongst the various tribes and among underground as compared with surface workers. He considered, however, that further investigation would probably show a higher incidence amongst natives arriving from south-eastern Angola and Northern Rhodesia than from elsewhere, and among underground as compared with surface workers. He considered the risk of re-infection was small on the surface and for this reason the degree of infection of surface workers was likely to diminish greatly during the period of their contracts. In the mines, on the other hand, conditions were pre-eminently favourable to re-infection and steps were necessary to reduce this risk to a minimum.

526. On the Vanadium Mines, open-working mines employing some 700 natives, he also found the mortality abnormally high. This mine employs natives principally from the Okavango region and south-eastern Angola boys. These natives are mostly raw and unaccustomed to work, and the majority are heavily infected with malaria. Many of them also showed a high percentage of infection with hook-worm. It was not possible for the Medical Officer to say to what extent these infections were contributory to mortality, but he considered that immediate steps to deal with the infection should be undertaken by the management concerned. He also recommended that the headquarters of the mines medical officer should be shifted from Grootfontein to Abenab to enable him to give more attention to the preventative aspect of the question and to devote more time to the investigation of the problems arising out of the employment of this class of native labour.

527. The Administration unfortunately has no means of comparing the mortality rates of natives at their homes in the regions lying to the north and north-east of the Okavango river with the mortality rates of those from the same areas employed in the mines of the Territory. It is suspected that it is probably very high as many of the natives come from the swampy regions lying about the headwaters of the Okavango, Cuito, Cwando and Zambesi rivers. It was felt, however, that the position disclosed necessitated immediate action.

528. The managements of the mines concerned also appreciated this, as will be evident from the following letter addressed to the Administrator after the Medical Officer's visit. The South West Africa Company said:—

“ We much appreciated Dr. Fourie's recent visit of investigation and are grateful to the Administration for arranging same.

“ We await with interest such further suggestions as you may favour us with, as the result of Dr. Fourie's visit. We should particularly like a definite ruling as to whether it is, or is not, desirable to apply treatment for hook-worm, be it as—

(a) mass treatment, or

(b) to definitely diagnosed cases.

We ask this in view of the fact that in 1927, Carbon Tetrachloride treatment was abandoned on the Rand after it had been in use for only six months—partly, we understand, because several cases of Carbon Tetrachloride poisoning occurred.

“ Further, we should like to learn whether, in view of Dr. Fourie's discovery of the existence of the hook-worm disease among our natives at Abenab, the Administration considers that a closer and lengthier study of this and other matters should be undertaken by an expert bacteriologist and his work followed up by a Medical Commission of Enquiry.”

529. It was accordingly decided to call a conference of the representatives of the two recruiting associations which included representatives of the Otavi Mining Company, the South West Africa Mining Company and the various diamond mines of the South, together with the Inspector of Mines, the Medical Officer and other officers of the Administration.

530. This conference met at the end of November under the Chairmanship of the Secretary for South West Africa, who, after outlining the position, stated that if some means could not be found to reduce the mortality figures it would be necessary for the Administration to prohibit the recruitment of natives from certain areas.

531. The mining representatives stated that they fully appreciated the gravity of the position, but pointed out that the mortality figures which were given in the report to the Mandates Commission and which were compiled on the same basis as mining figures in the Union, hardly reflected the true

position. In the Union the natives are engaged on contracts extending over a year or more and a calculation of mortality on the average number of natives employed during a year gives a fair representation of the annual mortality rate whereas on the Tsumeb Mine many natives only work for 2 or 3 months and while the average number of natives employed might be, say, 2,000 per annum, 3,000 or more may have passed through the mine in the same period, the mortality rate is, however, calculated on a basis of 2,000 employees instead of the actual number of individuals recruited which was very much higher.

532. While admitting this was correct the Administration decided to continue the existing basis of calculation for the time being as it is understood this is the basis generally adopted. At the same time it is felt that too much stress cannot be laid upon the point raised. Striking illustrations of the misleading character of the monthly averages are afforded by the fact that while the average number of extra-territorial natives employed on the vanadium mines was 280, the number of cases of more serious disease treated among them was 390, while at Tsumeb the monthly average number of extra-territorial natives was only 735, and the number of cases treated was 1,629. If the mortality were based upon the actual number of individuals employed the percentage would naturally be infinitely lower. Taking the illustrations given above, if the mortality were based on the number of cases treated (which does not represent the total number of individuals employed) the percentage of mortality would in the second instance be much less than half of what has been given.

533. After going fully into the facts available the Conference came to the conclusion that there was some source of infection at Tsumeb and Abenab which could not be traced, but which greatly increased the mortality from influenza. This had occurred since the increased number of natives from the north had come down, but was not confined to the natives from South-eastern Angola, and had resulted in increased mortality amongst local natives.

534. The privations of the long march south, the higher malarial infection of natives from the swamp area of South-eastern Angola and hook-worm, were all discussed as possible causes of the increased mortality, but it was felt that to none of them could the actual mortality be attributed. The northern representatives felt that the only suggestion they could offer was that a fully qualified bacteriologist should be got up to undertake a series of investigations, and it was decided that Dr. Fischer, a recognised authority, should be invited up from Johannesburg and after he had fully gone into matters that Dr. Orenstein should also be invited to visit South West Africa again. The representatives of the labour Organizations admitted frankly that if these gentlemen could not suggest ameliorating measures the introduction of natives from South-eastern Angola and other centres showing a high mortality rate would have to be stopped, but they asked that as the influenza season was practically over and freedom from mortality could be looked for during the next four or five months the Administration would not take definite steps until Drs. Fischer and Orenstein's reports had been received and considered.

535. They undertook to get Dr. Fischer up at once.

536. This has been done and Dr. Fischer has submitted the following report, as summarised:—

537. The object of Dr. Fischer's visit to the copper mines at Tsumeb and the vanadium mines at Abenab was to investigate the cause of the abnormally high mortality and mortality from "flu" amongst the native labourers employed on the mines. His investigations occupied a period of 3 weeks.

538. From statistical evidence Dr. Fischer gathered that the disease had a characteristic seasonal activity extending over the months of May to October inclusive, but that in November, 1929, there was an exacerbation of the disease, the incidence of the disease being very high and the mortality therefrom correspondingly so.

539. He, Dr. Fischer, also noted that the tribes most subject to the disease on both the copper and the vanadium mines were the Angolas and the Ovambos and that in the case of the former the disease was highly fatal.

540. It was also observed that the mortality was higher amongst the labourers who were in the first or second quarter of their respective contracts, and that at Tsumeb the death rate of the natives employed on the smelter

was greater than that of those employed on underground work. The explanation of this was given by Dr. L. Fourie. He states that this is attributed to the fact that new-comers are drafted to the smelter as owing to the Sunday shift natives who had once worked on the smelter generally declined to do so a second time. Microscopical examination of the blood and the stools of all new recruits and of all patients admitted to the native hospital at Tsemeb were made. Also autopsies were performed on all natives who died in the hospitals at Tsumeb and Abenab. He found that of those examined 48.4 per cent. Angolas and 53.3 per cent. Ovambos were infected with malignant tertiary malaria, and 48.5 per cent. Angolas and 60 per cent. Ovambos were hookworm-carriers. The Spirochaetes of relapsing fever were detected in the blood of one Ovambo.

541. The conclusions drawn from these findings were that malaria and ankylostoma may probably lower to a certain degree the power of resistance of the Ovambos and Angolas against other diseases and that they may unfavourably influence the course of these diseases.

542. Three post-mortems were performed at Tsumeb—the cause of death being influenza pneumonia, lobar pneumonia and tuberculosis.

543. At Abenab where a new outbreak of "flu" was reported in January four patients died. Post-mortem revealed the fact that the cause of death in three cases had been enteric fever, and in the other case broncho-pneumonia complicated by enteric. The cases had been diagnosed as "flu." (In the native more so than in the European typhoid is most difficult to diagnose. The assistance of the Widal re-action, an agglutination test, is usually made use of in the diagnosis of enteric in all European cities.)

544. It was concluded that the source of infection in at least two of the cases must have been Abenab. As a result of the autopsy findings the mine doctor at Abenab shared Dr. Fischer's view that probably some of the deaths at first attributed to "flu" had been also due to enteric fever.

545. In the case of the last of the four deaths refered to above it is interesting to mention that the patient had nearly passed through the disease quite unnoticed as he had done his work day by day. At the end of the third week when he was dancing and drinking with his friends an ulcer suddenly perforated leading to fatal peritonitis. This goes to show how the infection may be spread. Dr. Fischer is of the opinion that there is a focus of typhoid at Abenab.

546. He states that on the Rand natives are often so slightly infected that the disease remains undetected, the sufferer thus being a source of infection to others, and further, that typhoid cases are frequently complicated by broncho-pneumonia.

547. Autopsy findings in the City Deep Central Native Hospital, Johannesburg, revealed that this complication existed in 46.6 per cent. of all cases. Dr. Fischer also states that the influenza-like symptoms are in some cases more pronounced than those of the intestinal tract. Hence enteric fever may often be mistaken for influenza.

548. Dr. Fischer's conclusions were that high morbidity and mortality in certain months cannot be attributed to "flu" alone and that other diseases which take a similar clinical course must have their share, and that malaria may play an important rôle.

549. He states that enteric fevers are very common amongst natives and that it would be a very astonishing fact if there should have been no cases of this disease. (The result of post-mortem examinations over a number of years at the Government Native Hospital, Windhoek, does not confirm this as the disease has but rarely been found.)

550. To strengthen his findings Dr. Fischer states that if we had only to deal with an epidemic outbreak of "flu" white people on the staff of the hospital would have been attacked also and that this did not occur. He further states that the outstanding fact remains that Angolas show an unusually high susceptibility to disease and that the mortality rate amongst them is much higher than amongst other natives. Dr. Fischer's reason for this is "the Angolas are not good specimens of mankind. They are not of great physical strength. When they arrive on the mines they are run down by the hardships of a long journey with insufficient food supply. Their resistance is lowered by malaria and ankylostomiasis, while some of them may have contracted typhoid at the water holes on the road."

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