



# Nyasaland Information Bulletin

(AFRICAN INFORMATION SERVICES)

Prepared for Native Authority Headquarters, African Reading Rooms,  
Welfare Halls, Information Notice Boards, etc.

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## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

### Antarctic Relics from Scott's Expedition found

Relics from a stone shelter built by Captain Scott's Antarctic expedition in 1911, discovered on 23rd March at the eastern tip of Ross Island, are being brought back to Scott Base by Sir Edmund Hillary, leader of the New Zealand Antarctic expedition.

Interesting finds include a case of scientific instruments, belonging to Dr. Edward Wilson, and films in sealed containers. There are also two stoves, a hurricane lamp, six thermometers and tins of tea and dried meat.

The shelter was built during a six-weeks journey undertaken to study the Emperor penguin.

### Kenya's Broadcasting Services to be Expanded

The Kenya Government's development programme for 1957-60 envisages the expenditure of £300,000 on a Colony-wide broadcasting system to replace the present services. Kenya will make a contribution of £100,000 to the scheme, and a special allocation of £200,000 will come from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

The new broadcasting scheme provides for national European, African and Asian programmes, and regional programmes in Arabic and African vernacular languages.

## FEDERAL AFFAIRS

### Great Strides made in African Agriculture

One of the most exciting things occurring in southern Africa today, said Mr. G. McM. Roddan, Deputy Agricultural Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, was the tremendous strides being made by African agriculture. Mr. Roddan left Salisbury for the

United Kingdom on 4th April after a visit to British Protectorates in South Africa, and three weeks in the Federation. He left, he said, with the impression that African agriculture in this part of the world was waking up after a long sleep. Changes were taking place extremely rapidly today, but in all probability the pace of development here would be regarded as slow in five to ten years' time.

Mr. Roddan predicted that one of the pulling forces in African agriculture in the future would be African women. Once they were educated to want a higher standard of living, they would be a big influence in improving African agriculture. One thing that had struck him about this part of Africa, compared to East and West Africa, was the lack of variety in African cash crops. Something should be done to bring other crops into the scheme of things. In Basutoland the battle of soil conservation had still to be won, he said, but elsewhere he had found that soil conservation work was an accepted part of agricultural life.

### Visitors to inspect Federation's Radio-Active Mineral Deposits

Three geologists, two from America and one from Britain, arrived in Salisbury by air from Johannesburg on 13th April to inspect the discoveries of radio-active mineral deposits in the Federation.

The Salisbury Office of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority announced on the same day that the visitors are Dr. L. R. Page, Chief Geologist of the United States Geological Survey, Dr. P. Dodd, of the United States Atomic Energy Commission, and Mr. S. H. U. Bowie, of the Geological Survey of Great Britain.

The three visitors will be conducted around the Federation by members of the Salisbury Office of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority and the

Geological Survey of Southern Rhodesia. During their stay they will be shown radio-active deposits at Umtali, Lake Nyasa and the Copperbelt and lithium deposits at Bikita.

### **First Federal Director-General of Broadcasting**

The first Director-General of Broadcasting in the Federation, Mr. James McClurg, began work on 1st April. It is expected that broadcasting in the Federation will be incorporated by October this year and the Bill is due for presentation at the next session of Parliament, which begins in June. Mr. McClurg steps into the post of Director-General from that of Regional Director in the Transvaal. He was with South Africa Broadcasting Corporation for 22 years. He became well known as an announcer and commentator in the Union and entered broadcasting from journalism in Cape Town.

### **Banana Fibre used for Manufacturing Grain Bags**

Experiments with locally-grown banana fibre in the manufacture of grain bags are being carried out by in Umtali jute factory. The results over the past six months have been encouraging, and bags have been made containing up to 30 per cent. of banana fibre, and 50 per cent. of sisal and banana fibre combined. The bags appeared under physical and laboratory test to be as strong as normal bags made from 100 per cent. jute, says a report.

### **First Car Assembled in the Federation**

The Federal Minister of Commerce and Industry launched the first motor assembly industry in the Federation on 1st April. The Minister, Mr. F. S. Owen, took the first ride in a completed Fuldomobil, produced by a company in the Federation.

An important point that the Minister stressed was that 40 per cent. of the Fuldomobil was being produced locally and that enabled the vehicle to qualify as a Federal product on entry to South Africa. The company had a firm order for 400 vehicles for the South African market, and further orders for Portuguese East Africa of more than 50 vehicles. The Fuldomobil, powered by a 200 c.c. Sachs engine has a four-speed gearbox with an all aluminium body designed to carry four people. It is expected to have a performance of 65 m.p.g. and a top speed of 50 m.p.h. It will sell in the Federation at between £330 and £350.

## **PROTECTORATE AFFAIRS**

### **Liwonde Bund Road to open for Easter**

The road over the Shire bund at Liwonde was opened for traffic in time for Easter. The surfaces of

the approach roads and that over the bund had been prepared and a vehicle control system is installed.

The crossing was opened for use by motor vehicles, motor cycles, bicycles and pedestrians and a toll of 6d is to be charged for pedestrians, bicycles and motor cycles and 1s for all other types.

The bund road is an additional facility which passengers can use or not at their discretion. The ferry service will continue in operation and will be free as formerly.

The bund road and the access thereto will be private and its use will be governed by a contract embodied on the toll ticket, the contents of which are:—

1. This crossing is occupied by the Federal Government and is under the control of the Director of Public Works, Zomba.

2. This ticket authorizes one motor vehicle without trailer, or one motor cycle, bicycle or pedestrian to cross the river once only. The Director reserves the right to refuse passage to any vehicle or person without giving reasons. No animals, trailers or other unmotorized traffic allowed.

3. The crossing shall be closed at such hours as the Director may decide, and may be closed at any time without notice.

4. All motor vehicles and other users shall conform to all traffic control signals. Speed limit five m.p.h. Overtaking and halting absolutely prohibited.

5. Neither the Federal Government, the Nyasaland Government nor any of their servants acting as such shall be liable for any loss of life, personal injury or any damage to property however caused arising out of or in connection with the use of the crossing or approach roads by any person or vehicle, whether or not the same is due to any negligence on the part of any servant or agent of either Government.

### **Amendment to the Bicycle Rules**

Bicycle owners are aware that under existing legislation they are required to fix red reflectors to the rear mudguards of their bicycles. As the law stands at present such reflectors are only required to be fixed to bicycles between the hours of sunset and sunrise.

Government proposes, however, to amend the Bicycle Rules to require a cyclist to have a red reflector on the rear mudguard of his machine at all times.

This amendment will come into force on 1st October, 1957, and bicycle owners are warned that after that date

they will be liable to prosecution unless they ensure that a red reflector is fixed to the rear mudguard of their bicycles at all times.

### **Nyasas in Southern Rhodesia Build own School**

In November, 1956, at Nyabira, some 18 miles out of Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, the Nyasaland Labour Chaplain, the Rev. M. S. Daneel, started building with the voluntary help of Nyasaland people working in the area a Senior Primary boarding school to provide higher primary courses for Nyasaland children living in Southern Rhodesia.

A recent report from the Nyasaland Government Representative, Salisbury, states that the building was completed and opened on 24th March. The school will cater for children in grades from Sub Standard A to Standard IV. It is an excellent example of self-help and has largely been achieved through the generosity of Mr. C. Nasmyth-Shaw who gave the land and also one of the buildings for the School.

The assistance given by the Nyasas working in the area took the form of money, materials, technical advice and labour.

In addition, the African Education Department of Southern Rhodesia generously made a grant and loan of £500 towards the erection of the school building.

There was an impressive opening ceremony attended by the Director of African Education, the District Commissioner, Salisbury, the Rev. A. B. Doig, M.P., and the Nyasaland Government Representative, Salisbury.

### **Under-age Recruits pay Tax to try and join Recruiting Organization**

A recent report from the office of the Commissioner for Labour in Zomba states that several under-age applicants have recently tried to join a recruiting organization by first of all paying their tax in the hope that they would be accepted.

The Labour Inspector in his capacity as Attesting Officer has rejected these applicants. The report goes on to say that one of these young persons would not have been required to pay tax for another two years.

### **More Cars registered in Nyasaland**

A record increase in the number of registered vehicles and trailers on Nyasaland's roads is recorded in the Annual Report of the Nyasaland Road Service Authority. The number registered at the end of last December was 1,160 more than in December, 1955, showing an increase of 13.5 per cent. Similarly, motor vehicle revenue for the financial year 1955 to 1956 exceeded the original estimate

by more than £10,000 to reach £52,000. Yet licensing fees have remained at the same level since 1934. The number of registered motor vehicles and trailers increased from 5,709 in 1952 to 9,000 last year. The growing prosperity of Nyasaland is indicated, said the Nyasaland Road Service Authority, by the enormous increase in the number of vehicles owned by Africans. As an indication of this, 1,667 provisional or learner licences were issued to Africans, compared with 717 in 1955—an increase of 132 per cent.

### **Do You Know?**

(a) That catches of fish by non-African concerns on the waters of Lake Nyasa were higher in 1956 than in 1955, being 2,680 short tons in the south-eastern arm and 214 tons in the south-western arm as compared with 2,500 and 130 tons, respectively.

(b) That 10 First Class and 170 Second Class Farmers, cultivating between them over 3,000 acres of land to a high standard, qualified during 1956 for bonus payments amounting to £3,000 in Nyasaland. The demand for farm-carts to these farmers continued and 383 carts were sold during the year.

(c) That there are now some 1,100 growers of *arabica* coffee in the Northern Province, the biggest concentration of growers being in the Misuku Hill area and the Rumpi District.

(d) That out of an approximate 430,625 able-bodied males in the Protectorate, it is estimated that 141,900 were absent from Nyasaland in 1956. Of this total 100,000 were estimated to be in Southern Rhodesia, 30,000 in the Union of South Africa, 11,000 in Northern Rhodesia and some 900 in other territories.

### **Financial Assistance to Missions for Education**

Government provides funds for the assistance of mission-managed schools at all levels. Assistance is given both with capital (buildings, desks, etc.) and recurrent (salaries, books, etc) expenditure. A greater share of the total cost of the latter is borne by Government than of the former.

The greatest liability for assistance borne by the central Government is in connection with primary education. This is at present financed from an education fund which obtains its revenue from three sources. A four-shilling share of each native tax and a four-shilling share of each bicycle tax is paid into this fund; the balance of the necessary expenditure on primary education is made up from general revenue. The total provision in the current financial year, from all three sources, amounts to £377,600.

The responsibility for the payment of grants-in-aid in respect of mission primary schools has been handed over by the Director of Education to the District Education Committees which constitute local authorities for this purpose. The Director of Education administers the education fund and from it makes payments to the local authorities to enable them to meet their grant commitments. 826 primary school streams are being assisted in this way in the present year; they have an enrolment of 118,000 children and are staffed by 3,000 teachers.

The greatest proportion of grants-in-aid is spent on meeting the salaries of the teachers, the whole of which is payable from grant funds. In addition, smaller grants are paid towards the cost of permanent equipment, special equipment for handicrafts, and for the maintenance of school laboratories and boarders at senior primary schools only.

Grants in respect of post-primary education are paid direct by the Director of Education to the missions managing the schools. In the case of junior secondary schools, recurrent grants provide for the whole cost of African teachers' salaries, assist towards the cost of the salaries of European teachers, and give smaller assistance for permanent equipment grants, handicraft and library grants, and towards the cost of maintenance of boarders. The estimated cost to Government of these grants in the current year is £11,500.

Assistance is also available for trade and handyman schools conducted by missions. Provision for this purpose amounts to £2,400 in the current financial year.

At Mission Teacher Training Centres staff grants are paid on the same basis as for junior secondary schools. In addition to permanent equipment and handicraft grants, there are grants towards the cost of consumable equipment, libraries and the maintenance of boarders. Grants are also provided to cover the cost of the training allowances payable to all teachers in training. The cost to Government in the current financial year of assisting towards the recurrent cost of mission-managed teacher training amounts to £43,500.

Grants for two full mission full secondary schools differ from the foregoing since Government finds the full cost of financing these schools, except for the contribution from boarding fees. The estimated recurrent expenditure by Government on these schools in the current year is £20,000.

In addition to the recurrent grants already mentioned, assistance is given to missions towards the cost of supervising primary schools. This amounts, in the current year, to £11,300.

With regard to capital expenditure on schools, some assistance is given towards the erection of the necessary classrooms, teachers' houses and dormitories at primary schools. At present, the bulk of these funds are spent on the provision of the necessary buildings in schools which are already established in temporary or unsuitable buildings. £40,000 has been provided for this purpose in the current estimates. A further sum of £1,700 has been provided for capital grants in respect of junior secondary schools. At these, as well as at primary schools on mission stations, the amount of Government grants is limited to 50 per cent. of the approved cost of the building. Provision of £4,750 is also being made for extensions to the two mission full secondary schools.

It will be seen from the foregoing that the total estimated expenditure on grants-in-aid to missions in the current financial year is £512,750, all of which is met from Protectorate funds.

#### Minimum Wages to go up from 1st July, 1957

The minimum wage in Nyasaland will be increased from 1st July this year. It will be the first increase since 1954 and will bring the minimum consolidated daily rate, for instance, for workers in Blantyre-Limbe from 1s-4d to 2s. For the first time the minimum wages for women and young persons have been set out.

Employers and employees will have to agree, under the new regulations, as to whether the employee will be paid on the appropriate daily or hourly rate or on a task system and note the type of agreement on a labour register. The minimum wage rates, which are inclusive of food, apply to all workers except domestic servants, caretakers, watchmen and others who work in broken periods.

The Government Notice, which was published on 12th April, says that the minimum wage which will be payable to all male employees of 18 and over shall not be less than either the daily rate or hourly rate. The new rates, with old rates in brackets are:

Area Blantyre-Limbe township	2s-0d (1s-4d)
Area Zomba and Lilongwe townships	1s-9d (1s-4d)
Area Salima township	1s-4d (1s-4d)
All other areas	1s-8d (1s-0d).

The hourly rate is one-eighth of the daily rate. Every hourly-paid employee who works for at least four hours during normal working hours will be entitled to not less than four times the hourly wage.

Piece workers and those on the task system will receive not less than the minimum wage at the daily rate.

Employers who provide "proper and sufficient food" for a full day may deduct from the minimum wage. These deductions, with old deductions in brackets are:

Blantyre-Limbe .. ..	6d (5d)
Zomba and Lilongwe .. ..	5d (5d)
Other areas .. ..	4d (3d).

Deductions for one cooked meal a day:

Blantyre-Limbe .. ..	4d (2d)
Zomba and Lilongwe .. ..	3d (2d)
Other areas .. ..	2d (1½d).

The Government Notice lays down that the minimum wage of female employees over 16 and male employees from 14 to 18 (apparent age) will not be less than 75 per cent. of the adult male minimum wage applicable to the area.

Male employees under 14 and females under 16 will receive 50 per cent.

A working day is eight hours not including meal times.

Regulations for overtime are also published under a separate notice.

Those who are paid at, but not exceeding, the minimum rate will be paid at not less than 1½ times the minimum rate for hours in excess of 48 hours a week or 208 hours in a 26-day ticket or 240 hours in a 30-day ticket.

Double time will be paid for work on Sundays or gazetted public holidays, or "any days which by custom of any occupation or undertaking are observed as rest days in lieu of Sundays or public holidays."

### **A Committee for the Establishment of a Medical School at the University College visits Nyasaland**

It is reported from Zomba that a Committee, under the Chairmanship of Mr. L. Farrer-Brown, the Director of the Nuffield Foundation, visited Nyasaland from the 24th to 26th April, 1957, to advise on the establishment of a Medical School at the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

The party arrived at Chileka Airport at 10.15 a.m. and was met by the Acting Deputy Director of Medical Services and the Provincial Education Officer, Southern Province. They later drove to Government House, Zomba, visiting the Blantyre Secondary School and the Group Hospital on their way.

While in Zomba the party had discussions with many Government officials including the Director of Education and the Medical Officer-in-Charge, African

Hospital, Zomba. They also visited the offices of the Medical Headquarters and the African Hospital. The party will leave Zomba on 25th April for Blantyre visiting the Chiradzulu African Hospital.

They left Chileka Airport for Salisbury on 26th April, 1957.

### **Crop Report**

The weather was mainly bright and sunny with some heavy showers, particularly in highland areas.

In the Northern Division fire-cured areas the colour and quality of early tobacco curings are good, and favourable weather is resulting in the continued improvement of later plantings.

Yield and quality are good in the Central Division air-cured crop, but humid conditions are making curing difficult.

Marketing of the Southern Division fire-cured crop has commenced and the quality and texture of leaf so far offered for sale have shown a market improvement on recent years.

The curing of Turkish tobacco in the Northern Province has commenced.

Harvesting of the cotton crop continues in the Lower River areas. Red bollworm has caused some damage in all areas, resulting in premature shedding of bolls, and cotton stainer is also present, but has not so far bred up sufficiently to cause extensive damage. Bacterial blight disease is not so evident this year as last. Preliminary estimates of the Southern Province crop stands at 3,200 tons of seed cotton.

Groundnut harvesting continues and yields are generally satisfactory. Provisional estimates of surplus production stand at 14,000 tons of shelled nuts, an increase of over 40 per cent. on production in the past two years.

Rice prospects remain reasonably good and surplus production is likely to exceed 5,000 tons of paddy, equivalent to some 3,000 tons of clean rice.

The general improvement in cash crop prospects has been maintained.

### **PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS**

#### **Agricultural Course at Tuchila**

The Sub-Native Authority Mbiza of the Zomba District and 28 people from his area recently attended an agricultural "Cultivators' Course" at the Tuchila Agricultural Station. On their return they said how interested they had been with all that they had seen and learned at the station.

Group Village Headman Sikamu and 29 others have just gone on a similar course, says a recent report from the District Commissioner, Zomba.

### **Lion Kills a Woman**

A pair of lions killed a woman near Ndenda Village in Chief Kawinga's area in the Zomba District recently. The male, believed to be the killer, was later shot by a hunter with a shotgun and no further trouble has been reported from this area.

### **Mr. Misomali goes on Retirement**

Mr. Kesting Misomali, who has been working at Mlanje Boma as a Tax Clerk, proceeded on his well-earned retirement on 31st March, 1957.

A report from the District Commissioner, Mlanje, states that Mr. Misomali entered Government Service in November, 1928, as a tax clerk at Mlanje. The whole of his 28 years in the service has been spent there; his general knowledge of the District was immense and he will be greatly missed.

### **Soil Conservation Work in the Dowa District**

Writing in a recent report, the District Commissioner, Dowa, states that the work of soil conservation started last year in the Gamadzi Scheme in N.A. Chiwere's area of the Dowa District has been successfully completed and both old and new bunds are now of the correct height. Some 9,000 plants have been planted to assist in gully stabilization in the area.

Much credit for this work is due to Chief Chiwere and particularly to his Councillor Garnet for the encouragement they showed to the villagers around the Gamadzi area.

### **New By-law for Rumpi District, Northern Province**

Readers will remember that N.A. Chikulamayembe of the Rumpi District recently made a Palms Protection Order to protect palm trees in his area.

A recent *Nyasaland Government Gazette* Notice publishes a new by-law for the Rumpi District and states that no person shall cut any palm tree for any purpose in the Rumpi District without first obtaining a licence to do so. Any person wishing to cut a palm tree shall first obtain a licence from a Native Authority of that area in which the palm tree is to be cut.

The fee for the licence is £1 and it entitles the person to cut one palm tree within one month from the date of issue.

### **Cattle Dipping Scheme for the Mzimba District in the Northern Province**

On 28th March, 1957, the Mzimba District Natural Resources Board unanimously accepted and welcomed a proposal to introduce universal dipping of cattle throughout the Mzimba District, in the same way as it is carried out in Karonga District. African members of the Board were particularly pleased, as they are all cattle-owners themselves. Inkosi ya Makosi M'belwa has expressed pleasure that the Veterinary Department is to go ahead with their plans to provide dipping-tanks throughout the District in order to combat the very extensive loss of life to cattle in the area, occasioned by infection which is borne by ticks.

This is a very progressive step, and one that will greatly benefit cattle-owners. The Livestock Officer will tour the District and explain the scheme to Chiefs and cattle-owners shortly. At first it is proposed to set up dipping-tanks at the Government Livestock Centres of Phazi, Jenda, Mbawa and Zombwe, so that doubtful cattle-owners may first watch the results of the dipping of Government herds of cattle. Later, the dipping-tanks will be extended throughout the District to cover all cattle areas.

The fee for dipping is likely to be 1s per head of cattle per year. A share of this fee will be paid to the M'belwa Native Treasury for their share in the work of the scheme and the remainder will be paid to Government to help pay for the *mankwala*, the building of the dips, the general maintenance of the tanks themselves and the building of African Dipping-Supervisors' houses.

The fee is not large, for the following reason: If a man has 20 cattle and loses on an average 2 calves per year from death-due to tick-borne diseases, this is like losing £20 per year, because the minimum price which those two calves would have fetched at the market, had they lived to grow up, would have been £10 each.

Now the dipping fee is only 1s per head of cattle per year, so the cattle-owners would only have to pay 20s per year for dipping 20 head of cattle. It can be clearly seen that in his case he will save £19 if his calves live because of dipping.

Similarly, a man with 100 cattle loses sometimes 10 calves per year, which equals a market value of £100. His dipping fees would be only £5 per year, so by dipping he would save himself £95 per year.

Those cattle-owners who keep cattle for business reasons, (that is selling them to butchers for slaughter), are delighted with this scheme because it will greatly help their business to flourish and prosper.

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