

1924-25

E. AFRICA

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C. O.
2141
15 JAN 25

FROM

Latham
G.O.

DATE

30th Dec, 1924

FOR CIRCULATION :-

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Asst. U.S. of S.

Native Education
Report on Barotse
National School

Form U.S. of S.

Part U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Sends further report.

Previous Paper

L 58723/24

MINUTES

Subsequent Paper

MINUTES.

MINUTES NOT TO BE WRITTEN
ON THIS SIDE.

No. _____
RECD. 15/11/25
A.S.D. 16/10/25

J.H.  *J.H.*

NATIVE AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT,
LIVINGSTONE,

NORTHERN RHODESIA.

27th. August, 1925.

Major H. Vischer, C.B.E.,
Colonial Office,
L O N D O N.

Dear Major Vischer,

Thank you very much for sending me the Minutes of the Advisory Committee's Meetings, which contain much useful information about problems similar to our own which have arisen in other Protectorates.

As far as I can see our plans for Northern Rhodesia, as outlined in the Governor's Despatch of November 1924, are quite in line with the principles laid down in the White Paper of March 1925 though we are at the bottom step of the ladder at present.

Supervision must be a difficulty until we can have at least one whole time Inspector under the Director. For the present we are going one step further than the scheme proposed for Nigeria and trying to get selected Missionaries to act as supervisors not only of their own Society's schools but of the schools of other Societies as well. Opinion is divided as to whether it will work. Tagart is sceptical. It depends altogether on the men we get, of course. Fell, whom you may remember at Kafue, is to visit most of the stations near the line and several of their village schools this year and it will be interesting to see how he gets on. He is a bit blunt but he knows his job and ought to be very useful if he does not rub people up the wrong way.

I am.....

2.

I am trying to get someone to do the Mweru-Lusapula District this year and I am doing a two month tour on the eastern side of North Eastern Rhodesia starting at the beginning of September. I go to Fort Jameson first via Beira and after visiting most of the Mission stations in that area I meet the Secretary for Agriculture at Serenje and we visit the stations between there and Abercorn together by cars going up via Fire and returning via Kasama.

My family leaves for England tomorrow week and I hope to follow about the middle of November. By that time I should have a considerable amount of information about native education in the Territory and at home one will get time to think things over and see the whole problem in perspective, which it is difficult to do here.

Our first meeting of the Advisory Board went off well last month, the general atmosphere being friendly and cooperative. It served to bring out some of the problems and difficulties, if it did not achieve anything very constructive. We had a sub-committee of three which produced a provisional code of sorts based on the existing Missionary Conference Code. It is far from satisfactory but it is something to work on, a basis for criticism and suggestions. I have been working at it and hope to get it printed for circulation this week. I will bring it and my other productions home with me and get your comments and advice on them.

Yours sincerely,

G. D. Latham



C. O.
2141
15 JAN 25

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Chief Secretary's Office,
(EDUCATION) Livingstone,
Northern Rhodesia.
20th December, 1924.

Major H. Vischer, C.B.E.,
Colonial Office,
L O N D O N.

Dear Major Vischer,

158723/24
I have found the enclosed copy of Mr. Suckling's report on the Barotse National School filed away. It is the copy which I intended to send you under cover of my private letter of 24th November together with copies of my inspection report and the Acting Principal's report for the half year ended 31st March, 1924.

I am afraid therefore that, unless an extra copy was made and enclosed, you will be without the most informative of the three reports. I am so sorry.

I have just returned from a short trip up the line. After seeing some European Schools, I visited a few Mission Stations. I was surprised to find what good work the Brethren in Christ Mission are doing at Macha, and on a smaller scale at Sikalongo, both places near Choma. They are great agriculturists, and very practical all round.

We were very glad to hear this mail that the Colonial Office have found us a Principal for the Barotse National School. He sounds good.

It has been pretty well decided that I cannot have my leave in March as I hoped. I may get home next October.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

G. Athan

BAROTSE NATIONAL SCHOOL.

Principal: The Rev. F.C. Suckling.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SCHOOL.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31ST 1923.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31 1923.

STAFF CHANGES.

On October 12th 1922, Mr. J.D. Meldrum, Industrial Superintendent of the School, left Mongu on long leave. Mr. O.T. Wells, of the Public Works Department, Livingstone, arrived on October 21st, and assumed the superintendence of the Industrial Department during Mr. Meldrum's absence. On a previous occasion Mr. Wells relieved Mr. Meldrum during long leave, and on that occasion, as well as during his present service with the School, he manifested great keenness in instructing the school and supervising the artizans of the Industrial Department.

On February 13th 1923, Mr. J.F. Ritchie joined the Staff of the School as Assistant-Master. He was appointed to the post by Mr. G.C. Latham, Inspector of Schools, during the latter's visit to England, and he has brought to his work a considerable knowledge of European educational methods, and a wide sympathy for the native races.

NATIVE STAFF.

Native Teacher Mubiana, who resigned last year owing to ill-health was re-appointed for work as assistant teacher at Namandindi Out-school in May 1922. In August 1922, Likukela, who had passed successfully the full course at the Mission Normal School at Sifula, was appointed assistant teacher at Kanyonyo. Native Teacher Musweu was transferred to Kanyonyo from the Lui River Out-school in November, and a school boy, Kankemba, was sent as a pupil teacher to succeed him. The Out-school at Lukulu having been re-opened, a new teacher, Liambai, was appointed in February 1923 to take charge.

Several...../

Several teachers have applied for increases in pay, but as most of them have already reached the maximum provided in the scale, their applications have for the most part been refused. It is only right to state, however, that, in comparison with the rate of pay of clerks and store-boys, most of whom have been trained by these teachers, a more adequate scale should be introduced. It is as necessary here as in Europe, to make the teaching profession as attractive as possible in order to secure the best material for such important work. While no big increases are suggested, or desirable, it ought to be possible to offer an annual increment of, say, 5/- per month to all teachers whose work is satisfactory, up to a maximum of \$4 per month. The average rate of pay for our teachers at the present time is 25/- or 30/- per month. Native teachers should also be included in the Government Scheme of pensions for native employees.

TERMS.

1st Term. April 21 - June 28 1922.....	10 weeks
2nd. Term. July 29 - October 6 1922.....	10 weeks
3rd. Term. December 2 1922 - March 9 1923.....	14
Total:	<u>34</u>

NUMBER IN ATTENDANCE.

During the first term of the year, there were 246 boys in all Standards and classes on the registers. Owing to the need for economy, it was deemed advisable to reduce the number of scholars receiving food and clothes; so it was decided to admit as Boarders only boys in standards I and upwards. For the last two terms, therefore, the attendance has been as follows :-

In Standards I - VI average number:	130
In Sub-standards average number:	90
Total:	<u>226</u>

The average attendances at the Out-schools are as follows:-

Mankoya Out-school.....	33
Lui River Out-school.....	35
Sinanga Out-school.....	39
Namandindi Out-school.....	75
Mapungu Out-school.....	50
Lukulu Out-school.....(re-opened).....	27
Total	<u>259</u>

The total...../

The total attendances are therefore as follow :-

At Kanyonyo	220
At all Out-schools	<u>259</u>
TOTAL.....	<u>479</u>

ANNUAL EXAMINATION:

The Annual Examination took place during the week March 5 - 10th 1923. The number of boys examined, and the number of passes and failures are tabulated below. A "pass" is estimated on the basis of $33 \frac{1}{3}\%$ of the total marks obtainable.

<u>STANDARD.</u>	<u>NO. EXAMINED.</u>	<u>PASSED.</u>	<u>FAILED.</u>
VI.	5	5	0
V.	3	3	0
IV.	11	11	0
III.A.	13	13	0
III.B.	14	14	0
II.A.	19	19	0
II.B.	21	21	0
I.A.	24	24	0
I.B.	24	24	0
Class A.	20	20	0
Class B.	35	35	0
Class C.	38	31	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	227	220	7

The subjects in which the boys were examined are the following:-

Arithmetic.
 Mental Arithmetic.
 Geography (Senior Standards)
 Reading.
 Dictation & Spelling.
 Composition & Transcription.
 English Grammar (Standard I upwards).

Two optional...../

Two optional papers were set, viz: Scripture and Hygiene. Twelve boys sat for the Scripture paper, ten of whom passed. Twenty boys sat for the Hygiene, thirteen obtaining pass marks.

The absence of failures may suggest that either the papers set were too easy, or that the standard for pass marks was too low. Great care, however, was taken to secure a fair test covering the year's syllabus; and had the standard been raised to 50%, very few failures would have been recorded. Great keenness was displayed by the boys in preparing for the Examination, and the result is further proof, if such were needed, of the ability of these boys to tackle successfully the ordinary curriculum of English Elementary Schools.

Lists, showing the number of marks gained by each boy in his respective Standard, are attached, together with a few specimens of the work done.

DISCIPLINE.

Excellent discipline has been maintained in the School throughout the year. Efforts are being made to induce the native teachers to take a larger share in the supervision of the boys, and to recognise more fully their responsibility in this respect, by exhibiting an example of ready obedience and willing service, and by demanding the same from the scholars towards themselves.

OUT-SCHOOLS.

The work in the Out-schools has been, on the whole, more encouraging this year. The attendances are improving, and more schools are being asked for. The School at Lukulu, in the Balovale sub-district, which closed in 1918, owing to the misconduct of the teacher in charge, has been re-opened

with good.....!

with good promise of success. The people of Mayankwa's village are now building premises for a new school. This village is in the Mankoya Sub-district, and the Native Commissioner reports that there is a large population in the vicinity and a strong desire to have an out-school there.

All the Out-schools have been inspected during the year by the Principal, and the two senior Native Teachers have inspected the schools nearer at hand. One difficulty in regard to this inspection is that it is always anticipated by the teacher in charge, who is bound to receive news of an official's approach, and who makes preparations accordingly. It has been decided, therefore, to appoint a teacher, who will constantly travel from school to school and will make reports of the work being done. A very careful selection has been made of a suitable teacher for this work, and it is hoped that good results will follow.

VISITS OF THE RESIDENT MAGISTRATE.

The Resident Magistrate has visited the School regularly and has shown great interest in the work and welfare of the boys.

BUILDINGS.

The School buildings, as shown on the Public Works and Building Return, are all in good condition, with the exception of the Kimberly Brick Dormitories in the School Village. These were completed in 1920, but are infested with swarms of tampan. Permission has been granted to burn the old thatch, and to cleanse the roof timbers. This work has been put in hand, but its cost, and the temporary nature of its effect, suggest that it would have been cheaper to have erected burnt brick buildings with iron roofs in the first place.

HEALTH...../

HEALTH.

The health of the boys during the year has been very good, but, unfortunately two deaths have to be reported. Nyambe, in Class B, died in Hospital, and the Medical Officer certified cause of death as "Apical Pneumonia and cardiac Syncope". Another boy, Simasiku, died suddenly in the School Village. The body was examined by the Medical Officer, who certified that death was due to natural causes. Regular doses of quinine are administered to the boys, and, though costly, are of undoubted benefit to them.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Meteorological Observations have been noted at the School daily and records rendered monthly. The Seasonal Rainfall to 31st March 1923 was 47.8 inches, the highest recorded in the books of the School.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

Definite Religious Instruction, on non-sectarian lines, has been given to the boys throughout the year. Church parade is held every Sunday at 9.15, and optional classes on Sunday afternoons and Sunday evenings. A more advanced class for Bible Study is held on Thursday evenings, and an examination of the work done was held at the end of the year, with quite creditable results. The instruction aims simply at teaching elementary Bible history and creating an atmosphere of service and discipline. Anything in the nature of "Church" teaching is avoided, as being outside the province of a Government School, and is left entirely to the Missionaries.

The weekly Church of England Service for Europeans has been continued by the Principal throughout the year, and a beautiful burnt-brick Church, accommodating 100 worshippers, has been erected near the Magistrate's Court at Mungu, its cost, over £250, being met by generous subscriptions from the Residents. On December 31st 1922, the Lord Bishop of Northern

Rhodesia/

Rhodesia dedicated the Church and held a confirmation.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE MISSIONARIES.

Both the Resident Magistrate and the Inspector of Schools pointed out to the Principal, when he arrived to take charge of the School, the need of closer co-operation with the Missionaries working in Barotseland in regard to our mutual educational activities in the Territory. During the past year, meetings have been held, and as a result a definite Scheme has been drawn up, which has received the sanction of His Honour the Administrator, and which will come into operation immediately. In broad outline, the Scheme provides:

1. The formation of an Educational Committee for Barotseland, consisting of the Resident Magistrate, the Paramount Chief, the President of the local Committee of the Paris Missionary Society, one other Missionary and the Principal of the Barotse National School. Its duties will include the supervision of all the schools in the District and the appointment of teachers thereto.
2. The transference of the Normal School at the Mission Station at Sifula to the Barotse National School at Kanyenyo.
3. The standardisation of the curriculum in all the schools of the District.

RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT.

Special attention is still given to the boys' recreation. Football, leap-frog, running, jumping and various games, loved by English schoolboys, have been introduced and are very popular. The Debating Society (for the senior boys) has met regularly, and very interesting debates have been held. The dullness of the long dark evening in the School Village has been brightened by occasional "Gramophone" entertainments, which are always a source of keen enjoyment.

INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT/

INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT.

A very successful year has been completed in the Industrial Department. Over 21,000,000 work has been carried out by the Shops and builders.

BUILDINGS. The main building work has been the erection of the European Church at Mungu, and additional verandah to the Principal's house, a large brick Meal Bin for the School, a pole and thatch cowshed, and necessary repairs to various buildings.

CARPENTRY. A large quantity of furniture has been made during the year for local Residents and for various customers in other parts of Rhodesia. Unfortunately, owing to the general stagnation of trade, the orders were nearly exhausted at the end of the year, and the outlook for the current year is not so hopeful as one could wish. In addition to furniture, the roofs, joinery and fittings for all buildings have been made in the School workshops, and the Government barges have been kept in a state of repair. The work has been done by nineteen artisans and apprentices, with the assistance of School boys.

TIMBER. The timber supply is not a large one, and each year the boys who cut it have to go further afield to find suitable trees. Trees fit barge-building are most difficult to obtain, Muzuli and Mukwa rarely exceeding ten feet in length.

SCHOOL PUPILS. The School Pupils have taken an keen interest in all branches of the trades taught them, and have been regular at their work, their conduct being good. Many of them show considerable promise of becoming skilled artisans in the future, if they are able to continue their training by apprenticeship after leaving school. Unfortunately, the vacancies are very few, it being impossible to engage more than four or five,

apprentices

apprentices yearly.

AGRICULTURE.

Work has been carried out on the farm land, granted to the School by the Paramount Chief at the end of 1921. Unfortunately, the difficulties have been greater than anticipated, and the exceptionally wet season has aggravated them. Much of the land is low-lying, and the higher ground has been previously worked by natives and is intersected by trenches, which makes ploughing almost impossible. Two main furrows have been dug under the superintendence of the Industrial Department, and with considerable success. During the wet season, however, a great part of the land is under water. The following crops were planted :

Maize
Millet
Potatoes
Beans
Sweet Potatoes
Ground Nuts.

Fair results were obtained on the higher ground, but much of the land is sour and much is little better than sand.

The acting Industrial Superintendent is of the opinion that better results could be obtained by further irrigation during the dry season, but the labour involved would be very great, and the cost would not be met if the whole area were under cultivation. Meal is brought to the School by natives at 200 lbs for 8/-, and the needs of the School could never be more cheaply supplied by the Farm. He suggests that bamboos, canes, reeds, fibres and grasses, suitable for basket-making etc., should be grown on the farm in the place of ordinary crops.

CATTLE. Cows and oxen have been purchased during the year, and the cows have given a fair increase, but, unfortunately, this has been marred by the loss of 1 cow through snake-bite, and five calves, one having been killed by a dog and four having

died after/

died after inoculation. The grazing on the farm is good during the dry season, and the cattle keep in good condition. The milk has been sold, and preparations are being made to produce butter and cheese, when the milk supply justifies the venture.

FINANCE.

The estimated expenditure for the past year, as sanctioned by the Administration, exceeded the probable Revenue by over £600. Efforts were therefore made to reduce expenditure by limiting the number of boarders to those boys who were in Standard I and upwards. No complete Returns of the School Expenditure are yet to hand, but considerable saving has been effected. Of the £1,100 sanctioned for Educational Contingent Expenditure, not more than £650 has been spent. The income derived from the Industrial Department, the Tailoring Department and from Stationery sales amounts to £1,100. It is hoped to increase the work of the Tailoring Department during the coming year. The School has also contracted to supply the Boma at Mongu with Meal and grain for the year 1923/24, and the profits therefrom will go far towards meeting the cost of the pupils' rations. There is, therefore, good ground for hoping that, during the next year, the income of the School from all sources will more than balance the current expenditure.

The Summary of Movable Assets on March 31st 1923 is as follows :-

Goods on hand 31.3.22: £1713: 1:7	On Hand 31.3.23: £1823: 3: 3
Received during year <u>1094:19:2</u>	Sales, Issues & Depreciation) <u>984:17: 6</u>
<u>& 2808: 0:9</u>	<u>£2808: 0: 9</u>
Value of Movable Assets on hand 31st March 1923	£1823: 3: 3
Value of Rations on hand 31st ^{March} 1923	<u>255: 8: 9</u>
Total value of All Movable Assets & Rations ..	<u>£2078:12: 0</u>

INDUSTRIAL A/C

INDUSTRIAL ACCOUNT.

The following is a Monthly Summary of the value of work done and the accounts paid for each month from April 1922 to March 1923.

	<u>Accounts paid.</u>	<u>Value of work done.</u>
		Accounts owing 1.4.22: £ 357. 7. 9
April.	18. 5. 6	27. 2. 6
May.	36. 3. 6	40. 3. 0
June.	46. 9. 0	42. 2. 6
July.	61. 16. 9	69. 3. 6
August.	86. 16. 9	49. 6. 6
September	114. 19. 0	105. 9. 9
October	72. 4. 6	3. 11. 6
November	149. 11. 0	111. 18. 0
December	43. 16. 9	38. 3. 0
Bad Debt.	21. 0. 0	- - -
January	9. 17. 3	81. 6. 0
February	218. 17. 8	282. 5. 0
March	184. 4. 6	141. 8. 6
BALANCE	285. 5. 4	- - -
	<u>£ 1349. 7. 6</u>	<u>£ 1349. 7. 6</u>

Total value of work done April to March £991. 19. 9
 Total Receipts April to March £1043. 2. 2
 Accounts not paid 31st March 1923 £ 285. 5. 4

N.B. "Value of work done" represents only that which was entered and charged during each month.

The charges for wages, rations and issues of stock amount to about £750, showing a balance of £300 on the year's working. The salary of the Industrial Superintendent is not included in these figures, being considered as an Establishment charge on the School for instructional purposes.

SUGGESTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT

SUGGESTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT.

The educational work of the school is undoubtedly successful. The pupils are keen on their lessons and display great aptitude in nearly all the subjects taught. But the question arises: What is to be their future? The school is conducted primarily for the benefit of the Barotse people, actually the educated boys must go out of the Territory to find employment, or, worse still, must go back to their villages, without any opportunity of using for the benefit of their country the gifts they have acquired. If, therefore, the school is to fulfil the purpose of its foundation, some means must be found for using to advantage the material created by its work. As Barotseland is a Native Reserve, no capital is likely to be forthcoming for internal development from outside sources. The Barotse National School, with the considerable means at its disposal, is the obvious centre from which such internal development could spread.

Two lines suggest themselves, along which this aim could be achieved.

1. The supervision and improvement of indigenous handicrafts, such as Basket-making, Ivory-turning, Mat-making, Karosses etc.

2. The importation of good graded cattle, and the gradual elimination of infected cattle.

Very little cost would be entailed in effecting a great improvement, under proper supervision, of the native handicrafts. Their work is already good and obtains a ready local market; with instruction, many of its crudities could be removed, baskets and mats could be made to standard sizes, bone and ivory carving could be properly and strongly mounted, ensuring a profitable sale in South African markets. The furniture made at the School compares favourably with that turned out from any workshop, and with enterprise should command a far larger market than is at present the case. The great obstacle is transport.

The rates...../

The rates at present obtaining for River Transport to Livingstone make abortive all efforts towards extension. Cheaper facilities for the carriage of goods must be found if industrial activity is to be developed.

The cattle question is more difficult. A large sum of money would be necessary to eliminate infected herds and to introduce into the country healthy stock. But Barotseland is by nature and tradition a Cattle Country, and its future wealth depends almost entirely upon this industry. Their cattle at the present time are worthless, and people who should be comparatively rich have scarcely any opportunity of finding money even for the tax. Here, therefore, there is ample scope for the School to take the lead in developing the natural resources of the country. The Agricultural Department is a beginning in this direction, but far greater efforts must be made if the benefits are to be at all extensive.

Another point must be mentioned. The future supply of timber is a very serious question. At present we cutting trees ten to fifteen miles from the workshop and even these are poor and scarce. Thousands of young Mukwa saplings are cut annually by the natives for paddlers, in addition to the large number of fully grown trees which are burnt for the gardens, and no attempt is being made to replace them. Plantations, therefore, should be formed at convenient distances from the school. If the trees are planted close together they will grow straight and tall, and when ready for thinning out, the sapling can readily be sold as paddles.

CONCLUSION.

In concluding this Report, the Principal wishes to record the very happy relationship existing between himself and the European Staff of the School, and to acknowledge the continued loyalty and enthusiasm of the native Staff in the work of the School.

(Sgd). F.C. SUCKLING,
PRINCIPAL