

***Government Publications relating to  
African Countries prior to Independence***

**Government Publications  
relating to Nyasaland  
1891-1964**

Introduction to the  
microfilm collection  
by  
Colin Baker

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Colin Baker  
University of Glamorgan

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Tel: +44 (0)1925 825700

Fax: +44 (0)1924 871005

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## **Government Publications relating to Nyasaland, 1891-1964**

### **Introduction**

Nyasaland – now Malawi – is situated in the south-eastern part of Central Africa, 130 miles from the Indian Ocean to the east. It is a long, narrow country, 560 miles north to south and between 30 and 100 miles east to west. In its northern half it is bordered to the west by Zambia (formerly Northern Rhodesia) and to the east by Tanzania (formerly Tanganyika and, before the first world war, German East Africa), and in its southern half to both the east and the west by Mozambique (formerly Portuguese East Africa). A quarter of its 46,000 square miles is covered by lakes

The country's northern two-thirds are comprised of Lake Malawi (formerly Lake Nyasa) to the east, 11,000 square miles in area and 1,500 feet above sea level, and of high plateaux to the west, generally at 4,000 feet above sea level but rising to 8,000 in the Nyika Highlands. The southern one-third of the country is comprised of the She River Valley, which descends from 1,500 to 100 feet, with the 3,000 feet Shire Highlands plateau to the east, rising to 10,000 feet in the Mulanje massif, and the 3,500 feet Kirk Range to the west. It is a country of enormously varied landscapes and scenery, some with great natural beauty.

The country's climate is monsoonal, with a warm to hot main rainy season from November to March, followed by a period of late rains during April and May, and a cooler dry season from June to October. Temperatures vary with season and altitude from a mean of 62°F in July at Chitipa in the very north at 4,200 feet above sea level to a mean of 81°F in January at Nsanje in the very south at 190 feet. Over 90 per cent of the annual rainfall occurs between November and March and varies between 80 inches in the far north (the Nkhata Bay area, Zomba and Mulanje mountains), to less than 30 inches in the Mzimba and Kasungu plains and the Shire River Valley.

With a marked absence of economically exploitable minerals, the country's economy has always been overwhelmingly based on agriculture, as the history of its export trade shows. By the end of the colonial period, the economy's export sector was dominated by two major crops, tobacco from the southern and central provinces, grown on European-owned or leased estates and on African village lands; and tea, exclusively grown on European-owned estates in the southern province. African village small holdings occupied 90 per cent of the agricultural land, predominantly producing maize as the main staple foodstuff but also growing cotton, pulses and groundnuts for sale.

By the end of the colonial era, too, the African population had expanded to four million and was growing at a rate which doubled it every quarter of a century. There were Asians, Europeans and Euro- or Indo-Africans. The vast majority of the Africans were peasant subsistence farmers; Asians were overwhelmingly traders and storekeepers; of the Europeans about a quarter were engaged each in government service, mission work and agriculture, and the remainder were in commerce or were dependants; the Euro- and Indo-Africans were primarily occupied in trading, transport and agriculture.

European influence in the area developed after Livingstone reached Lake Malawi in August 1859. He was followed by the initially abortive founding of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa in the Shire Highlands in 1861, by the Free Church of Scotland on the southern lake shore in October 1875 and by the Church of Scotland Mission also in the Shire Highlands in September 1876. Trading followed the Mission work and in 1876 the Livingstonia Central Africa Company – later the African Lakes Corporation – was established in Blantyre. Other companies followed. The first British resident official was Captain Foot who was appointed 'Consul in the districts adjacent to Lake Nyassa' in October 1883. He was followed by other British consuls one of whom – Buchanan – in September 1889 declared a British protectorate over the Shire Highlands in order to forestall a Portuguese advance into that area. The Shire Highlands protectorate was extended in 1891 to cover the whole of the region which later became Nyasaland and was administered by H H Johnston, the first Commissioner and Consul-general.

In 1904 responsibility for the protectorate moved from the Foreign Office to the Colonial Office. Three years later the country's name was changed from British Central Africa to Nyasaland, the Commissioner was restyled Governor, and Executive and Legislative Councils were created.

During the decade 1953-1963 Nyasaland, with Northern and Southern Rhodesia, became part of the Central Africa Federation, much against the wishes – frequently expressed over a very long period – of the African population of Nyasaland.

On 6 July 1964 Nyasaland became independent as Malawi.

## **THE PROTECTORATE ANNUAL REPORTS**

This series of Protectorate Annual Reports covers virtually the whole of the colonial period; only in the final full pre-independence year, 1963, was the Annual Report not published. Thus the series runs from 1891 to 1962. In his report on the first three years' administration of the protectorate, Commissioner Johnston devoted twelve pages to the physical geography of the country before dealing with its resources – fruit, minerals, fauna, livestock, insects and ethnology. He then turned to the suppression of the slave trade, taxation, European settlement, colonisation, missions, trade, roads, townships, land settlement, the postal service and the armed forces. This first Report was unlike subsequent reports and naturally so, since the commissioner was dealing with a brand new protectorate of which little was known in Britain and whose economic potential was of great importance to the British Government.

By the early 1900s a pattern in the arrangement of the Annual Reports was being set, and different sections covered the main export commodities, government revenue, imports and exports, communications, labour, minerals, crops and health. There was also a concluding section on 'the condition of the natives'. The Reports contained reports from each of the government departments and in the early days from each administrative district.

This general lay-out and the information contained in the Annual Reports was gradually refined until, in the period just before the second world war, standardised sections were devoted to geography, climate and history, government, population, health, sanitation and housing, natural resources, labour, wages and cost of living, education and welfare institutions, communications and transport, public works, justice, police and prisons, legislation, banking and currency, public finance and taxation.

After the second world war, there was a continuing refinement of the layout and contents but the broad contents remained the same – permitting comparative studies – although generally the Reports became more informative. The post-war volumes contained a number of photographs.

## **THE EXTERNAL TRADE REPORTS**

Each year the Customs Department published the Annual Report on the External Trade of the Protectorate. Although there were some changes in the layout of the reports over the years, the general pattern was consistent and was made up of a number of parts. First, there was an introduction dealing with the general state of trade and this was followed by sections on imports, the direction of import trade – the countries from which goods were imported – the export trade and its direction – the countries to which commodities were exported. In the case of both imports and exports, comparisons over a five-year period were made. In many years, there was also a small section on immigration and emigration by number and race – European, Asian and African – and comparisons with the previous year.

The greatest value of the Reports, however, was in the appendices which gave details of the external trade and made comparisons with previous years. These appendices were comprised of summaries and statements. The summaries were of imports for home consumption showing comparative quantities and values, exports showing comparative weights, values and port of shipment valuations; imports showing direction of trade; exports showing direction of trade; re-exports showing direction of trade; and total exports showing direction of trade. The comparisons were with the previous year and the increases and decreases were separately noted. The detailed statements dealt, first, with the total imports by value and number or weight, distinguishing imports for home consumption, and recorded from where they were consigned and the duty paid. This was followed by a detailed statement of the total exports, by weight and value, distinguishing domestic exports from exports in transit, and showing the countries of destination. Finally, there were separate statements dealing with the transit trade – imports and exports for transshipment showing the countries of origin and destination. Being a land-locked country bordered by three other countries, one of which was also land-locked, the transit trade with Portuguese East Africa, Tanganyika and Northern Rhodesia was considerable. In the statements, the division of the commodities imported and exported is very detailed and there are numerous categories and sub-categories.

## **THE STATUTES**

Throughout the whole of the colonial era, laws were enacted in the form of ordinances. Before 1908, they were made by the Commissioner and thereafter by the Legislative Council. In every case they had to be approved by the sovereign – in effect the Foreign, and then the Colonial, Office – and were subject to disallowance. As each ordinance was passed, it was published as a supplement to the Government Gazette and then in collected annual volumes. Periodically, there were revised editions of the laws and it is these revised editions which are available in this collection. The first revision was by Judge Charles Griffin of the Nyasaland High Court in 1913 and the laws were grouped under functional heads such as trade, health, postal and native affairs. The second revision was carried out by Judge Haythorne Reed, also of the Nyasaland High Court, in 1933. Again, the ordinances are grouped under functional heads and there is included a helpful chronological table of all the ordinances and how they were repealed or otherwise dealt with in the revision. There is a similar list of orders-in-council. The third

revision, made in 1946, was carried out by Charles Mathew, Attorney-general of Tanganyika, formerly of Nyasaland. On this occasion the functional pattern was abandoned and the ordinances were arranged alphabetically. The next revision was by Sir Donald Kingdom, Commissioner, and the Nyasaland Attorney-general in 1957. The pattern now adopted was a reversion to the 1933 model: ordinances were arranged under titles according to the subject matter. The full titles of ordinances, omitted in 1946, were restored. The appendices contained the orders-in-council and British act applicable to the protectorate.

The various volumes of the revisions give a W and accurate picture of the laws in force at the specified dates: 1913; 1933; 1946 and 1957.

## **ANNUAL BLUE BOOKS**

Blue Books were published annually, the first being for the year ending 31 March 1905 and the last being for the year ending 31 December 1938. Thereafter the returns formerly contained in the Blue Books were made in a variety of annual reports. The Blue Books were all printed, bound and published in Nyasaland by the Government Printers and all, save the first volume, were printed on pale blue paper; the 1905 volume was printed on white paper and its page numbers are entered by hand, in ink. The series provides a valuable fund of detailed material not only of interest and use for the study of individual years but particularly for comparative and development studies over the period 1905-1938. It brings together an abundance of statistical material otherwise unavailable or else scattered over numerous publications. The table of contents remains constant throughout the 1905-1938 period save for quite minor variations and for the addition of Air Services in 1930. Consequently, comparative studies are fairly easy to make. The Blue Books provide material on the following subjects:-

### **Taxes, Duties, Fees and Other Sources of Revenue to the Protectorate Government**

In 1938, 76 separate sources are detailed covering taxes, licences, stamp duties, customs duties, fees, royalties, postal charges, rents and other charges. The specifications, rates and legal authority are given in each case.

### **Revenue and Expenditure**

This abstract gives itemised details of the revenue raised by the central government by type of income, and of the expenditure by departments, broken down into types of expenditure.

### **Comparative Annual Statement of Revenue and Expenditure and Recapitulation of Expenditure**

These compare the current year with the previous year, noting increases and decreases, and are set out by sources of income, in the case of revenue, and by departments, in the case of expenditure. The departmental expenditure tables distinguish personal emoluments from other changes.

### **Government Assets and Liabilities**

The assets include deposits, loans and trust funds, whilst the liabilities include advances and investments.

### **The Public Debt**

Although this list is short, it is given in considerable detail: original debt, amount repaid, amount outstanding, to whom due, rate of interest, when and for what purpose incurred, state provision for payment of interest or sinking fund, amount paid to sinking fund, and comments.

### **Municipalities and other Local Bodies**

Again, although the list is not long, it is given in considerable detail: name of the body, the authority under which it was established, its powers and duties, sources of revenue, amount of assessment, total expenditure, debt, qualification and number of registered electors, number voting at last election, the names of those on the governing body, and who they represent.

### **Public Works**

Details are given, road by road, of the mileage and expenditure on maintenance and improvement during the year, specifying main roads, principal district roads and other district roads. Also, expenditure on roads from loan funds, and returns of other public works, mainly buildings, are given showing the type of work undertaken, whether or not it was completed, amount of expenditure, authority for expenditure, source of funds, when commenced, and expenditure to date.

### **Primary and Subsidiary Legislation**

This covers the laws promulgated during the year: ordinances, orders-in-council, proclamations, rules, orders and notices, including the dates of promulgation.

### **Executive and Legislative Council**

Details are given of the two Councils, their membership, including type of membership, dates of appointment, dates of confirmation and whether individuals hold any, and which, other civil or military offices.

### **The Civil Establishment**

This is in two parts. Firstly, there is an alphabetical list of surnames, indicating the office held. Secondly, there is a list (by departments) of officers in order of seniority, giving full names, office held, date of appointment to Nyasaland, date of appointment in the colonial service, the salary and allowances. This is, in effect, the current

staff list of the Civil Service but covers only European officers.

### **Pensions Payable from the Protectorate Revenue**

This list complements the Civil Establishment, and provides an alphabetical list of former officers (plus a few others), the amount of each pension, the authority for paying it, the date from which it was paid, the service for which it was granted, the final salary of the recipient, the present age of the recipient and the cause of retirement (e.g. reduction of staff, length of service, ill-health, age, abolition of office). This list covers European, Asian and African officers.

### **Population and Vital Statistics**

These returns of population are given by districts, and include land and water area, race (European, Asian and African), sex, density and number of aliens. In the case of Europeans only, the type of employment, the number and rate of births and deaths and the number of marriages are given. There are also housing returns, detailing by district the number of rooms and inhabitants of European dwellings, the number of barracks and inhabitants, the number of African huts and number of people inhabiting them.

### **Ecclesiastical Returns**

Details are given by denomination or missionary body and include the number of adherents, name and location of churches and chapels, public funding and other information.

### **Education**

This short table gives, for European education (divided into mission and private management), the number of schools, enrolment by sex, average attendance, number of teachers, fees, and expenditure by the management and by the government. In the case of African education, details are given by the individual mission and the government, and include (divided into primary schools and vocational schools), the number of schools and the enrolment by sex, the number of European teachers, fees and mission, and government expenditure are also given.

### **Government Publications and Newspapers**

Included here are all the government publications gazettes, legislation, departmental reports, other publications, agriculture, forestry and geological bulletins, and newspapers. For each, the volume of circulation, the published price and details from where they may be obtained, are given.

### **Imports and Exports**

This is the largest and most comprehensive of all the sections in the Blue Books. There are summaries showing the value of imports from each country of origin by classes of goods (e.g. food, drink and tobacco, raw materials, manufactured articles and specie), the value of domestic exports and re-exports to countries of final destination by the same classes. The same material is then given in a detailed breakdown of the classes by weight or volume and by value for each of the preceding five years both for imports and exports. Customs revenue from itemised imports over five-year periods is given. Tables are also provided showing the quantity and value and the duty levied for each disaggregated class of import and country of origin. Similarly, tables provide details of exports by disaggregated class, country of final destination, quantities and values. The rates and amounts of duty levied on imports and exports are recorded, and there are tables showing the principal articles imported from and exported to each country for each of the preceding five years. Finally, details are given of the transit trade, both imports and exports.

### **Production and Natural Resources**

This section deals with land tenure – the acreage allocated to non-Africans and the size of holdings. In the case of European agriculture, details are also given of the acreage and yield, by districts, of numerous crops. In the case of African agriculture, the products by weight and by district are given, together with the number of the various classes of livestock. European-owned livestock numbers are also provided. Some details of forestry, fisheries, minerals and industrial establishments and manufactories are also given.

### **Labour, Wages and Cost of Living**

This is a small but valuable section giving the numbers in employment by major occupational class, the average wage rates and hours of work, together with average retail prices of some twenty staple articles of use or consumption.

### **Gaols and Prisoners**

The annual statistical return of prisoners is given by districts and covers the number committed and the reasons for committal, the number previously convicted (and how many times), the type of penalty (e.g. death or the length of sentence), the daily average number in prison, admissions to hospital, the number of deaths and the number of executions. There are also responses to an extensive list of detailed questions concerning the long sentence establishment, the Central Prison in Zomba.

### **Criminal Jurisdiction**

This detailed table shows the number of persons tried for various itemised offences and how their cases were disposed of.

## **Government Hospitals and the Lunatic Asylum**

In respect of the hospitals, the numbers admitted and discharged, the average stay of those admitted, details of discharges (cured, released, not improved), and the number of deaths, are all recorded. The physical size and condition of the hospitals and facilities are detailed, and information is given on the hospital visiting system. There are tables showing all types of disease treated, and the number of cases in each. In respect of the lunatic asylums, there are tables on general statistics, deaths, space and accommodation, restraints, occupations, diets and visits.

## **Charitable, Literary and Scientific Institutions**

This is the non-government, missionary parallel to the Government Hospitals section, since virtually all the institutions are missions and virtually all cover hospitals and dispensaries, although welfare centres, leper camps and schools and training institutions are included.

## **Meteorological Observations**

In the case of the capital, Zomba, monthly data are available concerning atmospheric pressure, air temperature, humidity, earth temperature, amount of cloud, rainfall, types of weather and the days of each and wind direction. Elsewhere, by districts, data are given for temperature and rainfall.

## **Post and Telegraph Statistics**

This is a comprehensive section detailing the revenue and expenditure of the Post Office, details of the mail services, number of letters and other items of mail dealt with, postal orders issued and cashed, postage and telegraph rates, telegraph and telephone data.

## **Air Services**

The section on air services first appeared in the 1930 volume and quickly grew to become an important source of information by 1938, when it covered 41 pages of data. The section deals with aircraft arrivals and departures, air transport services, aerodrome schedules (function, location, traffic control, landing area, obstructions, marking and signals, refuelling, accommodation, repair facilities, communications, radio facilities, meteorology and charges), landing and housing fees, licences and certificates, and imports and exports by air.

## **Miscellaneous**

There are other sections in the Blue Books dealing with Government pensions; foreign consuls; currency, banking and weights and measures; shipping; savings banks and friendly societies, Government Houses; railways and steamship services; and ports and harbours.

## **THE ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE**

The Annual Estimates of Expenditure, once approved by the legislature, were published in bound volumes each year. They provided the authority for expenditure by each department for the coming year. They are a rich source of a variety of important information not only about public finance but also about the composition of the Civil Service. The authorized expenditure was set out by departments and sections of departments under three major headings: personal emoluments, ordinary expenditure -that which was repeated virtually unchanged each year – and special expenditure – that which was unlikely to be repeated. In every case the current authorized expenditure was compared with the approved expenditure for the preceding year and the actual expenditure for the year before that. Consequently, changes in the pattern of expenditure, item by item, department by department, and in great detail, can be discovered. A largely untapped, but potentially extremely promising, source of data for research on the growth, structure, composition and changes in the civil service exists in the personal emoluments' details provided, since each post is authorized by level, rank and salary. In the case of the most junior posts, this information is given for groups of posts but, again, the levels, ranks and salaries are recorded.

The annual volumes of Estimates of Expenditure also include the explanatory memoranda by the financial secretary on the revised estimates for the current year and for the coming year. They include, too, the records of deliberations and decisions of the Standing Finance Committee of the legislature when they examined the draft estimates. The volumes include, too, comparative tables showing revenue, by source, and expenditure, by department, year by year, usually over a ten-year period.

## **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS**

These are numerous and cover a wide field. They all contain interesting material on Nyasaland and some of them are fundamental to the study of the country. They may be grouped under six broad headings.

The finance, economics and development group contains the Taxation Report of 1937, the Report on the Financial and Further Development of Nyasaland of 1938 (the Bell Report), the Fiscal Report of 1947, the Economic Survey Report of 1958-9 (the Jack Report), the Capital Development Report 1957-61, the papers delivered at the Economic Symposium 1962 and the Development Plan 1962-68. To these should be added the Annual Estimates which are described elsewhere.

The Land group includes three reports which are vitally important to the study of the vexed question of land rights and policy in Nyasaland, a question which troubled the government for decades and one which was politically extremely dangerous. These reports are: the Report on the Occupation of Land, 1920, the Report on Natives on Private Estates, 1933, and the Land Commission Report, 1946 (the Abraham Report).

The Agriculture and Natural Resources group contains the Agricultural Survey of Central Nyasaland of 1935, the Agricultural Survey of Five Northern Districts of 1938, the Report on Tobacco of 1939, the Report on the Shire Valley Project of 1954 and the Report on Cotton and Tobacco Bonuses of 1958. In this category, too, should be included the Bell and Jack reports described above.

The Labour, Health and Demography group includes the Report on the Recruitment of Labour to the Transvaal and Southern Rhodesia of 1908, the Shircore Report on Health of 1930, the Report on Natives in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia of 1937, the Report on Nyasaland Labour in Southern Rhodesia of 1938, and the 1945 Census Report.

There are three reports in the Transport group: Shipping Services on Lake Nyasa and the Proposal to Extend the Railway to Lilongwe, both of 1956 and both written by the then Governor, Sir Geoffrey Colby – a man of outstanding development and dynamism – just before he retired, and the Report on Road and Rail Transport of 1961.

The Civil Service Group has the 1912 Report on the Native Civil Service but there are other documents which are closely related to this and which are described elsewhere: the Annual Staff Lists, the General and Clerical Staff Lists from 1956 and the Federal and Territorial Lists of 1959.

## **STAFF LISTS**

The Government Staff List – known within the service as the ‘Stud Book’ – was usually published annually but there were gaps. Nearly all the gaps are covered in the annual Blue Books from 1904 to 1938 which contain similar material. The lists deal only with the senior civil service – generally expatriates – and record in the case of each individual officer their initials, surname, date of birth, marital status, qualifications and government examinations passed, department, rank or office, seniority in the service, date of appointment and of first arrival, date of departure on, or return from, the most recent leave. From a study of a series of these lists one can follow individual careers and the changing distribution of the service, by numbers, age and qualifications, by departments or groups of departments.

The General Clerical Service Lists provide details of the junior, African Civil Service prior to a united service being created in the early 1960s. They list civil servants by name, appointment, incremental date, date of appointment, whether or not confirmed, date of appointment to present class, educational qualifications, salary and the station in which they were serving, all of this by department. The General Clerical Service Lists help to complete the picture of the whole civil service, senior and junior.

The Federal and Territorial Government Lists cover details of offices and personnel in the federal and three territorial governments. In the case of the federal government, material is provided on the cabinet, the federal assembly, the government departments and statutory boards. In the case of the three constituent territories, similar information on the personnel is given in respect of the cabinet or executive council, the legislature, the territorial departments and the federal departments in the territories.

## **GOVERNMENT GAZETTES**

The first government gazette was called *The British Central Africa Gazette* and Volume 1, Number 1, was published in January 1894. It was “the authorized medium for communicating to the public all information of an official nature” and to start with it was produced independently of the Administration and as a consequence it included many items of general interest even although they were not ‘of an official nature’. In effect, then, the early gazettes fulfilled the role of local newspapers and this remained the case until 1902. Since then the gazettes have contained only official information. The title was changed to *The Nyasaland Government Gazette* in 1907 and remained so until independence in July 1964.

There is a great wealth of material of considerable variety in the gazettes of which there are five major types: that dealing with the Civil Service, licensing matters, statutory declarations and notices, various registers and postal matters.

### **The Civil Service**

From the very earliest days, the Gazette regularly carried information about the individual members of the senior –

expatriate – Civil Service. The appointment, transfer and retirement of each officer was recorded as were the dates of their arrival and departure, whether on arrival, on leave or retirement, together with the place of arrival and departure. In the beginning this place was almost invariably Chinde, which was the port of entry in Portuguese East Africa and passage was then by river steamer up the Zambesi and Shire rivers to Nyasaland. A little later, after 1908, the place was more frequently Port Herald, indicating that the officer was entering or leaving the protectorate by rail. Later still, and overlapping with road travel, as the number and durability of motor vehicles increased, so did the number of officers leaving and entering the country by road. This could be seen by arrival and departure points being border stations such as Mwanza and Fort Manning. For a very brief period in 1949 and 1950, some officers left and returned to the country by Solent flying boat which set down and took off from the Lake. This led to some arrival and departure points being Cape Maclear. Finally, and slowly increasingly after the second world war, air transport was used and consequently Chileka airport became an increasingly common point of arrival and departure. The dates recorded give a unique framework for the service careers of all officers during their service in Nyasaland.

In addition, the promotions of all officers are recorded, as are details of their successes in the government law and language examinations, and these help to fill in the framework. In the case of those officers who held certain statutory positions which carried with them specified statutory functions, the dates of their assuming and relinquishing those offices were recorded. These included at the gubernatorial level the dates of swearing in of the Governor himself, the appointment of the acting governors and the Governors' deputies when he was absent from the seat of government. Of very considerable interest and importance were the gazettements of district commissioners and their assistants since they carried with them the powers and duties of magistrates and, in the case of district commissioners, a number of other crucial responsibilities such as those of licensing officers. Not only were the names, ranks and dates of these administrative officer postings recorded, but so also were the districts to which and from which they were posted because, like most other government officers, their powers were related specifically to the district to which they were gazetted.

### **Licensing Matters**

Every application for a trading licence received by the district licensing officer -the district commissioner had to be given public notice in the Gazette. The notices contained the name and address of the applicant, the date of application, the type of licence applied for and the address at which it was proposed that the trading should take place. These were very numerous. Thus the material available permits a study of the way numbers of applications varied between types of trading, the race of the applicant (from their names), different times of the year, different years and different districts and parts of districts. They consequently provide a unique framework for the study of the economic history and geography of the country. The various forms of licence included retail, native and others; hawking, native and others; wholesale; and liquor. Other licence notices included aircraft service licences, public service and goods vehicle licences and licences to recruit emigrant labourers.

### **Statutory Declarations and Notices**

Various ordinances required that certain declarations had to be made and published in the Gazette. Examples include the declaration of infected areas under the diseases of animals legislation and similar laws affecting diseases in human beings, and the declaration of prohibited areas for security purposes, for example airfields and military installations. During the world wars and in times of emergency, for example in 1959-60, there was a large quantity of emergency powers regulations which had to be published, and these were often done in the form of a declaration.

### **Registers**

A number of these were published annually. Two are particularly important. First, there was the medical practitioners' register which provides a wealth of material on the medical profession, its size, composition (by nationality and gender), its distribution throughout the protectorate, the qualifications of its members and usually their employer, e.g. government, mission, company or private. All of this is available in a long historical series of registers published annually in the Gazette. There are similar lists for dentists and midwives. Second are the assessors' and jurors' lists. These also were published annually and their effect is to supply a list of adult male non-African residents in the country by their district of residence, indicating whether they were European or Asian. With the Annual Government Staff Lists they give a virtually complete list, with many details of the adult male expatriate population of the country.

### **Postal Matters**

The government gazettes have long been known to contain much information invaluable to the philatelist and postal historian. Details cover the opening and closing of post offices, postal agencies, temporary offices, the facilities available at each, savings bank services, postal and telegraph rates and lists of unclaimed goods to be sold by auction -often because customs duty had not been paid on them. The customs and excise service also advertised sales of unclaimed property, giving details of the items and the names and addresses of the owners.

### **Miscellaneous Information**

The quantity and variety of other information recorded on a regular or *ad hoc* basis in the gazettes is enormous. It includes the decisions of the High Court whilst on circuit. There are also numerous notices dealing with the estates of deceased expatriates, calling for claims against the estates and giving the names of the dead person and the place and date of death. In some cases the cause of death is also given. Viewed historically over a number of years and geographically over a number of districts, they supply a largely untapped source of information on the expatriate population of the country. A third miscellaneous set of material is to be found in the registration and renewal of trade marks which give information on the changing types of goods sold and the name and address of the applicant, often a large company in Western Europe, South Africa or the Rhodesias.

### **LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REPORTS**

These are the proceedings of Legislative Council, the Nyasaland Hansard. The Legislative Council was established in 1908 and met usually twice a year thereafter. The earlier reports were bound in with the annual volumes of the Government Gazette and are to be found there. From 1943, however, they were published separately. The passage of Bills and the verbatim reports of debates are covered in full.

The period spanned by this collection of reports is of particular interest since it covers the major changes in the composition of the Council and the political changes which went with them during a period of rapid and extensive constitutional development. Until 1948 the only non-official members were expatriates, African interests being looked after by one of the European members. In 1948 two African members were appointed. Until 1956, all non-official members were nominated by the Governor but in that year the first elections were held – although still not on a universal franchise or direct election basis. It was at this point that Nyasaland African Congress members entered the legislature and nationalist activity grew apace. From 1961 onwards, the chamber had an African elected majority and progress towards secession from the Central Africa Federation (imposed in 1953) and independence (in 1964) was rapid. All these changes were, naturally, reflected in the Proceedings of the Legislative Council.

## **Government Publications relating to Nyasaland, 1891-1964**

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| Reel 4  | Annual Reports, 1950-1955                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Reel 5  | Annual Reports, 1956-1959                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| Reel 7  | [External] Trade Reports, 1910/11, 1912/13, 1920-1929                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Reel 8  | [External] Trade Reports, 1930-1944                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| Reel 10 | [External] Trade Reports, 1954-1957                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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