



A

Handbook of Nyasaland

compiled by

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While each chief is responsible to the Government for the section under him, yet he is not allowed to interfere with natives on private land without first approaching the owner of that land.

Hence the Government works through the chiefs, who are recognized as its mouthpiece. The chief is the medium by which the instructions of the Government are conveyed to his leading head-men, and by them to the village head-men.

The following are the native products of the district which provide the staple food : maize, beans, ground nuts, millet, cassava, bananas, fish, pineapples, mangoes, sweet potatoes and ordinary potatoes.

The main roads which traverse the Zomba District are :—

(1) Zomba-Namadzi, 16 miles, Blantyre main road.

(2) Zomba-Likwenu, 19 miles, Liwonde main road.

The above roads are kept in repair by the Public Works Department and are suitable for motor traffic the whole year round. In addition to these there are district roads :—

1. *Zomba-Lake Chilwa Road*.—Turning off to the right this road leaves the Zomba-Liwonde road 2 miles from Zomba.

For a distance of 10 miles this road passes between eight estates, all of which can be reached by car.

2. *Zomba-Namitembo Road*.—Leaves the Blantyre main road one quarter of a mile above Likangala bridge. During the rainy season this road is dangerous for motor traffic owing to the well-known hairpin bends.

With the exception of baboons on the slopes of the mountain, bushbuck on the plateau, and an occasional leopard or lion, there is very little game of any kind in the Zomba District.

Occasionally elephant and rhinoceros may be tracked on the Masanje, and there are a number of hippopotami in Lake Chiuta and the Chi Nyasa pool. Warthog and bush pig are fairly plentiful in certain parts of the district.

Zomba was, early in the history of the Protectorate, chosen as the site for the administrative headquarters of the country, and even before that time had been occupied by planters, notably the Buchanan brothers, who started coffee planting in the eighties. It was in 1887 that Consul Hawes commissioned one of the Buchanans to build the Old Residency, a fine double-storied house, which was for long the finest European dwelling in East Africa north of the Zambezi. The place at first served as residence and office,

It was again opened up as far as Fort Hill in 1915 to ration and maintain a garrison in that frontier post during the early stage of the Great War.

After the war the road fell into disuse for motor transport and it is not the line favoured by native pedestrians proceeding to the interior owing to the lack of villages and scarcity of water at suitable intervals for carriers.

This road will again form an important link in the projected roads for the opening up of the district and communication with the Tanganyika system.

Game is plentiful in all parts of the district. In addition to a herd of some 150 rogues in the vicinity of Vua, elephant are usually to be found in the south-west and the northern corners of the district, but they do not nowadays carry much ivory. Rhinoceros are said to have been found in the south-western area, but they are very rare. Buffalo are common near Fort Hill and near the Vwaza Marsh in the south. Eland, sable, roan, hartebeest, waterbuck, reedbuck, bushbuck, duiker, warthog and wild pig are still common in appropriate localities ; kudu a few miles south of Karonga are as numerous as ever. Lions are ubiquitous ; there is almost incessantly a man-eater at large in some parts of the district—in 1919 the Henga Valley was particularly unfortunate in this respect, one old male accounting for something over 100 natives. Along the lake shore in 1930 also they were very troublesome. Leopards are scattered throughout the district ; hippopotami are common on the lake shore ; crocodiles infest the larger rivers.

On the 31st December, 1930, there were 31,909 cattle possessed by 3,543 natives within the district, making the average nine head per owner and giving 180 acres of grazing available per head of cattle.

East Coast fever is responsible for a high percentage of deaths amongst calves and dipping tanks are now being erected to overcome this.

It is estimated that the increase in cattle from March, 1929, to December, 1930, was 1,495 head.

In 1927 an invasion of rinderpest similar to that of 1896 threatened the northern frontier of the Protectorate, but was averted by the prompt and drastic methods adopted.

These measures have been gradually relaxed until now a frontier veterinary guard alone is maintained and the movement of cattle

(4) Kota-Kota to the Chirua River, 33 miles. This road runs southwards at a distance of a few miles from the lake shore. It is not suitable for motor transport.

(5) Nchenje Hill to Mbuluma, 30 miles. Fit for motor-cars in the dry season. This road, leaving the Dowa road at Nchenje Hill, traverses the tobacco-growing plain west of Nchisi Mountain.

(6) Nchenje Hill to Nchisi Boma, 9 miles. This road runs east from the Dowa road through very steep and hilly country past the Dutch Reformed Church Mission at Chintembwe, 4 miles, to the Boma on the southern spur of Nchisi Mountain.

There are also numerous inter-village roads which are cleaned every year and which connect with the main roads.

Game in fair numbers and many varieties is distributed throughout the district, and include elephant, rhinoceros, buffalo, hippopotamus, eland, roan antelope, sable antelope, kudu, zebra, hartebeest, waterbuck, puku, reedbuck, bushbuck, impala, warthog, bush pig, and numerous varieties of small buck. Lions and leopards are particularly numerous and occasionally the cheetah or hunting leopard is seen. Many varieties of wild fowl, including duck and geese, are found in the lake shore swamps.

Kota-Kota, the headquarters of the district, was an emporium of the Arab slave-trade at the time when it was visited by Livingstone in 1863.

The Jumbe or Sultan of Kota-Kota was the representative of the Sultan of Zanzibar, but was practically independent, and in 1889 the Jumbe, Tawakali Sudi, made a treaty with Sir Harry Johnston, and placed his country under British protection in return for a subsidy of £200 a year. In 1893 an expedition was sent to assist the Jumbe against Chiwaula, a Yao sub-chief who objected to Jumbe's British alliance, and shortly afterwards a Government station was established at Kota-Kota, the present offices occupying the site of the original camp.

The native town of 4,000 huts extends along the old harbour, and there is a fine avenue joining the market place, near which are the mosque, the Jumbe's grave, and chief's house, with the Government office. Coconuts, mangoes, cashew and other trees from Zanzibar were planted by the Arabs, and the rice industry introduced.

Fish caught in the Bua, Rusa and Namitete Rivers, known to the natives as "mlamba" and "matemba," are not suitable for Europeans.

The district is well supplied with game of almost every species to be found in Nyasaland, including elephant, hippopotamus, buffalo, eland, sable, roan, hartebeest, zebra, waterbuck, puku, etc. Rhinoceros have sometimes been found in the northern part of the district, but are fast dying out. Every year elephants do great damage to native gardens, and native guards are employed for the protection of the crops from January to June. The game are believed to be the cause of the spread of the tsetse fly from the north, but this has not been definitely established. It is true in this district that where the game is thickest, the country is heavily infested with tsetse fly.

Lions and leopards are found everywhere and seem to be increasing in numbers, and man-eaters are not uncommon to the district. Cheetahs, rare in Nyasaland, are occasionally found not far from Fort Manning station.

Under Proclamation No. 14 of 1930 the portion of the district south of the Bua River was made a free shooting area. This area is very small, but thickly populated with natives and Europeans, and contains very little game. Elephants sometimes visit the free area, but are immediately driven out by the native guards.

The rest of the Fort Manning District, under Government Notice No. 27 of the 24th April, 1930, was made a controlled area and closed to the hunting of game, except under a special licence issued by the District Commissioner, Fort Manning.

Most of the different varieties of game birds are to be found in the district.

There are a few herds of cattle owned by natives in the southern part of the district. All the rest of the district is infested with tsetse fly and has been denuded of stock by this pest. The natives are well provided with goats and sheep. Pigs are fairly numerous and fowls universal. Ducks are kept in some villages. Prices have risen considerably since the war, cattle fetching £4 to £6, sheep 6s. to 10s., goats 6s. to 10s., according to size and sex, fowls 6d. to 1s., and eggs $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each.

So far as recorded history relates, the Achewa or Achipeta tribes are the indigenous inhabitants of the district. It is known that

branches north-east to Makanjila's village, which is 12 miles distant; and a third goes north-west for about 6 miles to Mtalimanja's village. Inter-village roads are hoed under the supervision of the head-men of the respective villages.

While little game is found in the central part of the district, it is still plentiful near the lake, along the Lingadzi and Chirua Rivers and particularly so on the western boundary along the Bua and in the neighbourhood of Monjesi Hill. Elephant are to be found, particularly during the rains, along the Bua at Mpali Hill and on the Nambuma River, also on the plains near the lake at Rifu, Mpasanjoka and on the Lower Lingadzi. Buffalo are to be found in large numbers near Monjesi and Mpali Hills, also on the Lingadzi River; rhinoceros live near the Bua at Ngara and are also to be found on the Lower Lingadzi River. Hippopotami are found both in the Bua and lake and cause considerable damage to native crops. Kudu are scarce. Sable, roan, eland, zebra, hartebeest, waterbuck; bushbuck, reedbuck and puku (the latter in large numbers) are all found along the Bua and, save puku, also in the neighbourhood of the lake. Lions and leopards are numerous and are to be found in most parts of the district. Oribi, steinbuck, warthog and bush pig are common throughout the district. Duck and various species of geese are numerous on the Bua, as well as along the lake shore and in the marshes bordering the lake. Blue pigeon shooting is to be had at Malire Islands, off Maganga's, and francolin and guinea fowl are to be found almost everywhere.

The main tribes inhabiting the district are the Chewa, which is the principal tribe and numbers 91,328, the Ngoni, which numbers 24,259, the Yao, numbering 11,162, and the Nyanja 10,504.

The Achewa, who may be said to be the indigenous inhabitants, are scattered throughout the district and are the "Achipeta" of the hills and the "Nyanja" of the plains. Their number predominates in the western portion of the district and they retain their own tongue. The Ngoni, comparatively recent comers, who have lost their distinctive language through fusion with the Achewa, are also scattered, but the majority are to be found in the central and eastern central portion of the district. The Yaos live exclusively to the east along the lake shore. Although having an admixture of Chewa blood they retain their own language.

Mphunzi-Linthipe-Mkhoma all-weather road. Every principal headman can be reached by car in the dry weather.

The most prominent mountains in the district are Dedza, about 7,000 feet above sea-level, and Chongoni, which is probably nearly 8,000 feet.

The most important rivers are the Lintipe, the Diampwe, the Lifulezi and the Mlengedzi. The latter is the name given to the Lintipe (which absorbs the Diampwe and Lilongwe Rivers) after its junction with the Lifidzi, about 4 miles from Chipoole.

There are ten European plantations in the district, mostly in the Lintipe Valley. Tobacco is the only crop grown, though coffee is being tried near Chongoni. It cannot be said that the Lintipe Valley is the perfect place for European-grown tobacco.

In the lower areas of the highlands, native tobacco is grown and in 1930 the crop realized 150 tons. On the lake plain cotton flourishes and 120 tons were sold in 1930. The highlands support large herds of native-owned cattle and the numbers will soon reach 20,000 head. Huge numbers of goats and sheep are kept and pigs are numerous amongst the Achipeta and Angoni.

The staple food crop is maize, which is universally grown ; a good deal of rice is produced on the lake shore, but mostly for sale ; cassava is a popular food in Tambala's section and will probably spread considerably owing to its being nearly impervious to climatic excesses. Over 20 tons of wheat are produced annually around Bembeche and Dedza is famous for its potatoes, which attain great size in the highlands. In addition, the usual native crops, viz., beans, millets, ground nuts, sweet potatoes and bananas, are common throughout the district. The south-west arm of Lake Nyasa produces enormous numbers of fish which are a popular relish amongst all natives and the dried fish trade is nowadays becoming an extensive and profitable industry.

Game is now very scarce generally, though in the Dzalanyama Forest Reserve most of the ordinary species still exist. There are no rhinoceros and practically no buffalo. In the rains, elephant are common both on the lake shore and in Dzalanyama, though ivory is extremely small. Carnivora are unusually plentiful all over the district, a great many leopards being killed every year. The Dzalanyama area is probably the best place for cheetah in the Protectorate.

are permitted each season, the issue of licences being under the control of the Conservator of Forests. Attempts have recently been made to acclimatize trout in other streams of the Protectorate, but so far with no success.

GAME

ELEPHANT (*Elephas africanus*)

Elephant are still numerous in certain parts of the Protectorate, but large tuskers are now very rare. Their chief food consists of the bark and leaves of many wild forest trees and they are also very partial to wild fruits, such as the nut of the Hyphæne palm and the fruit of the "msuku" tree (*Uapaca*). Periodically the herds are afflicted by an urge to wander over large areas of country and they then raid all types of cultivation, with disastrous results to growing crops. Owing to this unfortunate habit an attempt is now being made to confine them to certain uninhabited areas such as the Kasungu Game Reserve.

RHINOCEROS (*R. bicornis*)

Rhino. are not common, but they are still to be found in the Kota-Kota and Ngara Districts and near the Nyika Plateau. They are shy animals, living as far from human settlements as they can. They will often charge blindly if come upon suddenly in the thick grass and thornbush country they prefer, but otherwise do no harm. They may only be hunted on special licences.

HIPPOPOTAMUS (*H. amphibius*)

Has now almost disappeared from the rivers, except in one or two isolated places, but is still numerous in parts of Lake Nyasa. Its food consists mainly of certain water-vegetation, but it is unfortunately also very destructive to crops of rice or maize or sweet potatoes grown along the lake shore near the water's edge. Feeding by night and lying up during the day in dense reed-beds, it is not easy to hunt, and is more often heard than seen.

BUFFALO (*Bos caffer*)

More than any other animal, buffalo seem to have decreased in the face of the rapid commercial development of Nyasaland. They must now be said to be rare, a few scattered small herds only being found in the most out-of-the-way places, where there are dense thickets in which they can lie up. Where unmolested they are quiet