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NYASALAND AND
NORTHERN RHODESIA:
CORRIDOR TO THE
NORTH

by

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ment of the Protectorate which received an annual subsidy of £425 from the Company for this service. At the lake ports, mail was picked up and delivered by runners over a system extending in 1900 to nearly all parts of the territory.¹⁰⁵

The growth of the Protectorate reflected in the expansion of her transportation and communication facilities is also further indicated by the trade figures for the same decade. For Nyasaland alone, trade valued at £39,965 in 1891¹⁰⁶ (based on a rough estimate) had grown to £232,819 in 1900.¹⁰⁷ A better indicator of growth than the gross trade, however, is the value of exports.¹⁰⁸ For the year 1891 they are as follows:

Product	Weight (lbs.)	Value (£)
Ivory	5,530	
Coffee	1,000	
Strophanthus	200	
Oil Seeds	100	
Rhinocerous Horns	50	
Hippo Teeth	50	
India-rubber	20	
Beeswax	15	
Total		6,965

Two years later the lists were:

Ivory	42,495	18,252
Coffee	93,118	2,997
Strophanthus	2,331	280
Oil Seeds	87,055	180
Beeswax	5,228	174
Hippo Teeth	2,252	146
Rubber	539	34
Rhinocerous Horns	332	20
Tobacco	40	2
Cotton	400	1
Sundries		52
Total		22,139

¹⁰⁵ B.S.A. Co., *Administrative Reports*, 1898-1900, 77.

¹⁰⁶ Johnston, *British Central Africa*, 147.

¹⁰⁷ Total of imports and exports from table above.

¹⁰⁸ The lists below for 1891 and 1893 are found in Murray, *Handbook*, 267-268.

It will be noted that in 1891 coffee was the only item produced by Europeans, and although tobacco and cotton appear in 1893, the quantities and value are negligible. Furthermore as one would expect of a country in its infancy, the value of imports¹⁰⁹ exceeded the value of exports, and continued to do so throughout the decade and for a long time thereafter. The extent of this imbalance is shown in the following figures:¹¹⁰

Year	Imports ¹ (£)	Exports (£)
1894-95	73,667	14,704 (approx.)
1895-96	71,760	19,668
1896-97	78,655	23,299
1897-98	86,428	27,437
1898-99	93,743	36,650
1899-1900	154,305	78,514

¹ The import figures through 1897-98 do not include the value of goods and specie imported by the administration.

These statistics show that although the gap between exports and imports narrowed somewhat in the ten-year period, exports are only slightly more than one half the value of imports at the close of that time.

One more set of figures, the main export articles and their value during the last half of the decade,¹¹¹ are worth noting.

Year	Coffee	Ivory	Rubber
1895-96	7,136	9,380	28
1896-97	16,427	4,653	277
1897-98	22,402	2,478	1,045
1898-99	32,746	2,268	10,234
1899-1900	62,245	2,329	13,189

Obviously these three commodities make up most of the exports, and of the three, the figures demonstrate clearly the position that coffee assumed in the economy. They also demonstrate the rapid de-

¹⁰⁹ The main items on the import list were alcohol, arms and ammunition, hardware, provisions, and goods for the African trade such as calicoes, prints, and handkerchiefs.—*Accounts and Papers*, 1899, LXIII, [C. 9223], 66.

¹¹⁰ The figures through 1897-98 are taken from *Accounts and Papers*, 1899, LXIII, [C. 9223], 66. Those for the next two years are from *Accounts and Papers*, 1914, XCVI, [Cd. 7165], 122-123.

¹¹¹ *Accounts and Papers*, 1899, LXIII, [C. 9223], 67; 1914, XCVI, [Cd. 7165], 123.