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DUQUESNE STUDIES

African Series

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NYASALAND AND
NORTHERN RHODESIA:
CORRIDOR TO THE
NORTH

by

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DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY PRESS, PITTSBURGH, PA.
Editions E. Nauwelaerts, Louvain

1971

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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 |
| Rhinoceros 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 |
| Rhinoceros 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.