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## NYASALAND PROTECTORATE

# Report on the Census of 1945

Nyasaland Superintendent of Census

ZOMBA, NYASALAND.

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1946.

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its purpose. At the same time the true actions can be made regarding fertility. Actions can only be made from accurate and recorded over a number of equal observation, however well trained the man except the maintenance of records of all have only limited value.

management of the census within each District Administration who, in spite devoted much care to the recruitment of am most grateful to them for their fore months of February and March, 1945. Administration who, by sending their own prestige and authority and, thereby, rendered by the Indian Chamber of Sport. In particular the thanks of the Blantyre and Messrs. D. M. Patel and connection with the completion of theships of Blantyre and Limbe. Especially in addition to rendering most valuable time and skill to the instruction of the native area. Personally I am indebted valuable criticism and advice. He has African villages and of his knowledge of thanks to Mr. Gilbert Ngoleka, head clerk the African census in the townships of of the Secretariat, for the admirable record the services rendered by Miss handled much of the work of preparation s. It is impossible to speak too highly s.

H. F. BINGHAM,  
Superintendent of Census.

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administration and, in this respect, it is hoped that it has fulfilled its purpose. At the same time the true function of a census is to provide data from which accurate deductions can be made regarding fertility and mortality rates, causes of death etc., etc., and such deductions can only be made from accurate records of the population divided into quinquennial age groups and recorded over a number of equal periods of time. This data can never be satisfactorily compiled by observation, however well trained the observer, and it would appear that there is no alternative solution except the maintenance of records of births and deaths. Until this goal has been achieved, censuses will have only limited value.

59. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS—As always, the burden of management of the census within each administrative area has fallen on the shoulders of the officers of the District Administration who, in spite of being short staffed and of numerous other calls on their time, devoted much care to the recruitment of enumerators and to the collection of the returns. Personally I am most grateful to them for their forbearance in allowing me to visit their respective Districts during the months of February and March, 1945. Acknowledgments are also due to the Chiefs of the Native Administration who, by sending their own messengers to precede the enumerators, lent the stamp of their prestige and authority and, thereby, materially assisted with the conduct of the census. The assistance rendered by the Indian Chamber of Commerce has already been acknowledged in the body of this report. In particular the thanks of the Government are due to Messrs. H. L. Dossani and P. Darayam of Blantyre and Messrs. D. M. Patel and Hassan Jan Mahomed, of Limbe, for their invaluable services in connection with the completion of the census forms by members of the Asiatic community in the townships of Blantyre and Limbe. Especially I wish to acknowledge the services of Mrs. C. W. Benson who, in addition to rendering most valuable assistance with the European and Asiatic census, devoted much time and skill to the instruction of the large number of enumerators employed in the Blantyre administrative area. Personally I am indebted to Dr. W. H. Watson of the Government Medical Service for much valuable criticism and advice. He has most kindly given me the benefit of his wide experience of life in African villages and of his knowledge of the science of vital statistics. I would, also, like to express my thanks to Mr. Gilbert Ngoleka, head clerk to the District Commissioner, Blantyre, for his assistance with the African census in the townships of Blantyre and Limbe and to Mr. Cameron Kambona, head clerk of the Secretariat, for the admirable manner in which he has typed this report. Finally I wish to place on record the services rendered by Miss Gordon-Smith who, as the Labour Commissioner's lady clerk, handled much of the work of preparation and undertook the task of compiling and collating the census returns. It is impossible to speak too highly of the accuracy and efficiency with which she carried out these duties.

H. F. BINGHAM,  
*Superintendent of Census.*

language. This is the case in Lomwe where the area mix of tribes and the process of intermarriage lead to belong to more than one tribe their language is interesting. There are many such situations in the country.

The percentage rate of blindness in the different age groups to the total of 4,597 blind persons in the Protectorate is:—

	1921	1931			1945		
Totally blind per mille	2.15	...	...	2.4	...	...	2.25

In the past, smallpox was a common cause of blindness and it is only in recent years that this disease has been brought under full control. Cataract is also common in Africans over 50 years of age and medical treatment for this disease has not yet reached the bulk of the African population. The incidence of blindness in the adult age group may be expected to decrease as the older generation affected by smallpox dies out, and as greater medical facilities become available. The comparatively high rate of blindness in the 5-18 age group is probably caused by neglect of septic conditions of the eye leading to permanent damage of the cornea.

55. DENSITIES, TABLE 8—The District boundaries of the Northern and Central Provinces have been so drastically revised since 1931 that a comparative analysis is not possible. The increase in the Lilongwe District, with a land area of 2,650 square miles as against 2,334 in 1931, is 35.22 to the square mile. In some Districts of the Southern Province, notably in the Shire Highlands, the density rates for a population engaged almost exclusively in agriculture are startling. Chiradzulu with 309.77 to the square mile, Cholo with 191.90, Zomba with 152.38, Mlanje with 138.66 and Blantyre with 118.85 all record densities of over 100 to the square mile. All these Districts lie in the Shire Highlands and it is interesting to note that this heavy concentration of population is of comparatively recent date. Observers in the nineties of the last century recall that the Highlands were but sparsely populated and that the Cholo District in particular was covered by virgin forest and heavy bush and, to all intents and purposes, uninhabited. At least one main slave route passed through the Highlands so that settlement of these fertile lands did not take place until after the establishment of ordered Government. There are indications that the density of the population in the Shire Highlands is already leading to a land hunger. Comment on this technical problem does not, however, fall within the scope of this report and must be left to the experts concerned.

56. URBAN POPULATION—For the first time an attempt was made to record the numbers of Africans residing in the immediate vicinity of the townships of Blantyre and Zomba. The object in view was to collect data upon which to estimate the approximate numbers that might have to be accommodated in the vicinity of the townships. Township boundaries have, therefore, been ignored and the figures show numbers residing in the compounds and villages immediately adjacent to the towns.

	Males	...	Females	Total
Zomba	2,814	...	1,297	4,111
Blantyre	2,470	...	1,124	3,594
Limbe	4,357	...	1,822	6,179
	9,641	...	4,243	13,884

57. COST—The actual expenditure incurred in the taking of the census has been just under £1,000. Of this sum £812 was spent in salaries of the 167 enumerators and their transportation and carriers, and £140 was paid to lady clerks, who assisted with the compilation of the records at headquarters. The balance of £46 represents the part cost of waterproof capes loaned to enumerators. This does not take into account the salaries of the District Commissioners, who did so much of the work, or of the Superintendent of Census or of the Labour Commissioner's lady clerk. In terms of actual expenditure the cost works out at .107 pence per head of the total population. No Hollerith or other mechanical devices were available and tables for all the 12,000 villages of the Protectorate had to be compiled by hand.

58. CONCLUSION—It is unnecessary to stress the need for vital statistics. The problem for the future is whether the present system can be improved in scope and method, when adequate funds are available, or whether an entirely new approach is needed. The present census was undertaken in order to obtain information regarding population trends that was urgently needed for purposes of practical

Any study of the tribal distribution in Nyasaland is confused by the tendency to intermarriage. This is especially true in the Shire Highlands of the Southern Province, where the Nyanja, Yao, Ngoni, Lomwe and Chikunda live side by side in the same villages. Patriarchal and matriarchal tribes in this area mix and intermarry in a way that is probably unique in East Central Africa. During the process of experimental counts undertaken by the Superintendent it became abundantly clear that tribal distinctions were becoming more and more blurred. On more than one occasion parents, who claimed to belong to different tribes, the one patrilineal and the other matrilineal, were unable to agree as to which tribe their children should belong. The sociological structure of the Protectorate is going through a most interesting period of adjustment to new conditions. In some areas at least there are signs of modifications in the matrilocal system, made necessary by modern economic conditions and the absence abroad of so many young adult males.

49. The increase in the Lomwe (Nguru) of 144,000 is significant for it represents an increase of 61% during the intercensal period as compared with 95% for the decennial period 1921 to 1931. The Nguru invasion that took place after 1921, was commented on in the 1931 report, where the inference was drawn that much of the increase in the population was due to immigration from Portuguese East Africa. The 1945 figures indicate that immigration has at least slowed down, although considerable numbers must have entered the Protectorate since 1931. As was to be expected, the Districts most affected are Mlanje and Cholo, where the increase in this tribe is recorded as 99,000 out of the total of 144,000.

50. The decrease in the numbers in the Ngoni tribe are of particular interest in as much as the Mzimba District shows an increase of 20,321 with a decrease in the Nchewi District of 31,066. In 1926 there were said to be 64,023 Ngoni in the Nchewi District, in 1931 there were 46,308 and in 1945, 15,242. One possible explanation is that the matrilineal Yao and Nyanja and kindred tribes are gradually absorbing the Ngoni in the Nchewi District, whereas the Tumbuka of the Mzimba District have tended to adopt the nomenclature and patrilineal customs of the Ngoni. In almost every district there seems to be an increasing tendency for a merging of the later arrivals with the indigenous population of the Protectorate. It is of interest to note that Nyasaland askari, who in the past were referred to as Yaos, are now popularly known in East Africa as the waNyasa, whereas no such territorial nomenclature is heard of in speaking of African peoples in other East African Colonies and Dependencies.

51. AFRICANS ON PRIVATE ESTATES, TABLE 5—The number of Africans resident on private estates in 1931 was 132,871 as against 211,394 in 1945, an increase of 78,523 during the intercensal period of 14 years. The most marked increases are to be found in the Mlanje, Cholo and Lilongwe Districts amounting to 8,269, 36,195 and 9,413 respectively. Fluctuations in the Northern and Central Provinces are attributable to alterations in district boundaries since 1931 : the Island of Likoma, owned by the Universities Mission to Central Africa having been transferred from Kota Kota to Chinteché, while the Livingstonia Mission, formerly in the Karonga District, now lies within the boundaries of Mzimba. The increase of 59% during the intercensal period can only be accounted for by a drift to the tea, tung and tobacco producing areas in the Southern Province, where development and production have gone ahead since 1931. No doubt many of the new residents on private estates are immigrants from Portuguese East Africa, but at the same time numbers of Nyasaland natives must have moved to European owned estates from congested areas where there is little surplus land for cultivation. As has been mentioned earlier in this report, the Chiradzulu District with a density of 310 to the square mile has increased by 3,500 only in 14 years. The surplus population has had to go somewhere and, apart from emigration and casual employment in the townships, it is natural to suppose that there has been a movement towards the Mlanje and Cholo Districts.

52. LITERACY, TABLE 6—The collection of statistics of literacy is fraught with such difficulty that the returns should be treated as approximate estimates only. In the first place, no kind of test was possible. Enumerators were required to ask each individual whether he or she could read and write a simple letter in English or the Vernacular. There has been, therefore, no standard definition of literacy. During experimental checks it was noticed that persons were reluctant to admit an ability to read and write so that it is fair to assume that only those who were reasonably proficient claimed literacy. Furthermore, a number of the 133,000 absentees are most certainly literate and these could not be included. The somewhat elaborate methods adopted in 1931 were not followed in 1945 and there is, therefore, no proper basis of comparison between the returns of the two censuses. On the assumption that the 1945 returns represent the number who can, in fact, read and write a letter, as opposed to those who can make a few undecipherable hieroglyphics on a piece of paper, the figure of .96% of the total *de facto* population literate in English and 6.55% literate in the vernacular is not unduly low. The claims of the three northern Districts to a high standard of education are borne out by the returns. In particular, the Karonga District, where the population has increased by about 90% in 14 years, claims 1.93% literacy in English and 10.92% total literacy as compared with 1.75% and 8.81% in the Blantyre District.

53. It is tempting to check the literacy returns with the records of school attendance, but in practice the figures are not, in any way, comparable. Many children registered in schools do not complete a full course and many, who have learned to read and write in schools, allow this accomplishment to lapse after their return to village life. It must be admitted that the compilation of literacy returns is exceedingly

difficult. Each individual must be interviewed, and time available, such as of 6,436 persons, who claim to have been at Fort Johnston and Liwonde.

54. BLIND, TABLE 7  
to collect information regard-  
blindness alone were demand-  
following comparative table:

Totally blind per mi

The percentage rate of blind  
Protectorate is :—

### Percentage rate of blindness

In the past, smallpox was a disease that had been brought under full control. Treatment for this disease has been successful in the adult age group, and as greater medical knowledge increases, the 5-18 age group is probably safe from damage of the cornea.

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was covered by virgin forest.  
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until after the establishment  
lution in the Shire Highland.  
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56. URBAN POPULATION  
Africans residing in the immi-  
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modated in the vicinity of  
the figures show numbers re-

Zomba  
Blantyre  
Lisabane

57. COST—The actual cost  
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works out at .107 pence per  
available and tables for all the

58. CONCLUSION—The future is whether the present available, or whether an entity obtain information regarding

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increase is attributable to immigration from the neighbouring territory of Portuguese East Africa. At the same time a movement of population from adjoining Districts of the Protectorate must also be a contributory factor. For example, the Chiradzulu District, where the density is 309.77 to the square mile, has increased by 4.38% only in 14 years. Land shortage in this District has compelled many to seek their living elsewhere, and it is to be supposed that many have gone to work and settle in Cholo and Mlanje.

45. MARITAL STATE, TABLE 2—The table showing the marital state of the African population is of limited value for the number of women with absentee husbands is not known. Of the 123,000 absentee males a considerable proportion are unmarried for many emigrate with the object of acquiring money before marriage, and the problem is further confused by the entry of an unknown number of immigrants, some married and some unmarried. The excess of married women over married men is 127,459, but this figure in itself does not indicate the extent of polygamous marriages in the Protectorate. No such deduction can be made without an exact knowledge of the marital state of absentees and immigrants—information which it is not possible to obtain. Table 2 shows 58,111 females widowed as against 7,443 widowers. It is tempting to argue that the excess of widows over widowers indicates that females in the older age groups have a longer expectation of life than males, and that the excess of female deaths of about 80 per 1,000 (paragraph 41 above) is attributable to deaths in infancy and in the child bearing period. This may be true, but it should be remembered that the absence of so many males has created an excess of marriageable females left behind in the Protectorate and that elderly widowers tend to marry women much younger than themselves, rather than widows of their own age.

46. ABSENTEES, TABLE 3—Although, for administrative purposes, a knowledge of the numbers of absentees is of the first importance, this is the first occasion on which returns have been rendered. The difficulties inherent in the collection of statistical information of this kind have been the subject of comment earlier in this report. The returns show 133,306 persons absent abroad of whom 9,446 are women. Of this total 24.11% are reported as having left Nyasaland before the beginning of the European War, 56.95% since the 3rd of September, 1939, and 18.94% were serving with the armed forces. In spite of the difficulties faced by enumerators, these figures do correspond approximately with the estimates submitted by the Nyasaland Government Representatives in neighbouring territories. In all probability they are on the low side since persons who do not keep in touch with their villages and who do not return at regular intervals are apt to be forgotten. The returns of men serving with the armed forces corresponded closely with the known figure. From time to time extravagant estimates have been made of the adult male emigrant population that has become lost to the Protectorate. If this were the case, it might be expected that a census would show a disproportionate excess of females to males. The 1945 census records 49.2 males and 50.8 females to every 100 of the population—a remarkably even balance between the sexes. It is fair to assume, therefore, that the estimates of absentees submitted by the Government Representatives are reasonably accurate and that 'the lost ones' do not number more than a few thousand.

47. In addition to the record of absentees abroad, information was collected with regard to the internal movement of the population within the Protectorate. Table 3 records the number of males and females (including children) who were absent from their District of domicile at the time of the census and who were known to be working or visiting in another District. The total figure of 46,225 is, of course, included in the figure for the total *de facto* population of the Protectorate. The table is of interest in that it reveals the peripatetic nature of the inhabitants of Nyasaland.

48. TRIBES, TABLE 4—The 1931 census report gave a long and brilliant historical review of the tribes inhabiting the Protectorate (paragraphs 43 to 83, 1931 Census Report). There is nothing that can be added except to note one or two trends that are of interest. The following table gives the comparative figures of tribal increases and decreases during the intercensal period, but it must be remembered that the 1945 figures represent the *de facto* population and that there is no information as to the tribal particulars of the 133,306 persons reported as absent from the Protectorate—except in so far as deductions can be made from a study of the numbers absent from a particular District.

TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION.

TRIBE	Pop.	1931		1945		Increase	Decrease
		% of Total Population	Pop.	% of Total Population	Pop.		
CHEWA	371,473	23.2	576,143	28.18	204,670	...	—
NGONI	218,810	13.6	193,482	9.46	—	...	23,328
YAO	246,713	15.4	281,177	13.74	34,464	...	—
NYANJA	274,988	17.2	312,482	15.28	37,494	...	—
LOMWE(NGURU)	235,988	17.2	379,638	18.56	144,022	...	—
TUMBUKA	110,267	6.9	114,542	5.62	4,275	...	—
TONGA	55,835	3.5	50,359	2.46	—	...	5,476
CHIKUNDA	47,438	3.0	72,866	3.56	25,428	...	—
NKHONDE	30,731	1.9	62,136	3.04	31,405	...	—
SWAHILI	520	.04	369	.02	—	...	151
N. RHODESIAN	5,736	.4	1,159	.06	—	...	4,577
OTHERS	3,761	.2	354	.02	—	...	3,407

Thus in 14 years the population has increased by 36.14% or approximately 26% for a decennial period. Furthermore, males have increased by 59,735. The recorded increase in the decennial period 1921 to 1931 was 33.3%. The 1931 report concluded that, in spite of an appalling infantile death rate, natural increase was approximately 16% in the decennial period and that the balance was accounted for by immigration. Certainly a large influx from Portuguese East Africa took place between the years 1921 and 1931, and it is known that immigration has slowed considerably since 1931. Unfortunately there are no recorded statistics of African immigrants and, in their absence, there is no statistical proof of the figure of 16% to cover normal increase. The most that can be said is that the overall increase is 36% over the intercensal period of 14 years. To draw any more exact conclusions would be sheer guess work.

43. The table published in paragraph 42 (above) records that males have increased by 59,735 more than females. The obvious deduction is that the greater increase of males is to be accounted for by immigration. On closer examination, however, there is no reason why this should be so. The 1945 returns show an excess of 35,719 females over males as compared with an excess of females of no less than 95,454 in 1931. Both censuses depend on the inclusion of the absentee population and it is open to doubt whether all the absentees have been recorded. Although, no doubt, immigration accounts for some of the increase in the male population, the evidence in this respect is inconclusive.

44. In certain Districts, variations over the intercensal period are so unusual that they deserve special study. Comparisons are complicated by the fact that certain District boundaries have been drastically revised since 1931. Thus the Karonga (North Nyasa) District has lost the population of Chief Chikulamaembe, the Henga Valley and the Hewe valley to the Mzimba District, while the Chinteché (West Nyasa) District has lost Chief Kanyenda's country to Kota Kota, but has gained the population of the islands of Likoma and Chisamulo from Kota Kota. In the Central Province, one section of the Kasungu District has been transferred to Mzimba while the boundaries of the Lilongwe District have been greatly extended at the expense of the Dowa District. Comparisons of the 1931 tables of population by Districts with those published in this report are, therefore, apt to be misleading. The Karonga and Chinteché Districts of the Northern Province, after making due allowance for populations lost or gained, show that in the former there has been an increase of about 90%, whereas in the latter District the population is static. As regards the Karonga District there seems to have been no particular reason for this tremendous increase. It is, however, worth placing on record that the returns submitted have been exceedingly well compiled : arithmetical errors have been few and far between, and the returns in each sub-division of the district show a remarkable consistency. It is clear that enumerators with a high standard of education and intelligence have been employed in the conduct of the census. In Chinteché, where for long emigration has been the industry of the District, the population is not only static, but has an absentee adult male population that exceeds the adult males actually counted in the District. Of the total *de jure* adult male population over 18 years of age of 17,867, no less than 10,750 are shown as absent abroad. In 1936 a Government Medical Officer conducted a medical survey of this District. In his report (published as an Appendix to the 1936 Annual Report of the Medical Department) he painted a gloomy picture of the conditions of health and lack of stamina of the population caused partly by an indifferently balanced diet chiefly consisting of cassava, which he attributed to a decline in agriculture brought about by the absence of so many young adult males, and partly by a high rate of infection from parasitic and venereal diseases. The fact of that the population of this District has not increased in 14 years is disturbing. In the Central Province the increase in the Lilongwe District of 109,738 is largely attributable to the revision of boundaries since 1931, though there has probably been a drift from the Dedza District to the tobacco producing lands in the Lilongwe plain. In the Southern Province, four Districts show interesting returns. These are Port Herald and Chikwawa Districts, situated in the valley of the Shire River, and Mlanje and Cholo in the southern portion of the Shire Highlands. The two former Districts should be considered together as the distribution of the population in both of them is influenced by the vagaries of the Shire River. This River emerges from the south-east arm of Lake Nyasa, and its rate of flow and volume of water is affected by the level of the Lake. In the nineties of the last century the River was navigable and used by river craft to a point in the Chikwawa District some 20 miles from the township of Blantyre. From that time on, the level of Lake Nyasa dropped until sand bars had, almost completely, shut off the flow of water into the river, and in 1931, when the last census was taken, the River carried only a small volume of water. By 1945 the level of the Lake had risen and water had again started to flow into the Shire. The effect has been to flood considerable areas of the Port Herald District, with a resulting movement of population from Port Herald District, upstream to drier land in the Chikwawa District.

The following table records the respective increase and decrease in the populations of these Districts :—

	1931	1945	Increase	Decrease
Port Herald	81,410	... 66,746	... 14,664	...
Chikwawa	35,892	... 59,664	... 23,772	...

The net increase is, therefore, 9,108 or 7.76% during the inter-censal period. The low rate of increase can partly be accounted for by a drift to the neighbouring districts of Mlanje and Cholo in search of employment. The population of the Mlanje District has increased by 55.9% and of the Cholo District by 102.4% since 1931. These very great increases must be due to the movement of families in search of employment on the European owned tea, tung and tobacco estates. There is little doubt that a big proportion of the

TRIBE  
CHEWA  
NGONI  
YAO  
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NKHONDE  
SWAHILI  
N. RHODESIAN  
OTHERS

fact, further retard normal development in both sexes. Finally while the age at which a great number of women marry is about 16 years, most men do not marry, partly for economic reasons, until about the age of 19 or 20 years. There is, therefore, a strong probability that some enumerators at least have taken actual marriage as their yardstick, with the result that numbers of single youths, who are of marriageable age, have been wrongly included in the 5—marriage age group. Detailed examination of the 1945 returns, where the taxable age of 18 years was taken as the upper limit of this age group, brings this point into sharp relief. In some cases the more competent enumerators have made an honest effort to judge the age of 18 years and have included married persons under the age of 18 years in the 5—18 years age group. In most cases, however, enumerators have found this too difficult for them and have taken actual marriage as their yardstick. This has meant that numbers of married women under the age of 18 years have been classified as adults, while numbers of single men up to 19 and 20 years of age have been included in the lower age group. The fact remains that enumerators have been faced with problems of classification that would have baffled the best trained statisticians. In general the total figures are, in all probability, reasonably accurate, and provide valuable information for purposes of practical administration. It would, however, be dangerous, and misleading, to draw specific conclusions as to mortality and fertility rates by deductions from the balance of the population by age and sex, as recorded in the table of age groups.

39. In the 5—18 years age group, 64.8% of the excess of males over females is to be found in five districts of the Protectorate, where there is employment in the townships or on European estates.

The following table illustrates this :—

District	5—18 Years		Excess of males over females	
	Males	Females		
Mlanje ... ... ...	24,089	18,542	... 5,547	
Cholo ... ... ...	17,027	13,051	... 3,976	
Blantyre ... ... ...	16,279	13,605	... 2,674	
Zomba ... ... ...	21,212	19,071	... 2,141	
Lilongwe ... ... ...	32,951	28,012	... 4,939	
			19,277	

The total excess of males over females in the Protectorate is 29,727 in the 5—18 years age group.

40. ADULT AGE GROUP—The adult age group returns reveal an excess of 18.8% of females over males of the *de facto* population, but an excess of 6% only, if the absentee population is taken into account. The figures are :—

	Adult over 18 years		Excess of females	
	Males	Females		
<i>de facto</i> population ...	387,861	567,426	... 18.8%	
Absentees ...	123,860	9,446	... 6. %	
<i>De jure</i> population ...	511,721	576,874	... 6. %	

Two factors should be remembered. Firstly, any incorrect grouping of married women under the age of 18 years (referred to in paragraph 38 above) automatically leads to incorrect grouping in the adult age group. Secondly, the returns of absentees purport to show only those who have kept in touch with their villages and there are known to be many persons who are 'lost.' A truer picture of the ratio of females to males is given, therefore, by an examination of the total population figures :—

	TOTAL POPULATION			% Males % Females	
	Males	Females	Total	% Males	% Females
<i>de facto</i> population	947,287	1,097,420	... 2,044,707	46.3 ...	53.7
Absentees ...	123,860	9,446	133,306	92.9 ...	7.1
<i>DE JURE</i> POPULATION	1,071,147	1,106,866	2,178,013	49.2 ...	50.8

The figures for the *de jure* population show an excess of 35,719 females over males, recording a very even distribution between the sexes, and indicating that, while the distribution by age groups should be accepted with reservation, the proportion of males to females is probably nearly correct.

41. The report of the Medical Department for the year 1936 stated that, in the Fort Manning District, females predominate in respect of deaths by about 80 per 1,000, while the report for the following year recorded a maternal mortality of 12.8 per 1,000 live births. These figures are recorded as being more exact than any that can be deduced from the census figures. Moreover they serve to rebut the assumption that there is a fantastically high death rate amongst females in the lower age groups.

42. INCREASE OF POPULATION DURING THE INTERCENSAL PERIOD :—For comparative purposes, it is necessary to examine the *de jure* 1945 population. The following comparative table shows increase since 1931 :—

	Males	Females	Total
1931 ... ...	752,217	847,671	1,599,888
1945 ... ...	1,071,147	1,106,866	2,178,013
Increase ... ...	318,930	259,195	578,125

per 1,000 female live births was 938, 933 and 937 respectively. This excess of females over males is reflected in the 1945 census where, in spite of the fact that the total numbers are too high, the ratio is comparable with the findings of the Medical Department.

0—1 Year. Number of males per 1,000 females.			
	Males	Males	
<i>Northern Province</i>			
Karonga	1,010	Southern Province	
Chinteché	882	Fort Johnston	954
Mzimba	973	Liwonde	964
		Zomba	941
<i>Central Province</i>			
Kasungu	990	Blantyre	831
Dowa	936	Neno	994
Kota Kota	940	Chikwawa	963
Fort Manning	961	Chiradzulu	952
Lilongwe	972	Cholo	1,002
Dedza	948	Mlanje	992
Ncheu	941	Port Herald	922

(b) 1 to 5 Age Group :—This age group presented an even greater problem to the enumerators. The yardstick to determine whether a child was or was not under the age of 5 years was to ask whether a child had been born before or after the year that the European war broke out. Unfortunately the beginning of the European war is not a fixed date to the majority of the African population, least of all to the women. Experimental counts proved that, in practice, enumerators would have to judge the age of 5 years by eye. Here the various parasitic diseases, which retard growth and development, play an important part. In test cases, where the parents have known the correct ages of their children, boys and girls, who looked no more than 4 or 5 years of age, turned out to be 6, 7 or even older. It is a certainty, therefore, that the returns submitted, through no fault of the enumerators, are far too high in this age group. The figure of 25%, which is the percentage of the 0—5 years age group to the total *de facto* population, should be disregarded.

### 37. NON-ADULT AGE GROUPS. COMPARATIVE FIGURES, 1926, 1931 AND 1945 :

0 to 5 years and 0—18 years.

	1926		1931		1945	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0—1	...	...	...	...	84,753	87,992
1—5	...	...	...	...	188,598	185,652
0—5	179,559	177,110	220,423	222,112	273,351	273,644
5—15	96,008	83,579	122,995	111,732	...	...
5—18	...	...	...	...	286,075	256,348

Comparison of the 0—5 age groups reveals that children of this age increased by 95,866 in the quinquennial period 1926 to 1931 out of a total population increase in the same period of 309,003. During the intercensal period of 14 years from 1931 to 1945, children in this age group have increased by 104,460 out of a total population increase of 444,819. No logical deduction can be made from these figures for it is more than probable that there has been faulty grouping in all three censuses.

38. Examination of the comparative figures for the 0—5 age groups and the 0—15 and 0—18 age groups reveals some astonishing facts. The 1926 and 1931 censuses recorded respectively 177,082 and 207,808 more persons in the 0—5 group than in the 0—marriage age (or 15 year age group), and in 1945 there were 4,572 more persons in the former group than in the 0—18 age group. Again, all three censuses record the phenomenon of a great excess of males over females in the 5—marriage age and 18 years age groups of 12,429, 11,263 and 30,727 respectively. These two factors, namely the high percentage of children in the 0—5 age group, with an excess of females to males, and the marked preponderance of males to females in the second age group have led to deductions of far reaching importance. The 1931 census report concluded that from 35 to 50 percentum of the children under the age of 5 years recorded at any one census are dead when the next quinquennial census is taken. Moreover the conclusion was drawn that the preponderance of males in the second age group combined with the excess of females in the first age group "involves a relatively very high death rate amongst females in the first age period, and probably in infancy". Any such conclusion must be based on a presumption that the grouping by ages is nearly exact. That the balance between the first and second age groups is wrong and that the first group contains too great a number has been argued in paragraph 36 (b) above. But the picture is not complete until the manner in which the second age group has been determined has been examined. Assessment of 'marriage age' and the age of 18 have presented enumerators with problems that are well nigh insoluble. In the first place the term 'marriage age,' which has been fixed at 15 years in the 1931 census, is presumably the age of puberty, yet there is no direct evidence to prove that this is correct. A medical officer of wide experience, who has made a study of this aspect of African life, has come to the conclusion that development is relatively late amongst Africans as compared with Europeans born and bred in tropical Africa, and that African women are not normally ready for marriage before the age of 16 years. This opinion was qualified by the observation that the prevalence of parasitic diseases does, in

fact, further retard normal development. The age at which women marry is about 19 or 20 years. The actual marriage as they are now, however, have been wrongly classified as adults, where the taxable age is 18 years and have sharp relief. In some districts the age of 18 years and have been regarded as their yardstick. This would have baffled the enumerators. The following table illustrates the deductions from the 1945 census.

39. In the 5—18 years age group of the Prote

The following table illus

District  
Mlanje  
Cholo  
Blantyre  
Zomba  
Lilongwe

The total excess of males

40. ADULT AGE GROUPS. COMPARATIVE FIGURES, 1926, 1931 AND 1945 :

males of the *de facto* population

The figures are :—

*de facto* population  
Absentees ...

Two factors should be considered. Firstly, the age group. Secondly, the distribution between the villages and towns. The number of males is given, therefore.

*de facto* population  
Absentees ...

DE JURE POPULATION

The figures for the *de jure* population distribution between the villages and towns with reservation, the p

41. The report of the 1945 census shows that females predominate in the 0—18 age group for the same district recorded in 1931. The figures are as being more exact than those given in the assumption that the

42. INCREASE IN THE POPULATION FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES. The report of the 1945 census shows increase since 1931. The figures are as follows:

1931. ...  
1945. ...

Increase

depend . . . on information furnished by complete and continuous registration of births and deaths, and of other important events in the life-history of individuals, as marriage and sickness . . . . These conditions do not, of course, prevail in the Protectorate and this census of the African population, like all previous censuses, has been taken by African enumerators, who have had to assess the ages of the population as best they could. The taking of the census has extended over a period of time ranging from three to ten weeks, and during this period there must have been considerable internal movement of the population: persons have been away at work or visiting on the day when the village was counted and to some extent enumerators have had to rely on information supplied by the headman. Even where the whole population of a village has been interviewed, enumerators have been faced with the well nigh impossible problem of sorting into age groups people who seldom have knowledge of the dates of their own birth or of those of their children. The danger of calculating mortality and fertility rates, where the distribution of the population by age groups cannot be guaranteed and where emigration and immigration are unknown factors, will be considered later in this report. Certain physical difficulties have also had to be overcome: in two Districts, large areas were under flood and the census could not be taken at the proper time. For these reasons the tables of statistics should only be treated as a useful and, in the aggregate, a fairly accurate estimate of the African population, based on a count.

35. The count of children under the age of one year and the alteration of the 5—marriage group to 5—18 years has already been referred to in the introduction to this report (paragraph 7). The 5—18 years age group in the present census is, therefore, not in any way comparable with the nearest corresponding age group in previous censuses.

#### 36. AGES AND SEX, TABLE 1

(a) 0—1 year:—Enumerators were instructed to count all children who could not walk and were still carried on their mother's backs. In view of the fact that few mothers have any record of the date of birth of their children, this was the best yardstick available. But it is a fact that most infants are carried long after their first birthday. It is, therefore, a virtual certainty that the numbers recorded in this age group are far too high. This is confirmed by the results of experiments in the collection of vital statistics undertaken by the Medical Department during the intercensal period. From 1933 to 1939 data regarding births and deaths was collected in the Fort Manning District by African employees of the Medical Department. In the absence of registration of births and deaths or any means of checking, the figures cannot be guaranteed as being statistically exact. The information was, however, collected by men of intelligence, who lived permanently in the District, and has considerable value. The following table gives some indication of the discrepancy between the present census figures and the statistics of infants in the Fort Manning District as recorded by the Medical Department.

FORT MANNING DISTRICT CALCULATIONS BASED ON AN ESTIMATED POPULATION OF 35,000.  
INFANTS 0—1 YEAR

Year	Births	Deaths		1945 Census
		Infantile Mortality (Still Births)	Surviving infant population	
1935	1,872	317	1,555	—
1936	1,638	277	1,361	—
1937	1,729	216	1,513	—
1945	—	—	—	4,064

Even allowing for an increase in population from 35,000 to 42,553 (unless the figures of the Medical Department are very wide of the mark), a high proportion of the 4,064 infants are most probably between the age of one and two years. That the same tendency to classify too many children in this age group exists throughout the Protectorate is shown by the following table, in spite of fairly wide variations from District to District:—

Percentage of infants 0—1 Year to the total population in each District, 1945 Census

<i>Northern Province</i>		<i>Southern Province</i>	
Karonga	7.3%	Fort Johnston	8.5%
Chinteché	5.9%	Liwonde	11.5%
Mzimba	7.97%	Zomba	7.2%
<i>Central Province</i>		<i>Chikwawa</i>	
Kasungu	8.9%	Chiradzulu	8.6%
Dowa	7.7%	Cholo	7.6%
Kota Kota	9.6%	Mlanje	8.7%
Fort Manning	9.5%	Port Herald	8.4%
Lilongwe	9.7%		
Dedza	8.9%		
Ncheu	7.3%		

The Medical Department's 1939 report records in the Fort Manning District 4.44% in the corresponding age group. Regarding the ratio of females to males, the reports of the Medical Department record an excess of female over male births. In the Fort Manning District, in 1935, 1936 and 1937, the ratio of male

In 1931, 7% of the Asiatic population was born in Nyasaland : in 1945 the figure was 33.2%. This demonstrates clearly enough that a generation of Asiatics is growing up that will know of India by hearsay only. Its home and its country of domicile will be Nyasaland.

26. MARITAL STATE, TABLE N—The following is a comparative table for the 1931 and 1945 censuses :—

Age of 15 years and over.	1931	1945
Single	433	336
Married	951	1,353
Widowed	20	62
Divorced	2	7
	1,406	1,758

The number of married males has increased by 117 and married females by 285 during the intercensal period. The percentage of married persons to the total population was 48.26 as compared with 60 in 1931. The percentage decrease is due to the large increase in the number of children.

27. NATIONALITIES, TABLE O—96.8% of the Asiatic population are British Indians and 3.2% are Portuguese Indians (Goanese). A large proportion of the British Indian population come from Kathiawar.

28. RELIGIONS, TABLE P—Comparative table :—

Percentage of total population	1931	1945
Mahomedans	61	60.30
Hindus	20	30.06
Christians	7	5.07
Sikhs	3	3.07
Others	9	1.50

The only variation of importance is the increase of 10% in the numbers of Hindus. They have increased from 439 in 1931 to 843 in 1945.

29. OCCUPATIONS, TABLE Q—The following is a comparative table of the principal occupations :—

	1931	1945	Increase	Decrease
Trade and Commerce	1,037	953	—	84
Tailors	27	26	—	1
Railways	83	68	—	15
Clerks	—	62	62	—

Two females were engaged in trade and one was a teacher.

The 1931 census report commented on the total absence of planters or agriculturalists. The present census, however, shows 13 planters. Unemployment of male adults is virtually non-existent. Table Q records 13 males as occupation 'none stated,' but of this total, seven were visitors and the remainder had submitted incomplete returns. The figure of 534 males of 'No Occupation' is made up of children or scholars. The 1931 census showed an increase of 676 traders during the quinquennial period 1926 to 1931, as compared with a decrease of 84 during the last intercensal period.

30. INDUSTRIES, TABLE R—Asiatic females do not ordinarily engage in any form of industry and, of the total female population of 1,028, four only are shown as engaged in industry. The number of Asiatic males in industry was 1,229 of whom 1,003, or 81.6% were engaged in some form of trade or commerce. This is a decrease of 59 persons so engaged since 1931.

#### OTHER NON-AFRICANS

31. The number of other Non-Africans, whose particulars have been submitted on the return used for the European and Asiatic census, was 455. This figure represents members of families of mixed Euro-African and Indo-African parentage where the 'head' pays the non-African poll tax. It does not, of course, give any indication of the numbers of persons of mixed race in the Protectorate. The remainder have been included in the general total of the African population.

32. AGES, TABLE S—The percentage of children under 5 years of age to the total is 28.8% and the percentage in the 0—19 years age groups is 72.1%. These fantastically high figures are caused by the fact that the majority of the children reported in the returns are the product of unions of European or Asiatic fathers on the one hand and African mothers on the other. The parents have been counted in the European, Asiatic and African censuses respectively and it is, therefore, quite impossible to draw any deduction as to fertility rates.

33. BIRTHPLACES, MARITAL STATE, NATIONALITIES, RELIGIONS, OCCUPATIONS AND INDUSTRIES, TABLES T, U, V, W, X, AND Y—Indo-Africans are 263 in number as compared with 167 Euro-Africans. Table W, RELIGIONS, reveals the interesting fact that 237 are Mahomedan, as against 7 Sikh and 15 Hindu. The majority of the adult males are engaged in trading, road transportation and agriculture.

#### AFRICANS

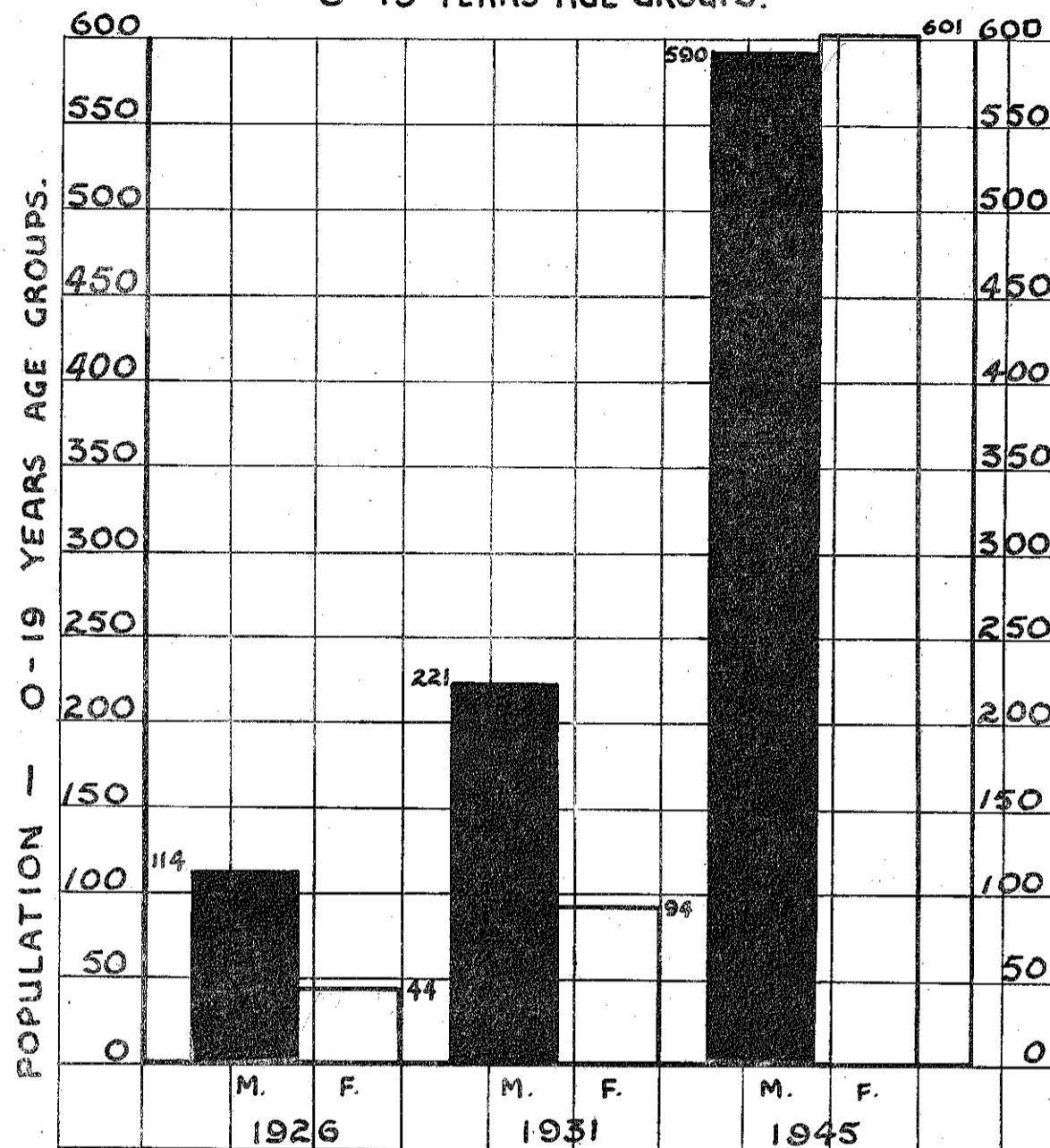
34. The value of any statistical information depends upon the accuracy with which it is obtained and checked. An appreciation of the margin of error is essential if faulty conclusions are to be avoided. A true census relies upon a system of registration of births and deaths. In the words of Sir Arthur Newsholme "we

Figure 4 shows the numbers of Males and Females in the 0—19 years age groups in 1926, 1931 and 1945.

### FIGURE 4.

### ASIATICS

#### O-19 YEARS AGE GROUPS.



KEY.      Males.      Females.



25. BIRTHPLACES, TABLE M.—The table of birthplaces is worthy of study as it gives a clear picture of the tendency of Asiatics to make Nyasaland their home. The following comparative table shows the great increase in the number of children born in the Protectorate since 1931 :—

Born in :	1931	1945	Increase
British India	1,412	1,789	377
Nyasaland	105	931	826
Portuguese India	58	60	2
Elsewhere	16	24	8

remainder, 262 live in the Tea, Tung and Tobacco producing Districts of Cholo and Mlanje, while 256 are resident in the Lilongwe, Dowa and Dedza Districts of the Central Province, where the native tobacco industry brings a measure of prosperity to the African population.

24. AGES AND SEX, TABLE L—The following comparative table shows the distribution of the Asiatic population by ages and sex in 1931 and 1945:—

	1931		1945		Increase		Decrease	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—4	46	40	265	291	219	251	...	...
5—9	20	19	164	181	144	162	...	...
10—14	48	12	76	67	28	55	...	...
15—19	107	23	85	62	...	39	22	...
20—24	294	39	148	104	...	65	146	...
25—29	258	38	174	110	...	72	84	...
30—34	214	22	194	87	...	65	20	...
35—39	135	11	221	52	86	41	...	...
40—44	90	13	176	34	86	21	...	...
45—49	74	...	113	16	39	16	...	...
50—54	42	...	70	6	28	6	...	...
55—59	13	1	46	10	33	9	...	...
Over 60	12	2	44	8	32	6	...	...
	1,353	220	1,776	1,028	695	808	272	Nil

The percentage of children under 5 years of age is 19.83% of the total Asiatic population—a very high figure. The remarkable increase of 470 children under 5 years of age illustrates the fact that many Asiatics have made their home in Nyasaland and a glance at the table of birthplaces in the next paragraph shows that most of these children have been born in the Protectorate. The adult age groups reveal some facts of great interest. From the age of 15 years upwards, males have increased by only 32 since 1931. The 15—34 age groups show a decrease of 272 males, and this is the first occasion that any census has recorded a decrease in any age group. In part, this has been brought about by travel restrictions between India and Nyasaland during the war which have curtailed immigration. The 20—39 age groups show that females have increased by 243. A proportion of these women have, of course, entered the Protectorate as immigrants between 1931 and 1939.

Figure 3 illustrates the relative increases of Asiatic males and females since 1926.

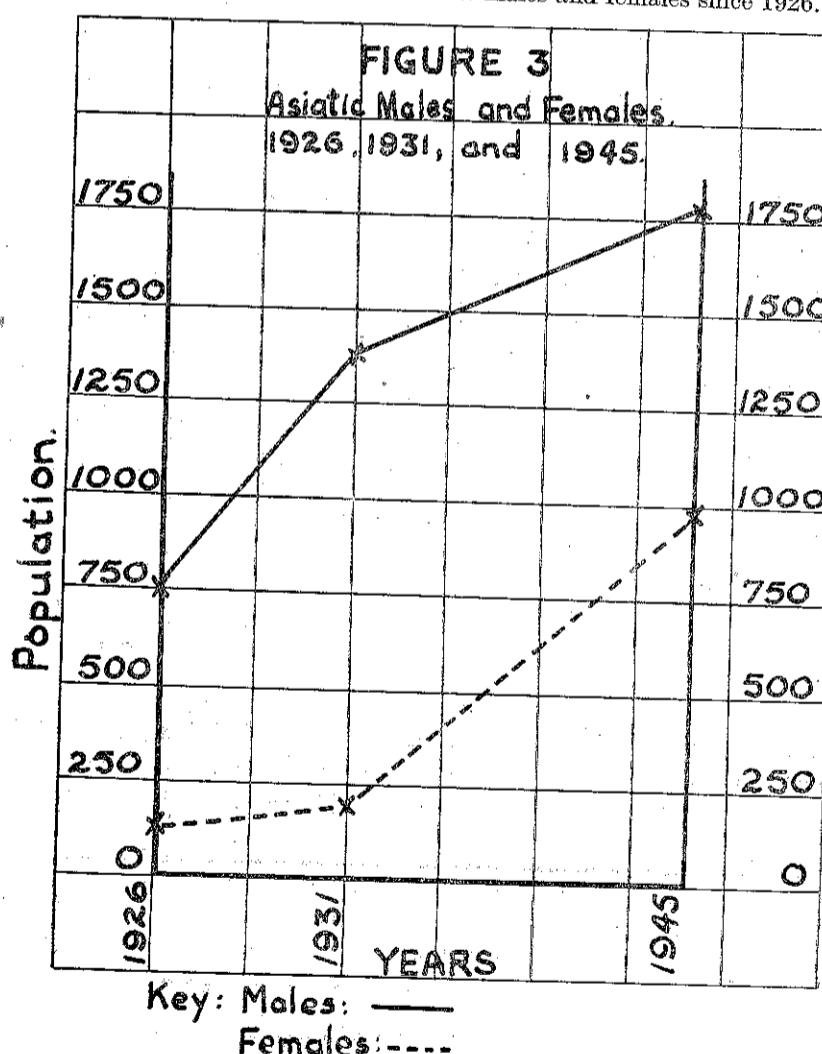
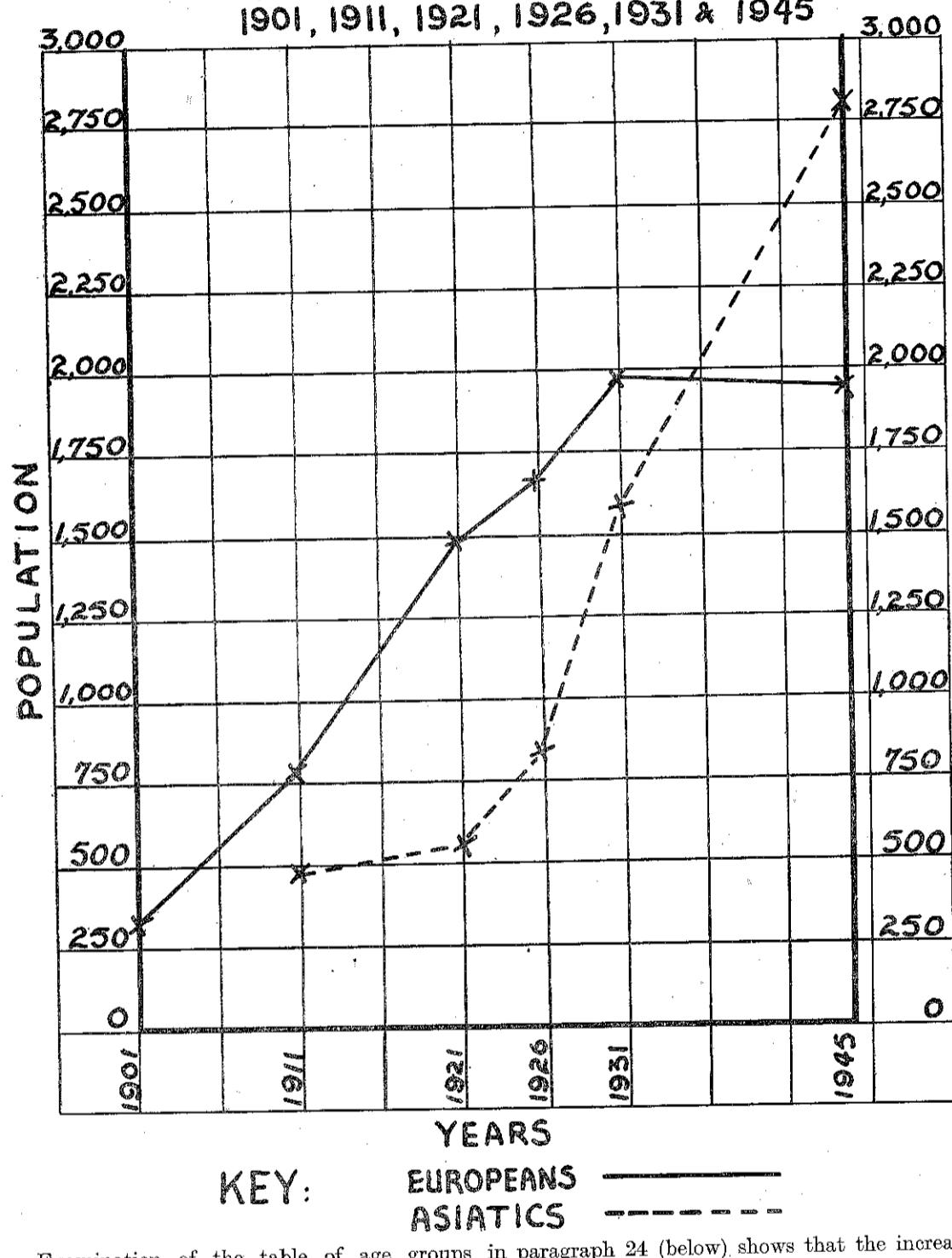


Figure 2 illustrates the comparative increases and decreases in the European and Asiatic population.

## FIGURE 2.

### Comparative Increases and Decreases of the EUROPEAN AND ASIATIC POPULATION 1901, 1911, 1921, 1926, 1931 & 1945



KEY:      EUROPEANS —————  
                  ASIATICS - - - - -

Examination of the table of age groups in paragraph 24 (below) shows that the increase is attributable to females and children. Females have increased by 808 and the 0—19 age groups record no less than 876 more persons than in the corresponding age groups at the last census. This increase does not, therefore, indicate that there has been large scale immigration of Asiatic males, and, in point of fact, there has been only a slight increase in males over the age of 16 years engaged in industry. There are two contributory causes: firstly, a tendency for Asiatic females to marry young and have large families; secondly, economic pressure in India that has induced more and more Indians to call for their wives and families to join them in Nyasaland. The greater portion of the Asiatic male community is engaged in commerce: it is natural, therefore, that Asiatics should be found in greatest numbers in the townships of Zomba, Blantyre and Limbe, and in those Districts where the African has money to spend. Of the total of 1,776 males, 1,019 live in the Zomba District and the Blantyre administrative area. Of the

19. RELIGIONS, TABLE E.—The following table shows comparative increases and decreases in membership of the principal churches:—

	1931	1945	Increase	Decrease
Church of England	870	810	—	60
Roman Catholic	243	324	81	—
Presbyterian	314	294	—	20
Dutch Reformed	108	87	—	21

The 1931 census reported 3 Agnostics as against 32 and 98 'Not Specified' as against 38 in 1945.

20. OCCUPATIONS, TABLE F—The total of OCCUPATIONS records the kind of work, which any individual actually performs. The comparative figures of 1931 and 1945 of European agriculturalists are worth examining in detail, illustrating as they do the change that has taken place in the agricultural economy of the Protectorate. The 1931 census (paragraph 27) showed 290 persons occupied as Planters and Agriculturalists. The following table shows this figure broken down for purposes of better comparison:

	1931		1945
Planters	250	...	76
Estate Managers	16	...	80
Agriculturalists	22	...	—
Agricultural Chemist	1	...	—
Cotton Specialist	—	...	3
Botanist	—	...	1
Farmers	—	...	11
	290	...	171

The most striking variation is the decrease of 174 persons styling themselves 'Planters' and the increase of 'Estate Managers'. The number of planters in the Zomba District has decreased from 25 to 8, in Cholo from 56 to 18 and in Mlanje from 46 to 10. It is to be supposed that, with the decline in the European flue cured tobacco industry and the growth of the tea and tung industries, there has been a tendency for the private estate owner to give place to larger organizations. Two factors should, however, be borne in mind. Firstly the agricultural industry was short-handed at the time the census was taken. Secondly the term 'Planter' is capable of more than one definition and it is not impossible that many persons managing or otherwise employed on private estates in 1931 recorded themselves as planters rather than as estate managers. It is interesting to note that the word 'Farmer' appears for the first time in a census record of the Protectorate.

21. INDUSTRY, TABLE G—Statistics of Industries were first compiled in 1931. It is possible, therefore, to observe the trend of industry during the intercensal period. In the first place there is no unemployment of Europeans. The 229 males and 557 females classified under the heading 'None' in 1945 are juveniles, females and persons who have retired from active participation in industry through age or ill-health. There are 1,162 persons engaged in industry as compared with 1,187 in 1931. Of this number over 65% are engaged in the primary industry—agriculture, or are employed by missions, or are in Government service. The following tables summarise the comparative position in 1931 and 1945.

	1931		1945		Increase		Decrease				
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
Agriculture	290	9	...	225	30	...	—	21	...	65	—
Missions	153	125	...	151	124	...	—	—	...	2	1
Government	199	11	...	183	49	...	—	38	...	16	—
	642	145		559	203	...	—	59	...	83	1

	Percentage of total engaged in industry		
	1931	1945	
Agriculture	23.42	...	21.5
Missions	23.42	...	23.2
Government	17.69	...	19.5

Of the remaining industries, Transport accounts for 6.1% as compared with 8.59%, and Commerce for 11.4% as compared with 11.96% in 1931. There are no heavy industries in the Protectorate. The only productive industry is agriculture and, with the exception of Missions and the Armed Forces, the remaining industries are ancillary to it. So far as gainfully employed Europeans are concerned, there has, therefore, been retrogression since the last census was taken in 1931.

22. SCHOLARS, TABLES H, I, J and K—Tables recording the Nationalities, Birthplaces, Ages and Religions of Scholars between the age of 5 years and 19 years have been compiled for the first time. Of the total of 156, 88 are males and 68 females. The point of particular interest that emerges is that no less than 97, or 62.2% were born in Nyasaland. Of the remainder, 23 were born in South Africa, Northern Rhodesia or Southern Rhodesia.

ASIATICS

23. NUMBERS—The returns for the Asiatic population are deserving of careful study for whereas the European population has decreased, Asiatics have increased by 1,213 or 76.2% in 14 years.

Apart from persons of British nationality, nearly every state in Europe is represented. Table A reflects the presence in Nyasaland of 87 refugees from Central Europe, 17 of whom have entered the word 'stateless' in the returns : in 6 cases no nationality was recorded. Of the remainder, the majority of persons of American nationality were engaged in missionary activities, while the staff of the Roman Catholic Missions included priests, nuns and lay-brothers of many diverse nationalities. Italians have increased by 23 during the intercensal period, while Greeks have increased from 12 in 1931 to 42 in 1945. No less than 22 persons of Greek nationality are resident in the Fort Johnston District, where the majority of them are engaged in the fishing industry.

16. BIRTHPLACES, TABLE B—Europeans born in the United Kingdom and Eire number 867 or 44.5% of the total population. The numbers born in South Africa have decreased by 32. The number born in Nyasaland has increased from 225 to 278 during the intercensal period and forms 14.27% of the total population.

17. AGES, TABLE C—The following table summarises the distribution of the European population by age groups in 1931 and 1945 :—

	1931	1945	Increase	Decrease
Under 5	161	197	36	...
5—9	98	114	16	...
10—14	36	23	—	13
15—19	31	25	—	6
20—24	123	55	—	68
25—29	254	128	—	126
30—34	323	232	—	91
35—39	277	245	—	32
40—44	241	249	8	—
45—49	187	191	4	—
50—54	126	153	27	—
55—59	72	150	78	—
60—64	26	94	68	—
65—69	12	65	53	—
Over 69	8	27	19	—
	1,975	1,948	309	336

The 1931 report commented on a decrease of 21 in the 20-29 age groups during the decennial period 1921-1931 in the following words : "The revival of prosperity which is bound to come will soon convert into an increase the present decrease in the number of youthful immigrants". This forecast has not been fulfilled : there has, in fact, been a decrease of 194 in the 20-29 age groups since 1931. The cause is to be found partly in a change in the economic structure of the Protectorate's primary industry—agriculture and this question will be considered later in the report. It must be remembered, too, that conditions are abnormal owing to the fact that both private enterprise and Government have contributed so largely to the war effort in terms of man-power. Few of Nyasaland's young men had returned from duty with the armed forces at the time when the census was taken. With regard to children, the issue is confused by the fact that almost every child over the age of 10 years goes to school in a neighbouring territory. Under 10 years of age the population shows a slight increase in both sexes ;

	1931			1945		
	Males		Total	Males		Total
	0—4	5—10		10—14	15—19	
	83	49	161	101	96	197
	...	...	98	64	50	114
	132	...	259	165	146	311

18. MARITAL STATE, TABLE D—The following table summarises the marital state of Europeans of 16 years of age and over in the 1921, 1926, 1931 and 1945 censuses :—

	1921	1926	1931	1945
Single	672	672	618	482
Married	596	717	1,018	1,061
Widowed	22	31	38	58
Divorced	6	4	6	8
Total	1,296	1,379	1,680	1,609

This table reflects the considerable decrease in the numbers of single males in the younger adult age groups. Married persons have increased by 43 only since 1931 as compared with 291 in the quinquennial period 1926 to 1931. The figure 43 is made up of 13 more married males and 30 more married females. The decrease in single persons is accounted for almost exclusively by fewer single males in 1945 than in 1931. There has been a decrease of 12 single females only during the intercensal period. The proportion of married persons to the total European population is 54.5%—an increase of 3.5% since 1931.

of British Euro-African and Indo-African and Portuguese Euro-African stock, who pay the Protectorate Poll Tax, as opposed to the African Poll Tax, or who are members of a household where the 'Head' does so. It in no way purports to represent the number of persons of mixed race in the Protectorate.

#### EUROPEANS.

13. NUMBERS—The following table shows the total numbers of Europeans in the Protectorate at the various censuses:—

				Increase	Decrease
1901	...	314	...	—	—
1911	...	766	...	244%	—
1921	...	1,486	...	94%	—
1926	...	1,656	...	11%	—
1931	...	1,975	...	19%	—
1945	...	1,948	...	—	1.37%

The rate of increase and decrease of Europeans as compared with Asiatics is shown diagrammatically in Figure 2. (Paragraph 23 below).

The census was taken on the night of the 29th April, 1945, before the cessation of hostilities with Germany. The European War had created certain abnormal conditions in Nyasaland. On the one hand numbers of males, ordinarily resident in the country, were still absent on duty, either with the armed forces or with the military administrations of enemy occupied territory: on the other, Nyasaland had given sanctuary to numbers of refugees from Central Europe, while the strength of military personnel was very much greater than in peace time. Thus the 1945 returns show 84 males and 4 females under the heading 'Armed Forces' as against 9 males under the heading 'Military, King's African Rifles' in 1931. Moreover, the majority of the 84 males, being British Army personnel, were temporary residents only. The figure 1.37%, therefore, does not give a true picture of the decrease in the European population during the intercensal period. The total figure of Europeans does not, however, include 88 males and 68 females between the ages of 5 and 19 years, who, at the date of the census, were away at school or college in neighbouring territories but who normally return to Nyasaland for the holidays. Seventy *per centum* of the European population is concentrated in four districts of the Southern Province as follows:—

		% of Total Population
Zomba District (Seat of Government)	...	389 ... 20%
Blantyre District (Includes the Townships of Blantyre and Limbe)	...	693 ... 35.6%
Cholo and Mlanje Districts (Principal producing areas of Tea, Tung & Tobacco)	...	279 ... 14.4%
		1,361 ... 70%

14. SEX—Each census has recorded a steady increase in the numbers of females to males.

	Males	Females	Number of females to each 1,000 males
1921	1,034	452	437
1931	1,168	807	691
1945	1,086	862	794

The increase in the ratio of females to males is due more to immigration than to physiological causes. As was forecast in the 1921 report, improved living conditions in the Protectorate have brought about a proportionate increase in the numbers of European females. Even so the figures are not fully comparable owing to the temporary residence of 84 male members of the armed forces, few of whom were accompanied by their wives and families. The following tables illustrate the ratio of females to males in the lower age groups:—

	UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE		Number of females to each 1,000 males
	Males	Females	
1921	71	45	633.8
1931	83	78	940
1945	101	96	950.6

	UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE		Number of females to each 1,000 males
	Males	Females	
1921	107	76	710
1931	150	145	966.7
1945	178	156	876.5

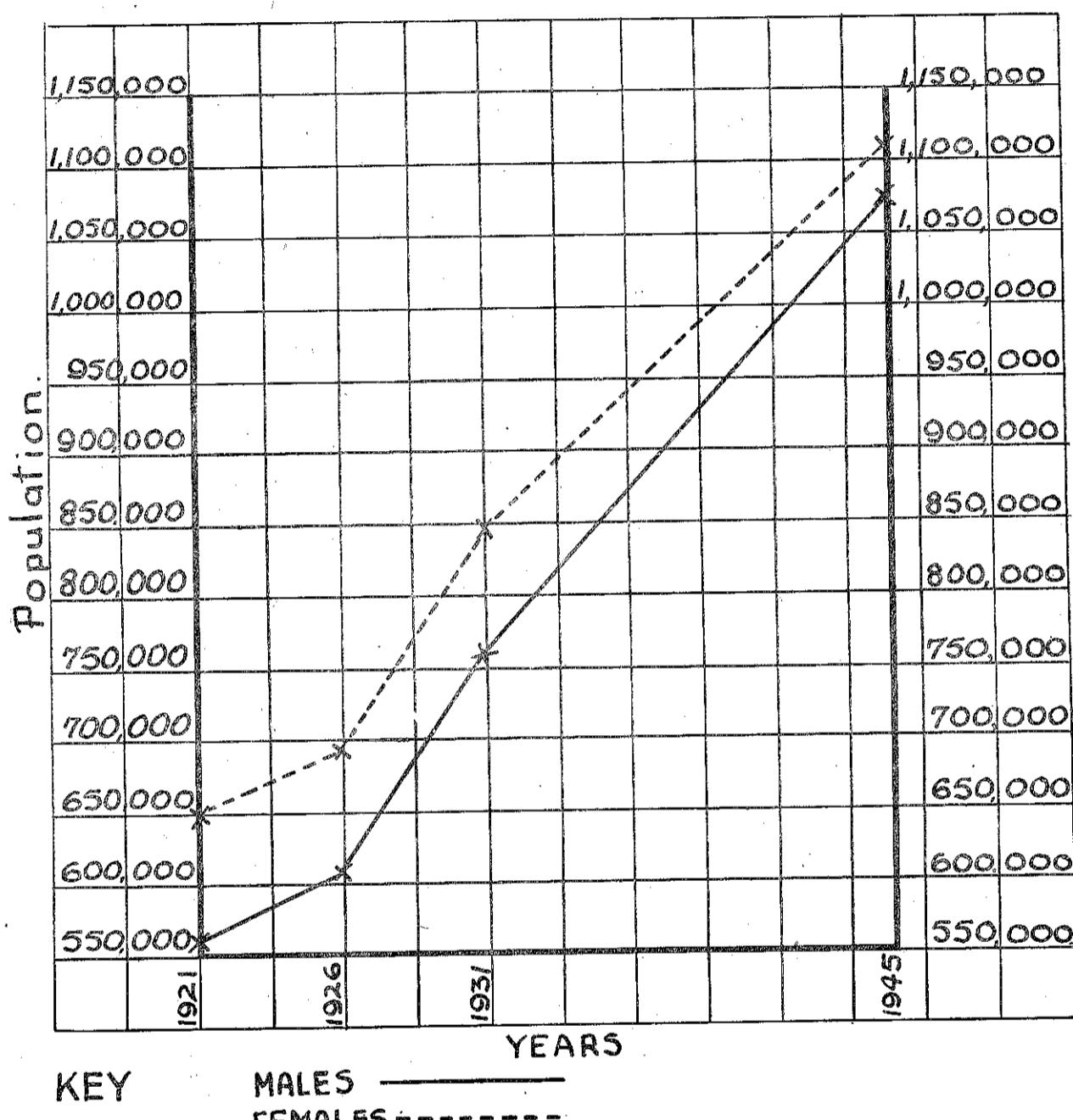
15. NATIONALITIES, TABLE A—Europeans of British birth and origin (including three by naturalization) have decreased by 162 during the intercensal period, while the numbers under the heading 'Other Nationalities' have increased by 135. The number of Canadians has increased from 11 in 1931 to 43 in 1945. This is attributable to the fact that the Roman Catholic Missions recruit largely from Canada. Data with regard to the proportion of English to Scots etc., is not available owing to the fact that, in no less than 318 cases, no other nationality than British was entered in the returns.

Figure 1 shows diagrammatically the numbers of males and females at the 1921, 1926, 1931 and 1945 Censuses.

## FIGURE I

### Increase in African Population Males and Females.

1921, 1926, 1931 and 1945



KEY MALES —————  
FEMALES -----

11. OCCUPATIONS AND INDUSTRIES—The system of classification of occupations and industries as regards non-Africans follows exactly the form of the 1931 census. An appreciation of the difference between the terms 'Occupation' and 'Industry' is of some importance. The subject was fully dealt with in paragraphs 12 to 15 of the 1931 report and the following definition is quoted. "Thus, the OCCUPATION of any person is the kind of work which he or she performs ; and this alone determines the particular group in an occupation classification to which the person is assigned. The INDUSTRY in which any individual is engaged is determined solely by reference to the business in, or for the purposes of which, his occupation is followed".

12. CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO RACE—The method adopted in 1931 of classification by race into Europeans (including Americans), Asiatics and Africans has been followed, with the exception that returns have been submitted for "Other Non-Africans". This latter classification includes persons

enumerators in person in order to ensure the maximum of uniformity. As on previous occasions, it was not possible to deal with individual Africans separately. Each village was treated as a separate entity and a return entered for that village. The 1945 census departed from the methods adopted on former occasions in certain important respects. In the first place the count was a *de facto* count of the persons actually living in any given District (in previous censuses the *de jure* method was adopted whereby all persons domiciled in a village were recorded, whether in fact they were actually present, or whether they were abroad) and a record of those absent abroad was taken separately. In any comparative examination of the figures of the various censuses it is, therefore, necessary to include the absentees shown separately in the present census. Secondly there have been two important variations in the method of recording the distribution of the population by age groups. For the first time an attempt has been made to classify children under one year of age, while the age group 5 years to marriage age adopted formerly has been varied to 5 years to the taxable age of 18 years. Statistics for this age group and for the adult age groups in the respective censuses are, therefore, not fully comparable. The form used required the enumerator to break down the village population by sexes and into four age groups, namely, infants under 1 year, children from 1 to 5 years, children from 5 years to 18 years and adults over 18 years. In addition, tribal distribution had to be recorded and a return of literates, divided into those who could read and write a simple letter in English or the vernacular. Finally a record was required of the totally blind by age groups. No attempt was made, as in 1931, to keep a record of deaf-mutism or of the totally infirm; neither was there any attempt made to record the occupations and industries of Africans. In the present census the record of absentees, referred to above, was shown at the bottom of the form. It is as well to remember that this information was obtained by examining every village headman in the country, and a clear distinction should be drawn between the estimate of absentees obtained in this manner, and the figures for the *de facto* population which have been obtained from an actual count.

8. Accuracy of the Statistics—The non-African population of the Protectorate is so small that the margin of error is negligible. The accuracy of the African census is another matter. In the first place the onus of rendering returns is upon the enumerator and not upon the individual. The skill, energy and conscientiousness of each separate enumerator has, therefore, been the important factor. Every effort was made to recruit men of the best type and the rate of pay was made as attractive as possible with the limited funds available. Yet temporary employment is not popular and it must be admitted that it was not possible to enrol men with a uniformly satisfactory standard of intelligence, with the result that certain areas have been less skilfully handled than others. Furthermore, the staff position in the District Administration was such that field supervision by Europeans was not feasible.

9. Whether the information asked for was too elaborate is open to question. Although it may be desirable to obtain certain information, the limiting factor must be the capacity of the worst enumerator and not that of the average or the best. In particular, the information regarding absentees demanded a high degree of patience and determination. That the results agree approximately with the estimates submitted by Nyasaland Government Representatives in neighbouring territories, and that the returns of men absent in the armed forces do correspond closely with the known figure, is encouraging.

10. In paragraph 10 of the 1931 report it was argued that comparative analysis of the African statistics showed such a close approximation of the percentage figures that the substantial accuracy of the totals upon which they were based had to be admitted. A comparative percentage table of the 1921 and 1931 censuses was published in support of this argument. Unfortunately it is not easy to compare the 1945 census as the variation in the age group periods is liable to lead to confusion. The following comparative example is, however, of interest:—

	1921	1931	1945	Percentage of total population				
				<i>de facto</i>	<i>de jure</i>	1921	1931	1945
Females to each								
1,000 males ...	1,150	1,127	1,159	1,033		F. 53.5	53.0	53.66
						M. 46.5	47.0	50.8
								46.32 . 49.2

The important feature of the above table is that the 1945 *de facto* percentage of females to males corresponds closely with the *de jure* percentages of the two previous censuses. Furthermore the *de jure* percentages of the 1945 census show a close balance between the sexes (there are only some 35,000 more females than males). Thus the percentage figures of females to males in the 1945 census do not show a close approximation to the corresponding figures in 1921 and 1931, unless it is assumed that the previous censuses, which purported to be *de jure* counts of the whole domiciled African population, failed to include a large number of absentees. The figures quoted do not, of course, prove the accuracy of any of the censuses, for there is no evidence to show that any one census has been more accurately compiled than any other.



## KEY

11. OCCUPATION  
industries as respects the  
difference between the  
dealt with in paragraph  
OCCUPATION of any  
the particular group to  
which any individual belongs,  
of which, his occupation

12. CLASSIFICATION  
by race into Europeans  
that returns have been



## Report of the Census of 1945.

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### INTRODUCTION.

Although the first Census of the Nyasaland Protectorate, to include figures of the African population, was undertaken in 1911, the first attempt at a comprehensive count of Africans took place in 1921. In 1911 the African population was estimated upon the basis of the number of taxes paid, combined with a check count made in selected villages. Succeeding censuses were undertaken in 1926 and 1931, and in both cases closely followed the method adopted in 1921. It was the intention to conduct a census at each quinquennial period thereafter but conditions prevailing in 1936 made such a course impossible. Unfortunately the incidence of the European War, creating as it did an extreme shortage of staff in all Departments of Government, made any consideration of a census at the decennial period out of the question. Although the staff position in Nyasaland was still acute in 1945, the urgent need for statistical information regarding the African population (there had been no census taken for 14 years) influenced the Nyasaland Government in its decision to undertake the present census.

2. Scope and Method—The statistics dealt with in this report cover a land area of 36,829 square miles. The Protectorate is about 520 miles in length from north to south lying between lat. S.  $9^{\circ} 45'$  and S.  $17^{\circ} 15'$ . It follows the course of the Rift Valley from the Songwe River in the north almost to the Zambezi Valley in the south. Lake Nyasa forms the eastern boundary of the northern half of the Protectorate; to the west lie the highlands of the Mzimba District and the Central Angoniland plain, while to the south rise the Shire Highlands. The Protectorate is a narrow corridor, its land area being not more than 100 miles across at its widest point. It is mostly hilly with two major mountain features—the Nyika plateau in the extreme north, rising to 8,000 feet above sea level and Mlanje Mountain in the south rising to 10,000 feet.

3. The Protectorate is divided into three Provinces, Northern, Central and Southern. Since the last census was taken a number of Districts have been centralized for purposes of administrative control. They have, however, retained their identity as Districts and the present census records the populations of each of the twenty Districts for the purpose of comparison with previous censuses. Unfortunately comparison is made difficult owing to drastic revision of boundaries since 1931. The Districts most affected are Karonga, Chinteché and Mzimba in the Northern Province, and Kota Kota, Dowa, Lilongwe and Kasungu in the Central Province.

4. The preliminary organization of the Census was undertaken in 1944 by the then Acting Labour Commissioner. The Superintendent of Census took over the duties of the Labour Department towards the end of 1944 and assumed further responsibility for the preparation of the Census. Both officers were ably assisted by a lady clerk, secretary to the Labour Commissioner, who, in addition to her ordinary duties, devoted much time and enthusiasm to the work. During March, 1945, the Labour Commissioner returned from leave and the Superintendent was then able to devote the whole of his time to the conduct of the census. He continued to have the advantage of the assistance of the Labour Commissioner's lady clerk up to the middle of July. The Census staff has had no previous training or experience in Census duties. This report is, therefore, an amateur production and is in no way the work of a statistician.

5. The census of the non-African population was taken on the night of the 29th April, 1945. The African census began on the 19th March and was not finally completed until the first week in July.

1945 African  
prior April  
[2nd April]

6. Method—The non-African Census was conducted as on previous occasions. Forms were distributed by District Commissioners, either by post or by hand. In the townships of Limbe and Blantyre most valuable assistance was given by the Indian Chamber of Commerce. Leading members of the Indian community undertook a house to house visit to ensure correct completion of the forms by persons with a limited knowledge of the English language. The thanks of Government is due to these gentlemen who so willingly offered their services in this important task.

7. The count of the African population was undertaken by 167 African enumerators, working under the immediate direction of the District Commissioner in each administrative area. Each enumerator had to visit, on an average, 72 villages and had to count approximately 12,250 persons—a not inconsiderable task. In the weeks immediately preceding the census, every administrative area, except Karonga, was visited by the Superintendent. Experimental counts were conducted in 16 Districts of the Protectorate with the objects of discovering the simplest and best methods of conducting the count and of instructing