

Provincial Forest Officer	Once
Assistant Superintendent of Police	Numerous
Consultant, W.W.S. P.W.D.	Twice
Geological Survey	Thrice
Colonial Film Unit	Once
Agricultural Officer, Ilorin	Once
Medical Officer, Lokoja	Monthly
Inspector of Mines Northern Provinces	Once
Director of Agriculture, Ibadan	Once
Provincial Engineer, Lokoja	Numerous
Inspector of Produce	Twice
Education Officers	Numerous
Veterinary Officer	Once
Postal Inspector	Once
Co-operative Inspecting Officer	Once
Provincial Education Officer, Okene	Numerous
Inspector of Works	Numerous

Events of Importance.

26. His Excellency the Governor and Staff, accompanied by Lady Macpherson, and the Acting Resident, visited Kabba on 13th September. After the presentation of addresses of welcome by the Obaro of Kabba, the Agbana of Isanlu, Kabba Scout Troop and the Kabba ex-Servicemen's Association, His Excellency replied and later watched a march past of School - children, scouts, and ex-servicemen. After luncheon with the District Officer, His Excellency and party departed for Lokoja.

27. Empire Day was celebrated by a parade of the police and the usual school sports.

Part III. Native Administration and Departmental Activities.

Aworo District.

28. The affairs of this district have gone on peaceably with the minimum of attention. Two visits have been made during the year. The road to Agbaja has been greatly improved and is now motorable all the year round.

29. With the co-operation of the Provincial Engineer the possibility of improving the water supply at Agbaja has been explored. So far no solution to the problem of raising the water, other than by the unsuitable means of a mechanical pump, has been devised.

30. The Olu Aworo recently visited Kabba for the first time for 8 years, and proceeded to Isanlu for the Divisional Chiefs Conference. He remarked that the last time he was in Mopa the people were still living on top of the hill.

31. A fire regrettably destroyed a large part of Agbaja this month. It is hoped that it will be possible to resite the destroyed buildings on an improved plan.

32. No advance has been made on the proposal to remove Aworo District from Kabba Division.

Bunu District.

33. This District has been adequately administered during the year with a minimum of supervision. During the rains much damage was done to the road from Otungbedde to Giro, and many of the bridges were washed away. Work is now proceeding on the repairs, and a new line for the descent of the escarpment beyond Giro has been surveyed and is being worked upon.

34. The Bunu Native Court Clerk at Olla was burgled on December 16th and the Court records mutilated. The culprit has not yet been discovered.

...../Ijumu District.

Ejama District.

35. This District continues to function as three semi-autonomous sub-districts, each with its own Group Head. The Central Council is merely a debating society in which the District Officer offers subjects for debate. The present organization is unwieldy and ineffectual. It is, however, a matter of grave doubt whether any other form of Native Authority organisation would be acceptable to the three groups.

36. The Group Head of Adde, Ajibulu Olu Adde died in January. But it was not until August, 1948 and then only with the assistance of the District Officer that the people of Adde were able to agree on the selection of the Oluyara of Elokpa as the new Group Head. Even now no decision has been reached as to the successor of Ajibulu as Village Head of the Adde Villages.

37. The Olugbedde of Gbedde died on 2nd January, 1949. No successor has so far been nominated, but the Zaura of the new Olugbedde was laid down and recorded in writing before the death of the last title holder, so that the appointment of a successor should not be a protracted business.

Kabba District.

38. The administration of Kabba District has proceeded smoothly throughout the year. The Native Authority and people of Kabba have taken a keen interest in the progress of the new Government buildings in the process of erection.

East & West Yagba Districts.

39. The re-organization of the Yagba Central Council into two separate Native Authorities of East and West Yagba was completed during the year with the appointment of the members of the Native Authorities' Councils. It is noteworthy that the more progressive elements of the community have been given representation of the Councils.

40. In the absence of a second Administrative Officer it is inevitable that the Yagba Districts should fail to receive the attention they need. But it can be said that the administration of these Districts is now less inefficient than it was under the Yagba Central Council. The administration of West Yagba is satisfactory. In East Yagba, however, the task of the Native Authority has been more difficult, and he cannot be said to have yet achieved the unity and cohesion necessary for efficient administration. Throughout the year petitions against the appointment of the Agbana of Isanlu as Native Authority of East Yagba have been coming in from the Mopa Youths Progressive Union. This Union, as patriotic sons of Mopa, consider the grounds that the Aloko was District Head of East Yagba before the formation of the Yagba Central Council. After the Governor's visit the Aloko was less recalcitrant in his attitude, and in December informed the District Officer that he would take his place as a member of the Native Authority's Council. But the Mopa Youths Progressive Union have not given up hope yet.

41. Apart from the opposition of the Aloko, his immediate entourage, and of the members of the Mopa Youths Progressive Union, the rest of East Yagba has settled down to the new regime and is co-operating with the Native Authority.

The followers of the ex-Owa of Egbe, who have apparently led that their petitions for the re-instatement of the ex-Village Head will not produce the desired result - making an injunction in the Supreme Court of Nigeria, in favour of Chief Asalu and others, to restrain the Village Head from exercising his functions. The cause has yet

General

43. At the Divisional Chiefs Conference held in September it was decided not to recommend an increase in General Tax for 1949/50. The tax therefore remains at 13/- per adult male, except in Aworo where the men pay 9/6 and the women 5/6.

44. A comparison of the assessment for 1947/48 and for 1948/49 is given below:-

Native Administration:	1947/48		1948/49	
	Actual Collection		Assessment	
Kabba	45814	10. 0	46823	4. 5
Yagba	45060	7. 11	45574	6. 11
Total	410874	17. 11	42397	11. 4

45. The work of both Native Treasuries has been satisfactory, though there is room for improvement in the Kabba Store ledger.

Judicial

46. Supreme and Magistrate's Courts. No criminal and one civil cases were heard by the Magistrate Kabba. Two criminal and one civil cases were heard by Magistrate Benin.

47. Native Courts: The Native Courts with the exception of Aworo continue to be burdened with a heavy load of divorce cases. The work of the Kabba, Aworo, Bunu, and West Yagba Courts has been satisfactory. As already recorded Ijumu Court shows some signs of improvement. East Yagba Court remains unsatisfactory, and retains, inspite of continual exhortation, a long backlog of outstanding cases.

48. 64 reviews were heard during the year of which 19 were criminal and 45 civil cases. The distribution of these was 8 from Kabba, 17 from Ijumu, 12 from Bunu, none from Aworo, 23 from East Yagba and 6 from West Yagba.

49. The following is a comparative table shewing the fees and fines collected in 1947 and 1948 :-

Court	1947		Fees		Fines	
	Criminal Cases	Civil Cases				
Kabba	52	290	222	1. 2	26	10. 6
Bunu	30	142	99	12. 9	33	15. 0
Ijumu	61	358	212	5. 4	70	0. 0
Aworo	22	32	22	2. 3	8	17. 6
East Yagba	117	390	297	6. 7	67	10. 6
West Yagba	60	368	249	5. 3	33	5. 0
Total:-	342	1580	4102	13. 4	239	18. 0

Court	1948		Fees		Fines	
	Criminal Cases	Civil Cases				
Kabba	46	232	182	14. 1	52	5. 0
Bunu	5	32	20	15. 7	10	10. 0
Ijumu	48	363	212	1. 0	59	5. 0
Aworo	18	40	34	3. 1	7	10. 0
East Yagba	111	401	435	1. 8	77	15. 4
West Yagba	54	280	267	10. 3	31	2. 6
Total	282	1348	4152	5. 8	218	7. 10

Police

50. Kabba: An ex-Nigeria Police Sergeant was appointed to take over the Kabba Native Administration Police in August. Since his arrival there has been an improvement in the appearance and smartness of the Kabba Police. It remains to be seen whether, with the material at his disposal he can make a police force which is as efficient and trustworthy as it is smart in appearance.

51. Yagba: The Yagba Police for some years have attained a fair standard of efficiency, and good work has been done during the year.

52. The following attended Courses of Instruction with the Nigeria Police in Lokoja:-

General Duties

Kabba
Adeleye Ayo
Gabriel Olumo
Joseph Olorunfemi
Lawrence Dare

Yagba.
Joseph Abel
Kolawole Ampitan
Emanuel Taiwo
Balogun Kayode.

53. Work proceeded on quarters for the Yagba Native Administration Police. Three blocks of 4 rooms, with grass roof and cement floors were built at Isanlu, and another at Okeri in West Yagba. Three more blocks are provided for in the 1949-50 estimates. The aim is eventually to provide each man with 2 rooms.

54. The Police lines in Kabba are on unpleasant sight. Too much was attempted on too little money with the result that squalid slums were created. Provision has been made in the 1949-50 estimates for new roofs for these buildings, and it is hoped that it will be possible to cement the floors.

55. The daily average number of prisoners in the Kabba Native Administration prison was 4.5 as compared with 6.33 for 1947. The health of the prisoners has been good. They have cost 5d per day to feed as compared with 6d last year.

56. The new prison building behind the Native Treasury was completed during the year, except for the kitchen and perimeter fence. Separate accommodation is now available for young prisoners, recidivists, and females.

57. Two Warders on Grade PL are employed. Both are ex-Servicemen.

58. Attendances at the Kabba Native Administration Dispensary for 1948 were 34101 as compared with 42768 for the year 1947. The explanation given by the Dispenser for this decrease is that of six commercial establishment selling English patent medicines were opened in Kabba during the year and that they attracted many former patients of the Kabba Dispensary.

59. The dispenser trained for the new dispensary to be built this dry season at Aghaja has been working in the Kabba Dispensary. The regular dispenser has now gone on a refresher course to Lokoja Hospital.

60. A septic Tank latrine was constructed on a site in the new market, and the old latrine at the old market has been demolished.

61. The vaccination figures for the year are :-
1778 in Kabba and 1592 in Yagba.

62. The Sudan Interior Mission dispensaries at Mopa, Isanlu and Egbe continued to treat a large number of patients.

63. Leper Settlement : Conditions are satisfactory for the approximate 1100 inmates of the Sudan Interior Mission Leper Settlement at Oyi, though some of the housing is not of a high standard. The activities of the Settlement are severely limited by lack of money. Dr. Morris estimates that the normal outgoings come to about £1800 p.a., and that the guaranteed income is about £1400. So that without a recurrent Government grant there is always a shortage of money. It is unlikely I understand, that a Government grant will be forthcoming before 1950-51.

Prisons

Medical & Health

- 64. A proposal to start a pilot leper village in Igbirra Division which will be medically supervised by Dr. Morris, is under discussion.
- 65. The new hospital and administration block at the Settlement were completed during the year.
- 66. The Mixed farming scheme has not so far made much progress. When money was available for the cattle, animals could not be procured. And when the cattle were available the money had been spent on something else. However eight cows were purchased from Mr. Hamber.
- 67. An attempt to grow hednacarpus trees at the Settlement proved a failure.

Posts & Telegraphs.

- 68. The postal agency at Aiyetoro was opened in September 1948. Applications to open postal agencies in Ife Yagba and Kponyan are under consideration by the postal authorities.
- 69. The new Post Office and Postmaster's quarter at Kabba are now nearing completion.

Education

- 70. Apart from the incidents at the Sudan Interior Mission school Isanlu, mentioned in paragraph 13, the schools have made steady progress. The Community Schools will be on a sounder basis when a Native Administration Visiting teacher takes over the function of Manager, and they all become Government-assisted. New Community Schools were opened at Aiyetoro Gbedde and Aiyegunle Gbedde, and a new Sudan Interior Mission School at Akutukpa.

Agriculture

- 71. The harvest in yams was fairly good in most areas, and very good in some. The rains stopped early this year, and in consequence guinea corn crops were below average.
- 72. Rainfall figures for the year compared with the last 4 years are :-

	1945	1946	1947	1948
Kabba	55.89	47.87	70.46	84.07
Yagba	49.27	42.30	48.71	60.84
Total:-	105.16	90.17	119.17	144.91

- 73. The most promising aspect of attempts at agricultural development has been the formation of the Yagba Farmers Co-operative. These Co-operators have collected together £700 and their agents are now in Lagos for the purpose of buying a 5 ton lorry. With this they propose to transport their produce to the big towns of the South. The scheme has been brought to the notice, and has the blessing of, the Co-operative Department. A similar scheme has been started in Gbedde where, with the possible exception of Kponyan, the richest farming land in the Division lies.

- 74. The other agricultural projects are interesting but are of much less significance. At Kabba Irish potatoes were cultivated successfully for the first time. A small patch of land, 46ft x 46 ft, near the cattle kraals was used. It was well manured and the seed planted in July. The yield was 208 lbs of potatoes. It is proposed to plant a whole acre in July 1949.

75. Nurseries. Kabba Nursery continues to produce a good supply of citrus trees, coconut palms and kola nut trees. 700 citrus, 500 coconut, and about 1500 kola nut trees have been planted for next seasons distribution. In Yagba, however, the new nursery is still in its infancy and its production in the coming year will be only 120 citrus and 200 coconut trees.

76. Mixed Farming Schemes. Demonstration farms at Aiyetoro and Isanlu have been discontinued since they had no noticeable effect on local farming methods. Instead, attempts are being made to show the value of the use of animal manure on small "mixed farms" at Kabba and Isanlu. It is too early yet to discuss the results.

77. Cattle : Attempts have been made over the last 2 years to get the cattle owners to kraal their animals. The results have been rather disappointing and the cattle owner still takes very little interest in his beasts - looking upon them only as a source of meat when the time comes for a celebration.

78. Kabba Dairy : It has been possible to step up the production of Kabba Dairy by bringing more animals within striking distance of Kabba. In 1947 10481 lbs of milk were bought, as compared with 12018 lbs in 1948. Provision has been made in the 1949-50 estimates to purchase a refrigerator and a churn, and it is proposed to make butter in Kabba Dairy, which should put the dairy on a sound financial footing.

Forestry

79. The posting of a Provincial Forest Officer to the Province has put new life into the Native Administration Forestry Departments.

Veterinary

80. On the advice of the Veterinary Officer Ilorin it has been decided to continue the training of the Veterinary Assistant at Vom, inspite of his failure to pass his examination.

Public Works

81. Government. Work has proceeded steadily throughout the year on the Post Office, Postmaster's quarter, the Divisional Office and District Officer's quarter at Kabba. These buildings are now nearly complete.

82. The Kampe Bridge works must now be treated as a Government work rather than that of Yagba Native Administration since Government is now paying 90% of the cost. Owing to the lack of a suitable pump, it was not possible to put in the foundations of two of the piers of the main bridge before the rains. However most of the other tasks were finished during the year. The vote of 1948-49 (£5000) was almost exhausted by the end of November, and work is now held up pending the allocation of more money.

83. Native Administration : The road from Kabba to Isanlu Makutu is now classified as an "Administrative Road", and £615 was allowed for its maintenance.

84. Some of the bridges on the Otungbedde - Lake road were damaged during the rains, and work is proceeding to repair them. A new line down the escarpment between Giro and Akutu-kpa has been surveyed and a new road is in the process of construction.

85. Improvements have been made to the dry season road between Jegge and Okari, and this is now a reasonably good road. Further improvements will be carried out in 1949. This road is a notable effort in self-help, since the only help given by the Native Administration was the supervision of a Road Overseer and the loan of tools. Otherwise all the work was done by the villagers living along the route.

86. A new garage was completed for the Yoruba Native Administration Lorry at Isanlu Makutu.

87. Kabba Reading Room was opened in November. A librarian has been appointed and the Reading Room is now open on week days from 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Mining.

88. The London and African Mining Trust gave up their option on Hamber's reef at Okolom and left in February. Hamber has since resumed operations there, and has put in a manager to supervise the work while he continues to live at Ibadan.

89. Sandford is working a gold lease at Bakin Kogi, where Hamber also owns a lease which he intends to work in the coming year.

90. The depredations of illegal gold miners continue to cause concern. The principle areas of their operations are Odosin - Odogbe, Katcha-Katcha, Bakin Kogi, and Isanlu Esa. The Beacon Inspector at Egbe is keeping an eye on the situation.

Trade and Economics.

91. Prices have remained fairly steady throughout the year. The price of castor seed has dropped by 3d per lb, and for a time the firms stopped buying it. Since the withdrawal of the control on the routes of commercial lorries, many operators from the south have been buying produce in this Division.

92. Cocoa production is not widespread but I understand that the quality of Kabba cocoa is considered high, and it is often bought to be mixed with low grade cocoa in order to make the latter gradeable.

93. The export of tobacco and peppers, especially from Gbedde remains high.

94. Produce exported, not including an unknown quantity through the Western Provinces, was :-

Palm Kernels	=	88 tons
Cocoa	=	82 "
Castor Seeds	=	187½ "
Sheanuts	=	1½ "

Mission

95. Apart from the dispute at the Sudan Interior Mission School Isanlu, relations between the Missions and the people have been good.

96. On the occasion of the Governor's visit Rev. Father Duffy of the Roman Catholic Mission Kabba put in a complaint about the treatment accorded to Roman Catholic Mission applications to open new schools.

Housing &

Social welfare

97. An ordered housing scheme is proceeding in Kabba Town. A new layout has been mapped with the prospective sites indicated. These sites are numbered and allotted to those desirous of building when their plans have been approved.

98. New market stalls of brick and cement are being constructed in Kabba Market.

99. A scheme is in the exploratory stages to move Isanlu Makutu from its present site, and rebuild it to an orderly plan in an area 3 miles to the East and near to Isanlu Moppe. A site with plenty of level ground and a good water supply has been provisionally earmarked.

100. At Kabba the town tennis Court has been repaired and is now in use. A suitable site for a football field for the use of the whole community is under consideration. A tennis Court is planned for Isanlu Makutu and a site has been chosen.

101. No special provision is made for the destitute, as such persons are cared for by their relatives. However they may be given free medical attention by the Native Administration Dispensary.

102. Juvenile delinquency is not a problem in this Division. Young malefactors are dealt with by their parents.

Part IV - General.

103. There is a very progressive spirit abroad in the main population centres of this Division, as is witnessed by such efforts at self-help as the Mopa Dam and the Jegge-Okeri road, and by the re-iterated demands for a cottage Hospital and telegraphic communications etc. Very real progress is now being made to meet these demands. But there is a danger of too much emphasis being laid on the provision of public utilities and services to the neglect of economic projects upon which the utilities and services must eventually depend for their upkeep. Too great a proportion of the revenues of the Native Treasuries is spent on salaries and too small a proportion development works. Until we can introduce new and more economic methods into the main industry - agriculture - this state of affairs will continue.

104. From the administrative point of view some progress has been made with the reorganization of Yagba into two Native Authority areas. But the Division still lacks intensive touring. Both Yagba Districts, Bunu, and Aworo have not received the attention they need. It is to be hoped that it will be possible to provide the remedy in the shape of a second Administrative Officer, during the coming year.

MCN.

Asst. District Officer,
1/c Kabba Division.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1948, IGBIRRA DIVISION
PART I.

The anomaly that has long existed in Igbirra, an almost complete lack of educated and well-to-do persons other than Native Administration employees, shows no sign of changing. As long as the successful and educated, if not employed by the Native Administration, leave the area progress will not be achieved since these people should be the leaders, who by their example, encourage the backward to improve themselves. It means further that informed and intelligent public opinion is almost entirely lacking, an unhealthy and undesirable state of affairs. This is only too well illustrated in the case of Ogori where the intelligent and informed public opinion does exist and is deliberately stultified. The mass of Igbirras are as backward and ignorant as they were twenty years ago. This is not to say that there has been no progress in the past and in the year under review, but it has come through the influence of administrative officers, imposed from the top instead of growing from below.

2. Some improvement has resulted from the widening of the representation on the Atta of Igbirra's Council, but it is difficult to obtain the free expression of opinion that is so essential. Members are lax in performing their duty of consulting the sections of the public they represent and of keeping them informed of matters discussed and decisions taken at the Council meetings.

3. The number of cases, mainly matrimonial, heard by all Native Courts and the large amount of time spent by all District Heads and many Village Heads sitting in court has resulted in the Native Authority and Council approving a scheme, now under consideration, for relieving all executive officers of the Igbirra Native Administration from judicial functions, replacing them by paid full-time judges and at the same time reducing the number of

members in all courts to three. In the Lokoja Subordinate Native Authority this was done some years ago.

4. Every effort to encourage Village Councils to become an essential link in the administrative machine has been made but District and Village Heads have still to grasp fully that they are responsible to their people through the councils. The lessons of the past are not easily unlearned and the ordinary man is unused to voicing his opinions much less to having them listened to and welcomed. Only too often in the past it got him into trouble and it would be most unwise to pretend that even today he has not got good reason to hesitate.

5. A petition from Mr. Obaḥemi Awolowo, Barrister-at-Law, on behalf of the people of Ogori asking for transfer to the Kukuruku Division of Benin Province was received in August and the decision of the Chief Commissioner Northern Provinces is awaited. His Excellency the Governor referred to this petition in his speech to the Atta and Council when he visited Okene in September. He advised the people of Ogori to think well whether they were not very much better off as part of a comparatively rich Native Administration which already spent more on them than was received in revenue. This separatist move was bound to come in view of the unhappy relations which have existed for so long between Ogori and Igbirra.

6. The new Village Head+Council for Lokoja, appointed in 1947, did not take long to fall from grace in spite of a good start. The basic trouble is the lack of real public spirit; few, if any, of them can divorce themselves from the personal outlook. The trading elements in the Council would like to see one of their number as Village Head and are constantly intriguing

intriguing to this end. Matters were not improved when the Village Head and the Native Treasurer were responsible for certain irregularities for which they had to apologise to the rest of the Council. The position at the end of the year was more satisfactory but the ill-feeling is still there and a purge may have to be undertaken in the near future.

7. Individual assessment for taxation was extended to cover the whole of both the Igbirra and Lokoja areas this year. No serious difficulty was encountered and at the time of writing collection is virtually completed. A considerable increase in revenue has resulted. The question of the continuance of the taxation of women is under consideration in Igbirra. The Atta and Council are somewhat exercised in their minds as a result of the example of recent events in Abeokuta and a series of articles in certain local news papers drawing a comparison.

8. The year showed a bumper yam crop, the best for 30 years, but the beniseed crop was merely a good average. The early advent of the harmattan makes the prospects of the guineacorn crop far from good. Food, however, is plentiful though prices remain unjustifiably high. Unwarrantably high retail prices in the markets are charged for all imported goods in short supply, in particular kerosene, soap and sugar.

9. The Ossara Settlement Scheme is still in abeyance owing to lack of technical staff. It has been decided that the original scheme stood little chance of success and it is hoped that in due course an Experimental Tractor Unit will replace the original scheme, this suggestion having received approval in principle. The only work done during the year has been on improvements to the road from Ossara - Egain and a survey of the area undertaken

undertaken by the Igbirra Native Administration Land Settlement Officer.

10. Development projects during the year have been confined mainly to the opening of new Native Administration elementary schools and the improvement of village water supplies and markets.

(SGD) A. F. G. ANONKINS.

District Officer,
i/c Igbirra Division.

AAU: