

17-11-08

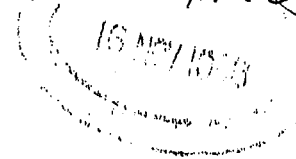
5500

THE RESIDENCY,
LOKOJA PROVINCES,

3MP7
1908

5500/1908 Report

LOKOJA, Sept Qtr.
30th September, 1908.



Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith the Lokoja Provincial Report No. 3 for the Quarter ending 30 September, 1908.

2. The following Returns accompany the Report:-

- Quarterly abstract Revenue.....Kabba
- Do. do. do.Bassa
- Do. do. (above Combined) Lokoja Provinces
- Return of Freed Slaves.....Bassa (~~with Return~~)
- Do. " "Kabba \rightarrow Nil Return
- Return of Travelling
- Return of Births and Deaths (Lokoja Town).

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

H. Osannore

Resident, Lokoja Provinces.

*Q. 1/11/08
I have received the
Report No. 3 for the
Quarter ending 30th
Sept. 1908. It has
been forwarded to
the Resident.*

RESIDENT MAJOR LARYMORE.

General, Political, Administrative.

1. Mr. Assistant Resident Lang relieved 3rd. Class Resident Mr. Sciortino on 19th July. The latter proceeding to take over the Bama Province.
2. The handing over Certificate shows that Mr. Sciortino had everything in most excellent order and the Books were well up to date.
3. In August, Assistant Resident Mr. Lonsdale from Ilorin visited Kabba in connection with the YAGBA District which had been recommended for transfer to Ilorin.

It was found, however, on visiting the District, that the arrangement was not feasible, and by His Excellency's directions nothing further will be done in the matter.

4. Assistant Resident Mr. Groom returned from leave on 23 July.

In August he proceeded to OKENE, the chief Town in the EGBIRA and KUKURUKU Division, to establish a Station there.

5. To date, with 15 Police, Mr. Groom has done well, and is gradually gaining the confidence of the people.

There, ^{are} a few who still continue to loot and murder harmless traders, while passing by their fastnesses on hill-tops and it is hoped to induce these offenders to come down and live on the level with their own farms and water supply.

The sight of the Patrol, about to proceed through the

this District, will I hope facilitate compliance with the above arrangement.

6. Mr. Assistant Resident Woodhouse whom I had intended for the EGBIRA and KUKURUKU Division was on Mr. Green's return appointed to take charge of the Niger and Koton-Karifi Division.

I wish to record the efficiency of the general work done by this young Officer since he ^{has} been in the Protectorate (May last), and I feel certain that in due course he will be found to be a most useful Official.

Mr. Woodhouse took a good degree at Oxford, and was only a few places out in last year's Indian Civil Examination, and as he is fond of office work, and is most tidy, I mention his name for consideration in the event of a vacancy in the Secretariat.

I do so entirely for his own good as personally I should be most sorry to lose his services.

7. In Basse, Captain Byng-Hall proceeded on leave on the 10th September being relieved by Mr. Scicetino from Kabba.
8. Assistant Resident Maxwell-Lyte continues in charge of ANKPA and from reports seems to be doing well. Captain Byng-Hall is however a difficult Official to replace, from the OKPOTO point of view, who believe there is no one else in the World to approach him in every attribute which may appeal to them.
9. The Political Situation generally speaking continues as well as can be expected at Kabba, Mr. Lang, at present in charge, is anxious to be freed so as to visit distant points which have been left owing to their inaccessibility, and I propose at an early date to take his place for a while at Kabba to enable him to get away.
10. A District Superintendent of Police at Kabba Headquar-

*From the [unclear] file
will be [unclear]*

Headquarters - as at the Basaa Headquarters, would for this reason alone be a very great advantage if the extra could possibly be managed.

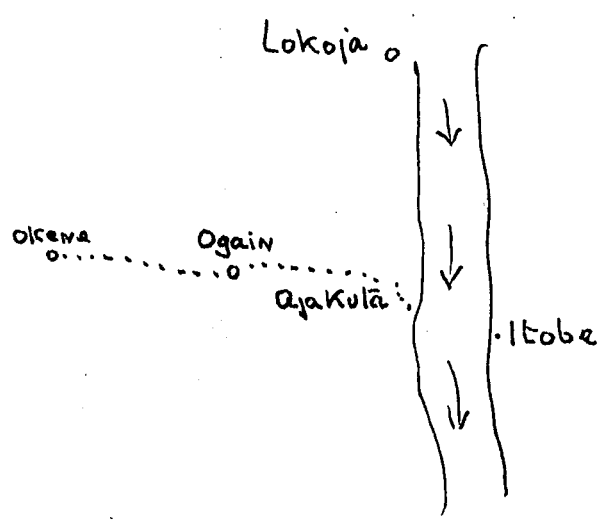
His Excellency recently commented that Lokoja could not do without a District Superintendent of Police as there would be no one to prosecute. But the same argument applies equally to Kabba where the Provincial Court of the Kabba Province proper exists and where some serious cases are always being tried.

P.S. - Please see report on page 10

11. Once the Annual Tribute commences to be paid Officers alone at Stations are more tied down than ever, as they must be present on its arrival (November - February).

12. I am glad to be able to report a very perceptible increase in the numbers of people who now come in for their petty quarrels &c to be settled by District Officers it points to a great increase in confidence which means earlier prospect of general advancement in every direction.

13. As an instance of this, I would quote from the EGBIRA Divisional Report in respect to a place called OGAIN between AJAKUTA and OKENE



Ogain village is on a precipitous hill and was taken by assault a couple of years ago. To-day Mr. Green reports

follows:-

"The OGAIN-AJAKUTA Road is constantly patrolled by
"Police and continues to be in a satisfactory con-
"dition and traders are using it freely. The
"chief of OGAIN appears very friendly continually
"sending his messengers in here (OKENE) On the
"last occasion he sent me an elaborate eating pot
"worked by himself as a proof of his friendship.

"It is satisfactory to feel that the reprisals
"on OGAIN which were necessitated by its evil do-
"ings had such an excellent result and that no
"feeling of bitterness remains.

"The trade of AJAKUTA had gone up very ap-
"preciably and continues to improve".

14. It is however the population that is lacking. Within 20 miles of Lokoja there are thousands of acres lying idle, while the price of food steadily rises owing to demand always exceeding supply I suppose it is impossible to hurry matters in this direction.
15. KUKURUKU, the Southern and South-western portion of the Egbira Division is still shy and disinclined to be friendly. Some of the larger places however are sending in frequently for the settlement of local difficulties which is a good sign.
16. KOMINIO, I am sorry to say continues obdurate and will not listen to reason.
- Some weeks ago this place captured about 30 EGBIRA men and women as hostages against a debt owed by some Egbiras.
- The Chief declines to release them and will have to be visited by the coming patrol.
- He has anticipated this and sent in an importunate message to the effect that if the Government should decide to pun-

20. I have to report a small fight which occurred while an alleged murderer was being arrested by Police near OKENE in Egbirra.

The Prisoners following turned out with a view to rescuing him and firing off their arrows at the handful of Police hit the Prisoner instead of the escort.

All the known native antidotes were tried and a runner was also sent in to Lokoja for European medicine but the unfortunate man died before the messenger got back.

One Policeman was also hit but the arrow was evidently not poisoned as he was none the worse.

20 A. In Bassa Dekina has ceased to be a Station and ITOBE continues to develop into a thriving place.

Its population increases weekly, and in a short time it will, if things go on as at present, be quite a large town.

20 B. In this connection Mr. Sciortino reports regarding the move to Itobe "This has been of great advantage as it has brought us into close touch with a thickly populated District. Itobe is a rising place with a thriving trade and from my own observation an increasing one".

21. At ANKPA the other Station in Bassa, Assistant Resident Mr. Maxwell-Lyte is in charge and matters are progressing quietly but I think satisfactory.

22. In a recent report, Mr. Sciortino states as follows:- concerning the Itobe - Ankpa Road.

"The Road is a broad smooth track with well defined gutters.

"It is excellent for ordinary carriers but owing to a very steep hill midway between Egbirra and Ogumi no wheeled traffic could possibly go that way.

There are large well populated towns placed at
"very convenient intervals along the road and good
"resthouses have been built.

^J
Eguli has a large and increasing market and
"thriving trade. I recognized many well-known faces
"of traders from Lekoja and numbers come from Ida.

^J
Eguli is ruled by a woman and even the Ata of Ida
"is said to send envoys to consult her occasionally".

In regard to Ankpa, Mr. Sciortino is not as enthusiastic as
was Captain Byng-Hall. He says:-

"In my opinion the Station is very badly laid out and
"the ground, a sandy loam seems to be very poor for
"gardening.

The European Officers are very badly housed in
"grass huts which built a few months ago are being
"rapidly destroyed by white ants which are very pre-
"valent here. The Medical Officer strongly condemns
"the present Quarters and indeed I beg to point out
"that the Officers at Ankpa are worse housed now and
"living under worse conditions than prevailed in most
"Provinces 5 years ago.

The water supply is the chief difficulty otherwise
"I would advocate an early move to the ridge opposite
"where the ground having been under cultivation the
"clearing is ready for us. But the Officer Commanding
"points out that this is too far from water".

23. All the above disadvantages have already been fully recog-
nized by me, but it is so much easier to point them out than to
suggest a remedy.

An assured water supply in this only recently settled Dis-
trict has to be of the very first importance and therefore the
Fort must be in its close proximity and no one would be prepared
to

with the imported spirit.

30. I expect an early visit to Bassa by the Bishop of Western Equatorial Africa would be assured if Mr. Sciortino's views could but reach him.

31. A Road traverse from Itobe to Ankpa is attached, and as I have not had an opportunity of copying it, I should feel much obliged if it could be returned when done with by the Intelligence Officer.

32. I regret to have to report that confusion has arisen in Bassa in connection with identifying names as pronounced by Natives who have brought in Tribute, and those entered in the Tribute Register.

There is, in my experience, only one way to avoid this and that is by issuing a "Village Sheet" to every ^{Payer} ~~Payee~~.

I had to do it originally throughout the Kabba Province where many names exist which are most difficult to pronounce and spell, and again in BORGU, which is worse.

On this Sheet is entered the $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen bits of information required, and on its production the Village it refers to can at once be turned up in the Tribute Register.

It is of course spelt the same, and can be easily identified.

I have given instructions for these Sheets to be issued to all concerned without further delay.

33. A large Map of the Kabba Province ¹250,000 has disappeared in an extraordinary manner.

It was a joint production of many Officials and contained a great amount of information even if it was not all accurate. As a last resource Mr. Cator has been asked as I believe he did take some Maps to England but although he recollects the Map well he knows no more.

In case it may have found its way to Headquarters, I

*Dr. Bell you
issued for tablets
to all 9/11/30
entirely from map
found at 1/11/30
at 1/11/30
by 1/11/30*

I now record its strange disappearance with a hope that it may yet be forthcoming. It can at once be identified by a violently blue Niger painted in with Blue ink, paint at the time being not available.

20. from
1900

RESIDENT MAJOR LARYMORE.

J U D I C I A L.

34.	Kabba	Bassa	TOTAL
Criminal	24	13	37
Civil	9	-	9
Informal	40	49	89

Some Murder Cases have been tried at Kabba, the offender being Egbiras or Kukurukus.


35. There has been an increase in the number of Criminal Cases, but I ascribe this to greater confidence amongst the people who are coming forward more readily to give information.

36. There has been some misunderstanding I think concerning Mr. Groom's Judicial Powers.

Mr. Groom was given increased Powers I believe during his last tour and as far as I know did not abuse them. On his return from leave as he was to take charge of the Egbira and Kukuruku Division I applied for an increase for him and this was granted but cancelled by wire a few days later.

The Resident Kabba reports "Since Mr. Groom's Powers have been curtailed to one month he is working under great disadvantage as Prisoners have in several cases to be remanded until I can go to OKENE and try them. This is not understood by the Natives". Witnesses have also to be detained which costs money.

I would therefore ask for the matter to be re-considered.

*dealt with
made to 5029
1908*


The increase approved but later cancelled was one year's Imprisonment, 12 lashes, and £25 fine, and Civil Actions up to £25.

Native Courts.

37. I wish to establish a Court at OKENE as soon as the Division has settled down a little more and become accustomed to the continued presence of a Political Officer and a Police Detachment.

At first it might deal solely with Matrimonial and domestic troubles which often assume serious proportions from small beginnings and later be given increased Powers for Criminal offences.

38. There is nothing of importance to record under this heading except that in the Alkali's Court in Lokoja the Malam(ALFAKOLO) who has been acting in place of the late Alkali has been confirmed by the Council.

He seems to be doing well.

RESIDENT MAJOR LARYMORE.

TRADE.

39. There has been an appreciable improvement at AJAKUTA owing to the patrolling of the Police between OKENE and this place.

Traders now pass fearlessly, and the District is becoming quite settled.

The Niger Company and Holt both have Stations at AJAKUTA.

40. In Bassa, Mr. Sciortino reports a similar advance at ITOBE the result of the ITOBE-^JEQUILI-ANKPA Road.

41. Unfortunately a great prejudice exists against our coin; and the brass rod is still preferred to a threepenny piece - its equivalent. Native Traders employed by European Firms frequently insist (in distant places) on getting 6d. per rod and this upsets the Natives and confuses them.

It would be an advantage if their ^{5d} rods could be done away with altogether.

I quote the following from a Report by Mr. Sciortino, and would suggest that trading Firms be addressed in the matter by Government.

*Extracted Deal with
M. M. A. 5921
1908
1/12*

"Another Factor is the unfortunate preference
"European Trading Firms have for disposing
"of their goods for "kind". In many cases
"they decline cash for certain articles. I
"can quote one instance as having taken
"place in my presence.

Headman AMAKUTU sent in here 4 men on a

"^{ra} trading venture with me on my return to
from Akpa.

" These men sold their loads of palmkernels to
"the Niger Company receiving in exchange various
"kinds of cloth etc.

They then produced some cash (doubtless what
"was paid to Anakutu for roadmaking) and chose a
"certain gaudy print.

To Their amazement they were told they could
"not have this for cash but for palmkernels.

Another kind they chose they were told they
"could have in return for palmoil only. This is
"not right and I take it traders acting thus could
"be prosecuted for refusing legal tender. I
"should like the Attorney General's opinion on
"this matter. Here are four unsophisticated men
"from the bush told that coin could not buy certain
"articles. Traders do this to force them to bring
"native products - but at certain times in the
"year palmkernels are not obtainable, yet the
"demand for cloth continues. Traders complain
"that the Administration makes no serious effort
"to increase trade. Here are chances of a new
"District being opened up to trade. Men brought
"in by Political Officers after a good deal of
"persuasion, and at great inconvenience to them-
"selves are told that the coin the White man has
"introduced cannot buy certain articles they re-
"quired.

The Residents tell them brassrods are not
"legal tender.

The Traders refuse cash."

Extracted to W.P. 5921
1908

A.S. Is this
legal if not
take up at once
Hendley to S.S.
Niger Co. to J. J. J. J.

Apr Extracts to M.A. 5921
11/11/1908

" Another odious feature of the system of
"trading out here is that if a European goes into
"a "Canteen" and requests a certain kind of cloth
"it is sold to him for cash, but the price is
"whispered to him. The Native wanting to buy it
"is told he must bring produce and not cash; when
"he brings produce, he is told the price of the
"cloth which was sold to the European for 2/- is
"to be had for 2/-6d. worth of kernels, or palmoil
"as the case may be, I am prepared to substantiate
"these statements by giving names if required.

It is very disappointing to have our efforts
"in fostering trade met by this sort of thing. I
"have no personal objections to trading companies
"dealing thus with Native Traders; but it is ad-
"ding insult to injury to ascribe the non-increase
"of trade to a lack of interest by Political Of-
"ficers.

Finally certain prints which were greatly in
"demand have been entirely withdrawn as it was
"found that Natives getting these in return for a
"nominal 5/- worth of kernels, or other produce,
"sold them for 4/- cash in market. I fail to see
"where the objection to this comes in, but that
"there is an objection is evident from the fact
"of withdrawal. In spite of all this however,
"trade is increasing; but it appears to be the
"correct thing for traders to state that trade is
"decreasing".

6

42. Efforts continue to be made to induce the OKPOTOS to bring in well cleaned Rubber and specimens are on view at Anka where ^{they} are always pointed out to people coming in from the District.

43. It is reported that all the Cotton Seed supplied by the British Cotton Growing Association has been distributed and planted and the crop promises well.

W. G. A.

There is such a demand among Natives themselves however for Cotton, for their own weaving, that the British Cotton Growing Association cannot feel assured that most of it will come in to them, especially as their price is no inducement.

30 September, 1908.

RESIDENT MAJOR LARYMORE.

POLICE & PRISONS.

44. I am glad to report most satisfactorily on the Police in both Provinces.

In Bassa, the Resident wishes to specially record the excellent manner in which the District Superintendent of Police Mr. Chartres has carried out his duties.

45. The system of small posts which I commenced a few months ago is working admirably.

They are constantly visited, men are always passing to and fro and in this way touch is kept up and any pending trouble is heard about and checked in time.

There are one or two large places in Bassa where the post consists of 1 single Police Constable (more cannot be spared).

He is ^{respected} ~~expected~~, and continues to maintain excellent order.

A year ago the same places could only have been entered with half a Battalion of troops.

46. The system however is a heavy drain on the Police Detachments of both Provinces and an increase in the strength would be most advantageous.

This has been applied for to the Inspector General of Police in connection with next year's Estimates.

47. In this connection the Resident Bassa asks whether a small Detachment of West African Frontier Force from Ankpa could not be stationed at ITOBE to find the Local Treasurer

Treasury guard, and thus relieve the Police. I will submit the question to the Officer Commanding 2nd. Northern Nigeria Regiment but fear the idea will not meet with approval - loss of efficiency being the general cry against all such small Out-Detachments.

48. A good prison has been built at Itobe with properly separated accommodation for female Prisoners.

RESIDENT MAJOR LARYMORE.

M I S C E L L A N E O U S.

49. Slavery. There have been no Cases of Slavery reported during the Quarter.

50. Revenue. The Tribute for the year is being brought in.

I had a discussion recently with a Political Officer from a Northern Province who maintained that His Excellency's wire No. 2219/1908 which lays down that Tribute must be collected in its entirety and that the Government Share must not be collected independently of or prior to the Native Share, was not intended to mean that each part payment should be apportioned, until Total Assessment was paid up. I take it that this is meant.

In Kano, however, if instalments on account are ever brought the whole instalment I hear is credited to Government.

I should like to know whether I am correct in apportioning each instalment according to the % laid down to Government and Native Share.

51. Stations. Under Heading Stations the Resident Bessa reports

"It is now completed.

"Residency, District Superintendent of Police's

"Quarters, Court House, District Superintendent

"of Police's Office and Store, Resthouse and
Gard

*Extracted to MP 3/157
1908*

*Just correct
info.*

"Gao1 are all well built mud houses.

" An excellent Parade ground separates
"the lines".

Very good result

I wish in conclusion, to record my ^{appreciation} ~~admiration~~ of
the excellent manner in which Mr. Sciortino has laid
out this place, there are over 200 trees planted in
avenues which have been put down in rectangular gravel-
led paths.

A flourishing vegetable garden supplies fresh
vegetables daily.

Mr. Sciortino commends the assistance he himself
received from Mr. Maxwell-Lyte and Mr. Chartres and
also desires to express his thanks to the Acting
Forestry Officer for having supplied the trees &c.

LOKOJA TOWN.

52. A new Prison is being taken in hand by the Council which will be a great advantage.

53. The Council at a full meeting has decided to purchase a Fire Engine, pumped by hand (6-8 men on each side of the Tank which is run on wheels) and capable of throwing a Jet of water 200 - 300 feet. A number of Buckets running to and fro from the nearest water supply keep the Tank supplied.

I have written to England and hope the disastrous fires from which Lokoja is continuously suffering may be avoided in the future.

Might I recommend that the following MOHAMMEDAN Festivals be recognized as Government Holidays as is done in some other Mohammedan Countries

A. KARAMIN SALLA

(The new Moon after the month's fast) about end of October....1 day

B. BABAN SALLA

(about Feb. The Mohammedan new year.....1 day

C. WATAN SHARA

(about 3 weeks after Baban Salla concluding that Festival 1 day

At present some Offices give leave, others refuse, and much disappointment is caused thereby.

Perhaps "C" might be regarded but "A & B" I think should certainly be recognized.

*See above
Have already been
forwarded at Lokoja
54. Council for
59/15/1908*
A similar Return of Births & Deaths from other Head Quarters of Provinces would be interesting for comparison. It is compiled in Lokoja by wards who report daily to the Council. Extracts to Mr. 59/15/1908

H. D. Samuella