

PART I - DIVISIONAL SUMMARY.

The Coronation of Her Majesty was celebrated with enthusiasm throughout the Division and was the occasion of many expressions of loyalty by people of all walks of life.

2. Fair planting rains in March were followed by near drought in April and after a very wet July the August dry spell was unusually severe. As a result yams, the staple food crop, did badly and prices rose sharply towards the end of the last quarter. Other food crops did fairly well. Cocoa, tobacco and cotton were only fair but the Castor yield was good.

3. The erratic rainfall had a disastrous effect on roads and the Kabba - Isanlu section of trunk road A6 was closed for the greater part of the wet season. As in previous years it was difficult to get an adequate supply of satisfactory road labour at the approved rate of pay. In the Yagba area this difficulty was overcome to a certain extent by the creation of ad hoc road committees whose members organised recruiting and supervision on behalf of the Native Authorities.

4. There was widespread satisfaction throughout the Division when it was announced in October that His Honour had approved grants of £13,570 for improvements to feeder roads in the Division. A Development Officer was posted to Kabba at the end of October to take charge of bridge, culvert and drift construction on these roads.

5. The posting of a second Administrative Officer to the Division at the end of May enabled the important political post of Touring Officer Yagba to be manned for the second half of the year.

6. The Women's Training Centre was officially opened in May by the Hon. Aliyu, M.H.R., Makama of Bida. The only other Minister who visited the Division during the year was the Hon. Peter Achimugu, Minister of Natural Resources and Local Industries, who came twice.

7. The Central Constitutional crisis of April over Mr. Enahoro's Self-Government motion was followed with keen interest and answers to the 'Seven Questions' indicated that the people of Kabba and Jumu were opposed to Self-Government in 1956; that the people of Ijumu were divided on this question and that the people of East and West Yagba favoured Self-Government in 1956. The entire Division was opposed to weakening the ties between the Division and other Regions.

8. The Chief of Kabba's Council has functioned smoothly since the infusion of elected members in 1952. There was some friction between the Chief of Jumu and his Council during the earlier part of the year but at the close of the year they were working together in harmony.

9. In August the Ijumu Central Council agreed in principle that the Olu Ijumu should be appointed for life and in November they confirmed this and recommended that the Ijumu Central Council should be replaced by the Chief of Ijumu in Council and that the Council should be reduced from 38 ex-officio members to 36 elected members of whom at least 17 must be chiefs or title holders. Proposals are being worked out for His Honour's approval.

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10. The people of Avere and Aduge who had been agitating since January 1954 to return to the Kabba Native Authority Area were told in November that their request could not be granted. It is still too early to say whether the matter is closed.

11. In West Yagba disputes over the Village Headship of Oche and Oge are not yet settled. The Chief of West Yagba in Council has agreed that the Council should be increased by six elected members. His Honour has approved the proposal and detailed rules are being prepared.

12. The Yagba Native Authorities increased the flat rate of tax by 5/- to 11 but even this drastic measure failed to lift the Treasury out of its state of financial unsoundness on Personal Expenditures. The unsoundness is technical and due to the salary bill for teachers at N.A. Community Schools, which is almost entirely reimbursable.

13. In Kabba and Bunu the flat rate was increased from 14/6d to 17/- and in Tjumu from 14/- to 16/6d. The Kabba, Bunu and Tjumu Native Authorities have wisely decided to raise tax to 21 in 1954-55, but this will include an element of 1/6d for District Council funds.

14. A comparison of Census figures with tax assessment registers in Tjumu and West Yagba revealed discrepancies due in part to the practice of exempting over-age Senior Primary School boys from tax and in part to an incomplete tax count. Prosecutions are proceeding before the Native Courts.

15. The slow rate of tax collection in East and West Yagba caused concern during September, October and November; but most of the tax was in by the middle of December. In Tjumu tax collection was interrupted while a recount was held.

16. The first year of bicycle licensing has been most successful. The number of bicycles is about 20% higher than was originally estimated.

17. Proposals for a Divisional Court of Appeal have been approved by His Honour and it is hoped that the Court will start to function early in 1954. The Courts of First Instance are as popular as ever and continue to handle a heavy volume of matrimonial causes.

18. The first organised Adult Literacy session ended in April and 870 students, including a fair proportion of women, passed the examination and were awarded certificates.

IAH.

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PART I

In the 1952 Provincial Report it was recorded that the birth pangs of democracy in Igbirra had produced a strong and healthy child. The child has developed slowly though surely throughout this year, but it has also demonstrated once more only too clearly that, to change the metaphor, democracy is not in itself a panacea for all ills and does not automatically result in an immediate Utopia. In fact the year has been^a turbulent and uneasy one for the Igbirras and they are clearly far from through their troubles.

2. At the first meeting of the Council it was stressed that the primary duty of a Native Authority was to keep the peace in its area and eighteen months later this has just had to be restressed by the Resident. There were no major disorders but the Native Authority Police had to deal with a number of minor affrays and on still more occasions the provocation was given that might have resulted in blows. The basic cause is the persistently vindictive streak in the Igbirra character which has always prevented them forgiving or forgetting a real or imagined wrong. Last year's report ended by saying their future depended on them burying old hatchets and this year's can only note that they have not yet done so.

3. The Council on the other hand and more particularly their Working Committee have throughout the year shown great sense and moderation over all important issues. They have come closely into contact with ^ahad facts and have learnt a great deal from them, but they have not been able to convince their followers to the same extent that a government cannot pander to every popular whim and must compromise and and move slowly. The strain on their leaders of resisting

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pressure from the rank and file in the interests of what they alone know to be best for the people as a whole has been intense and all the progress actually made during the year is thanks to them.

4. The main great step forward has been the completion of the long awaited reorganisation of the Courts. Agreement was at last reached in the first half of the year on the choice of members for all District Courts in such fashion that all have at least one member acceptable to each political side. Another six months was needed however before a similar compromise could be reached over the reform of the Appeal Court and it was only at the end of the year that final recommendations were agreed upon.

5. The importance of a whole time independent judiciary to the Igbirras can best be appreciated when it is realised that the revised estimate of Court revenue this year is over thirty per cent of their General Tax. Swift and efficient settlement of cases should lead to the devotion of more time to more productive pursuits, but the main gain has been the virtual elimination of fears of politics affecting judgments.

6. The other outstanding improvement during 1953 has been in the work of the Police force, particularly during the fights already mentioned. A very high proportion of those involved, on both sides, have been arrested and promptly charged before the courts, which have also co-operated efficiently. Thus whereas formerly weeks might elapse between a fight and a fine now in the latest case, over Christmas 1953, the court sentences were pronounced less than twelve hours after the trouble occurred - a much more salutary procedure.

7. On the other hand the hoped for development in District Administration has not progressed so well.

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The intention was that the District and Village Heads when freed of their court work would be able to become full time executive agents of the District Councils, but in practice it has been found that by the time men have reached the rightful position of Family Head or Clan Chief Priest they are likely also to have reached an age at which they are physically incapable of doing District Heads' Work. Further basic reorganisation is in fact very likely to be required before the District Administration becomes a living force.

8. Economically the expected trade retrogression has not materialised and little difficulty is being experienced in collecting the tax despite the 16.5% increase this year which the new Council has taken the responsibility for imposing. The financial result has been to enable next year's estimates to be so framed as to achieve soundness within the meaning of Financial Memoranda, which gives great satisfaction locally.

9. The reserves of the Treasury however are not a sufficiently high proportion of its revenue to enable the development funds available for the next Five Year Plans to suffice for all desirable projects. During the period of the last plan the reserves were actually built up by over £8,000 but ordinary revenue increased from £38,200 to £58,800 (almost half due to inflated grants) and the one third of this increase which has to go into Special Reserve almost entirely neutralises the other Savings, thus development funds remain at the same inadequate sum as five years before.

10. The basic reason for this unusual difficulty in Igbirra is that during the previous twenty years (1929-1949) it maintained a much higher proportionate rate of capital expenditure than the average in the north. Its margins during that period came to the reasonable average of 18.75%

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of revenue but it spent 79% of them and so only doubled its reserves which at the end of it stood at only 75% of revenue compared to the northern average of 135%. It is perhaps of interest to record the pattern of spending during those years :-

Roads and Bridges	31%
Public Buildings	24%
Water Supplies	20%
Schools	12%
Markets etc	9%
Miscellaneous	4%

11. In actual fact though during 1953 it was not finance that held up Capital Works but lack of plans. The words of last year's report still unfortunately apply " Plans for ^a new Central Office are in the architect's hands and planning of an extension to the ~~Water~~ Water Supply is under way" Both projects have been in the estimates for three years and now have to be carried forward to the next five year plan. Completed during the year were a school, a dispensary, a child welfare centre, four district offices and two infectious diseases camps while prison extensions were also in hand and various lesser jobs on roads and bridges, etc.

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District Officer,
i/c Igbirra Division.

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not defined also on the road to the camp & had no way to
return to the camp so I had to go to the camp for the night

No.1345/S.2/109.

Idah,

31st December, 1953.

The Resident,
Kabba Province,
Lokoja.

Igala Division Annual Report 1953:
Part I - General.

1.17.53
With reference to your letter No.2506/S.1/24
of the 17th of December, I submit herewith Part I
of my Annual Report.

J. H. M. A. L.

District Officer,
i/c Igala Division.

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Igala Division Annual Report

By Mr. H.J. District Officer.

Part - General.

1. The development in Igala during the post-war years are remarkable for the speed with which they have progressed. At first the emphasis was on the reorganisation of the Council, the rapid expansion of the Elementary Schools and the opening of communally made roads. In the last few years the emphasis has been more on economic expansion and the schemes for the development of the Division's undoubted natural resources and potentialities. The Igala people have had their pickings from the economic boom of the post-war years; there has never been so much money in circulation and it is fair to say that it is more or less evenly distributed and that there is no real poverty in the Division. But though general speed of progress continues, but there are already one or two indications that the time has come for consolidation.
2. The most significant economic development has, of course, been in the Igala Palm Oil Industry. The three mills at Ayangba, Olla and Alade have now completed their second year of production; only at Alade have the population showed signs of reluctance to bring in their palm produce but this may have been due only to the difficulty of moving about in the swampy surroundings during the rainy season. Total purchases of palm fruit at the mills this year have been 3190 tons as against 2240 tons

last year, and the peasantry earned £25,300 while the mills made a profit of £2,530. In the meantime 137 acres of land have been planted with high grade palm-seedlings (60 per acre), in addition to the 120 planted last year. But more important still was the grant by the Northern Regional Production Development Board in May of £64,200 which is to be spent in 3 years on the creation of 5 more mills and the opening of more palm plantations, provided world conditions remain favourable during that period. The machinery for three of the mills has already begun to arrive.

3. Economic progress has been made in other directions as well. In the Ife area of Igala 95 tons of cotton seed have been distributed as against 92 tons in 1952 and 52 tons in 1951: the crop this year brought in about £20,000. There was a slight drought in August and rainfall was 51 inches as against 60 inches last year (average for Igala is 50 inches) but crops did not suffer and exports of foodstuffs, particularly yams, to the South seem to have continued at their usual high level and at a higher price. Last year's efforts to promote deep water rice in Mozum have failed owing to distaste for the extra work involved for the peasant, but upland rice has increased in quantity. Two private rice-mill owners have started work in Ibaji and one in Odugbo. Furthermore a one-acre rice-plot was opened in Ibaji District to demonstrate the method of transplanting rice-seedlings from nurseries to fields. Only three unit farms are now being operated in Ankpa and Dekina and Oguma, and are doing better than last year owing to better supervi-

Ede (Idah), Olla and Abajikolo, producing coco-nuts, white - cola, coffee, oranges, lemons, and a few vegetables, are a new and interesting departure which will be watched with interest. Meanwhile the Itama Forest Reserve consolidation has been completed and that of Dekina Forest Reserve has been started.

4. The borehole sinking programme which began last year with the sinking of two boreholes at Idah continued with the completion of another at Ajaka early this year (both by Rural Water Supplies) and towards the end of it with the sinking of ^{three} ~~two~~ boreholes by the Balakhany Black Sea Oil Company at Egume and Acharu and Ayangba as part of their total programme of six (there remain Etutekpe, Aboco and Alloma). The two at Egume and Ayangba are, for the moment, to be the responsibility of the Native Authority as regards pumps and maintenance, the other four will be an integral part of the oil Mill scheme mentioned in paragraph 2, and the community will be responsible only for paying water rates to cover maintenance.
5. Progress elsewhere has been varied and continuous. In communications, the Native Administration, having by now 500 miles of Native Administration road to maintain in addition to 86 miles of Trunk Road B has called a halt to expansion for the sake of economy and efficiency, and has had to drop the scheme for a road from Alloma to Akpanya (though not Alloma to Okpo): but the year has seen the opening of the Ankpa-Abakpa road, which brings Oturkpo 15 miles closer, and the virtual completion of the Ankpa-Bagana road which will open up the cotton-growing area both for land and river

commerce. The Abajikolo-Bagana stretch of this

from the Cotton Marketing Board. In Bassa Komo a road has been started from Oguma to Dze, to traverse the north of the Division parallel to the Benue, and will include a pontoon vehicle-ferry over the River Imoa near to Oguma. Finally, the results to be gained from the opening up of a motor-vehicle ferry, constructed of a plank-platform across two large canoes and powered by 3 outboard motors, between Idah and Agenebode may prove more than merely interesting if they can demonstrate the need for another and more substantial ferry-service additional to that at Onitsha.

6. In Education, the Dekina Middle School is now all but complete, and the Senior Primary School at Dekina would have been completed but for continual delay in the supply of cement. A Domestic Science Centre under the supervision of the Sisters of the Roman Catholic Mission at Idah has been built and was opened towards the end of the year. And at Oguma the construction of Junior Primary four-class School in permanent materials was completed. As regards the junior Primary Schools in Igala, increased by 4 during the year and now numbering 38 and all of temporary construction by communal labour, a significant stage has now been reached: after two new schools have been opened in January 1954 no more will be opened, and emphasis in the next few years will be on expanding existing schools to full Junior Primaries of 4 classes and to rebuilding them in permanent materials. As with roads, therefore, so in education, the theme now is consolidation and improvement. It is a satisfactory commentary on eight years of purposeful post-war development.

7. Literacy Campaign has passed through its second year (1952-53) with success. There were 3672

and 815 in 1951-52).

8. In Medicine the construction of Idah Hospital (£36,000) has begun, and new Dispensaries have almost been completed at Okpo, Aboco and Etobe. Ochadam Leper Colony, managed by the Qua. Iboe Mission (Dr. Holley and Dr. Kearney in succession this year) has now over 650 inmates and has had to turn numbers of applicants for admission away.
9. The opening of the new Combined Divisional and Central Office in a few months will be a source of pride and satisfaction to many and will undoubtedly improve the working conditions of the staff. In the new Government Residential Area not yet complete the same cannot be said for the living conditions of the Senior Service until vital improvements such as the provision of an easy water supply has been arranged.
10. While the Igala Native Authority and the people can and rightly do take great pride in the way they have seized their opportunities for advancement in recent years, the time has now come for them to consider seriously the human factor. Their material advance is impressive but it has depended absolutely on a Palm-Oil Mill Manager, an Agricultural Officer, and an Inspector of Works, all new and essential appointments in the last year or so, not to mention the normal complement of Senior Service personnel. This reliance on others is to be expected in the early stages but it is disturbing to look among the Native Administration staff and realise, now that Mr. Peter Achimugu has moved to higher regions, that there are barely one or two employees who are or will be capable of holding important

and receive responsible posts. The Central Administration must be able to cope in the near future with the volume of work that will come in from the District Councils, who in their first year of existence have shown more than enough vitality to justify themselves but have more often than not found themselves frustrated by Central inertia and inattention to their requests or proposals. The Workshops staff during most of the year have found difficulty in keeping control over their affairs. It is significant too that the Igala Native Administration cannot yet, unlike a number of other Native Administrations in the North produce its own draft estimates. Meanwhile, in law and order, a very firm hand is required in the Police Force and, as regards the "B" Court, it is disturbing to note that its decisions can, on more than isolated occasions, be faulty on internal logic, quite apart from principles that the Administration may be endeavouring to inculcate from an external source. If the Native Administration is to discharge its responsibility, it must turn its mind seriously to the quality of the personnel who maintain the handsome "pleasure-car" it is sponsoring.

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Marine Department Lokoja

Notes on Departmental Activities January 1st to December
31st, 1953.

Craft.

Two Marine Touring Launches the M.L. "Heron" and the M.L. "Hornbill" ten poling barges and two car barges attached to this station have been operated and maintained satisfactorily. Both launches have been slipped and overhauled during the year and have steamed for 1668 hours which is a decrease on last year.

M.F. Saloma and Kena.

Vehicle and passenger ferries stationed at Onitsha have been slipped during 1953 and have returned to service.

Poling Barges.

Two Poling barges to replace condemned craft are in the course of construction one which should be completed in the first half of next year.

Buoyage.

The Rocky Section Niger River Buoys have been maintained during the year, some of these buoys will have to be relaid or changed during the low river season. The high river limit was one foot higher than the last year and the low river limit ten inches less. New 'Can Buoys' are under construction and some should be completed for the next buoyage season.

Dockyard Development.

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The construction of a new road/the platers' shed to the side slip has now been completed with the exception of top dressing. Several new blacksmiths forges have been installed in the new platers' shed and now await the fitting of an air blower and workshop motor. The installation of the new Cochran boiler is completed with the exception of a short length of steam piping to the emergency workshop engine. A dynamo has been fitted and the dockyard wired for electric light, the Pier is also to be wired shortly. A New motor of greater power has been received for the Workshop and will be fitted during the forthcoming year. The old motor is to power the new Platers' shed.

Meteorological Observations.

Four observers are attached to this station and maintain a 24 hour watch.

Outside Work.

There has been an increase in the amount of work undertaken for other departments, commercial firms and individuals, the former shows an increase on last year of 21% and the latter 105% this is probably due to the increasing amount of work undertaken on essential but privately owned transport of government officials, at the moment the dockyard is the only place in Lokoja with a satisfactory welding plant.

H. K. W. W. M.
Divisional Marine Officer.

1953 saw an increase in the number of schools in the Province to 74 N.A. Junior Primary schools, 90 Voluntary Agency Junior Primary, 4 N.A. Senior Primary 32 V.A. Senior Primary, 1 N.A. Middle School, 1 N.A. Junior Secondary School and one N.A. Elementary Training Centre. There are also located in the Province a Government Teacher Training Centre for Women at Kabba, and a Voluntary Agency Secondary School, Sudan Interior Mission Titcombe College at Egbe. Keeness is as great as before and there are welcome signs that standards are rising slowly, as the proportion rises of trained teachers to untrained teachers. It is to be hoped that, now each Division, except Kwara, has its own Visiting Teacher, standards in N.A. schools will rise. Too often it is a sad fact that some of the vitality found in Voluntary Agency schools is lacking in N.A. Schools. I think this is due to an attitude of mind on the part of some teachers, that once they are the salaried employees of an N.A. there is nothing more to worry ^{about}. I trust that the more frequent visits by Visiting Teachers with the consequent "ginger" will help to disabuse them of this. Greater competition between N.A. and Voluntary Agency Senior Primary schools for admission into Okene Junior Secondary School should stimulate both, particularly in that part of the Province West of the Niger.

2. For the first time, Dekina Middle School reached the status of a full Middle School and entered 11 boys for the Middle School Leaving Certificate examination, achieving 9 passes, a not unsatisfactory result. Slow progress continues to be made with the new buildings. The school is beginning to make a name for itself in Crafts. The Craftwork attracted the favourable attention of the Director of Education, Northern Region. The Inspector of Education, Central Area after a recent inspection commented "The work now produced by this school is the best that I have ever seen."

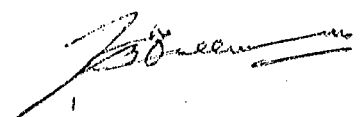
3. Okene Junior Secondary School has now completed its first year as a Junior Secondary School. 19 boys and 1 girl sat for the Middle School Leaving Certificate and 18 boys and 1 girl passed. The school now has two permanent staff expatriate officers on the Staff. Staff continues to be difficult however, as due to the high quality of the African staff, many are being lost on scholarship. The school is going through an unsettled period. On the one hand is the uncertainty in the minds of boys as to whether the school in the near future will be allowed to become a full Secondary School, a possibility which I consider doubtful in view of staff difficulties and on the other hand, reluctance of boys to continue at school for two years after Middle School Leaving Certificate on the understandable grounds that they do not see what they are going to get out of it. While the Secondary II boy is bombarded with offers of well paid Government posts, he will not stay at school unless by so doing he can enter Government on higher salary scales e.g. as the boy does who has completed a full Secondary course. A useful addition to the Junior Secondary School compound, when completed, will be the new Handicraft Centre which is nearing completion. An expatriate Handicraft Instructor is expected in March.

4. The Teacher Training Centre at Okene continues to make good progress. It lost the services of its expatriate member of staff through invaliding. He is being replaced in April, 1954. 27 sat for the Teachers' Certificate Grade III with the following results, 21 passed, 4 were referred and 2 failed (written examination results only)

A welcome start was made on the new buildings this year and an Inspector of Works was posted to supervise the work. It is hoped to complete it by March, 1954. It is probable that on the move to the new site, the Provincial N.A.'s will find

it too expensive to continue to run the Centre and a request will be made to Government "to take it over." This is unfortunate as it will mean the loss of much local control, but it has long been apparent that N.As could not continue to compete with Government institutions after the latter had abolished fees. Grants in Aid are insufficient to allow the N.As to follow suit.

5. Voluntary Agency schools, while on the increase, have a constant struggle with costs. The appointment of Mission Supervisors and Visiting Teachers is helping to raise standards. A problem yet to be solved is that of Unassisted and new schools mentioned last year. A remedy would be for N.A's to make grants, but they have little money to spare.



Provincial Education Officer,
Kabba Province.

JEF/OTTO.

Okene,
7/1/54,
G.2/567.

The Resident,
Kabba Province,
Lokoja.

Annual Report 1953.
Ref: Your 3700/4 of 30th December, 1953.

During the year under review there have been three officers in charge of the Province: Mr. A.M. Smith to 7.6.53, Mr. C.J.M. Patterson from 8.6.53 to 28.7.53 and Mr. F.A.B. Randall from 29.7.53.

2. Crime. There has been little major crime in the area policed by the Nigeria Police during the year under review. Criminal Cases reported during the year amounted to 96 as against 151 in the previous year. Motor Traffic offences reported during the year amounted to 187 as against 38 in the previous year.

3. Nigeria Police Outstations. The detachments of 7 men at Idah and 12 men at Okene were withdrawn to Lokoja in May, 1953.

4. N.A. Police. A Superior Police Officer was posted in March, 1953 to advise N.A. Police Forces in the Province. His supervision and direction has resulted in a marked improvement in the efficiency of the N.A. Forces. Crime in areas policed by N.A. Forces has shown a slight increase. There has been very little serious crime in these areas. Co-operation between the Nigeria Police and N.A. Police continues to be most satisfactory.

5. Disturbances. A disturbance occurred at Okene on 22nd May, during the Igbirra "Ju Ju" Festival. A number of persons were injured, none seriously. The Igbirra N.A. Police handled this incident extremely well and it was not necessary to employ the half unit of the Nigeria Police who were standing by. As a result of this disturbance 43 persons who participated in the disturbance were tried by the Okene Native Court and 28 sentenced to 6 months imprisonment, 2 to 3 months imprisonment and 2 fined £2 each. Eight others were subsequently tried in the Magistrate's Court, six being convicted. The situation in Okene since has been quiet.

6. Special Constables. Fifty Special Constables were appointed on 15th August, 1953. The response was excellent. A number far exceeding that required volunteered for duty.

7. Housing. A new Police Barracks to house the Nigeria Police at Lokoja was commenced during the year under review and is still under construction.

8. Communications. After considerable delay owing to non availability of certain items of equipment, the Police Wireless Station at Lokoja commenced to operate on 30th November.

9. Recruiting. A recruiting drive was commenced in September. A large number of applications for enlistment into the Nigeria Police have been received but unfortunately very few of the applicants are up to the physical standard required and many, although possessing educational qualifications higher than required, fail to pass the entrance examination.

10. Motor Licensing. Revenue earned from motor licensing for the period 1.1.53 to 31.12.53 shows a slight decrease against the same period for 1952, the figures being £2, 895 as against £2, 952.