

PART I - DIVISIONAL SUMMARY.

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The elections to the new Regional House of Assembly overshadowed other Political events of the year. The preparatory work of explaining the purpose of the elections and the somewhat complicated electoral procedure was begun early, and by the time the Primary Elections were held the degree of Public understanding and interest was high.

2. Elections were fought on predominantly local issues and in spite of a poll of over 60% no disorders occurred. A significant feature is that over 70% of the successful candidates were farmers.

3. Keen disappointment was felt throughout the Division that no Divisional representative secured a seat in the Regional House of Assembly. The knowledge that the seat was forfeited because of the disunity of the Divisional delegates may have a salutary effect in the future. The appointment of the Obaro of Kabba to the House of Chiefs was a source of satisfaction and went some way towards compensating for the failure to obtain a seat in the House of Assembly.

4. In the sphere of Local Government, Kabba, Bunu and Aworo Native Authorities have maintained their usual steady course. West Yagba District has been free from internal dissension since the settlement of the Egbe Chieftaincy dispute, but here as in East Yagba, the desire for elected representation on the Native Authority Councils has been stimulated by the atmosphere of election year. The post of Touring Officer, Yagba, was revived in July after a lapse of some six years but had to be discontinued early in November when the officer went on leave. Despite the short time available useful work was done and the relationship between the Plebeian and the Patrician elements of the Yagba Councils is now on a sounder basis.

5. The people of Ijumu District continue to dissipate their undoubted talents and energies in tortuous and protracted Chieftaincy disputes. For the third year running the Ona Zaure of Igbedde Group has been unable to agree upon a Group Head. The Ogidi Group Headship has been vacant since April 1950, and while all concerned have now agreed that it is the turn of Egga Village to select the new Group Head, the village itself is still hopelessly divided into two factions. In Adde Group the dispute over the village Headship of Ekinrin was not finally settled until an unsuccessful appeal had been made to the Resident. One forward step was taken in March when the Ijumu Central Council decided that the three Group Heads should hold the office of President in rotation for one year each until such time as the Council could agree upon a life President.

...../Unfortunately

Unfortunately the first President appointed under the new arrangement died in August and the position remained vacant until November when a new Adde Group Head was appointed.

6. In a year of heavy (74") but irregular rainfall crops on the whole did well but the cocoa crop has been below average. Rust disease in Maize spread rapidly during the year but has not yet seriously affected yields. The acreage under Castor has risen sharply at the expense of sunflower while Cotton and Yam acreages may shrink if the present high price for Castor continues. Tobacco acreage continues to expand. Three trial plots of Virginia Hybrid Tobacco were planted in August by the Nigerian Tobacco Company. In spite of the heavy rainfall results have been satisfactory and the Company is considering distributing sufficient seed for 100 acres in 1952. Swamp rice was successfully introduced into the riverain strip of Aworo District and the Taki Village area of Bunu District.

7. Construction work began in March on the new Girls Training Centre buildings at Kabba and progress has been satisfactory. The Sudan Interior Mission Secondary School, Egbe, was opened in February and the communally built Kabba Domestic Science Centre was opened in September. The decision, made known in October, to locate the Middle Belt Girls' Junior Secondary School at Ilorin instead of Kabba was a great disappointment to the Native Authorities and people of the Division.

8. Field work on the Consolidation of the Olle Reserve (Bunu District) was completed in March and demarcation of and Enquiry into the proposed Ogbe Reserve (West Yagba District) was completed in June. Forestry Revenue rose sharply after the imprisonment of one Native Authority Forest Guard and the dismissal of two Native Authority Foresters.

9. Three new Postal Agencies were opened during the year and approximately eight miles of road was constructed by communal effort. Difficulty was experienced throughout the year in obtaining an adequate supply of satisfactory road labour at the approved wage rate.

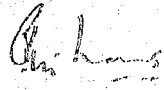
10. The summons fee for Matrimonial cases was raised in August from 5/- to 20/- to bring fees into line with those charged in neighbouring Division. In spite of this there was no significant drop in the number of such cases brought before the Courts. The heavy volume of divorce cases continues to impose a heavy strain on the creaking machinery of the Ijumu and East Yagba Native Courts.

...../11 District

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11. District Council Funds were introduced for the first time in Kabba and Bunu Districts and in these two districts the flat rate of tax was raised from 13/- to 14/-. In other Districts where District Council Funds were not introduced, tax increases varied from 3d to 6d.

MCN.

  
District Officer,  
i/c Kabba Division.

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No. 803/319B.  
Kabba, 12th February, 1952.

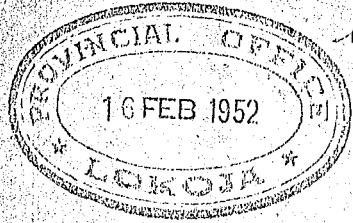
The Resident,  
Kabba Province,  
Lokoja.

Kabba Division Annual Report, 1951.

P.6-17 (a)

I forward herewith in duplicate Annual Report in respect  
of Kabba Division for 1951.

MGN.



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