

by Resident Mr. P. M. DWYER.

GENERAL CONDITION

Your Excellency

My chief work during the quarter ending 30th, September has been an attempt to carry out the instructions laid down in Special Memo 2I, re the grouping together of the different villages under their district headmen, nothing is easier than to do this on paper, but it is of supreme difficulty to get it in working order. I have made a certain amount of progress but am very far from reaching the high ideal laid down in Memo 2I, in fact I think it will be many years before I can get even an approximate result, so far I have grouped 332 towns and villages under their districts heads but many more villages I find it impossible to group together and for the present they must remain under their original fief holders who are Office holders in Ilorin.

(2). I had a long discussion with the Emir and all the Chiefs re enforcing native taxes in Ilorin town, the Emir asserts, and I see no reason to doubt his word, that the different taxes as mentioned in Memo 2I are quite unknown in Ilorin, In the past they relied upon slave dealing and raiding caravans as a means of getting an income, the only real tax they had was the tribute. The Emir points out that Ilorin town pays £180 a year as a town tax and that this ought to cover the incidental taxes mentioned, he further pointed out that great dissatisfaction would accrue if the few dye pits &c, were taxed in addition, I would suggest that the sum of £180 a year should be considered sufficient tax for the town of Ilorin to pay.

Handwritten notes and signatures on the left margin, including names like 'P. M. Dwyer' and 'J. M. ...'

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(3). Although I have been unable to group all the villages under District Heads I have to the best of my belief done away with the numerous fiefholders who had villages under them. After long discussions with the Emir and Baloguns I arranged that the Balogun in whose quarter the fiefholder resided should be responsible for the collection of the tax and that the old fiefholder should on no account be allowed to send to the villages, if necessity arose the Balogun in whose quarter he lived should send, also that the Balogun might with the Emir's sanction grant these ex-fiefholders a certain amount. This limits the collection to the Office holders in Ilorin and no others.

(4). I regret to say that I had to have one ~~of~~ of the senior chiefs up and reprimand him for sending out to order the tribute in after the above-said arrangement had been made. I did not fine him as this is the first time I have had a complaint against him.

(5). On the 16th, July as a Mr Gomez a non native and ex clerk in the Niger Coy had had permission to farm land at Jebba I proceeded there in order to stake out his claim. I am sorry to say that all my time was wasted as Mr, Gomez suddenly appeared to think that the land chosen was of no use and wished to have it placed otherwise. He has a certain amount cultivated and wishes to take up 100 acres, I informed him that I could not waste any more time that he should definitely decide upon the land required and then I would map it and let him know what he had to pay. The land chosen or I should say part of the land desired is within Three miles of Jebba and though not fronting the niger is not far from it. If the railway passes to Jebba as I expect it will this land should be valuable at present.

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(6) From Jebba I proceeded to Shonga where I find that a missionary and his wife have erected a bungalow, I visited him and asked for his authority for erecting a bungalow and fencing in a space pretty nearly in the middle of the town. He informed me it was by Your Excellency's (W. Wallace Esqr C.M.) sanction, I informed him I had no record whatever in my office of permission being granted, he then brought forth a letter written by you to Capt, Anderson who was in charge of the Province merely stating that Mr, Bamfield wished to take up land at Shonga, no permission being granted in it. Had I been at Ilorin I should have strongly objected to his presence at Shonga for the reason I can see no good in it, Mr, Bamfield originally came out to Patagi as one of the Industrial Mission but when he went on leave he became what he calls a "Mennonite Brother in Christ" what ever that means He does not appear to be doing anything in the missionary line and informed me that he was improving his knowledge of Nupe, he wished me to ask the Emir of Shonga to send people to him which I flatly refused to do. Although he has erected a most excellent, neat mission station I consider his presence there a farce. I certainly think he should be made pay a small sum yearly and that a lease should be granted for a term of years.

(7). I had a long interview with the Emir and his chiefs on the subject of the boundary between Shonga and Share, this is a very burning question and I was quite unable to come to any conclusion on the subject so I arranged for the Myaki of Shonga to meet me with the Myaki of Share at Malaka and we would go over the disputed land.

On leaving Shonga I passed to Ogudu and then on to Share

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the fact that the town is divided into two factions Nupe and Yoruba this latter again subdivided into three factions. The Nupe King a most excellent man has his Nupes in very good order and there are never any complaints from his quarter. He does his best to keep the Yoruba portion at peace but without results, I had to spend two days in Share in order to put an end to the existing state of affairs. The head of the Yorubas a well meaning but woefully weak man was appointed last year but he is unable to keep his people in order, I found that the Balogun Ali was intriguing with Ilorin to get the town under Ilorin and was doing all he could to breed discontent with the existing condition, another man Abubakare son of the late Yoruba king has settled on a farm some distance from Share and his father's followers went with him but wished to retain their farms and houses which they held from the head of the Yorubas in Share. These men wished to give these farms over to Abubakare as they were living with him. As it was quite hopeless to think they would ever arrange their disputes amicably themselves I had to do it myself and Balogun Ali has been warned that the next time I have to go to Share to keep things quiet will be the last time he will remain in the town, he had to pay £15 compensation to a trader whose goods were stolen in his house, so I trust my warning will not have to be put into force. Abubakare was also directed to leave the farms alone under penalty of a heavy fine. This is a very large and important town and it must understand that these disputes and factions will not be permitted.

(8). Accompanied by the Muhi and

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og Shonga and all his chiefs waiting to discuss the question I found on going over the district that the farmers though people of Shonga declared that the land they were on belonged to Share and they paid tribute to Shonga not to Share, we had a long and very heated argument, the Shonga people declared that Your Excellency at the time of breaking Bida visited Shonga and that you had informed the Emir that his land should lie between the Oyi River and the Oshin passing through a village called Gulufu. They had no letter to bear this out and Share denied it. It was the old subject of people living on one king's land and paying tribute to their own king which is most unjust but difficult to cope with. I was compelled to allow this subject to stand over until my next visit as I could not arrive at a satisfactory boundary between the two places.

(9). On my return to Ilorin I found telegrams from C. F. O and Political Assistant asking for carriers to go to Kano, I sent to the Emir and explained the necessity of getting them, I am glad to say the Emir acted with great energy and carriers were sent. I was unable to get them at a lower price than 9d a day going or coming, they would not go, and it would not be worth their while to do so, for less than 9d so had to engage them at this price. I regret to say a certain number deserted on the way after having had an advance of 5/- each. Thanks to the Emir I was able to recover £13 out of the £19 advanced and I trust I will be able to recover the balance.

(10). At the beginning of August I received a letter from the Acting Surveyor of Lands (Lagos) from Buda Egba stating he was about to proceed along the Ilorin-Lagos boundary in order to cut a straight line from Buda Egba to Odunfa Hill, he

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line would be made irrespective of its fitness or unfitness politically. As this was such a serious matter I telegraphed to Your Excellency on the matter. This straight line is what I have time after time protested against as it is most unjust to the Ilorins who lose valuable farms that have always been in their possession and which Oyo or Ogbomoso never had anything whatever to do with in the past. I was most glad to receive Your Excellency's telegram stating H. E. The Governor of Southern Nigeria had been asked to hold the question over until Sir F. D. Lugard's despatch had been answered. There can be no question but that the Ilorins are most bitterly incensed over the boundary, they openly declare were it not for the Government they would soon settle the boundary themselves in other words drive away Oyo or Ogbomoso as they did in the past.

(II). On the 17th, August Mr. Brounger of the Railway survey arrived at Ilorin. He discovered great quantities of Nodular Limestone which he considers to be of the greatest importance. He burnt and mixed specimens which I forwarded to the Director of Public Works. Mr. Brounger is of the idea that this limestone is not found in Lagos which makes the find at Ilorin all the more valuable. He also considers it will be of the greatest use in the extension of the railway.

We selected a site for the station at Ilorin sketch map of which was sent in to show the position with regards to this station (Residency), it is not too far and not too close also quite near the town.

(12). I regret to say had a certain amount of trouble at this time (17th August) with the town of Eri on the southern boundary, two factions were creating disturbances one house

(7).

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I would have to make wholesale arrests but the Emir sent down and made all quiet, the chiefs came in and received warning that they would all be heavily fined if I had any more trouble with them. The Emir informed me that the burning of the house was an accident, so I did not fine them.

(13) On the 29th, August I sent the B. C. G. A Lokoja a horse and boy so that they might learn how to plough, the Emir supplied both and is anxious to see how the experiment will pan out. Personally I have not very high hopes that this will revolutionize their methods of farming, the Ilorins like most other tribes are most conservative in their methods and customs and I doubt if they will lay aside their own hoe which suits them perfectly and with which they can get through a great amount of work. Should the Emir take it up ^{with} ~~real~~ it will without doubt be a great thing for the Province as all the other large farmers will be anxious to procure ploughs.

(14). On this date I received a telegram from Your Excellency, re the return of the ex chief of Ajidungari to his old farm, The Emir and all his chiefs object most strongly to such a return, the late chief was an insolent and ungrateful slave of the Emir treating him with an impertinence that he would have paid with his head were the Government not here to protect him. I would also remind Your Excellency that he also had the gross impertinence to lie to you in I think 1901 when you visited Ajidungari with the result that Capt, Digan who was acting for me placed in the guard room a man, the brother of the Emir, whose house had been

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from his old farm but as I say protested against his return to the latter for the reason that the new appointed Bale would have to be removed a most unjust proceeding, secondly this man would never have remained as a private individual there but would of a certain have intrigued to get back his old power. This man met me at Jebba and I informed him I had nothing to do with his case, I considered it one for the Emir and his Chiefs to settle. not for me, and directed him to go and see the Emir and hear his decision, I pointed out that his dismissal was due to the Emir with sanction of Government, that ^{had} I turned him away I would then have considered myself the propriety of otherwise of his return and not left it to the Emir. He has been offered land the southern side of the town and as yet I have not heard what he will do.

(15). On 4th, September Capt, Anderson returned to Ilorin from leave of absence in England, he will resume control over the Offa district. This year I propose to make him reside at Ilorin instead of at Offa and constantly tour the district, my reason for this is that now that the Hawkers license has been repealed I dont expect to make any revenue in that district except by Tribute which is paid once a year and comes in at the same time and hence not the same necessity to have an officer living there, again it is difficult to spare six policemen to permanently away from Ilorin which would have to be the case. Of course if I find that the work cannot be done from Ilorin he will have to return to Offa but I do not think this will be the case. By this new arrangement Capt, Anderson and I tour in turn so that either he or I will always be at headquarters.

(16) On the 5th, Augu-- September Asst, Resident Lonsdale left

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Zungeru. On the 10th Capt. Anderson and I left Ilorin for Offa also to erect camps and to meet H.E. at the boundary, we were accompanied by Chief Ogidiolu who was the Fiefholder of Offa and Ajassapo and now an Office holder and a large crowd of Ilorins. The visit of this chief caused great dread at Offa and the neighbouring villages as he had never visited these places since the Offa war over 20 years ago, so fearful were they that a Shonga skull was placed on the road in order to protect them.

I considered it necessary to publicly reprimand the Oloffas of Offa for his paganism. Most of the kings of the Offa District came in to Offa to act as an escort to Ilorin. The Governor arrived on the boundary on the 17th, and was met by the whole crowd and a police escort of 20 men, he appeared very much pleased with the appearance of the police who certainly looked very smart, after the different Chiefs had been presented to His Excellency we proceeded to Offa where he remained the night. The next day went as far as Illa market and left for Ilorin the next day. His Excellency was met by the Emir and Chiefs one hour from Ilorin and was escorted to the Residency by them. The Emir cordially welcomed him to Ilorin and expressed his satisfaction at the railway coming to his town.

The next afternoon H.E. visited the Emir in the town and received an enthusiastic welcome, enormous crowds being present who loudly cheered as H.E. passed through them, after chatting with the Emir the important chiefs were presented, it was particularly interesting to watch the face of his interpreter as the Ore of Awtun made obeisance before him, as Your Excellency is aware the educated natives of Lagos are intriguing to get the old Ore back, it is the common talk in the Province that

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received large sums of money to try and procure the return of this man who was deported to Zaria in 1901.

His Excellency took many photos in the town of the crowds present and expressed himself very pleased at ~~the~~ the warm welcome given him.

On the 21st Sept, His Excellency left for Jebba and arrived there on the 24th, Captm Lonsdale had erected most excellent camps along the road which H.E. thoroughly appreciated.

Handwritten notes:
Mr. Sciortino
Lagos
W.A.F.F.
Patagi

On leaving Jebba His Excellency wrote to thank Ilorin Officials for attention shown him and expressed himself very pleased at his visit. I might mention that Captm Lawrence A.D.C. brought me a very handsome inscribed silver cigar and cigarette box as a present from the officers of Lagos W.A.F.F as a token of their visit to Ilorin when returning from the Siteru affair (17). Mr. Sciortino reports very well on the Patagi district he has been most energetic in reorganizing the new tribute and has been almost the whole time on tour. He also reports that this year shows magnificent prospects with regard to crops which is satisfactory.

Handwritten note:
Emir

(18). On the whole I consider that the general condition of the Province has been most excellent during the quarter, the Emir is deserving of great praise for the manner in which he exercise control over the towns, he has been a real help to me.

Pierced Dwyer
Resident Ilorin

30th, September 1906

(II)

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PROVINCIAL COURT.

(19). The Cause List have been sent to the Attorney General at the end of each month which without doubt Your Excellency has seen. The most serious case was No, 39. in which a murderous attack was made on a man , the prisoner was sentenced to ten years imprisonment and I am glad to say that this sentence was confirmed.

I consider that it speaks well for the Province that there were only seventeen cases tried during the quarter of which four were dismissed.

NATIVE COURTS

There were 72 cases tried in the Native courts , Ilorin 57 Patagi 14 Shonga I, Lafiagi court has been suspended pending my visit to Lafiagi. The return of cases tried was sent in to Political Assistant on the 9th, October. The most interesting case was Ilorin court No, 138 in which the Emir dismissed a case stating that pawning was illegal and girl should return to her mother.

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Resident Ilorin.

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Province of I L O R I N Report No. 84 for July-Sept, 06by Resident Mr. P. M. DWYER.REVENUE

10). The Revenue for the quarter ending 30th, September amounts to £1174-2-0, which is £120-17-0 less than for the same period last year. This loss however is only on the quarter; compare it with the half year there is a gain of £677-9-9

BARAVANS.

Amounted to £901-18-6 which I consider good at this time of the year. I regret that I charged on English cot goods which should have been allowed to pass free, I have given orders that no charge is to be made on them in future.

RIBUTE.

Gives £183-7-9 which is also good as most of the villages have paid, Lafiagi District and Egba have yet to come in and should give some where near £300.

LIQUOR and GAME

Give £18-0-0 and £5 respectively. As I have previously said I find it most difficult to collect these two taxes especially the game, the hunters are nearly all along the Lagos boundary and are low class pagans and difficult to deal with. Last year I managed to make them take out a license though I had no proof that they shot game, this year they all refuse and so I can only insist on a license being taken out if I can prove they do kill.

The other taxes require no discussion.

Percy Dwyer
Resident Ilorin.

Province of I L O R I N Report No. 34 for July-Sept, 1906.by Resident Mr. P. M. DWYER.COTTON.

(21). The Agent Niger Coy at Jebba informed me that 28 tons of cotton were shipped to Lokoja during the quarter ending 30th, September. This must be considered for the rainy season. The crops this year give every promise of success the plants are strong and health looking.

During the quarter eight mens loads were ginned at Ilorin by the natives themselves the result being 122lbs of lint which was sold at Jebba. It was most difficult at first to teach the natives how to use the hand gin they appearing afraid at of it, it took the whole of one day to gin less than one load, next day however they got accustomed to it and the seven loads were ginned in a day and a half, they appeared vastly pleased with the gin and themselves and were sorry they had no more cotton to gin.

P. M. Dwyer

Resident Ilorin

30th, September 1906