

C.M.G.

1912

SNP 7. 5510/1912, Lokoja Rpt on. by Mr. H. S. Goldsmith

C.M.G.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to submit attached for Your Excellency's information a few notes on my recent visit to Lokoja dealing with the following matters :-

- a. Booths.
- b. Slaughter House.
- c. Native Court.
- d. Marine Department.
- e. Lokoja Gaol.
- f. Water Supply.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's Obedient Servant,

H. S. Goldsmith

S. Y. SULTAN.

29. 9. 12.

(a) Booths.

In M. P. 4723/1910. Your Excellency sanctioned a sum of £85. (minute 116 of 29.6.12) for improving the Booths in the Lokoja market. Of this amount the C. M. has expended to date £81. 19. 11. as detailed in attached marked A. The alterations now being completed will enable the Cantonment Magistrate to let the blocks of Booths at a rental of 3/- per booth per month. The previous rental of 5/- per booth per mensem was considered too high and Traders appeared to prefer to sell their goods in the open market and pay one penny a day for their stand rather than make use of the improved shelter.

2. The C. M. does not advocate the building of any more expensive Booths for the present, but he is in favour of erecting 12 stall sun-shelters similar to those used in ^{the} Zungeru market which he finds he can quickly dispose of at 2/- per stall per month. These cheap kind of stalls are in great demand, they can be easily cleaned, are sanitary and improve the appearance of the market.

A

EXPENDITURE ON 1985 ON BOOTHS.

Expenditure week ending	£1. 8. 9
" " "	3. 3. 6
" " "	4.16. 9
Agreement Artisans for July	5.15. 0
Expenditure week ending	31.14. 6
Awudu Travelling	9. 0
By G.M. for beating floor	5. 0. 0
Agreement Artisans	15. 5
By G. H. for beating floor	9. 5. 0
Material Expenditure - August -	7.10. 8
Expenditure week ending	2. 6
By G.M. painting 10 Market Booths	3.15. 0
Expenditure	<u>8. 3.10</u>
	£81.19.11

3. SLAUGHTER HOUSE. After the Booths have been completed the pressing necessity appears to be the construction of a Slaughter house. A cement floor was laid down last year just off the market for this purpose but in the wrong position. I do not know who was responsible for this, but it is quite clear that a new meat market is urgently required and should be taken in hand as soon as funds permit.

4. NATIVE COURT. A Native Court House has been built on Stirling Hill, I regret that it has such a European-like appearance but no doubt this can be altered later. The position of the Court House is a good one but much work still remains to be done in levelling, improving the approaches and the construction of a zigzag road up the hill.

5. MARINE DEPARTMENT. There are two small matters that I should like to draw Your Excellency's attention to under this heading :- // (a) the expense of running the "Swan" type of steamer up the Benue River and (b) the recruiting of labour

*Submitted
to New M. P.
2/7/12
D. P.*

for discharging ocean going and branch steamers at Lokoja.

6. S.W. BLACK SWAN.

Referred to Mess M. P. 3175/12

Mr. Assistant Resident Vicars Boyle boarded the S. Y. Sultan just above Abinsi on the evening of Sept. 25rd. He informed me that he had been given a passage in the "Black Swan" from Lokoja to Yola and that he left Lokoja on the 16th. Sept. The "Black Swan" takes 21 days and often more to reach Yola from Lokoja and I venture to suggest that it would be more economical if the Government sent their officials by the Niger Coy's steamers at a cost of £11 per passenger. The wages and the fuel bill of the "Black Swan" cannot be far short of £50 per trip and there is still the official's salary and time wasted to be taken into account. Except for short journeys and use during low river I think the Marine Superintendent will admit that this type of steamer cannot be run economically.

7. LABOUR.

The S. S. Plutus was at the Lokoja wharf discharging coal when I arrived on Sept. 26th. and some difficulty was experienced in recruiting sufficient labour to discharge her cargo. I suggest that in future the Resident Bassa and Resident Kabba be warned that they will be

required to supply labour to help discharge these ocean going and branch steamers. A representative of the Native Staff from Bassa and Kabba should be detailed to the Cantonment Magistrate to send out and warn the district ^{in the vicinity of Lokoja} heads when steamers are expected. The rate of discharging coal from the "Plutus" was distinctly slow and would not bear comparison with ^{the} rapid way steamers are discharged at Baro. Lokoja is distinctly a trading centre and cannot be depended on to supply large gangs of labour. What labour is available is briskly competed for by the Trading Firms in the town.

8. (c) LOKOJA GAOL.

I visited the Prison on Sept. 28 and found everything satisfactory. Since my last visit to Lokoja a wing containing the Prison Hospital and dispensary has been added. The building now used for a dispensary was, I understand, intended for a kitchen and recommended to be used as such by the Junior Sanitary Officer, it would be interesting to know the reason for not carrying out Dr. Foy's suggestion. A new kitchen is now advocated outside the walls of the gaol but I suggest there is no urgency for this further expenditure, the existing arrangements are quite

convenient for the present.

9. PRISONERS.

*Extracted to
New N. P. 5/23/12*

The number of prisoners in the gaol was 144 and there is accommodation for 212 - allowing 250 cubic feet air space per prisoner. The Commissioner of Police asked me to represent to Your Excellency the necessity of obtaining more prisoners from the Provinces in order to enable him to cope with the various works in progress in the Station.

10. PRISON GARDEN.

*Extracted to W.P. 1296
Lokoja Economic Plantation (Govt.)
Report on*

The small plantation left by the Forestry Officer and the prison garden is now in charge of the Commissioner of Police and I am more convinced than ever that the transfer of the Agricultural & Forestry Department was a move in the right direction. The prisoners can easily undertake all work in connection with Forestry and Agricultural matters in Lokoja and thereby save the Government considerable annual expenditure in daily wages. The vegetable garden is earning money and the young plantations of kolas, fruit trees and other economic plants are in a flourishing state due in my opinion to the great care, interest and untiring energy taken in his work by Capt. T. Stone. A. C. P.

11. (8) WATER SUPPLY. An excellent supply of water is now laid on to the Prison (which is a great labour saving convenience) and a further supply is stored in tanks at the foot of "Mount Patti". Mr. Lloyd Williams informs ^{etc.} that the one spring at present tapped supplies 10,000 gallons per diem. I understand that pipes are now to be laid close to the European houses and all danger of an impure water supply from the River Niger should vanish.

12. It is difficult to estimate what the daily overflow going to waste is at present but when the pipes are laid through the Government Station I think the advisability of giving the native community a pure water supply should be considered. There are many more springs on "Patti" that could be tapped and water collected for the town. I would ask your Excellency's permission to congratulate the Public Works Department on the excellent work and initiative ~~which~~ have been displayed by the officer in charge in connection with this water scheme.

J. S. Crockett

29. 9. 12.