

KABBA PROVINCE ANNUAL REPORT, 1950.

I N D E X.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON KASBA PROVINCE, 1950.

PART II - PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS.

24. Areas and Boundaries. The Provincial boundaries have remained unchanged. The area of the Province remains as before at 40,953 square miles. An incipient dispute over farming and fishing rights on Ake Island between the Igala and Kukuruku Native Authorities respectively is being resolved by the respective Divisional Officers.

25. Population. The steady increase in population persists unabated throughout the Province although in Yagba a slight drop was recorded due largely to a decrease in mines labour and men employed in the Kempe Bridge. Divisional population figures for 1949 and 1950 (indigenous) are given below :-

<u>Division</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
Igbirra	160,824	167,929.
Igala	294,118	298,406.
Koton Karifi	30,950	31,711.
Kasba	97,485	96,910.
	<u>583,377</u>	<u>595,026.</u>

In Igbirra the marked preponderance of females over males a phenomenon to which attention was drawn in the 1949 Annual report, still persists. It will be observed that the greatest relative increase in population occurs in Igbirra and it might perhaps be inferred that there is some connection between this increase and the fact that women predominate numerically. A demography expert would find a fertile field to study in Igbirra and would no doubt produce some interesting conclusions.

26. Administrative Staff. Mr. H.C. Gill, Resident was in charge of the Province from 15th February to 9th June. He was succeeded as substantive Resident by Mr. C.W. Cole on December 27th. Mr. T.R. Letchworth, Senior District Officer was Acting Resident from January 1st to February 14th and Mr. I.C. Gunn, Senior District Officer for the period 10th June - 26th December. The following Administrative Officers served in the Province during the year :-

Mr. W.L. Cox District Officer

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Mr. R.G. Adams	Assistant District Officer
Mr. M.H. Orde	Cadet
Mr. W.G.C. Ferris	Cadet
Mr. T.M.B. Sharp	Cadet
Mr. S.W. Morgan	Cadet
Mr. K.A. Vorley	Cadet
Mr. R.G. Holgate	Cadet
Mr. R.H.H. Fitzherbert	Cadet
Mr. J.D. Sanders	Cadet.

The average strength was 10.1 as against an authorised strength of 11. The percentage of time spent on tour was 28.7. These figures show a slight increase over those of 1949 and thereby reflect the improved Staff position though the proportion of Junior Officers still inevitably remains high. It was however still necessary, as in 1949, for the Resident to act as Divisional Officer Igbirra for a short period.

27. Clerical Staff. Mr. V.O. Osannor was in charge of the Provincial Office throughout the year apart from a period of 2 months when he was on leave. Mr. J.E. Obazeh, Assistant Chief Clerk was in charge of the office during Mr. Osannor's absence.

The authorised duty strength remains at 13 and the average on duty during the year was 12.6. The system whereby one of the Provincial Administration 1st Class Clerks was seconded to the Treasury for Local Treasury duties was continued but towards the end of the year it was learnt with relief that a permanent Treasury Official was to be posted to Lokoja with effect from April 1951.

A sad loss was suffered by the Provincial Staff by the death in April of Mr. D.O. Oji, 3rd Class Clerk. The death also has to be recorded of Momo Argungu, Head Messenger. Sergeant Major Momo who had a long record of faithful service behind him had been presented with the Certificate of Honour by His Honour, the Chief Commissioner only a month before his death.

28. Visits. At the end of July the Province was honoured by a visit from His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Sir Eric Thompstone, K.B.E., C.M.G., M.C. His Honour arrived at Lokoja on the Vallant and motored out to Okene on July 31st. On the 1st His Honour left for Idah where he spent one night leaving for Lokoja again on the 2nd and from thence to Baro on the 4th.

At Lokoja, Okene and Idah His Honour met all the Native Authorities in the Province and discussed very fully with them their various problems. His Honour was accompanied by Doctor

by  
Raeburn, C.B.E., Chairman of the Colliery Board, and Capt.  
Money, M.C., Northern Regional Public Relations Officer.

His Honour's visit to the Province was greatly appreciated.

PART III. NATIVE ADMINISTRATION AND DEPARTMENTAL  
ACTIVITIES.

29. Central Administration. The Igala Council personnel has remained unchanged and certain members have revealed the ability to take more responsibility in departmental affairs - a welcome sign.

In Igbirra the Atta's Council was broadened by the appointment of two new literate members, the Supervisor of Works and the Head Forester. The five women who have been sitting on the Council for three years experimentally were also confirmed in their appointments so that the total membership of the Council is now 17.

In Kabba much time has been devoted to the evolution in Ijumu of the present unwieldy Central Council to a Chief-in-Council Native Authority. The bickerings and jealousies displayed by the three Group Heads have retarded the work but some progress has undoubtedly been made and there are good grounds for believing that the Administration's patient efforts will not go unrewarded in 1951.

In East Yagba the year has been marred by constant internecine political strife between the petty chiefs comprising the unit.

On the other hand these "storms in a tea-cup" have not prevented the Council from showing a steady development in ability and sense of responsibility.

In Koton Karifi a significant change in the Ohimege's Council was made with the appointment of two new members representing the Gwari and Genagana tribal groups.

30. District and Village Administration. In Igala the distribution of District Council funds has done much to stimulate and develop financial responsibility and the District Heads have responded well though the competence of the 19 individual office holders is somewhat uneven.

The 195 Village Heads have shown commendable zeal in encouraging communal works mainly schools and roads and the benefit to the Division of these self-help schemes cannot be overstressed.

31. In Igbirra the Clan and Village Councils still

suffer from over doses of Court Work which leaves their members little time or energy for administration but they show promise and if proposals for re-organising the Courts are acceptable there is every hope that they will do good work in the future.

In December a Town Council was established in Okene and is at present composed of the wakili sitting as Chairman, the Ward Heads and nominated representatives of the towns-people. The first meeting was successful and it is hoped that this new experiment will be welcomed by the people.

32. The Lokoja subordinate Native Authority has suffered from the usual factional quarrels but the posting of an Assistant District Officer to Lokoja has resulted in closer supervision and under his aegis housing and finance sub-committees of the Council have been inaugurated with the former in particular showing promise.

/Imbroglia

The Ogori still persists and is not likely to be cleared up without a better sense of perspective being displayed by both protagonists.

33. Medical. In Kabba Division the Okeri Dispensary was built and opened in 1950 and in Igala a Dispensary at Abajikolo was also opened. Both these new dispensaries and those already established in the Province have been as well attended as ever though in Igala attendances have fallen as no injections are now given for the treatment of yaws etc. Spasmodic outbreaks of small-pox occurred throughout the Province particularly in Kabba Division where the mortality rate was high. A further 25,000 people were vaccinated in Igbirra Division but despite this isolated cases were rather too numerous.

In Lokoja the building of the new General Hospital proceeds.

The Oyi River Leper settlement run by the Sudan Interior Mission now cares for over 1000 lepers 600 of whom hail from Igbirra Division. Mention must also be made of the good work done at Oshadam in Igala by the Qua Iboe Mission.

The postponement of the building of the Okene Hospital has not been popular though it is good to learn that the extension of the Idah Hospital is likely to be put in hand in the near future providing public works Department staff is available.

34. Education. Eight new Elementary Schools were opened in 1950 seven of which are in Igala indicating clearly the great demand for education now prevailing in that area.

A good deal of spade work was undertaken in preparation for the Girls Middle School and Elementary Training Centre at Kabba and the Boys Middle School at Dekina. These three institutions will be built in 1954.

35. Native Courts. In Igala division there was a slight decrease in the number of criminal cases heard but an increase in civil cases and Court revenue rose by £759. The Native Treasury now benefits to the extent of £4481 derived from fees and fines.

In Igbirra also a decrease in criminal cases was recorded and an increase in civil cases with a corresponding rise in revenue. The figures are revealing in that the increase in civil cases is mainly due to matrimonial disputes which account indeed for 75% of all cases heard. The marriage tie in Igbirra land is a heinous one with resultant harmful effects on stable family life but the problem has been recognised and is being partly tackled by the drafting of new marriage and divorce rules. Only a change of heart however on the part of the Igbirras themselves will serve to bring about an ultimate solution.

In Kabba a decrease in litigation has to be recorded though no very obvious reason for this exists.

36. Agriculture. The development of palm oil resources in Igala has already been referred to in Part I of this report. It may be added here however that the development of other products mainly cotton, citrus fruit and onions is not being neglected. Efforts too are being made to demonstrate in a practical way the benefits to be derived from compost.

In Igbirra the investigations required for the world Agricultural Census confirmed the need for radical changes in Igbirra farming customs. It was shown that not only do the farmers live at great distances from their farms but frequently work plots five and sometimes 12 miles apart. The waste of time and energy involved in this system probably goes far to explain the Igbirras both lack of enthusiasm for and lack of efficiency at farming.

The attempts made to introduce mixed farming in Igbirra again failed dismally but in Kabba a series of lectures on this subject has stimulated interest and is likely to lead to its adoption on a wider scale.

Both dairies at Okene and Kabba have continued to supply the butter needs of the Province.

It must be recorded that the lack of an experienced Agricultural Officer has been acutely felt. The present system whereby the Senior Agricultural Officer Ilorin supervises the western side of the Province and the Senior Agricultural Officer the eastern means in practice that no

technical supervision is exercised at all.

37. Forestry. Towards the end of the year a senior Forestry Officer was posted to the Province.

In Kabba Division proposals have been put forward for the formation of a new reserve in Bunu District. The country is uninhabited but the proposal has not so far met with any great enthusiasm.

Work has gone forward on the constitution of the Ogbe reserve in West Yagba and the stage has now been reached where excisions are being considered. A survey of the Olla reserve revealed that supplies of timber are not sufficient for the saw-mill project envisaged unless a full count is made.

In Igbirra proposals for establishing Communal Forest Areas were abandoned as no support could be obtained from the local communities concerned.

Some investigations have been made regarding the introduction of portable saws so as to solve the acute fuel shortage in Okene. Areas suitable for reservation and lying about 10 miles from Okene would be methodically exploited; but more data are required before the project can be put into effect.

38. Housing and Social Welfare. Although the bulk of the people continue to live in the traditional type of local dwelling signs are not lacking that improved types are being built notably in Igala. Here there has been a marked tendency for the more wealthy citizens to build better and bigger houses and even the farmers in the villages are seeking to improve their dwellings.

Both in Kabba and Koton Karifi Divisions plans have been made for the re-siting of villages which have hitherto been situated in cramped or unhealthy environs. Budon for example the Headquarters of Kakanda is to be moved to a less swampy site further downstream. None of the moves envisaged have been brought about without first overcoming the reluctance of the older generation but that success has attended the efforts of the Administration, aided by the younger generation, is a sure sign that common sense is slowly making headway against ingrained conservatism in these vital matters of healthy and sanitary environments.

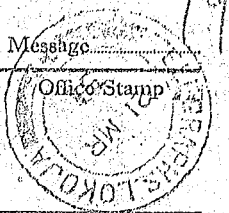
Both Okene and Lokoja were visited early in the year by the Town Planning Officer with a view to the preparation of new lay-outs for extensions but the Okene plan had not been received by the end of the year and the Lokoja one was only beginning to be implemented in the area near the canteens. The future of both is still not satisfactorily



the social welfare of the people has been maintained  
 in by schools of which an ever increasing number are being  
 built and by reading rooms of which too are being

TELEGRAM/CABLEGRAM DELIVERY FORM

Received from <i>W</i>	Prefix <i>hm</i>	Code <i>CR</i>	Check Sheet No. <i>24</i>	No. of words <i>24/23</i>	No. of Message <i>19</i>
Service Instructions <i>20 MAR 1951</i>				Delivery charges	



Handed in at *Kaduna 20* at *345* m. Received at *10 35 am*

<i>49403</i>	<i>x your</i>	<i>3254/9</i>	<i>of 19th</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>annual</i>	<i>report</i>	<i>1950</i>	<i>be grateful</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>expedite</i>
<i>parts</i>	<i>2 to 4</i>	<i>of report</i>			
	<i>Secretary</i>				

GP Lagos P&T T6

*Resident*  
 Your query above - *yes* file  
 see pp: 44-52  
 Admin. *76*  
 for Resident, Kabba Province.  
 22/3/51

Secretary Kaduna *above*  
 3254 x Yourtel 49403 of 20th March x Report sent you  
 13th March  
 Resident

Despatched:  
*PA 76*  
*21/4*



17 May, 51.

The Honourable  
The Chief Secretary to the Government,  
Lagos.

Annual Report - Kibba Province.

I am directed to refer to my letter No. 49403/13 of the 30th of January, and to say that His Honour has commented on the Kibba Province Annual Report as follows :-

"I was very glad to be able to spend a week in Kibba Province last year and to note that the feeling of isolation and neglect was passing.

2. This Province is fortunate, not only in having high rainfall and fertile soil, but also in the ready markets which exist in both the neighbouring Western and Eastern Provinces for all the foodstuffs that can be produced.

3. The development of Igala as a palm oil producing area is making really excellent progress, and the pioneer oil mills should be in operation this year. The development of plantations holds out the most promising prospects and should be pressed on as ambitiously as possible. It is high time an Agricultural Officer was reported to this Province.

4. Paragraphs 9 and 15 : The tendency in small Native Administrations to coalesce and federate will be encouraged. Such small entities cannot hope to fulfil the modern demands of Local Government. The emergence of a regular Provincial Conference, noted in paragraph 23, is another desirable step in this same direction.

5. Paragraph 13: The Ogori problem, though small, is extremely tiresome and personalities seem no nearer adjustment than before.

6. I have recently discussed the development of Koton Kerifi with the Resident and I am anxious as he is that means should be found to complete the road to Abuja; which road, quite apart from the material advantages, will have the political advantage of making a better link with the rest of the Northern Provinces.

7. Paragraph 23: The account of the Provincial Conference and the prospect of making it an annual event encourage the hope that activities beyond the power of single Native Authorities may be increasingly organised on a Provincial basis with the funds contributed by the individual Native Authorities participating. The outlines of such a system are already familiar and the policy was discussed with Residents at our recent conference in April, 1951.

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8. Domestic water supply is a real problem in Koton Kerifi, and I hope the visit of the Geologist, which has recently taken place, will lead us to discover the solution.

9. I have recently approved the new sites for senior officials' houses in Idah and construction should start soon. New quarters, new offices, and the most praiseworthy improvements recently effected on the waterfront should soon produce the much needed "new look" in Idah. The "new look" is already evident in Lokoja where the new housing programme is at last a reality."

(Sgd.) M. H. ORBE  
Acting Secretary,  
Northern Provinces.

SAF.

A

23

No. 49403/288  
17 May, 1951.

Kaduna,

Copy to :-

Resident Kabba.

p-9  
p-44

For information with reference to letters Nos. 3254/9 of the 19th of January and 3254/44 of the 13th of March.

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Jr AG. S. N. P.

*[Handwritten Initials]*

23.5.51

Copy of p. 54 to Dine

*[Handwritten Initials]*

29.5.51

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No. 3251/56.  
Lokoja, 12 June, 1951.

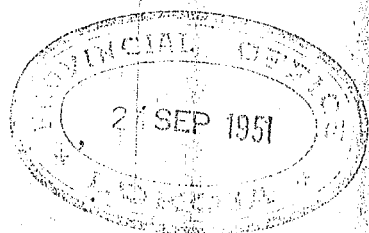
- Copy to :-
- D.O. Igala.
- D.O. Ibadan.
- D.O. Kabba.
- D.O. K/Northern.

For information.

*[Signature]*  
Resident,  
Kabba Province.

IAU.

PA  
*[Signature]*



No. 49403/29 A  
Kaduna, 18 September, 1951.

The Resident,  
Kabba Province,  
Lokoja.

*[Signature]*  
24-9-51

Provincial Annual Report 1949-50  
Kabba Province.

I am directed to refer to my endorsement No. 49403/28A of the 17th of May and to say that His Excellency has read the above report with interest.

*[Signature]*  
Secretary,  
Northern Provinces.

SAF.

PA  
*[Signature]*