

2270/AM
General Hospital,
Lokoja, Kogi State,
27th December, 1951.

Chief Resident,
Kogi Province,
Lokoja.

Annual Report, 1951.

Lokoja Medical Area.



In reference to your letter No. 2270/AM of 27th December, 1951, herewith are reports, please:-

- (a) The attendances at the Lokoja General Hospital during the year were high throughout. The Maternity Clinic held every Wednesday at 10 A.M. is becoming more and more popular.
- (b) No new dispensaries were opened but the attendances at the existing ones, except for one, have been quite satisfactory. A new Native Administration Dispensaries attendants successfully completed their training in Zaria.
- (c) Two Native Administration Midwives have been engaged and posted to Okene and Kabba Towns respectively. A third is being trained in Ilorin and will be posted to Lokoja.
- (d) There was no outbreak of Smallpox throughout the year. Every where the incidence has been low except at Okene where it has not only been high but has persisted throughout the wet season. An intensive vaccination campaign is being carried out this very moment.
- (e) One young man from Kabba Province successfully passed out as a Pharmacist.
- (f) Work on the New Lokoja Hospital was started and has been progressing with amazing rapidity. It is hoped that the hospital will be opened during the year 1952.

3/11/51

/OACR

[Signature]
Medical Officer.

Perhaps the most important and most far-reaching event that has occurred during the last year, as far as Kabba Province is concerned, has been the decision to connect, by means of a trunk road, Lokoja with Abuja - thus linking up Kabba Province and the Provinces south of it by a direct route with the Northern network of roads. When this link is completed a hiatus, presently created by the 'barrier' of the Niger and the isolated area behind it, will have been spanned. The potential development is immense. There can be no doubt as to the local enthusiasm that has been aroused by this decision. It has put new life into the Province. Work has already commenced on the Lokoja - Jamata section and the Koton Karifi embankment. Details are being worked out for the ferry service. A decisive step has been taken towards reducing the isolation and difficulty of access that has hitherto militated against the progress of the Province.

2. A second important development has been the progress made in strengthening the Provincial bond between the various local government organisations. Kabba Province, like Gaul, is divided into three parts - by the River Niger. Each part has many diversified people and, at the beginning of the year, there were seventeen separate Native Administrations serving a population of approximately 600,000 souls ranging in size from the Igala N.A. with 280,000 people and an area of 3093 square miles to the Eggan N.A. with 1471 people and an area of 24 square miles. Reference is made below to concrete progress which has been made during the past twelve months in federating the smaller Native Administrations into larger and more workable units. But whatever may be the number of these Native Administrations it is essential that they should have a focus to which they can turn for that interchange of ideas and mutual co-operation which is so necessary for them - the more so in a Province where there is no ethnically binding force. In other words there must be a worthy and active Provincial Headquarters. Definite progress to this end has been made in Lokoja. An overall correlated plan has been prepared for the layout of the Headquarters - the new Government Residential Area, the Trading Area and an extension to the Native Town. A sorely needed Catering Rest House is in course of construction and should be ready for use by next April. The new Hospital has made rapid progress and is 60% completed. Work has gone ahead in replacing the outworn, forty-year old, "temporary" wooden houses of the old Government Station with more adequate buildings. Two new Senior Service houses have been completed in the new Government Residential Area and three more are in varying stages of construction. The new P.W.D. Workshops have been completed. Not only has there been Government activity. The Oil Storage Company of Apapa has obtained a Certificate of Occupancy in Lokoja and work has commenced on a bulk oil installation. These activities have tested to the full, after years of comparative inactivity, the local technical and labour resources and it can be truthfully said that work has proceeded to the limit of the local capacity.

3. A further step towards the strengthening of the Provincial focus and of co-operation between the diverse peoples of the Province has been the consolidation of the ad hoc Provincial Committee, which was convened

to discuss/

to discuss the New Constitution, into a permanent Provincial Conference. So far only an explanatory and inaugural meeting has been held, in October, as the elected members for the Province are members of the Conference and the elections were not completed till the middle of November. The first full meeting of the Conference will, however, take place in January of next year, when the Provincial members return from their first meeting of the new Regional Legislative Houses.

4. As regards the local government organisations the most welcome and encouraging administrative events that have occurred during the year have been the fusion, in the Igala Division, of the five small and hitherto independent Bassa Komo Clan Areas into a single N.A. comprised of a Chief and Council and, to the west of the Niger, the agreement in principle to federation which has been arrived at by the six small riverain Native Authorities. There now remains, for the latter, only the working out of the federation details. These are most welcome signs that the old parochial tribalisms are giving way to the realisation that in unity of effort lies strength, that progress will only come from co-operation and that given the stimulus co-operation will come. In the case of the riverains areas there is little doubt but that the stimulus towards federation was the identity of their economic existences and the decision referred to in paragraph two above.

5. With the Native Administrations of the Province adapting themselves to meet the demands of modern progress, with the strengthening of the Provincial bond between them and with the opening up of the Province to its sister Provinces farther north the claim that a modest start has been made along the high road of the Trade Commissioner's vision can well be made.

6. A fair amount of preparatory progress has been made during the year towards developing the Province's natural resources and increasing production. In the Igala Division two of the Pioneer Oil Mills, at Ayangba and Olla, have been completed and are ready for operation. The third, at Alade, is almost ready - only a month's work remaining. The Native Administration has started nurseries at each of those places for quick-fruiting palms in readiness for the plantations which it is proposed to establish in the vicinity of the mills. All these nurseries are doing well. At Ayangba there are 5,000 healthy seedlings, at Olla another 5,000 and at Alade another 4,000. Roads have been opened up to the mill sites by voluntary labour and local enthusiasm remains high. A Development Officer has arrived to act as Mill Manager. In the riverain areas of the Province a survey has been carried out of the swamp areas suitable for development in large and small rice growing schemes. Deep water rice has been imported from Katchia and experiments with it have been made with varying degrees of success - which indicates the trickiness of this crop. Nevertheless the object of the experiments has been achieved as the successful plots have aroused a lot of enthusiasm with the farmers, an increasing number of whom have come forward and wish to plant this type of rice next year. The plots which have failed have shown these farmers the necessity of choosing carefully the right swamps. A large order for seed has been placed for distribution next year. There is a large potential here for increased rice production in the thousands of acres of the Benue and Niger flood plain hitherto unused. Progress in swamp areas suitable for large scale schemes has been slow owing to there being no technical advice

As the year closed, however, an Agricultural Officer was posted, after a 4 years absence, to the Province; some of the areas have been revisited and the latest crop press news is that mechanical cultivation of these areas has distinct possibilities. Schemes will be worked out and developed during the forthcoming year. A start has been made in growing improved tobacco in the Kabba Division and a quantity of artificial manure - the first the Province has seen - has arrived for experimental purposes. The reposting of an Agricultural Officer has filled a long and grievously felt want. The difficulties of introducing new and improved technical processes without technical advice are indeed large. The Forestry Department has been active in preserving the ecological balance and considerable progress has been made during the year in consolidating the Province's Forest Reserves and in the tightening up of Forestry Control thereby conserving one of the Province's most valuable assets - its timber stand, in preparation for the time when it can usefully and economically be exploited. The production of sawn timber continues to increase in both Kabba and Igala Divisions. The Geological Department have also been active. The Mount Patti ironstone deposits have been resurveyed, investigations have been carried out into the Province's coal deposits and limestone has been sent home for testing. Information is being collected locally with a view to starting up a local lime-mortar industry. The water system of the Igala Highlands has been investigated and the sites for boreholes - the only answer to the Igala water problem - have been selected. Further progress on these latter is held up while the possibilities are being explored, at higher levels, of a contractor's offer to sink these boreholes.

7. Before new ideas of agricultural development and production can be brought home to the populace it is necessary for those who are going to operate them to have some understanding of them. Illiteracy is a great barrier to this understanding. During the year adult education has been vigorously pursued and a Special Duties Officer has supervised the campaign. Schemes have been started in three out of the four Divisions. In the Igala Division there is a fully sponsored N.A. scheme with three full time, paid organisers and a number of part time instructors also paid by the N.A. By the beginning of December 73 classes had been started teaching Igala in all except one class where Hausa is being taught. An Igala primer has been prepared and 15,000 copies have been bought by the N.A. for resale to the public. A literature Committee is preparing further easy readers. In the Kabba Division classes have been started through local initiative. Local Village Literacy Committees start the classes, choose the teacher, fix his salary and the fees for those attending. There are at least seven of these classes. The first examinations, in Kabba Division, for the Literacy Certificates - in Yoruba - were held in September and out of 101 who sat 76 passed including the Obaro of Kabba and the Chief of Aiyetoro. In the Koton Karifi Division the Koton Karifi scheme is partly N.A. and partly local initiative. The N.A. pay a full time organiser and half the Instructors' allowance for each class. Thirty classes have been opened with about 950 people attending. Hausa is the medium of instruction. Over 4,000 pamphlets have been sold. In Kakanda, Kupa and Eggan there are five classes with over 120 people attending. Hausa again being the medium of instruction. These classes continue to be run by 1 of the societies with fluctuating attendance. A creditable start has been made.

8. A further high light of the year has, of course, been the Elections and it is here that, with regret, a note of disharmony has to be recorded. All over the Province, with the exception of the Igbirra Division, the elections were conducted in an orderly, intelligent and peaceful manner. The population was interested and, on the whole, remarkably sage in its decisions. In the final result three out of the four representatives elected were N.A. officials - a result all the more noteworthy in view of the fact that at the primaries there was only a small sprinkling of these officials standing for election or elected, and the main body of electors through the various colleges were ordinary people - traders, farmers and the like - elected for their local popularity and standing. In the Igbirra Division, however, though the elections themselves were peacefully held, election tension after the primaries resulted in disturbances and disorder between the rival factions - the Igbirra Tribal Union and the supporters of the Native Authority. It was only the efforts of the administrative staff which averted the development of an ugly clash between two armed factions. The incident, the more regrettable as it was the only one in the Northern Provinces, was described by the Lagos correspondent of the London "Times" as being "a birth-pang of democracy" - a felicitous description, perhaps, as it is intended that the gestation shall be productive of a strong, healthy and virile child, to which end reform of the existing Native Administration organisation on the lines of the report of the Joint Select Committee, of which the Native Authority was a member, is being actively, immediately and thoroughly pursued. If the intention is realised perhaps even this incident can be added to the credit side.

9. Such are the high lights of the year. As regards the normal life and progress of the Province it can truthfully be said that never before has the population been so wealthy and prosperous. It is primarily an agricultural province and the ever increasing demands for food from the urban areas of the south, the high prices being paid for cocoa, palm products and cotton and the consequent general inflation of commodity prices has brought great wealth to the farming population and middlemen. An indication of the prosperity enjoyed by the farmer is the fact that nowadays he is willing to pay 2/- to 3/- per day together with food, for labour to work on his farm. Were this to result in a corresponding increase in the amount of food produced it would be a most welcome trend. Statistics are difficult to obtain; but it is doubtful whether this trend is, in fact, very appreciable or commensurate. More food is being produced - but the labour is used by the farmer rather as a relief to his own efforts than as a supplement to them, an inevitable result, perhaps, in the circumstances, but one which does not tend towards that maximum production of food at which propaganda has been and is being continuously directed.

10. The desire for education - and the initiative of the population in contributing to its provision by their own voluntary efforts - continues to be a marked feature of the Provincial life. There are now in the Province 145 Junior Primary Schools - 61 Native Administration and 84 Voluntary Agency; 14 Senior Primary Schools; 2 Native Administration Middle Schools; 1 Voluntary Agency Secondary School; 1 Native Administration Elementary Training Centre; 1 Voluntary Agency School, to serve the Igala and Koton Koro areas; 1 Native Administration School, to serve the Interior Mission

pupils of Kabba and Ilorin Provinces was also opened during the year. Work has started and proceeds rapidly on the erection of the Government Women's Elementary Training Centre at Kabba. It is hoped to complete it by the end of the financial year. The people of Ife-Yagba have just completed - with no outside financial assistance of any kind - the building of their N.A. Community School using stone and G.C.I. sheeting instead of mud blocks and constructing two blocks of six classrooms. This is only one of many similar efforts. There is a wide spread and gratifying belief that schooling is an essential preliminary to life today and the public demands, and is prepared to finance, the building of large and expensive schools. Less gratifying, however, is the reluctance of the population to agree to the tax increases which are so essential if the recurrent costs of the increased educational services are to be met and balanced Native Treasury budgets preserved. The Province is fortunate in having an almost adequate supply of trained teachers; what it requires now is an enthusiasm amongst those teachers to raise "education" out of the humdrum round of reading, writing and arithmetic, which it presently tends to be, to its wider and fuller conception and for the population to realise that its responsibilities do not end with the construction of the school buildings. Propaganda to this end continues and also in emphasising the necessity of the children regarding their schooling as a background to a normal occupational life rather than as a stepping stone to 'clerical' unproductivity. It is hoped that the Adult Literacy campaign - by proving to the youngsters that farmers can be literate as well as clerks - will assist towards this end. The vigorous and progressive Aiyetoro School in the Kabba Division has made good progress along these lines.

11. The Igala Division, as has been its habit during recent years, continues to make marked advances in almost every sphere of activity. A most welcome and hopeful aspect of the central Igala administration has been the striking increase in the sense of responsibility and activity of the Ata's Council. The Council consists of all the Heads of Departments and the legal members and these officials have shown, during the last year, a remarkable emergence of spirit and assurance in their deliberations, much to the benefit of the administration and a happy augury for the future. One of the Council members, the Councillor for Works, visited England during the year - the first Igala to have done so - under the auspices of the British Council. He was vastly impressed by his visit, has undoubtedly derived a great educational benefit from it and has done his best to disseminate widely the knowledge he has obtained. This same Councillor, on his return, had the satisfaction of being nominated by the N.A. to the Provincial Electoral College and there being elected to the Northern House of Assembly. The District and Village Administrations continue to function well and a great deal of communal voluntary effort has been expended in making roads, community centres and preparing sites for the palm plantations. One of the Onus (the District Heads), Alhaji Ali Negedu, whose district has shown, perhaps, the best progress of all, stood for election at the primaries, passed through all the intermediary stages, and was elected at the Provincial College to the House of Assembly, a most praiseworthy effort and a proof of the fact that the public knows and, through the mechanism of the electoral machine, has been able to show its appreciation of its better men. As has been the case in the past, the majority of the officials at the Provincial level are not Native Administrators but individuals. It is a pity that the Provincial

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to dismiss two District Heads during the year for general inefficiency and misrule. With the general prosperity which has resulted from an adequate rainfall, good crops and ever-increasing demands for food there has been the inevitable rise in Court cases. Tax has been increased by 1/- per head per male taxpayer and 6d per head per female taxpayer. In spite of this it was collected more quickly than before, most of the districts finishing their collection in 14 to 20 days. The finances of the N.A. continue to be buoyant. Some disappointment has been felt in the Division over the delay - after the promise of the investigations into the water problem had raised hopes - in the implementation of the bore hole sinking programme. It is hoped that the work done in exploring the possibilities of letting this programme out to contract will be productive of better progress next year. Apart from the opening of the Middle School at Dekina, referred to above, a start has been made on a new Primary School at Ayangba. Seven elementary schools were opened during the year and second classes have been added to three others; a fillip has been given to girls' and women education by the arrival, in the latter half of the year, of two R.C.M. Nuns at Idah to found a convent with its ancillary girls' school and general women's training activities. The advent of the nuns has had a most beneficial effect upon the women generally and the sewing, hygiene and domestic science classes recently begun by the nuns are already extremely popular. Two new dispensaries were completed during the year and a third was nearing completion. The Qua Iboe Mission Leprosarium at Ochaadam is rapidly expanding and some excellent work has been done there. It is intended that this settlement shall be one of the two Provincial Leper Homes.

12. The installation of a ferry system between Idah and Agenebode, on the opposite bank of the river in the Western Provinces, has been taken up with the Western Provinces Development Board by the Resident, Benin Province. The Division awaits further development of this project with vivid interest. It would stimulate greatly the interflow of trade and commerce.

13. Reference has been made above to the fusion of the Bassa Komo Clan Area Native Authorities into a single Native Authority. Now that this unity has been obtained the prospects of developing this backward, though happy, area have become much brighter. A start has been made in rebuilding the Treasury at Oguma; but the most urgent need is that of roads and this will be pursued with vigour next year. The Native Authority's funds are adequate and financially the area continues to be in a happy position.

14. The Igbirra Division, alas, is in the doldrums. The tranquillity recorded in last year's report was rudely shattered on the 8th of September, 1951 when a trivial incident in the Okene Market quickly developed into a full-scale riot and a pitched battle between the Igbirra Progressive Union, representing - roughly speaking - Established Authority, and the Igbirra Tribal Union, representing the opposition, was with difficulty and by the courage of the Administrative Staff, only just averted. The immediate causes of this outbreak are obscure; but there is little doubt that they were connected with the success of the Igbirra Tribal Union in the primary elections which gave that party a clear majority in the Igbirra Elementary College and, at the final stage, carried one of the candidates, a Roman Catholic Mission School Teacher, to the House.

coincidence, the Wakili, Chief Executive of the Igbirra Native Administration was also elected to the new House so that both parties are now represented in the Regional Legislature. An underlying cause of the growing popularity of the Igbirra Tribal Union, the emergence of which from self-imposed obscurity to the position of a strong and powerful party has been such a prominent feature of the year, is the discontent, especially amongst the younger and literate element of the population, with the present autocratic regime. In order to remedy this discontent inquiries are now being made with a view to putting the Village, District and Native Authority Councils on a more democratic basis. Preliminary enquiries, not yet complete, have revealed that the structure of the pre-British Clan and Family system survives almost intact even to the present day though this existence is not reflected to any adequate extent in the present Administrative machine, which is much too over-centralised. It may be possible that a happy blending of the traditional with the modern by means of popular elections will provide a solution. Whatever may be the solution it will be the Administration's and the people's responsibility in 1952 to see that such devolution of power is secured as to make impossible any repetition of the events of September, 1951.

15. This political discomfort, as is inevitable, has marred the Division's developmental progress. There can be no doubt as to the populace's prosperity or its ability to pay much higher taxes. Nevertheless, a decision to raise the flat rate tax from 9/- to 10/- per adult male (the women also pay a 4/- flat rate) and to increase the trades' tax aroused intense opposition. Though the main part of this opposition was probably propaganda from an election point of view and, in the end, the increased flat rate was collected without difficulty; nevertheless a creak in the administrative machinery was discovered in that it was found that the trade's rates were calculated with little factual information. Enquiry by the District Officer necessitated a substantial reduction on the original assessments, owing to this lack of information; though the final rates remained at a higher level than in 1950-51. To remedy this factual defect it is intended to make, early next year, a detailed assessment, by an Administrative Officer, of a typical unit of the Division.

16. Reform of the Native Court system, envisaged last year, has since been approved but the proposed reforms are not being implemented until the wider, and probably inclusive, reforms referred to in paragraph 14 above have been thoroughly investigated. Litigation continues to occupy an undue proportion of the populace's time. Few Igbirra are prepared to admit that there is possibly another person's point of view.

17. Voluntary effort and self-help, from a communal point of view, are not the Igbirra's strong points. It is all the more gratifying therefore to report that one community raised £400 to build a new classroom for its Elementary School. On the other hand persistent efforts, tempting offers and encouragement have failed to produce any results in moving some of the population from the over-crowded, over-farmed and over-urbanised central areas of Okene to the extensive country waiting to be developed further afield. Until the Igbirra learns that a farmer must live on his farm or near it if he is to get the best results, and be prepared to do this, he will be unable to develop the only potentialities his country possesses - its cultural and agricultural resources. Propaganda with a view to inducing rural settlements

18. In the Kabba Division there has been steady but unobtrusive progress. The elections proved to be the overshadowing event of the year and it is interesting to note that they were fought predominantly on local issues. In spite of a poll of over 60% no disorders occurred and it is significant that over 70% of the successful candidates were farmers. Disappointment was felt that the Division - partly because of the political situation in Igberra - did not secure a seat in the Regional House; but the knowledge that the seat was forfeited mainly because of the disunity of the Divisional delegates may have a salutary and welcome effect in the future. The appointment of the Obaro of Kabba to the House of Chiefs was a source of general satisfaction to the Division and compensated somewhat for the failure in the House of Assembly. In the sphere of local Government, Kabba, Bunu and Aworo have maintained their usual steady course. The West Yagba District has been free from internal dissension since the settlement of the Egbe Chieftaincy dispute; but here, as in the East Yagba District, the desire for elected representatives on the Native Authority Councils has been stimulated by the 'election' atmosphere. Useful work has been done in this aspect and the relationship between the Patrician and Plebeian elements of the Yagba Councils is now on a sounder basis. The people of Ijumu continue to dissipate their undoubted talents and energies in tortuous and protracted Chieftaincy disputes. For the third year in succession the Ona Zaure of the Igbedde group has been unable to agree upon a Group Head and similar disputes have affected other Villages. However, these people appear to have learnt the art of not letting politics interfere with their normal occupational lives and the Division, in a year of heavy but irregular rainfall, has done well with its crops and reaped the consequential benefits of the high prices for food being offered by the rich and wealthy population of the adjoining cocoa belt.

19. Apart from the Women's Elementary Training Centre and the Sudan Interior Mission Secondary School at Egbe referred to in paragraph 10 above, a Domestic Science Centre, communally built, was opened, in Kabba, in September. Disappointment was felt at the decision that the Girls' Secondary School should be located at Ilorin instead of Kabba; but such a decision was inevitable in view of the lack of Provincial unity on the subject. Three new Postal Agencies were opened during the year and approximately eight miles of road have been constructed by communal effort. District Council funds were introduced for the first time in Kabba and Bunu Districts.

20. In the Kabba and Bunu Districts the flat rate of tax was raised from 13/- to 14/- and in other districts increases of from 3d to 6d were imposed.

21. The all important event of the year for the Koton Karifi Division has been referred to in the first paragraph of this report - the development of the Lokoja-Abuja Trunk Road. There is no doubt about the enthusiasm that has been raised. Communication links with the Nassarawa Division have also been investigated and a line from Tawari to the Provincial Boundary has been selected. Further development of this road awaits extra Provincial correlation. On the opposite bank of the river road improvement reconnaissances have been made on the Lake-Abuja. The second important event - the agreement to the federation of the four Koton Karifi District Authorities with Lokoja and Aworo is referred to in paragraph four. A was the village of the Ohimege, the Obaro of the Union under the

auspices of the British Council. He, like Peter Achimugu, the Igala Works Councillor, came back full of enthusiasm and a resolve to improve his country's condition. He was much impressed by the output per man in England as compared with Nigeria. En passant it may be remarked that for both these visitors the principal and most vivid impression they returned with was the discipline of the British people and their willingness, in spite of personal inconveniences and views, to obey orders and authority without being watched. It was a tribute to the Ohimege's Administration that in his absence the functions of local government continued to run smoothly - an encouraging occurrence as, under the New Constitution, the Ohimege takes a seat in the new House of Chiefs and his absences from his District will, of necessity, be more frequent. It is also indicative of the increasing responsibility which is being undertaken by Heads of the N.A. Departments. Those functions of the Kakanda, Kupa and Eggan Native Authorities which have been run on a central administration basis (they share a Native Treasury) have run more smoothly than their own individual functions, these latter tending to resolve themselves into frivolous and personal disputes. It is hoped that with federation this aspect will gradually disappear and efforts be turned to more serious matters. The elections produced no surprises. Here as elsewhere the majority of the elected were ordinary farmers and there were few N.A. officials amongst them. Nevertheless in the final college elections these electors put forward and stood solidly behind the candidate nominated to the final college by the four Divisional Native Authorities. It is interesting to note that the average age of those elected at the primaries was about 30 years.

22. During the year a new one-class school was opened at Eggan and an additional class was introduced to the Gerinya School. Improvements have been effected to the Abaji School. Reference has been made above to the progress made with adult education.

23. In the Koton Karifi District, male tax was increased by $\frac{3}{6}$ and female tax by 6d, while in the Kakanda-Kupa-Eggan District corresponding increases were 2/- and $\frac{1}{3}$ d. There has been a slight improvement in the recurrent financial position of the Kakanda-Kupa-Eggan Native Treasury though the situation is still not entirely satisfactory. The Koton Karifi Native Treasury however is now established on a sound financial basis whose strength shows every sign of increasing. With the possibilities of reorganisation of services and finances, opened up by the prospects of federation of these Native Authorities, the future becomes much brighter. This, however, is a matter for next year's report. For the present it can but be said that the foundations have been laid and the ground prepared for rapid advance and progress.

24. For the peoples of the Igala Division, a sturdy, solid, purposeful, determined and unified march forward towards progress and better conditions; for the people of the Igbirra Division a hesitant and bewildered halt while they pause to take stock of a situation primarily produced by their intensely egocentric and individualistic tribal characteristics; an exciting awakening amongst the riverain peoples to the possibilities opened up to them by the improvement of communications and to the urgent necessity for them to adapt themselves to the demands of administration if they are to avail themselves of its benefits; and another light-hearted, disjointed drift towards the Kabba

peoples, with the leaders of the dance all arguing as to who shall be band leader; such is the kaleidoscope of a year's progress in a fascinatingly diverse Province. There have been disappointments and there have been grounds for satisfaction - but the overall picture is one of definite progress in which even the disappointments have had their own special part to play. As was stated at the beginning of this report this is a Province with vast potentials. The development of these potentials and the education of the populace to their responsibilities and duties in regard to this development have been the theme of this year's work which has been carried out by the Provincial Staff with an enthusiasm to which I wish to pay special tribute.

IAU.

Part II -- Provincial Affairs.

25. Areas and Boundaries. The area of the Province remains as before at 10,953 square miles. There have been no alterations of boundaries.

26. Population. The steady increase in population continues. The Igala Division population has increased by 6,753 and the Igbirra Division by nearly 3,000, in the latter case almost all are children. The increases are due partly to natural increase and partly to better assessment. As an indication of the reliability of assessment figures it may be mentioned that the Igala Pilot Census figures taken in December 1952 produced an increase of 6% on the assessment figure. Divisional population figures are given below:-

<u>Division</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Igala	298,406	305,159	6,753
Igbirra	167,999	170,689	2,690
Kabba	96,910	97,852	942
Koton Karifi	31,711	32,010	299
Total	<u>595,026</u>	<u>605,710</u>	<u>10,684</u>

27. Administrative Staff. Mr. C.W. Cole, substantive Resident, was in charge of the Province throughout the year. The following Administrative Officers served in the Province during the year:-

Mr. L.R. Dalves-Broughton,	S.D.O.
Mr. I.G. Gunn,	S.D.O.
Mr. W.L. Cox,	D.O.
Mr. R.O. Mant,	D.O.
Mr. H.J. Pedraza,	D.O.
Mr. P.M. Laws,	D.O.
Mr. R.G. Adams,	D.O.
Mr. M.H. Ords,	A.D.O.
Mr. G.W. Morgan,	A.D.O.
Mr. R.E.H. Fitzherbert,	Cadet
Mr. J.D. Sanders,	Cadet
Mr. A. Turner,	Cadet
Mr. R.G. Holgate,	Cadet
Mr. W.G.C. Ferris,	Cadet
Mr. T.M.B. Sharp,	Cadet
A. Vorley,	

28. Clerical Staff. Mr. V.O. Osamnor was in charge of the Provincial Staff throughout the year, and Mr. J.E. Obazeh was Assistant Chief Clerk. The authorised strength was increased from 13 to 16. As from April 1st, the Provincial Treasury has been under the control of a permanent Treasury clerk (1st Class), and this arrangement has benefited the work of the Provincial Office considerably.

29. Visits. In addition to routine visits by Regional Heads of Departments, the following are noteworthy:-

His Grace the Delegate Apostolic to British East and West Africa, Archbishop Mathews, D.D.

His Honour, Sir John Verity, Chief Justice.

The Hon. S.L.A. Manuwa, D.M.S.

His Honour, Judge S.F.J.O. Thomas.

J.D. Tallantire, Director Oil Palm Research Station.

His Honour Judge J.S. Manyo-Plange, O.B.E.

30. Events of Importance. Apart from the disturbances in Okene and the Provincial Elections, both of which have been covered in Part I of this report, no major events of importance have taken place in the Province. The Ohinenge Igu, Chief of Koton Karifi, and Mr. P.S. Achimugu, Councillor for Works in Igala Native Administration, visited England on a tour sponsored by the British Council, and derived great benefit from their experiences.

Part III.

Native Administration and Departmental Activities.

31. Central Administration. There has been no change in the membership of the Igala Council. The Councillors continue to develop a greater sense of responsibility in their departmental and judicial work, although they still need regular supervision. The absence of Peter Achimugu from the meetings of the Council resulting from his duties as a member of the House of Assembly and the House of Representatives will no doubt be felt; but it is hoped that the wider experience he will obtain from these duties will more than make up

no change during the structure
of ment in Igbirra. September
made that such change

Inquiries were therefore begun, towards the end of November, to establish as far as possible the Pre-British form of organisation in the various Clan-Areas and Districts and to ascertain the views of the people on what reforms were desirable. A fairly clear pattern is now beginning to emerge, but detailed proposals must await the conclusion of discussions in each area.

In Kabba Division, the Kabba, Bunu, Aworo and West Yagba Native Authorities have continued as usual to work harmoniously. In East Yagba, the Chiefs who form the Council have been able to work in closer amity than before. In Ijumu, the Central Council, still unable to face the prospect of one of its members being elevated to a life Presidency, decided on the expedient of an annual Presidency to be held in rotation among the three group heads.

The Koton Karifi and Kakanda-Kupa-Egga Native Authorities have continued to work smoothly, though necessarily in a limited way owing to their smallness and remoteness and it is hoped that the formation of the new Kwara N.A. and the opening up on the new Lokoja-Abuja Trunk road will widen their horizons as well as those of their people.

32. District and Village Administration. In the Districts of Igala, District Council Funds have proved so popular that they are to be increased in the next financial year. It was necessary to dismiss two District Heads and five Village Heads during the year. Elsewhere in the Province, the introduction of District Councils has been under consideration, but developments will come in the new year.

33. Judicial. There was one session of the Supreme Court in Lokoja and another in Idah. The occurrence of an isolated case of Unlawful trial by Ordeal in the Igala Division makes interesting comparison with the records of twenty years ago when such cases were more the rule than the exception and bears witness to the general progress that is taking place in this previously most backward and neglected Division. In the Province, there was one trial for murder and one conviction.

In the Igala N.A. Courts, there was a slight decrease in the number of cases but an increase in the number of convictions. In Igbirra, as usual, there was a considerable number of matrimonial cases.

to the District Officer, to whom they have come at the rate of more than one a day. In Ijumu, Kabba and the two Yagba Courts, matrimonial cases continue to be numerous in spite of the raising of the fee for such cases from 5/- to £1; there were only 27 reviews as compared with 46 the year before.

34. Police. A small detachment of Nigerian Police has continued to be stationed at Idah during the year, and has done much useful work in helping the N.A. Police with motor traffic cases, prosecuting before the Magistrate's Courts and the Supreme Court, and in forming a firing squad in the N.A. riot drilling.

The Igala N.A. Police Force, which remained at 100 throughout the year, has improved in smartness and efficiency as a result of the regular despatch of members to Training Courses in Kaduna.

After the September disturbance, which showed up the Igbirra Native Administration Police in anything but a favourable light, a strong detachment of Nigeria Police under an Assistant Superintendent of Police was posted to Okene. The Assistant Superintendent of Police and all but 12 of the detachment have now been withdrawn, but their presence made it possible to undertake intensive training of the Native Administration Force, the head of which was retired and replaced by an ex-Sergeant of the Nigeria Police. It is too early yet to say whether the improvement brought about by this will be permanent, but the Native Administration Force has acquitted itself well in some recent minor disturbances and with further weeding-out of undesirables should in time reach a reasonable standard of efficiency. The strength is 79, 15 of whom are posted in rotation to Lokoja while another 7 are detailed to the Clan Area and Districts.

The work of the Kabba Police Force has not been altogether satisfactory, particularly with regard to motoring offences, but that of the Yagba N.A. Police Force has been satisfactory.

The Koton Karifi and Kakanin-Kupa-Eggan Native Authorities have each been able to send the first member of their Police Forces to the Recruits Training Course at Kaduna and it is hoped that when further recruits have been sent there will be an improvement in the general efficiency of what are inevitably weak forces.

two dispensaries were opened, at Ayangba and Gboloko, bringing the total to nine. The attendances at existing dispensaries increased considerably. The provision of an Ambulance by Government for the Idah Hospital has had beneficial results. In the Igbirra Division the number of dispensaries remains at three though the Sudan Interior Mission contemplates opening a fourth there. The four N.A. dispensaries in the Kabba Division show a 50% increase in attendances over the previous year. The three Sudan Interior Mission dispensaries continue to do good work. The S.I.M. are on the point of building a new hospital at Egbe in West Yagba. The Kabba Midwife continues to be popular and West Yagba have selected a girl for training in midwifery at Ilorin. In Koton Karifi Division, a new dispensary was opened at Budon. Attendances at Koton Karifi Dispensary showed an increase of one third.

The Sudan Interior Mission Leper settlement at Oyi River has maintained its number of patients at 1,000. In accordance with the accepted policy most of the expansion of leprosy treatment in the Province will take place in the Segretation villages which will be founded. The only one so far is at Kponyan in the Kabba Division. Although the Settlement is in the North-West of Kabba Division, it is interesting to note that more than 60% of the patients come from Igbirra. The Qua Iboe Mission Leper Home at Ochadam in Igala Division is becoming increasingly popular and now maintains 250 patients.

There have been no serious outbreaks of small-pox in the Province, except in Igbirra where 947 cases, of which 74 were fatal, were recorded in the last quarter of the year, largely due to the fact that a mass-vaccination campaign was thwarted by the loss of lymph stocks in a fire. A campaign to cleanse Koton Karifi had a certain amount of success. In Kabba the conservancy Service started the previous year has not been well supported and difficulty has been experienced in getting conservancy labourers at the authorized rates.

36. Posts and Telegraphs. In Igbirra, the request for a telephone service has again been raised, but it cannot be installed yet owing to lack of N.A. Funds. In the Kabba Division the opening of three new Postal Agencies has increased the total in the Division to ten. The extension of the V.H.F. telegraph to the Province is being awaited through the Province.

37. Education. In the Igala Division, seven new Junior Primaries have been opened, extra classes added to three more, and approval obtained for the opening of five more schools in 1952. A new Middle School has been opened at Dekina, and plans have been made for the transfer to Ayemba of the Senior Primary School which has been supplanted by the new Middle School. There are in all 33 N.A. Junior Primary Schools, which together with 6 Senior and 27 Junior Primary Mission schools and the Middle School provide education for a total of 4,476 pupils. In the Igbirra Division, one new elementary School has been opened and a class added to another by public subscription; as Igbirra will be spending 28% of its 1952-53 Budget on education it is doubtful if there will be further progress until more revenue is available. In Kabba Division approval was given for the opening of three more N.A. Schools and construction began on the Women's Elementary Training Centre; the decision to locate the Middle Belt Girls' Junior Secondary School in Ilorin instead of in Kabba caused keen local disappointment. The S.I.M. Secondary School at Egbe opened with one class. The communally - built Kabba Domestic Science Centre, with a class for girls and another for adult women, should start early in 1952. An exhibition of School Crafts in Kabba was popular and well-attended. In Koton Karifi, one new elementary School has been opened and a new class added to another, making a total of three together with a Sudan Interior Mission School. Adult Literacy has proved very popular in most parts of the Province. In Igala there are 90 classes. In Kabba 76 out of 101 examinees have gained their literacy certificates, including the Obaro of Kabba.

38. Agriculture. In the Igala Division a preliminary survey has been made with the object of introducing deep water rice in the Mozum and Bassa Komo Districts. Meanwhile the stage is set for its major palm-oil development scheme and expectations are high. Three mills were ready to go into production by the end of the year, each with a nursery of 5,000 seedlings in the vicinity, and a pilot plantation of ten acres prepared by communal effort. The Development Board made a grant of \$5,000 for the maintenance of these plantations and for the construction of access roads.

In Igala Division no programme was recorded except such as from routes connected with the nursery, 24 little krenals at Bangede.

In the Kabba Division, there has been a sharp rise in acreage under castor owing to the rise in price. Sunflower has ceased to be popular. The Nigeria Tobacco Company have experimented with the growing of Virginia tobacco with some success and this leaf may eventually come to supplant the local type. A market gardening scheme run by the Kabba N.A. has proved successful. Three manual demonstration plots have been organised and were the scenes of lectures to local farmers. Rust disease is unfortunately widespread in half of the Division though as yet with no serious effect on production.

In the Koton Karifi Division, important experiments have been carried out in the growing of deep water rice and a survey carried out on the possibilities of bunding and controlled irrigation. Though there is promise of great development in this direction in the future it is evident that an essential prerequisite of success is a proper knowledge of the flooding of the Niger. Investigations continue. A fruit nursery at Koton Karifi is progressing.

Perhaps the best augury for the future of the Province's agriculture, which is extremely rich, in potentialities, is that at last and after a four years' absence an Agricultural Officer has been posted to the Province.

39. Forestry. In the Igala Division, work has begun on the consolidation of the Itama reserve. It is hoped that the dereservation of certain fallows within the reserve will allow more land for the local peasants to farm. In the Igbirra Division, experimental trenching of night soil has yielded excellent results. In the Kabba Division, a consolidation enquiry into the Olle Reserve was completed. In West Yagba the new Ogbe Reserve has been demarcated and awaits gazetting.

40. Veterinary. At the moment Provincial veterinary work depends entirely on the efforts of Veterinary Assistants. It cannot become extensive until a Provincial Veterinary Officer is posted to the Province. The cattle population of the Province is small and sheep and goats are not numerous; on the other hand, the potentialities from the point of view of diet, mixed farming, financial gain in breeding and improving the quality of mature stock are considerable. Beyond the requirements of the Province, cattle there are the trade cattle, of which 600 passed through

Okene. During the year, rinderpest made its first appearance in the Province and decimated a herd of dwarf cattle near Okene - It is probable that this, in some way, came from the Western Provinces where there was also an outbreak. There was no history of rinderpest in the Trade cattle passing through Lokoja.

41. Public Works. The extensive building programme has been dealt with in Part I of this report.

42. Mining. Operations on varying scales are being carried out by four Miners in the Kabba Division.

43. Townships. Nil.

44. Trade and Economic. The Igala Division has maintained its high average level of 8000 tons of Palm Kernels exported, which together with palm oil, castor seed and Paste rubber has earned more than a quarter of a million pounds in the year. In company with Kabba and Koton Karifi Divisions, it has also exported large quantities of local foodstuffs to the Eastern and Western Provinces. Bornu may be regarded as the granary of the North; but it is becoming more and more apparent that Kabba Province is becoming one of the larders of the South. Though there is a sufficiency of food for local needs there is also a feeling of unease at the high prices due to this competitive demand from the Southern Provinces. It is interesting to note that Kupa and Egga Districts nowadays count rice and cassava as their main exports whereas ten years ago the amounts grown were negligible.

45. Missions. In the Igala Division, the Roman Catholic, Qua Iboe and Church Missionary Society have done useful work. An offer by the Roman Catholic Mission of the temporary services of a Nursing Sister for the Idah Hospital has been gratefully accepted and she has proved extremely useful. The same Mission hopes to open a convent in Idah shortly.

In the Igbirra Division, the Sudan Interior Mission hopes to commence operations in a field, so far held by the Roman Catholic and Church Missionary Society, with medical and Maternity work.

In the Kabba Division, the Missions at work are the Roman Catholic, the Sudan Interior Mission, the Baptist, the Apostolic and the Church Missionary Society.

46. Housing and Social Welfare. Final plans were made during the year for the new Lokoja Layout and work on the building of the new town should begin in 1952. In the Kabba Division the town of Isanlu has begun to move to the new site that has been prepared for it, and by the end of the year 180 houses had been started or completed. Smaller villages are following suit, each under the supervision of a Land Survey Officer. In the Koton Karifi District, the Kakanda headquarters have started moving from Budon to the healthier locality of Apata.

47. Rural Water Supplies. In the Igala Division, it is estimated that the villagers of Ayangba walk a total of 14,000 miles daily to their stream three miles away and those of Ejule a total of 16,000 miles a day to a stream five and a half miles away. It is a vivid but common example of the water scarcity in this otherwise rich division. Proposals for employing the services of a private company for sinking bore-holes having fallen through, there are now hopes that the Rural Water Supply Department will be able to send a well sinking team to sink boreholes in the next year.

48. Marine. The two twin-engined Diesel launches based on Lokoja have been used twice as much this last year as in the previous year, mainly on ferry work between Lokoja and Shintaku and Lokoja and Baro. River touring by officers has, as a result, been seriously hampered. The opening of the Lokoja-Tamata-Abaji road, however, will reduce this strain; and should the proposed Ganaja - Sintaku ferry crossing, which will make the crossing of the Niger a matter of ten minutes instead of anything up to two hours, eventuate, the strain should be further reduced. The provision of an adequate ferry service is receiving urgent consideration.

RBB.

K.I.V Copy of Report to Provinces.

Re: 07 Parts ii & iv are typed, and you wish to write for Part iv ?

14/P 22/4