

PROVINCE ILORIN Report No (1) 46

for (2) ANNUAL 1908 by Resident (3) P.M. Dwyer

CUSTOM

The Collector of Customs visited Ilorin at the end of August and arranged to place a clerk at the station in order to cope with the importation of salt and liquor by train, this was urgently necessary as my limited staff would not permit of my detaching one of them for this work.

IMPORTANCE OF SALT

At first there was an erroneous idea in Southern Nigeria that a permit was required to import salt into the Province by train, owing to this people brought the salt to Ikerun and carried it by head to Ilorin. I telegraphed to the Chamber of Commerce and the General Manager requesting them to make it known that though no permit was required no salt would be allowed to leave a station until cleared by the Custom Clerk. I also arranged with the General Manager that I should be informed by wire when salt was coming in, and to what station consigned. This has worked well and delay and friction avoided.

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IMPORTATION OF LIQUOR

Arrangements were made by His Excellency and the Governor of Southern Nigeria that liquor might be imported by train into the Province provided the General Manager telegraphed three days prior to its despatch informing me of the pending importation also that permits in duplicate be sent me by first available train after issue. These regulations were most certainly not carried out in the first instances and an unnecessary amount of correspondence and friction occurred, liquor came by train sometimes with permit just as often without, and the customs Clerk was compelled to detain it pending the receipt of permit. This detention naturally did not improve the temper of the owner.

Again the General Manager was under the idea that he was only responsible for issuing permits for Officials of the Railway and that all others had to apply to me, this also gave rise to feelings on the part of those who could not obtain their supplies, prejudicial to health and morals.

The importation of liquor according to the Secretary's telegram to the Governor Southern Nigeria should be strictly in

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accordance with the Liquor Proclamation No. I. of 1902. This Proclamation lays down that liquor may not be supplied to subordinates without permission of the head of his Department specifying the quantity and interval that must elapse between sales, duplicates of permits to be forwarded to me. I assume that this has escaped the notice of the General Manager for the reason that these regulations have not been carried out, so far as this Office is concerned no such information having been received. This is all the more strange for these instructions are printed at the foot of each permit. When the Traffic Assistant visited Ilorin I brought this fact before his notice, and pointed out that the non compliance was a breach of the law, he promised to bring the matter before the General Manager, but so far nothing appears to have been done.

SMUGGLING BY TRAIN.

Six and a half dozen bottles of trade gin were seized at Gamma, they were declared as crockery, I regret to say I was unable to gain a conviction. I am aware that the Railway officials take exceptions to the searching of trains, by officials of this protectonate for gin. This is most necessary, and every care is taken to avoid causing delay or friction

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STAFF

(42) The staff of the Province consists in a Resident in charge, a third class Resident and two Assistant Residents. Towards the end of the year this was increased by one additional Assistant Resident. The average number present during the year was two.

POLICE

The Police in the Province total 107 men, out of this number 43 men are detailed for work on Railway and paid by Southern Nigeria. 19 men are stationed at Jebba under Mr. Bromage the Resident Engineer for Jebba-Zunguru Extension. 17 men at Offa under Mr. Woodburn Resident Engineer Ibadan. Ilorin Extension and 7 men detailed for station duties. This leaves 64 men for Provincial work. I think it may be accepted as a positive fact that Ilorin at the present moment is, one of the most difficult Provinces in the Protectorate to administer, this is due to the advent of the Railway which has brought hordes of illmannered and lawless natives in its train, such a small number of Police as 64 are quite impotent to deal with this invasion along with the prevention of Liquor and Crime generally. I would however, like to record my appreciation of the manner in which Capt. Goodwin the D.L.P. ^S tries to cope with what might be called the impossible.

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PRISONS

(43) There is one Prison in the Province capable of holding 20 prisoners.

There were 121 Prisoners during the year confined in it. The daily average number of Prisoners was 15.1.

The total value of Prisoners labour was £89.19.3. The actual cash paid into the treasury £3.17.6. There is a good prison farm which practically fed the Prisoners.

PUBLIC WORKS

(44) A two roomed store Bungalow has been erected at Head Quarters during the year, this was urgently needed as the two wooden houses were quite insufficient; an Iron Bridge over the Aza River opposite the Railway Station has also been commenced and should be completed early in 1909. Approval for the erection of a stone Bungalow at Offa has been given. This also was very necessary now that Offa has become the Head Quarters of the Railway Construction.

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(4) There are two Missions in the Province, The Sudan Interior at Patagi and the Menonite Brother in Christ at Shonga; I regret to say I cannot report favourably on their work, they appear from what I can gather to be making no headway whatever with the Natives.

It is to be regretted that the Mission at Patagi finding they had no use for the 200 acres originally allotted to them for farming purposes sublet this land to natives for a small rent in kind. They were informed that such action was illegal and prejudicial to native interests.

Mr. and Mrs. Dare of the C.M.S. at Oyo paid a surprise visit to Ilorin and were very much hurt at their reception by the Emir. They informed him they had come to teach him Christianity, he declined to be taught and sent them to me. Mr. Dare asked permission to preach in the town at night and show a magic lantern I informed him I was not in a position to forbid him, but thought it inadvisable to do so.

Pierce W. Dwyer

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POPULATION

(46) To correctly estimate the population of the Province is quite beyond my power, everything possible has been done to arrive at the correct figure, but I am afraid the result is not too trustworthy. The latest information places the population at 174,243, the adult at 112,209. Personally I believe this is in excess of the proper number, time alone will enable me to arrive at the correct estimate. The railway makes this work all the more difficult for the reason that herds of petty traders from Southern Nigeria follow its course and take lodgings in the surrounding villages.

Pierce M. Dwyer
 Resident Ilorin Province

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SLAVERY

(47) There were ten slaves liberated by the Provincial Court during the year and 17 by the Native Court of Ilorin. As I have said in my past Reports so I must say again that slavery may be considered as completely stamped out in the Province. The ten cases liberated by the Provincial Court were all children who were being brought to Abeokuta by natives of that town for sale.

D. Percival Dwyer
Resident Honore

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