

MAR 1951

No. 570C/53.  
Kabba, 7th March, 1951.

8

doco pny  
1433/C3

The Resident,  
Kabba Province,  
Lokoja.

Progress Report on Colonial Development  
and Welfare Schemes.

Quarterly Financial Statement for Quarter ending  
31st March, 1951.

Head 49 Subhead 220 - Improvements of Village Lay-outs  
and other Communal Amenities.

(i) Kabba Native Treasury Area has been allocated  
£97 and although this has not been claimed at  
the time of writing; it will be drawn before the  
end of the financial year, together with £294:13:4  
held on deposit since 1949-50. I have sub-alloc-  
ated to Districts who will use the money as follows:-

Kabba: Domestic Science Centre

Ijumu: Odokoro - Ilukpa Road.

Bunu : Luke - Olle Road

Aworo: Agbaja Postal Agency and new Native  
Authority Police House.

(ii) Yagba Native Treasury Area has been allocated  
£81 which will be claimed before the end of the  
financial year for assistance to Isanlu new  
market and communal improvement schemes e.g.  
Mopa Dam, Jege - Ponyan Road, Okeri - Odo-Eri  
Road.

MCN.

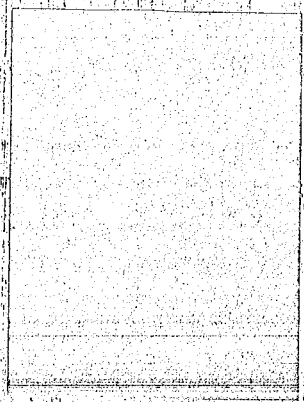
S. Morgan  
District Officer  
i/c Kabba Division

c.c.  
2

Plus statement  
to (M/P)?

request from all Divs? PR

29/3.



No. 570C/74.  
Kabba, 13th February, 1952.

The Resident,  
Kabba Province,  
Lokoja.

Colonial Development and Welfare  
Progress Report.

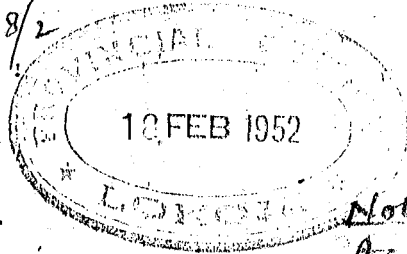
2711/24

With reference to your endorsement No. 2711/24 of the 15th of January, there are no projects financed from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds in this Division. Under heading 13 activities financed by Native Treasury funds are as follows :-

Market at Isanlu Makutu: Construction of two blocks permanent stalls commenced October estimated completion date March 1952.

Markets at Erbe & Okeri: Construction of permanent stalls due to commence in February 1952.

7 am R  
18/2



*[Handwritten signature]*

District Officer,  
i/c Kabba Division.

Note  
Action taken in 1433/S. 6/10  
11/2 28/3.

M.C.N.

Kabba, 15th July, 1952.

The Resident,  
Kabba Province,  
Lokoja.

Colonial Development and Welfare (including  
Agricultural Development) Half-Yearly  
Progress Report.

1433/S.6/49

With reference to your endorsement No. 1433/S.6/49 of the 3rd of June, 1952 I submit herewith the report as requested and apologise for the delay.

(a) Agricultural Development Schemes at Kabba.

The pigs and piglets in Mr. Ayo Dare's piggery are doing well, though one sow which farrowed recently did not deliver properly and her litter has since died.

(b) Poultry Breeding at Mopa.

The poultry keepers at Mopa are trying, and satisfactory reports on their efforts have been made by the Divisional Agricultural staff:

(c) Tobacco Farms at Kabba.

The farmers at Aiyetoro are now successfully growing the new variety of leaf called Virginia Hybrid recently introduced by the Nigerian Tobacco Company.

(d) Town Planning and Village Reconstruction in Kabba and Yagba.

Two more blocks of stalls have now been completed at Isanlu market.

(e) Odokoro - Ilukpa Road.

The surface is completed but the bridge construction is still uncompleted through lack of skilled supervision.

(f) Kabba - Ollé - Luke Road.

Road surface now completed and most of the smaller bridges, but 3 large bridges still await construction.

(g) Native Authority Community Schools:

Further improvements have been carried out at Ife and Joge schools, namely two stone built pan roofed blocks of class rooms have been added to each.

(h) General.

Other Community Development works carried out during the period include Postal Agency at Iperyan and a weaver's warehouse at Aiyetoro.

*[Signature]*  
District Officer,  
i/c Kabba Division.

17 JUL 1952

Kabba, 22nd December, 1952.

The Resident,  
Kabba Province,  
Lokoja.

20 DEC 1952

Colonial Development and Welfare (including  
Agricultural Development) Half-Yearly  
Progress Report.

1433/S.6/36A

With reference to your letter No. 1433/S.6/56A of the 4th of December, I submit herewith the Half-Yearly Report in respect of the period 1st October 1952 to 31st March, 1953.

The only project proposed or under construction during the period which is to have assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare funds is :-

(a) Maternity Centre at Okeri.

Preparations are now being made for the construction both of the Centre and the Midwife's house. It is hoped to have the latter completed by the end of the financial year, and the walls of the former up to the template.

The remaining projects under Town Planning and Village Reconstruction (Community Development) are as follows :-

(b) Isanlu Market: Work has commenced on one additional block of market stalls which should be completed by March.

(c) Egbe Market: A new block of stalls has been planned and work is expected to commence in January. It is hoped to complete them by the end of the period under review.

(d) Otun-Gbedde - Luke - Akutukpa - Abugi Road:

It is hoped to recommence work on this road in January, labour being supplied communally and bridge materials and culvert rings from Native Treasury funds.

(e) Odokoro-Ilukpa Road: Work on the one bridge of any size is still held up, but it is hoped to start building operations towards the end of January.

(f) Kabba-Olle-Luke Road: of the three large bridges which were required one has been completed with stone and cement abutments and timber decking, all funds for this work being contributed locally. Dry stone drifts have been built across the remaining two streams until funds are available for all seasons crossings to be built.

(g) N. A. Community Schools: The buildings at both Odo-Eri in West Yagba and Okoro in Gbedde District have now been completed.

Resident

Only anticipated para need to be considered

K. M. ...  
Assistant District Officer

i/c Kabba District

in with over a recent instructions

29/12

D.O/Kabba.

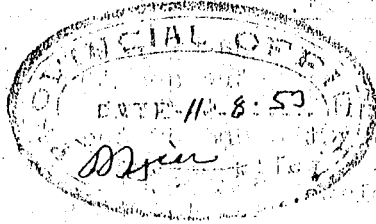
Colonial Development and Welfare:  
Progress Reports.

Forward Colonial Development and Welfare  
Half-yearly Report covering period 1st April  
to 30th September. See para. 2(1) Civil  
Secretary's No. 41769/84 of 20/12/52 forwarded  
over my No. 1433/P.6/60 of 30/12/52.

Lokoja, 11th August, 1953.

M. J. M. WORLEY,  
Resident,  
Kabba Province.

FEO.



*Re 1099 ✓ 11/8*

The Resident,  
Kabba Province,  
Lokojia.

Colonial Development and Welfare: Progress Reports.

With reference to your letter No. 1433/C.3/12 of the 11th of August, I submit herewith a progress report for the period 1st April - 30th September, 1953.

A. Schemes Financed from C.D. and W. Funds.

(i) Cattle Pounds begun at Egbe and Isanlu.

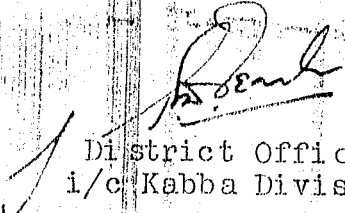
B. Community Development:

(i) Roads: Some 53 miles of road were constructed or improved during the period. The estimated value of the work done, including work on maintaining existing communal roads is in the neighbourhood of £3,675. (This is high as it includes work done on the Ilai bridge).

Much work has been done within individual town and village limits on roads and drifts including the straightening of these roads and development of drainage, with citrus tree-planting along the road sides.

(ii) Markets: Ponyan market has been cleared and a new layout planned. Temporary market sheds were erected at Efo.

(iii) Postal Agencies: Have been fully maintained and in some cases improved.

  
District Officer,  
i/c Kabba Division.

IAU.

F. v  
3/1/5

1433/c.3

No. 570C/110.

Kabba, 7th September, 1953.

The Resident,  
Kabba Province,  
L o k o j a.

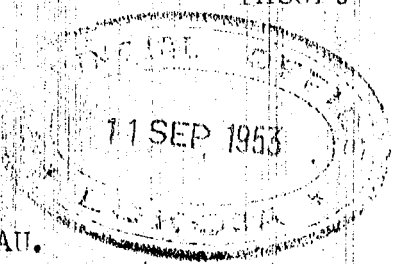
Colonial Development and Welfare: Progress Reports.

Could my letter No. 570C/109 of the 28th of August please be amended as follows :-

Paragraph A. Schemes Financed from C.D. & W. Funds.  
Delete '(1) Cattle Pounds begun at Egbe and Isanlu' and insert 'nil'.

Paragraph B. Community Development.

Insert '(iv) Cattle Pounds begun at Egbe and Isanlu'.



*W. J. S.*  
District Officer,  
i/c Kabba Division.

IAU.

*Resident.* I can find no trace of the April-Sept. Provincial 2 yearly report, 1953, which according to p. 58 of file 1433/5.6 attached, is due by 15/7. *At: 14/9.*

~~Report~~

Annual Report now no longer required.

See P 117 - 271.

P.A.  
*[Signature]*

KABBA PROVINCE, 1952

by  
C. W. Cole, Resident

Area : 10,953 Square miles

Population : 663,909

For Kabba Province the past year has been one of continuing prosperity, of continuing progress and of continuing development in the realm of local government. Much has been achieved to give cause for real satisfaction and pleasure ; but in a Province where the potentials are so great and varied but so latent and underdeveloped one is ever inclined towards the creed of Florence Nightingale—“*Nihil actum si quid agendum*”. And, parenthetically, as the administrative staff position steadily and relentlessly worsens and the technology of administration increases, so too is one inclined to envy that lady her phenomenal administrative capacity and her ability to undertake, single handed, the tasks of three or four others.

2. From a regional and constitutional point of view the most important event of the year has been the selection of Peter Achimugu, an Igala N.A. Councillor and an elected member of the House of Assembly, to be the Regional Minister for Commerce and Industry. There can be no doubt about the enormous pleasure and encouragement which this appointment has provided for the local populace. More than anything else it has made them feel that they are really and truly part of the Northern Region and one with their neighbours north of the Benue and Niger. A further important development has been the visiting of the Province by five of the Regional Ministers—twice by the Minister of Works in March and November, by the Minister of Social Services in June, by the Minister of Community Development in October and by the Ministers of Natural Resources and Local Industries in December. These visits have provided a really valuable opportunity for the exchange of views and the widening of horizons, for the better understanding of the diversity of conditions and problems in the Region and for the promotion of unity and solidarity. If the visits have been appreciated as much by their makers as by those who received them then indeed they have been successful to a degree. The Province was also honoured by visits from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in March of the year and by His Honour the Officer Administering the Government of the Northern Region in October.

3. Next in importance, while constitutional matters are being dealt with, have been the progress made with the reorganisation of the Igbirra Native Authority, with the proposed Kwara Native Authority, the establishment of all Native Authorities in the Province as Chiefs either in or with Councils and in widening the representation on these Central Councils and on the District Councils.

4. To deal with the Igbirra reorganisation first. In last year's report a hope was expressed that the “birth pangs of democracy” the Division had experienced in the shape of the serious post-election disorders would result in the bearing of a strong and healthy child. It is too early to say whether the child produced will develop into a strong and healthy man. But there is no doubt that, democratically speaking, a strong and healthy child has been delivered, is doing well, is gathering strength and, so far, has been improving steadily day by day. Moreover it is a “creation” unique in the Northern Region in that there has been produced a Central Council the majority of whom are elected by the populace themselves. In March and April of the year public meetings of all adult males were held in each village area at which candidates who wished to be elected stood forth and their supporters ranged behind them. Those with most



followers, up to the number of seats allocated to that village area in ratio to its population, were then declared elected as District Councillors, who with the Village Heads as ex-officio members would sit under the Chairmanship of the District Head to form the District Council. All District Councils have a majority of elected members. In May these District Councils chose members, in proportion to the population of the District, from among their own numbers to become their elected representatives on the Igbirra Native Authority Council which now consists of the Atta, the Treasurer, eight ex-officio District Heads and the twenty-five people elected from the District Councils. For the last six months the major task has been educating the new Councillors in their duties and responsibilities and achieving a working system for their supervision of their employees, the Native Administration Staff. Though obviously this is a gradual process requiring much give and take it can be definitely stated that great progress has been made and efficiency has if anything increased. The Working and Finance Committees in particular have done a really good job of work.

5. The newly constituted Native Authority, which now consists of the Atta and Council, had to face a most difficult and potentially serious problem in its first few months. Agitation has been steadily increasing, over the last two or three years, for the abolition of the women's flat rate tax. The shouldering of this tax by the males, in addition to their own flat rate tax, was a most unpalatable pill for the males. Nevertheless the new Council was able to get the pill successfully swallowed; and, in getting it swallowed, was able to depart from the old, unfair flat rate system of assessment and to introduce an individual assessment system. Committees formed from the elected District Councils sat and assessed each man separately, while a Central Assessment Committee representing the new N.A. Council sat to hear complaints and did it so successfully that not a single appeal was made to the Resident. It will now, at last, be possible to increase the revenue from tax without considering the limit of what the poorest man can afford. Tax collection had been practically completed by the end of the year—a really commendable achievement. One cannot say that harmony has been produced between the two factions of Igbirra opinion. One can say, however, that a *modus operandi* has been established to enable co-operation to take place which, in its turn, has provided a *modus vivendi* for the opposing factions without their having to resort to violent physical dispute and subversion.

6. Less spectacular, but equally solid, progress has been made with the proposed Kwara N.A. In spite of staff shortages a great deal of groundwork has been completed. The agreement of the Native Authorities concerned—Lokoja, Aworo, Koton Karifi, Kakanda, Kupa and Eggan—to federation having been obtained the next phase has been to work out the shape and details of the composite superior N.A. to which they will in due course become subordinate. It would have been fairly simple to provide a cut and dried scheme for their acceptance. The alternative course, however, has been taken and every stage of the building up of the new Native Authority is being discussed and developed with the subscribing Native Authorities so that they will be able to feel that the emergent Native Authority will be an entity of their own creation. It is a tribute to the correctness of this alternative procedure that, as the discussions and plans develop, the subscribing members are becoming more and more keen and eager for the amalgamation. The opportunity has been taken to bring the units together in dealing with their day to day affairs. Lokoja, Aworo and Koton Karifi are now really accustomed to working together and the leading personalities know each other well. Their Councillors joined in meeting the Ministers when they visited the Province. Koton Karifi has lent its Land Settlement Officer to other units and its Supervisor of Works to Aworo. On the 15th of December a first full meeting of representatives of all six units took place at Koton Karifi. They instinctively took a common stand over the revision of Native Authority Staff Salaries and declared for paying arrears as from 1st October only instead of from 1st April as the larger Native Authorities of the Province had decided. The meeting discussed the Kwara Native Authority and plans for the creation of Working Committees. It is of interest to note that the meeting

declared that all Native Authority staff should become Kwara Native Authority staff and thought that the two first objectives should be a Senior Primary School and a powered canoe to enable Councillors and staff of the new Native Authority to keep in touch with each other. As the year closed approval was given for the formation of a new Kwara Division covering the area of the proposed Native Authority and for the *de jure* divorce of the Lokoja Native Authority from its former superior Authority the Igbirra Native Authority. It is hoped that final proposals for the constitution of the Kwara Native Authority, its Working Committees and finances will be available shortly for submission to His Honour with a view to the inauguration of the Native Authority, as from the beginning of the next financial year.

7. Simultaneously with the development of this composite, superior Kwara Native Authority there have been developments with regard to the constituent Native Authorities themselves. Previously the Chiefs of Koton Karifi, Kakanda, Kupa, Eggan and Aworo were sole Native Authorities with Advisory Councils. They have all now agreed that their Native Authorities should become "Chiefs and Councils". The Councils have been strengthened to give wider and more democratic representation so that when the Kwara Native Authority eventually emerges its component "districts" will be well provided for in the realm of conciliar local government. Mention has been made above of the development of the Igbirra District Councils as feeder colleges for the central Native Authority Council and the part these Councils have played in tax assessment and collection. Every effort is being made to develop their activities in other fields as well and four new District Council Offices are being constructed so that these activities can be properly and efficiently developed. Considerable progress has been made in the decentralisation of this once over-centralised Native Authority. In the Igala Division there have been similar developments with regard to the District organisation. In order that the Districts may be better represented at the centre two District Heads, one from the Dekina Area and one from the Ankpa Area, have been appointed to the Central Native Authority Council. The District Councils themselves have been reorganised and strengthened. Elections have now taken place in eleven out of the nineteen Districts and new District Councils—consisting of all village unit heads as ex-officio members, together with these elected members, who form a majority, under the Chairmanship of the District Head—have been formed. Considerable interest has been taken by the populace in these developments and it is hoped that this interest will be sustained by the members themselves. For the Kabba Division, alas, very little has been achieved. The smug, complacent and very self-centred individualism of the populace is a stony ground for development in this realm. The only thing that has been achieved is the alteration of the status of the Chiefs of Bunu, Kabba and East and West Yagba from that of sole Native Authority to that of Chief and Council. This is, indeed, a Pyrrhic victory as in reality they were never anything else. Their Councils saw to that. There are now no sole Native Authorities in the Province. Conciliar local government has got well into its stride and is progressing strongly and rapidly. Once the small Kabba Division Native Authorities can be induced into federation or amalgamation the Provincial picture will be most satisfactory from this point of view.

8. The development of Lokoja as a Provincial focus and as a forum for Inter-Native Administration co-operation and discussions has proceeded more or less satisfactorily though here again one is impressed by the amount that still remains to be done rather than by what has been done. Two Provincial Conferences have been held, both satisfactory in their way; but the difficulties of converting talk and discussion into concrete plans for action have not yet been overcome. Attention is being paid to the development of the Committee system whereby the "talk" is confined to the Committees and the full Conference deals only with the reports of the Committees. It is hoped that as this system develops results will be more pointed, direct and effective. However, there can be no doubt that these Conferences are appreciated by those who

attend them and are valuable in providing an opportunity for the exchange of views. Once the mechanics of the problem have been overcome their full value will become apparent ; but in this as in other activities staff is necessary to deal with these mechanics.

9. The material prosperity of the Province has continued at its previous high levels. As purveyors of food to the cocoa growers of the Western Provinces the inhabitants of the western half of this Province have continued to derive great benefit from the high prices being paid for cocoa. The eastern half of the Province has similarly benefited from the high Palm Produce prices. Salaried officials have benefited from the substantial increases of pay awarded both to Government and N.A. staff during the year and the general wage rate for labourers has risen from 1s 5d (including Temporary Addition to Rates of Pay) at the beginning of the year to 1s 8d per day at the close of the year. These increases in prices and wages have placed grievous burdens on the Native Authorities of the Province. Apart from any question of creating future development reserves fresh revenue has had to be found to cope with existing recurrent and maintenance costs. The populace, while clamouring for "development" and improvement of amenities, regards (probably quite rightly) every increase of tax with reserve and suspicion. Nevertheless the money has to be found and the Native Authorities have, on the whole, faced "the situation with firmness and realism as the following comparative figures of taxation show :—

N.A. Area	Tax incidences per adult male				
	1945-46	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54*
	s d	s d	s d	s d	s d
Igala .. .. .	8 9	13 9.03	15 3	16 5.1	17 0
Bassa Komo .. .. .	10 9	13 4.2	14 5.8	15 7.6	16 0
Igbirra .. .. .	8 0	16 1.4	17 7.9	17 11.8	20 11
Lokoja .. .. .	8 0	18 6	20 0.6	23 1.7	25 7
Kabba .. .. .	8 0	13 4	13 4	14 2	16 8
Yagba .. .. .	9 0	13 2	13 3	15 3	16 0
Koton Karifi .. .. .	9 0	13 6.2	17 1.8	19 3.4	21 0
Kakanda-Kupa-Eggan .. .. .	7 9	15 2.7	19 2.3	20 0.74	23 0

\*At proposed rates

In addition to the general tax other sources of revenue have been explored. All Native Authorities, with the exception of Igala and Bassa Komo, have introduced bicycle licensing and in addition the Igbirra N.A. is proposing to introduce the licensing of hawkers and native liquor traders. As noted in paragraph 5 above the breaching of the old, inequitable "flat rate" system of taxation, so beloved by the richer sections of the community, has already occurred in the Igbirra Division and as this breach widens so too does the scope for increasing the general tax. Persistent efforts are being made towards the widening of this breach.

10. The demand for Education in the Province continues strongly and unabated and much has been done, both by the community and by the Native Authority and Government, to meet this demand. The number of schools and educational institutes in the Province has continued to rise. There are now in the Province—

- a Women's Elementary Training Centre run by Government at Kabba,
- an Elementary Training Centre run by a Native Authority at Okene,
- a Junior Secondary School run by a Native Authority at Okene,
- a Middle School run by a Native Authority at Dekina,
- 36 Senior Primary Schools (4 by the Native Authorities, 32 by the Voluntary Agencies),
- 149 Junior Primary Schools (62 by the Native Authorities, 87 by the Voluntary Agencies).

For a Province whose total population is under 700,000 this is, in the general conditions prevailing in the Region, a considerable achievement. One feels, however, and this is supported by pointers from various parts of the Province, that the time has come for a pause in expansion and for the consolidation of past achievement. This is particularly true in the Igala Division where many of the N.A. or Community Schools are little more than Pilot Schemes using the two class school. It is now desirable that, where the population justifies it, the more successful ones should be converted into four class schools. The Province has suffered during the year by the death of two N.A. Visiting Teachers—an unfortunate happening occurring at a time when supervision and the raising of standards is so important. During the year the buildings of the Kabba Women's Elementary Training Centre were completed and the institution started with a class of twenty-two pupils. Perhaps the most significant change, though, that has occurred during the year has been the elevation of the status of the Okene Middle School to that of a Junior Secondary School—an honour shared with Katsina Province. The change takes place as from January, 1953. It is a source of much local gratification and pride. During the year a start was made on the buildings of the Dekina Middle School and plans and estimates for the new Elementary Training Centre buildings at Okene were completed. Special mention may also be made of the community at Ife-Yagba in the Kabba Division who this year, entirely by their own efforts, completed a six-class school building. The next step here, as elsewhere, is to see that the people become as interested in what goes on in the class-room as in the buildings they so readily provide. The difficulty here, of course, is the illiteracy and lack of schooling of the parents who provide the buildings.

11. This aspect has not been left untouched. For as long as was possible an Administrative Officer was kept on Special Duties to deal with the Adult Literacy Campaign. This was divided into four phases—Preparatory Propaganda ; Mass Production of Literates ; Consolidation by the opening of Postal Agencies and establishing of Vernacular News-letters and the Follow-up in which emphasis is switched from Literacy to Education. Work on the first phase began in earnest at the beginning of the wet season with the result that by September a keen demand for classes had been stimulated throughout the Province. The existing Igala and Koton Karifi schemes turned out a crop of literates during the year. In November Igbirra, Kabba, Yagba, Kakanda-Kupa-Eggan and Lokoja opened sponsored schemes for the first time. There are now 327 sponsored classes in the Province over 100 of which are in the Igala Division. In addition there are a number of classes run by Voluntary Agencies. A gratifying feature is that in the total of over 8,000 "students" in the sponsored scheme there are a fair number of women. Work on consolidation in the Igala Division has begun with the production of an Igala language News Sheet which, after a weak start, began to make quite good progress. Elsewhere local needs are partly met by extra-provincial material in Yoruba, English and Hausa. It was disappointing that as the scheme was getting into its stride the exigencies of the staff situation necessitated the withdrawal of the Special Duties Officer. On the other hand it is fortunate that the Organisers, for the most part, are of sufficient calibre to enable them to continue for a while with a minimum of supervision. In Lokoja a number of the teachers have given their time voluntary to the scheme—a most public spirited effort. The success of the scheme, however, will inevitably depend on the amount of supervision and encouragement that can be given by the depleted administrative staff.

12. The health of the Province has continued to be good and there have been no major or serious epidemics. Work has gone ahead on the new Lokoja Hospital which it is hoped to complete early in the next financial year. The Province has benefited greatly from the posting, for the first time, of a Health Visitor to Lokoja. Infant Welfare Clinics have been started in four different places—Lokoja, Okene, Kabba and Ogori. The attendances have been very promising indeed and the innovation is most popular. In Lokoja the Health Visitor has been able to undertake the visitation of

compounds. All in all a promising and gratifying start has been made to what should develop into a valuable amenity and service. At Idah the Roman Catholic Mission continues to provide a great deal of valuable assistance with a similar service. During the year new dispensaries were built at:—

Division	Place
Igbirra	Obangede
Koton Karifi	Abaji
Igala	Itobe, Abocho, Okpo

There are now two hospitals and twenty-seven dispensaries in the Province.

13. The much longed-for posting, during the year, of an Agricultural Officer to the Province has enabled a survey to be made of the lines on which future agricultural policy should develop. One of the greatest difficulties to be contended with is the complete absence of factual information about the nature and quality of the local soils and the types of fertiliser most suitable for their improvement. With a view to remedying this defect proposals have been put forward for the establishment at Ossara, in the Igbirra Division, of a Government experimental farm. Once this has been established it will be possible to tackle the various problems attending the improvement of the soils and of the local agricultural methods. In the meanwhile a great deal of work has been done in overhauling the existing N.A. activities which, quite understandably consequent upon the previous lack of technical advice, have proved to be somewhat static, inefficient and ineffective. This spade work having been done there now remains the development on sound, practical and progressive lines, of a forward agricultural policy.

14. The experiments which were started last year on the production of deep water rice were not, materially, very successful. From the point of view of knowledge obtained, however, they were most invaluable in the information they supplied as to the trickiness and riskiness of this crop. It is obvious that large scale development on these lines is out of the question. Attention, however, is still being paid to its development on a smaller scale and in those places less susceptible to wide ranges of seasonal flooding. On the other hand the development of the Palm Products resources in the Igala Division has gone forward apace. During the year all three Pioneer Oil Mills were brought into operation and they have proved to be most popular and successful. Since March, when they started, 2,782 tons of fruit have been milled and there should be no difficulty of milling over 3,000 tons in a full year's working. The high grade oil which is produced is, of course, the most beneficial aspect as even during a slump this would be able to compete successfully in the world market. A further development of the project by increasing the number of mills to eight is under active considerations with the Production Development Board. The interlocking scheme of establishing palm plantations at the Mill Sites has also progressed well. Thanks to the communal efforts, 114 acres, i.e., 6,840 palms have now been planted and the majority are doing well. With the establishment of Mills, boreholes and plantations in this rich palm producing area the prospects of the Igala Division are very rosy indeed.

15. The Public Works Department has been kept very busy during the year both in its direct activities and in its advisory and tutelary capacities to the N.A. Works Department. Apart from the continuing work on the Lokoja Hospital and the completion of the Kabba Women's Elementary Training Centre buildings a Catering Rest House has been completed in Lokoja, there are three more Senior Service quarters in various stages of construction, station roads have been built, work on the new Public Works Department Mechanical Workshops is on hand and, apart from other minor works, the Police Wireless Station buildings have been completed. At Idah good progress has been made with three Senior Service quarters which it is hoped will be completed early in 1953. Three Junior Service quarters have been completed except for decoration. The Rural Water Supply Section has completed boreholes at Ajaka

and Idah in the Igala Division and materials on order for the Lokoja Water Supply Scheme have started to arrive. All these activities have not been without their attendant headaches particularly the last mentioned. Schemes which, when they were devised and estimated for eighteen months ago, appeared to have been well within the reach of the local populace in so far as capital and recurrent expenditure was concerned, prove now, in view of the alarming rise in cost of materials and in wages over the last year, to involve expenditure beyond the capacity of the people to pay. It is an aspect of the growing "development" of the country which necessitates the greatest caution in the preparation of development plans.

16. The Forestry Department continued its activities with the reserve consolidation programme and at the same time has paid great attention to the exploitation of Timber in the unreserved areas. The latter activities resulted in the discovery of wide scale corruption amongst the N.A. Forestry Staff in the Kabba Division and wholesale evasion by the populace of dues. Disciplinary and legal action has been taken against the offenders and fines and confiscations amounting to £900 in Kabba and £230 in Yagba have resulted. It is hoped that these salutary proceedings will have had a beneficial effect other than the financial accretions that have passed to the Native Treasuries.

17. Unfortunately some of our plans for development have not matured. The decision to locate a cement factory in the Eastern Provinces near the railway has, so to speak, "frozen" the Kabba limestone deposits for the time being though experiments are being conducted on a limited scale to see whether a small local lime-motar industry can be started. A proposal to establish a boat-yard at Lokoja has languished in favour of the expansion of the existing Makurdi venture. Exploitation of iron-ore deposits cannot, obviously, be a near-future development though in this case the Geological Survey Department has continued its investigations of the more promising Agbaja Plateau deposits. That department has also continued its investigations of the Igala coal deposits. Progress on the Lokoja-Jimata and Koton Karifi-Adaha road link has not been what one would wish mainly because of the complete lack of a Native Administration Works organisation in the Kwara Division. As soon as this is remedied by the inauguration of the Kwara N.A. the situation should markedly improve. Telecommunications in the Province are still rudimentary; but as progress in this sphere depends on the establishment of the V.H.F. trunk system improvement must inevitably be delayed. The visits of the Marconi team to the Province and the selection of sites for sub-stations (which, apparently, have involved no difficulty) are, however, most encouraging omens.

18. On the whole the past year can be considered, from a provincial point of view, as a moderately satisfactory one. The chief progress made has been in the improvement—and the adaptation to suit modern conditions—of the local government machinery. That such improvement is necessary is revealed in the difficulties which attend every effort to develop local resources or introduce a new departure. Where the local government machine is sound and of an adequate size, as in the Igala Division, development has gone forward and efforts have resulted in achievement. Where, however, the machinery is weak and divided as with the smaller Native Authorities development has lagged behind. Nevertheless, with the new groupings that have been introduced the widening of interest by the extensions of the Councils, a firm foundation has been laid for future development—both of natural resources and of the local government machineries.