

2M/ 7/10 10.17/1907, Report Annual Ilorin Province 1908

SNP 7/10 1897/1909. Annual Report Ilorin Province 1908

G O V E R N M E N T O F N O R T H E R N N I G E R I A

P R O V I N C E I L O R I N

R E P O R T N O (1) 4 6 . f o r (2) A N N U A L 1 9 0 8

by Resident (3) P . M . D W Y E R .

PROVINCE ILORIN Report No (1) 46
 for (2) ANNUAL 1908 by Resident (3) P.M.DWYOR.

GENERAL CONDITION.

Unlike the year 1907, the year 1908 opened under the most auspicious circumstances. On the 11th. January His Excellency, The Governor accompanied, by his A.D.C., and Mr. Mathews left Ogun for Ilorin, which place was reached on the 14th., the Emir and all his chiefs were present at the Oyon River to meet His Excellency and escort him to the Residency, on arrival there, we found Sir Walter Egerton and staff, who had come to Ilorin to consult with His Excellency on different matters.

(2) On the morning of the 15th., His Excellency accompanied by Sir W. Egerton proceeded to proposed site of railway station and square mile that was to be put aside for merchants' sites.

On arrival a long discussion took place, Southern Nigeria, wished to take up 300 yards on each side of line and to take over the square mile and sub-let it to merchants.

His Excellency very quickly showed the absurdity of such a proposal and agreed to allow so much land as was absolutely essential for railway purposes. Mr. Waller the Assistant General Manager was greatly surprised and I am afraid disappointed that he could not prevail on His Excellency

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to grant the huge amount of land asked for.

It was decided at the meeting that priority of application gave merchants priority of claim, also that all trees on the line of railway should be the property of the Emir and people, a very important decision as the Lagos Contractors were selling the timber and, even paying men with it.

(3) In the afternoon of same day His Excellency held a Durbar in front of the Residency and it was a very impressive ceremony. His Excellency gave the Emir and chiefs such advice as would help them on in their work and encourage them to believe in the permanency and desire of this Government to protect and aid them.

His Excellency's visit was of incalculable benefit. Ilorin prior to the visit had been viewed, I am afraid by Staff as well as by the Emir, as an inconvenient and perhaps unnecessary appendage to the Emirates of Northern Nigeria, such a view was prejudicial to the progress of the Province.

His Excellency's visit and words did much to remove this false impression.

(4) On the 16th. His Excellency left for Offa, and I much regret to say missed that courtesy he had received as

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His Majesty's representative from the Niger to the Residency, hordes of Southern Nigerian Natives were met who by their manners emphasized the difference between Northern and Southern Nigeria.

(5). It is interesting, to note, that shortly after His Excellency's visit Mr. Williams of Lagos sent a letter to the Emir requesting him not to collect a tax on the cattle of the village of Laduba, such an act as this was incomprehensible, Mr. Williams is a barrister and should have known the danger of asking an important chief like the Emir (who is a stranger to him) to refrain from carrying out the law, assuming that Mr. Williams makes himself acquainted with the Proclamations of this Protectorate.

I am pleased to state that the Emir did not listen to this impertinent request and called in the rent for this village at an early date.

Such prompt action on the Emir's part could only be construed as a desire to give His Excellency practical proof of his intention to carry out his duties as outlined by His Excellency at the Durbar.

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(6). Towards the end of March Mr. Watson the Acting Chief Justice visited Ilorin and held Assizes, the Emir and four Baloguns acted as Assessors and carried out their duties in a most intelligent and satisfactory manner. The way in which Baloguns Fulani and Gambari examined the witnesses, though not in accordance with preconceived ideas, showed how valuable a Native Court would be when properly conducted, it was rather unfortunate that Balogun Fulani should in the end have declared the man guilty, not on the evidence extracted, but, "Because the prisoner has a wicked face."

(7). On the 5th. of May I proceeded on an extended tour through Patagi Division and inter alia to meet the Resident of the Lokoja Provinces in order to discuss certain matters with him. While at Orudu I heard a very persistent rumour that the Employees of Messrs. Pagensticher were supplying the natives with gin in order to encourage trade, I had an interview with the Agent and informed him such acts were contrary to law, and serious action would be taken if found correct, the Agent informed me there was no truth whatever in the rumour so I suppose it was a lying one. I however directed the D.S.P. to make a note of what I had heard.

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(8). The town of Share has not been in as satisfactory condition as I should have liked, Balogun Ali a relect of the old regime cannot accustom himself to the new order of things and hankers after his past power, he I am afraid harbours bad characters in his quarter, and does what he can to hinder the working of the Native Court in that town.

The Emir has called him in twice and given him the most sound advice, but I am afraid Balogun Ali, is too old to change his ways and will sooner or later end his days in Ilorin town.

(9). On the 31st of July His Excellency the Governor of Togoland arrived at Ilorin en route to Zungeru. He spent a whole day examining and discussing the methods of Administration, and taxation in vogue in the Province and expressed himself very gratified at the reception offered by the Staff and the Emir. He certainly had a most insatiable appetite for information and no point appeared too small for discussion. He left Ilorin on 2nd. August and arrived at Jebba on the 4th. and embarked on canoes for Mureji.

(10). His Excellency the Governor accompanied by his Staff and The Collector of Customs arrived at Ilorin on 26th. August in order to perform the ceremony of opening the railway to Ilorin. The arrival of His Excellency was a most impressive sight, the Emir, Baloguns and every chief, important and

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miners were present to welcome him, at the very least there were 20,000 people. On arrival at the Residency His Excellency decided he would permit the Emir to salute and welcome him. As Resident of the Provinces, I could not help feeling more than pleased to see the manner in which the Emir saluted His Excellency, it was patent to all that apart from the profound respect shown that the Emir was more than pleased at the visit, his face if not his words showed it.

After a short interview His Excellency directed the Chiefs to return to the town and a dense mass passed in front of him. In the afternoon, His Excellency and Staff went down to market place below the Residency to meet the special train from Lagos. It arrived about 5 p.m. with Sir Walter and Lady Egerton and Staff, Mr. James C.M.C. and the General Manager L.G.R.

Early on the morning of the 27th. His Excellency held a Durbar of Emir and Chiefs, and once again clinched the fact that he recognised the Emir as Paramount Chief, and that he expected his just orders to be obeyed, he impressed on the District Heads the importance of carrying out their duties

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in a loyal and efficient manner and expressed himself satisfied at the way in which the Emir's son Monodu Wuru D.H. of Lanwa did his work, this being a particular difficult District to look after owing to the assortment of tribes that reside there. He also complimented Balogun Alanamu for the interest and zeal he showed in his work. Later on he held a private interview with the Emir and four Baloguns and discussed the future prospects of the Provinces in connection with the railway and Merchants, he pointed out to the Emir, that as he shared in the Land Rent, so would he share in the rents that accrued from the leases given to these latter. It is needless to say the Emir and Chiefs were greatly gratified at this interview.

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His Excellency decided he would go by train to the place of opening, and I was directed to accompany the Emir and Chiefs, and be at the station before His Excellency arrival. This was no easy task, for the reason that the crowd was so dense that when I reached the station at the head of the column the tail end was still crowded up in the market place below the Residency. The Emir and several of the important Chiefs just managed to force their way into the enclosure as the train steamed in and as His Excellency alighted, the band of Southern Nigerian Regiment played the National Anthem. It was proposed by Sir Walter Egerton that the Emir should take a short trip on the train, but the Emir did not like the idea at all, so I did not press it, the line was then declared open by His Excellency, and I was directed to return with the Chiefs back to the town. It was, so I was led to believe a very interesting sight, for the Officials of Southern Nigeria to see the immense concourse of Chiefs and people passing in front of His Excellency on their way home.

A luncheon took place later on with the inevitable speeches. That of His Excellency dwarfed into utter insignificance all others.

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(11). His Excellency left for Jebba on the 27th. It would be idle for me to try and explain the great value of His Excellency's visit on this occasion, it would have been a deplorable mistake had the important duty of opening the railway been delegated to a subordinate. The local conditions are peculiar and strange, there is always a danger of the Coast Native shaking the faith of the Emir and chiefs in the permanency of this Government and its power to protect them in case of abuse. The presence of His Excellency was a visible sign that Ilorin was a part, even if insignificant, of the great whole that composes Northern Nigeria and that though the railway was projected by Southern Nigeria it did not mean that that Government would take over the Province, a fact that was so necessary to impress owing to the many wild and unfounded rumours to the contrary.

After His Excellency had left, the Emir held a Durbar in the town and closely followed his Excellency's method, having all the chiefs up together and a private interview with the important ones. He seriously warned the Oloffa of Offa and Emir of Lafiagi as to the general behaviour and laid stress on the importance of their duties as District Heads, for a week the town was a scene of revelry, the Emir being lavish in

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his hospitality and the chiefs returned to their Districts more than satisfied with their visit.

(12) As a result of His Excellency's visit the Emir issued the following Proclamations in Arabic which were placed in Mosques

- (a) Prohibiting the use by natives of the temporary bridge over the Oyon River.
- (b) Prohibiting the placing of obstructions on the road.
- (c) " " any tampering with telegraph and telephone wires.
- (d) Prohibiting sale of gin.
- (e) Repeating warning re slavery.

(13). I regret to say that on 1st. October over fifteen people were drowned in the Aza River, it appears that the canoe man had turned out about twenty people who overcrowded the canoe, as he pushed off, these people rushed the canoe which upset with the disastrous loss of life. I had the canoe man up before me, but I considered he was not to blame, the Emir immediately placed one of his men at the ferry to at once arrest anyone attempting to enter a canoe when safely laden.

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(14) On the 16th. October Sir Walter and Lady Egerton and staff arrived at Ilorin en route for Jebba. The Governor wished to travel as a private individual and requested no escort or guard be supplied, I regret to say that owing to my not having been notified of his intended visit until the last minute it was impossible to receive him as I should have liked.

(15) The Local Auditor visited The Province on the 12th. of November, and I am pleased to say expressed himself satisfied with the way the accounts were kept and especially the Land Rent books.

(16) On the 18th. December The Manager L.G.R. accompanied by Mr. Woodburn the Resident Engineer paid me a visit in order to discuss the sites for Native Traders on the Square Mile. We came to a satisfactory arrangement on the subject.

We then discussed the policing of the different Railway Stations between Offa and Ilorin, I agreed to place 3 police at Offa and two at Gama, Illa Market and Ilorin. The General Manager to erect permanent buildings for them at the expense of Southern Nigeria.

(17) On the 28th. December the Resident Ibadan telegraphed to say he wished to hand over to me the notorious Momodu Gbede who has been the cause of so much

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friction on the Boundary. It would be out of place in an Annual Report were I to attempt to describe the impudent acts of this ruffian who sheltering himself under the protection of the Resident Ibodan harried farms of and insulted the Emir of the Ilorin his former chief. It appears from what I can gather that the reason of the Resident Ibodan handing this man over was due to the fact that imbued with the idea of his own importance he so far forgot himself as to raid and burn down a village on the Southern Nigerian side of the Boundary, hence his downfall.

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OFFA DIVISION

(18) Capt. Anderson, Resident in charge of Offa Division reports well on it for the year. It was to be regretted that Capt. Anderson could not spend more time in the Division, he was continually passing from Offa to Joson examining into the condition of the men working on the line and correcting abuses. Capt. Anderson describes Offa as a miniature Lagos, the market place crowded with alien petty traders who sell articles ranging between rat traps to ladies pale blue motor caps. The Different District Heads have on the whole done good work, several of the Pagan District Heads were not paid their share of the Land Rent for no collection, I trust this will have good effect. The Olomo of Omu was deposed by the Emir and Baloguns and having received sanction from His Excellency the town people elected a new man, I was pleased to note he was not a member of the Oponi society.

The new district of Afon completed by the absorption of Urban Farms has been a satisfactory piece of work. The Eldest son of Balogun Fulani is District Head.

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(19) The King of Patagi was brought into Ilorin and tried at the Assizes by the Acting Chief Justice for taking money in an illegal way from his people, I am pleased to state that the case was dismissed. This king is a useful and loyal man and does all in his power to give satisfaction. He was one of the first chiefs to arrive at Ilorin to welcome His Excellency. He collected the whole of his rents without aid from the Assistant Resident.

I regret that as usual I cannot say much in praise of the Lafiji District, the Emir is too old and too much imbued with the vices of the past to ever be of much use to the Government.

Egbe District is satisfactory, the King an excellent man keeps his people in order and gives no trouble.

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DISTRICT HEADS AND ASSESSMENT

(20) I have been amazed at work accomplished by the different District Heads during the year, the intelligent interest and zeal shown in their work argues well for the future.

I have since the inauguration of the Land Rent kept steadfastly to my principle that low taxation or low incidence per head is the foundation stone of the future prosperity of the Province. I would belie my nationality if I did not fear and dread the idea of introducing "Wreck Rent". To appoint District Heads and hold them responsible for the collection of rents from villages that were rated too high, opened up a vista of misrule and retardation of progress out of all proportion to the value of the rents received. The District Head, holding his appointment as he does from Government, would do all he could in order to retain his position to wring out of the villagers, the rent they were unable to pay with the same disastrous results as obtained in India during the days of the Company. The District Heads on the present assessment

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are able to carry out their duties with the minimum amount of friction and are in the satisfactory position at the end of financial year of having no arrears. I am not prepared to admit that my assessment is correct, very far from it, but I am convinced the line of policy pursued is the correct one, for it allows of future expansion and ensures present content.

(21) The Province is as I have stated in past reports divided into three Divisions.

Ilorin under Captain Lonsdale, Asst. Resident.

Offa under Captain Anderson Resident 3rd.

Patagi under Mr. Chapman, Asst. Resident.

Each Division is divided into Districts under its own Head. Altogether there are 36 Districts, this may seem excessive but at the present time it is not advisable to have them less. The District Heads are not yet sufficiently educated up to the work required to be given charge of larger Districts, later on it may be feasible.

Each District, but two, has been most carefully mapped and assessed (European) and the District Heads instructed in their work.

There are certain conditions existing that make the correct mapping and assessing all but impossible, they

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are the scanty population and the vast tracts of uncultivated land, under existing conditions a farm will be opened, worked for three to five years and carefully assessed, then the land becoming exhausted the farm is abandoned, and a new site selected with the consequent necessity of correcting of map and reassessing. There is no necessity for the farmer to try and improve the land, thousands of acres lie ready for his hoe, so naturally he prefers to break new soil rather than try such new fangled ideas as employing manure, so long as these conditions exist so long will the assessment be on an unstable base. Time is what is required to overcome this disadvantage as the years pass by the population must increase as do all black races, it was only damed in the past, by the gigantic losses incurred in war and slavery.

(22) Immediately the financial year 1907 was finished, the Emir sent out to warn all the District Heads that it was time to collect their rents, the four Baloguns left the town on a tour through their Districts, and after being absent

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all but a month, returned with their rents, not alone did they bring in the rents of the villages shown in their arabic book, but assessed and collected, that from villages that had escaped notice. The District Heads came in with the rents of their Districts correct in nearly every case, some reported that they considered the rent in certain cases too high, and that it should be lowered, others that it should be increased. Each and everyone gave the impression that they were interested in their work.

(23) There has been a great improvement in the manner of collecting, by District Heads, last year I was forced, much against my will, to issue counterfoil receipts to every separate village, that meant the issuing of over 2000, this year the District Heads, having become more au fait with their work, came in with the total amount their Districts were assessed at and the amount being checked, was decided in accordance with regulations laid down and one receipt issued.

The issuing of one receipt to the District Head for all villages under him may at first sight appear open to criticism, for the reason that there is no check on him as to what amount he collected from them, he certainly has the

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correct assessment of each village and naturally the question would arise as to how in the case of the Governor of Terengganu what is to prevent the District Head from bringing to the Resident the correct amount while he had taken a great deal more from the people. The answer is easy, the Province has been toured by the Staff, and every individual village informed of the exact amount they have to pay and warned not to give one penny more. If asked to do so to at once come in and report. I would not go so far as to say no abuses take place, but I will say every possible precaution is being taken to prevent them, and I think with success.

The total assessment of the Province amounts to £4009-10-6 of which Government takes £2333-19-0 and Native Administration £1675-11-6.

The amount of each Division is as follows:

No.1. Ilorin	£1200-7-9
No.2. Offa	£ 506-0-0
No.3. Patigi	£627-11 3

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The incidence for the whole Province works out 1/7 $\frac{1}{2}$ male and 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ adult. I have stated in past reports the difficulty in adjusting the incidence so that urban and rural people should bear an equal incidence and I regret I can show no improvement during the year. My chief aim has been to attempt to improve the manner of collection, and I consider I have succeeded to a great extent in carrying this out.

ROADS.

Nothing has been done in the way of making new roads in the Province, all that has been attempted is to keep in repair the existing one from Ilorin to the Niger, owing to the fact that so many men are taken away from the farms to build the railway. It has been found difficult to do this, the rains having been so exceptionally heavy this year did a great amount of damage which will take time to repair.

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JUDICIAL

(25) The following is a comparative statement showing the cases heard in the Provincial Court during the three past years.

CRIME	1908	1907	1906
Enslaving	-	-	1
Robbery & Violence	1	1	1
Assault	14	6	5
Murder	2	6	2
Resisting Arrest	-	1	1
Larceny	13	12	22
Arson	2	-	1
Liquor Procl	17	16	5
Burglary	5	1	1
Breach of peace	1	2	1
Cant. Procl	1	-	-
Damage to property	-	1	-
Impersonation	2	6	5
Attempt to murder	1	1	2
Delaying mails	2	-	-
Land Rent Procl	1	4	1
Police Procl	1	-	-
Sedition	-	1	-
Receiving stolen goods	1	-	-
Embezzlement	-	1	-
Disturbing Religion	1	1	-
Caravan Procl	-	-	2
Fraud	1	-	-
Demanding property	1	-	-
Forgery	2	-	-
Native Authority Procl	1	-	-
Contempt of court	1	-	-
Perjury	2	-	-
	<u>73</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>52</u>

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NATIVE COURTS

(26) NATURE of CASE	1908	1907	1906
Assault	35	23	24
Debt	78	46	52
Divorce	239	239	336
Ownership of farms	3	3	9
" " cows		19	2
" various	29	-	5
Theft	35	15	44
Death Duties	14	4	1
Pawning	-	-	1
Slavery	4	4	3
Arson	4	5	2
Attempt to murder	2	1	1
Disobedience of Orders	15	-	-
Administering drugs	-	1	1
Malicious damage	1	14	-
Adultery	-	-	1
Abduction	-	-	1
Desertion	2	2	1
Sanitation	-	3	-
Total	460	360	284

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(27) The following is a comparative statement of the sentences for the past three years.

	1908	1907	1906
<u>Death</u>	NIL	4	251
<u>Five years and over</u>	6	3	3
<u>Two years and over</u>	2	3	5
<u>One year and over</u>	4	8	1
<u>Under one year</u>	45	16	22
<u>Lashes</u>			
One man received	5		
" " "		12	
Three men "			12

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CRIME

(28) I consider the Province is wonderfully free from crime. There were only 73 cases tried in the Provincial Court during the year, a very small number considering the population is estimated at 1,70,000 people.

The midnight attacks on bush villages which shewed a lawlessness that could only in the past have been conspicuous by their absence. This is due in great part to the energetic action of the Native Court of Ilorin which drove from the Province the suspicious characters Ilorin Town harboured. These people were the scum of the Protectorate and I am convinced criminals of the worst type.

I regret to say that the prosecutions under the Liquor Proclamation shows no sign of decrease.

The Native of Southern Nigeria can't or won't understand that no liquor may be sold in the Province. There were several convictions of these men for the most barefaced breach of this Law; such as selling gin to Police in uniform when on Duty and then calmly offering £5. or £10 as fine when arrested.

I am also pleased to state that the crime of Arson has greatly decreased. This is one of the most dangerous and difficult crimes to cope with and one to which the native immediately flies for revenge.

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EMIRS AND CHIEFS

(29) As I said in my last year's Report so must I repeat in this that I cannot speak too highly of the loyalty and correct behaviour of the Emir and his principal Chiefs.

The advent of the railway has brought with it a most undesirable class of native who by precept and example tend to undermine the courtesy and loyalty, not alone of the Emir, but of every person they come in contact with. The Emir has done much to counteract this evil, but I am afraid he too has a herculean task to perform.

(30) The four Baloguns as District Heads have toured their districts, and not alone collected the rents from the farms under them, but have assessed and collected from those that had escaped notice. They also examined into the condition of the people and redressed abuses when they found them. It is interesting to note that the Baloguns in the old days prior to the Government never left the town gates on a peaceful errand, their appearance in a district meant war, or slave raiding with the result that everyone fled at their approach.

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(31) The different District Heads are going on satisfactorily and attending to their work, certain districts chafe now and then at the new order of things, but the Emir soon quells any discontent. I regret to say Paie the District Head of one portion of Oke Moro was deposed by the Native Court for illegal taxation. This man a follower of Ex Balogun Ajikobi, believed he could do what he liked, the Emir had warned him to be careful but he flouted the advice and collected rent over and above what he was ordered to and in three cases collected twice from the same village.

(32) The Oloffa of Offa has become inebriated with the idea of his own importance since the railway entered his town, the Emir had to reprimand him severely and expressed a wish to keep him in the town for twenty days to teach him manners.

The Emirs of Lafiagi and Shonga are both old men, I am trusting they will both soon be removed to a higher sphere and their places taken by more energetic and useful men.

The remaining chiefs of the Province do not call for report.

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REVENUE AND TAXATION

(33) The Revenue for the Financial year ending 31st. March 1908 amounted to £3068-6-1, which was a decrease of £580-15-1 on the past year owing to the abolition of the Caravan Tax. The following is a comparative statement showing the Revenue for the past three years.

Tax	1908	1907	1906
Caravans	-	£6384-18-3	£4817-13-6
Land Rent	2331-17-3	1934- 8 9	668-10-0
Petty Traders	505- 0-0	247-10-0	1612- 0-0
Liquor	29-19-0	41- 9-0	106- 9-0
Game	49- 5-6	17- 1-0	100- 5-0
Court Fines	103-15-0	169-13-4	109- 6-0
" Fees	- 15-0	1-10-6	- 11-0
Customs			
(Parcels)	5- 8-4	5-17-0	3-19-5
" Salt	34-16-0	59-17-0	11-13-0
Miscl	7-10-0	8-5 -0	1- 3-6
Total	£3068- 6- 1	£3870- 1- 8	£6831- 0-11

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TRADE

(34) Since the abolition of the Caravan tax it has been found impossible to give statistics of the trade passing into the Province all one can do is to make a guess of the volume founded on past experience.

During the year two new trading Stations have been erected at Ogudu by Messrs. Seigler and Pagenstecher who appear to be doing well. These two firms however consider they have a grievance by reason of the fact that the Headman of Ogudu, a large and influential farmer has for years past supplied the Niger Coy. with produce and received a monthly stipend for doing so. These two firms wished me to interfere and prevent Chief Brimah trading solely with the Niger Coy.

I was unable to do this for the reason that when I visited Ogudu Chief Brimah informed me he had taken no action whatever to hamper Messrs. Seigler and Pagenstecher but had declined to desert the firm he had dealt with for so many years.

(35) The Niger Coy. and the Lagos Stores have opened stations at Ilorin on the Square mile, they appear very pessimistic as to future prospects of trade.

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(36) It is with the petty trader that one sees the immense increase of trade, the whole Province is overrun with them in every market along the line of railway, also in others these men are found selling ready made clothes and all kinds of Manchester goods. Capt. Anderson reports that Offa is a miniature Lagos, the markets that formerly only contained food and bead sellers are now congested by petty traders of the Cheap Jack order who sell goods varying from rat traps to ladies pale blue motor hats.

(37) It is worth while noticing the Paymaster's arrival, he is followed by hordes of petty traders laden with umbrellas and imported goods who visit each Division, and dispose of their goods and return empty handed but with full pockets. It can be taken as a fact that £3000 a month is paid in wages by the railway, it can also be accepted as correct that the petty trader gets four fifths of this sum each month. These petty traders are almost entirely Southern Nigerian natives and **must** procure their stock from Lagos Merchants who therefore benefit, though one would not think so from the way they talk.

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(38) The chief trade done at present or at least that carried by the railway is in salt, it is to be regretted that the Merchants appear to fear having anything to do with kolan. They consider it I understand so risky that it is not worth while to attempt it. This trade belongs to the native and without doubt this class of trader will import immense quantities to meet the demand of the caravans coming down from the north.

(39) It is very necessary that middle men should purchase cattle and send them down to Lagos. At the present moment the cattle pass by road and many die, the caravan man will not pay the price the railway charge, time is of no importance to these men, and so they prefer to save their money and walk.

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ECONOMIC

RAILWAYS

(40) This subject has occupied the greater part of my time during the year, so much so, that I have found it all but impossible to get away from Head Quarters, owing to the fact that District Engineers were continually seeking interviews and information.

For the sake of convenience I shall discuss this subject under the following heads.

(A) Labour

I consider that the Emir of Ilorin deserves the highest credit for the manner in which the Construction Engineers were supplied with men, Ilorin is one of the smallest Provinces in the Protectorate yet, it managed to supply a steady average of 10,000 men per month. This I consider very satisfactory it was a regrettable fact that the labourers in the first instant worked under the most unsatisfactory conditions. They were new to the work, being mere raw farm hands, and coming in from a distance carrying three days food

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were supposed to work not alone for a month without payment but for seven to eight weeks. The result was that they held on as long as they could and then threw down their tools and returned to their farms to the dismay of the different District Engineers, under whom they worked leaving their wages in the hands of the most noxious individual the "Contractor" or "Pieceworker".

They suffered also under a very real grievance, they were placed under these Pieceworkers who were given a task and were paid by result, no supervision whatever, so far as I could gather was exercised by the paymaster or District Engineers as to how much the labourers received, the result was that the contractor worked on what I call for want of a better name the "safety system" that is experience showed them what was the least they could pay and retain the men, there can be no doubt of this fact, hundreds came to complain of underpayment I could get no redress for the reason the contractor being paid correctly for the work done, there was no agreement made as to how much they should and must pay the labourers under them, that was left to their own decision

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Needless to say these aliens took advantage of the ignorance of the natives and feathered their own nests,

It was a bitter knowledge to me that these aliens through no effort of their own were supplied with men through the loyalty of the Edele merely to rob them.

I have no doubt but that in building a line payment by piecework is infinitely more satisfactory than pay by the day, but when undertaken it should be most carefully supervised by the European in charge.

It was urgently necessary that I should appoint a capable officer to deal with the question of labour and safeguard the interests of the men employed, I detached Captain Anderson from ordinary political work and having obtained full judicial powers for him arranged that he should continually tour along the line from Offa to Jebba and closely examine into the conditions of the men and immediately rectify any abuses he might discover. I am pleased to state that the result was most satisfactory. Many children worked on the line and I encouraged them for the reason that they

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were learning to use European tools instead of the native hoe, so that in the future there may be a call for these implements, and trade benefit.

RAILS

(B) The rails reached Ilorin on the 15th. of June, and the first train steamed in, in the presence of the Emir, Baloguns, and a large number of natives who were very much impressed with the sight. I understand that a record had been made in laying the rails to Ilorin that is so far as West Africa, is concerned.

I regret to say that early in October the line suffered badly owing to the exceptionally heavy rains, it appears that flood level was under estimated and sufficient waterways were not allowed for. The Division below the Residency suffered severely, the banks having been swept away, and the rails left unsupported. Many more small culverts had to be built.

BORROW PITS

(C) The Construction Engineers in the greater part cannot be congratulated on the manner in which they have drained their borrow pits, these pits were full of water during the rains and were a menage to the health of the

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Europeans of the Province. Though the Resident Engineer informed me he had issued instructions to all his engineers to carry out this work very little appears to have been done to obviate this very real danger and nuisance. This appears all the more strange for in my ignorance of engineering I always understood it was very necessary to drain these pits in order to prevent them collecting water and eventually damaging the banks.

I would hazard the opinion that had the Division below the Residency had its pits properly drained so much damage would not have occurred.

RAILWAY LAND

(D) Southern Nigeria put forward a modest claim for land, they wished for three hundred yards on each side of the line also that the Square mile taken up by this Government should be leased to them with powers to sublet to merchants. Needless to say His Excellency the Governor declined to accede to these proposals and granted only so much land as was absolutely required for purely railway purposes.

Land was required at Offa, and Jebba. The Head quarters of the Construction Ibadan-Ilorin has been moved from Ibadan, to Offa, and palatial Bungalows erected, the same at Jebba for the Head Directors of Jebba Gungeru Section.

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There has been an unaccountable delay in submitting approved plans of the land required, it is an undeniable fact that Southern Nigeria wished to obtain far and away more land than was necessary and the delay in submission of plans may be read as a wish on the part of Southern Nigeria to persist in their original proposals. When one remembers that common report has it that Southern Nigeria had to pay £200 for an acre it is easy to understand their anxiety to procure land in this Province more than sufficient for their needs in order to avoid any possibility of having to again pay such a price.

MERCHANTS SITES ILORIN

(E) It was decided by His Excellency that the Government should take up a square mile opposite the Station and that one acre plots should be leased to merchants for the erection of residential stores. Also that sheds on a special siding for their convenience should be erected that applications for the former should pass through the Resident and for the latter through the General Manager who would resubmit them to the same authority for transmission to Zungeru. That priority of application gave priority of claim and selection.

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It is a regrettable fact that there was an unnecessary amount of friction over the subject, it appeared that the General Manager had received applications for land previous to the railway entering the Province and so far as I know had not forwarded these applications to Zunguru, the result was that the Niger Company and the Lagos Stores having sent their applications for sites direct to me I was compelled to recognize their claims for priority of selection, this apparently did not please those merchants in Lagos who had applied to the General Manager, It was reported to me that the General Manager had balloted the sheds on the siding instead of allotting them by date of application.

The following firms have applied for leases on the square mile,

Messrs The Niger Coy, The Lagos Stores. John Walkden, Miller Bros, The French Coy.

His Excellency the Governor has ruled that these firms may not erect permanent buildings until their plans have been approved, this I consider a very necessary precaution, but the Commercial Intelligence Officer of Southern Nigeria is

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apparently of a different opinion, he states that a new firm entering the Ilorin trade would have to move slowly at first and not be in a position to immediately erect large and expensive buildings, Messrs Seigler, & Pagenstæcher have applied for land at Ogudu and have erected temporary stores, I understand they are doing a good trade.

COTTON

(F) I regret to say that the prospects of cotton are far from satisfactory, the railway has taken away so many farm hands that crops of every description have suffered but more particularly cotton which the native does not look upon as a necessity. There can be no doubt but that the future prosperity of the Province depends on cotton and unless the farmers take it up seriously I fail to see how the merchants can possibly exist at Ilorin, this product will be their salvation I have neither the wish nor the technical knowledge to criticise the action of the B.C.G.A., but I think I may express my amazement at the way ginneries are being erected before there is sufficient cotton grown to supply them. I am informed on credible authority that the steam gin at Oyo in Southern Nigeria is closed down and going to be erected at Ilorin for the reason that the natives would not take

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the trouble to grow cotton owing to the reduced price. I do not think there will be sufficient cotton grown for some years yet to meet the requirements of a steam gin. I have suggested in my quarterly reports that the B.C.G.A. should instead of erecting this gin at Ilorin spend the money necessary for an undertaking on gifts to the Emir and his principal chiefs on the understanding that they should guarantee the planting of so many heaps each year for a certain number of years. If this were done the Emir and chiefs would see that their own farms were planted and very soon the smaller men would follow suit. As Resident of the Province I have done all I could to encourage the growing of cotton, but as I have said in my Reports my provincial work will not permit of my acting as an agent of the B.C.G.A. and touring the province in their interests to report if my advice has been followed, I have expressed on every District Head the importance of encouraging the farmers under them to grow cotton even if only half an acre, if they refuse to do this, I have no power to enforce my orders.

The B.C.G.A. have applied for land at Ogudu, Ossa, and

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Ilorin. The Agent when visiting me expressed the hope that the land would be given them at a nominal rent, I pointed out that a subsidiary company had been formed, and it was impossible to look upon the Association as a philanthropic concern and that it should pay the same rent as did the merchants and I telegraphed to this effect to the Secretary Zungeru. Rightly or wrongly I was led to the belief that the taking up of land by the Association was merely a speculation with a view to the transference of the lease. It would be a sad day for the Protectorate if such a thing as freehold or transfer of leases were ever allowed.

CROPS (4)

During the early period of the year there was almost a scare of a famine supervening, the rains had been so eccentric that crops of every description suffered, but more especially guinea corn and beans. To account for this fear it must be remembered that thousands of men had been drawn from the farms, so that less land was placed under cultivation, again the farmers who always keep one year or more in reserve were compelled to encroach on this reserve to feed the men on the construction. To the intense satisfaction of everyone

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the rains did an amount of good and yam, Indian corn &c. got rid of the blight that threatened to destroy them. The guinea corn and beans however, are as compared with past years practically a failure. I am pleased to say so far as I can gather this is not due to the boring worm that did such damage in 1900, but to the faulty rain.

TOBACCO (F)

A very superior class of tobacco is found in the Patagi Division, so pleased was I at its description that I forwarded a large sample parcel to the Forestry Officer for transmission to the Imperial Institute. I doubt however, if it would pay to ship to Southern Nigeria for the reason that imported English tobacco appears to be gaining hold over the native and ousting out the native make.

There can be no doubt but that crops of every description must suffer, until the railway is finished, and the men in a position to once more resume their farm work. There is a danger that the railway may do incalculable harm to the farms for the reason that the men working on it, have been well paid and able to buy luxuries they never could have had, had they remained farmers, it is difficult to believe they will return to the land and live as they did prior to its advent. Of course one might believe that the desire for luxuries might and should make the men work the harder, personally I doubt it.

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