

Lokoja 15

No 15

1909

KABBA PROVINCE

REPORT No. 57 FOR QUARTER ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1909

BY RESIDENT J. A. LEY GREAVES,

GENERAL POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

- (1) Mr. Sciortino III Resident arrived from leave end of October and was placed in charge of No. 3 Division.
- (2) Mr. Chartres D. S. P. was transferred to Bassa, Mr. Greenwood D. S. P. taking his place at Kabba on the 9th. of October.
- (3) Mr. Covey Assistant Resident temporarily transferred to Kabba arrived the last week in October and was sent to assess Aworo District under Mr. Sciortino.
- (4) Dr. Watson M. O. sent to Kabba to enquire into Sleeping Sickness in September was recalled November 15th.
- (5) Mr. Norton Traill Assistant Resident proceeded on leave to England early in December.
- (6) His Excellency the Governor arrived at Lokoja December 30th from England.
- (7) No. I Division. I was unable to get away during October owing to the amount of work at Headquarters in taking precautions for getting rid of the *Glossina palpalis*.
- (8) A very large area of bush has been cleared near the Town and all this cleared space will shortly be put under cultivation.
- (9) The effect of this clearing and the dr...

GENERAL POLITICAL (continued).

now going on <sup>13</sup> very marked the fly decreasing rapidly in numbers during November, and none have been seen near the Town or Station during December.

(10) Part of November I spent in the Akoko District re-assessing. I hope to complete this work in February.

*Handwritten notes:*  
H.E.'s comments  
re-assessing districts  
very satisfactory

(11) The District has not been re-assessed for practically four years, and my idea is that this new assessment should stand for at least 3 years. This I have told the people, of course, subject to His Excellency's approval.

(12) No. II Division. In December I toured practically all over the Igbirra and Kukuruku Districts and collected nearly all their tribute.

(13) Of the Igbirra District there can be said that there is a marked improvement all round, which I hope to see gain ground on Mr. Groom's return. The improvement in this part is mainly due to that young Officer's hard work and his tact with the natives.

*Handwritten notes:*  
H.E. comments  
very satisfactory

(14) The people are in many places coming down from the hills and building on the plains.

(15) At none of the Igbirra Towns did I find any of the *glossina palpalis*, though a very careful look-out for fly was kept and ld. each offered to carriers and natives for what they caught.

(16) Here I should like to mention an amusing instance of the sharpness - let us call it - of carriers; at one Town where there were number  
I had already paid for something ld

shortly after

GENERAL POLITICAL (continued)

heard a lot of laughing and on going quietly to see what it was all about, I found a carrier with an empty bottle in which he had put a fine collection of flies dead and alive, which were intended to be sold to me at the next halting place - Needless to say they were not.

(17) The Igbirras had their tribute ready and brought it in without any trouble, though at first they said they had heard the whiteman was leaving and that there was to be no more taxation. This rumour emanated from Southern Nigeria.

(18) Of the Kukuruku District I cannot speak so cheerfully. There are many Towns in that part which are quite law abiding and more or less welcome a whiteman, but there are a few where the people are practically passive resisters. Some of these towns will, I fear, have to be punished next year.

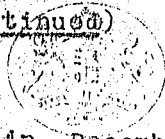
(19) While touring through the Kukuruku District I was able to effect the arrest of a rather notorious "Sasswood Poisoner" though I could not bring home any actual death to him. I was able to convict him for "Illegal Trial by Ordeal".

(20) No. III Division. Mr. Sciortino III Resident has done some very good work here during the two months he has been back from leave.

(21) Koton-Karifi District which now has been transferred to Nassarawa to which Province it geographically and in every other way belonged, was in charge of Mr. Norton Traill who did some very useful assessment work and mapping before going on

leave

GENERAL POLITICAL (continued)



leave early in December. He reports the Bassa people are quite quiet and friendly and had no trouble anywhere in the District.

(22) On November 30th. the whole of Lokoja Town was put under the Cantonment Magistrate and no longer is under the Province.

(23) This entailed the removal of the Headquarters of No. III Division to Agbaja where Mr. Sciortino has started temporary buildings.

(24) The site is a very good one, by aneroid it is 1150 feet above sea level. The water also is good being obtained from a spring flowing out of a rock.

(25) I must say I think that though Lokoja Town is under the Cantonment Magistrate for Judicial work, in every other way it should be under the Resident of the Province and that in any matters apart from Judicial work the Cantonment Magistrate should refer to the Resident.

(26) Mr. Covey has re-assessed the Aworo and Kakanda Districts in No. III Division and has done some useful work under Mr. Sciortino.

(27) The general state of the Division Mr. Sciortino reports as being satisfactory.

*H. E. comments  
The Cantonment is  
entirely separate from  
the Province.*

Resident, Kabba Province.

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REVENUE AND TAXATION

(28) The last month of the Quarter the tribute has come in well.

(29) The taking away of Lokoja Town from the Province means a big drop in Provincial Revenue. I think that the Revenue from Lokoja Town should be credited to the Province no matter who it is collected by.

(30) I hope that the re-assessment of the Province will be completed in the next few months, and I would ask His Excellency's sanction to this assessment standing for the next three years.

(31) During the Quarter £1277. 19. 7 tribute has been collected.

*H.E. comment:  
Dr. Lokoja T. the  
County... must  
be credited...*

*H.E. comment:  
Re-assessment  
assessed...*

Resident, Kabba Province.

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JUDICIAL

(52) The following cases have been tried in Kabba Province during the Quarter under review. Criminal 14.

Slave Dealing .....	3	(people involved 8)
Stealing .....	1	
Manslaughter .....	1	
Witchcraft & Trial by)		
Ordeal &c..	1	
Extortion .....	1	
Uttering counterfeit coin	1	
Liquor Proclamation ...	1	
Assaulting Police .....	2	
Refusing to obey a law- ful order of his Chief	1	
Deprivation of liberty..	1	
Offences against the Wild animals protection Proclamation	1	

14.

Resident, Kabba Province.



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NATIVE COURTS

(33) There have been 65 cases tried by the Native Courts during the Quarter, mainly petty offences and matrimonial differences.

(34) During the Quarter 55 informal cases have been dealt with in the Province.

Resident, Kabba Province.

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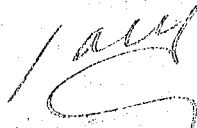
TRADE

(35) The trade in the Province during the Quarter has been good.

(36) At Ajacoota and Egori the Niger Company have started buying Palm Oil, the trade at present appears likely to be a success.

COTTON

(37) The British Cotton Growing Association have given up their buying Station here on account of the expense of transport to Lokoja.

  
Resident, Kabba Province.



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DEPARTMENTAL

(38) POLICE.

The work of the Police throughout the Quarter has been excellent.

(39) I hope that the increase of Police asked for in my Estimate for next year will be granted as they are urgently required.

(40) PRISONS.

The average number of prisoners during the Quarter has been 3.

(41) They have been employed on farm work and the Station roads etc.

(42) The health among the prisoners has been good.

(43) MEDICAL.

Dr. Watson M. O. who arrived here on September 26th. left again early in November, and no one else has taken his place.

(44) The health of Europeans and natives at Kabba has been excellent during the Quarter.

(45) There has been one case of small-pox but owing to prompt isolation of the sick person and all who had been in contact with her, I hope no other cases will arise.

*J. A. Lex Greaves*  
Resident, Kabba Province.

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SLAVERY

(46) Ten persons have been freed during the Quarter.

*J. A. Ley Greaves*  
Resident, Kabba Province.

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BUILDINGS

(47) I would again urge the necessity of having some permanent buildings erected at Kabba.

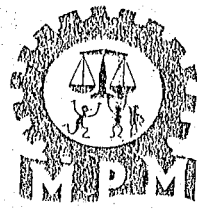
(48) Bricks could be made on the spot and other materials brought from Lokoja fairly cheaply.

*J. A. L. G.*  
Resident, Kabba Province.

# MIDDLE-BELT PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT

**CHAIRMAN:**  
Mr. P. L. Dabup, CFR, NPM, Mni.  
Deputy Inspector-General of Police (Rtd)

**SECRETARY:**  
Mr. B. T. Iornum; MBA, B.Sc., MIMC.



14A, Muhammadu Buhari Way,  
(Waff Road),  
G.P.O. 499,  
Kaduna.  
☎ 062 - 239739

Our Ref.....

Date: 10th June, 2000

The Chairman,

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Sir,

## POLITICAL & SPIRITUAL WISDOM

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are a political pressure group dedicated to educate, sensitize and mobilize the people of the Middle-Belt Region (who are mostly Christians) to be alive to their citizenship duties and rights.

We cannot assume to know the scriptures more than those who are called or chosen by the Lord and therefore, this letter is in no way teaching you your duties.

However, it is our belief that before anything takes place in the physical and material world, it would have taken place first in the spiritual sphere. That being the case, Christians cannot be content in the spiritual realm alone. Such spiritual contentment must have a bearing on their physical and material well-being. In our own understanding, the welfare of a people is attained through the political process of contest for power and resource allocation. Any group of people who treats that process with disdain will only succeed in knocking out itself of socio-political reckoning, thereby impoverishing itself. It is our belief that the body of Christ in Nigeria have politically impoverished herself enough. It is time to enrich and nourish that glorious body.

In the light of the foregoing and the aftermath of the February and May 2000 Sharia wars of which Christianity is its target and victims, the feedback from many of our members revealed certain developments that may further weaken the Christians, if not checkmated. We humbly wish to suggest as follows;

1. That spiritual warfare through prayers, fasting and Bible studies should be intensified by the various Churches and groups.
2. That cell centres and House-Fellowships should include security and protective awareness for self and collective defence against unwarlike attacks.