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P. A. ... Resident, 22/2/49.

Secretary Kaduna
2896 x MY 2896 of 15/2/49 x Paragraph 23 my Annual Report x Touring percentage 24.64

Resident

WTS 22/2

No. 2896/35A.
Lokoja, 28 February, 1949.

- D.O. Igbirra. 28/4/49
- P.E.O. Okene. 2
- D.O. Kabba. 21/4/49
- D.O. Igala. 21/4/49
- M.O. Idah. 22/3/49
- D.O. K/Karifi. 21/4

11-20-55

The attached copy of Kabba Province Annual Report for 1948 is circulated for perusal and early return.

[Signature]
Resident,
Kabba Province.

ADE.

ADE.

for Return of Report from
Circulation -
B.V. 20/3/49 ✓
before the report goes out to
Parliament, it should have
a circulation jacket cover
in a folder similar to 2806/35
lost.

B.V. 20/4

c.c. Pl. ensure if with D.O.K.K.

WTS 20/4

D.O.K.K.

Has the Kabba Province Ann. 1948
reached you?

cc. / Yes it will be returned shortly. 20/4

R 21/4

B.V. 21/5 ✓

D.O.K.K. May Kabba Province annual report be returned

The Resident,
 Kabba Province,
 Lokoja.

Kabba Division Annual Report 1948
Part II-Divisional Affairs.

Area and
Boundaries

20. These remain unchanged. No disputes between Aworo and Koton-Karifi over fishing rights around islands in the Niger aroso.

Population

21. An increase of 798 in the population of the Division over last year is recorded. The figures are :-

	1945	1946	1947	1948
Kabba	52024	51815	52493	54041
Yagba	40259	40456	39930	39190
Total :-	92283	92271	92423	93231

The increase in the population in Kabba may in part be ascribed to normal increase, and in part to the immigration of Igbirra farmers from over the border. The decrease in Yagba may be ascribed to the exodus of many of the educated youths to seek clerical employment in other parts of Nigeria, the diminution in mining activity in Yagba, and to the emigration of a certain type of labourer who carves out a career in the Sanitary departments of the big towns of Nigeria.

Divisional
Staff

22. Mr. V.L. Cornish, Assistant District Officer, was in charge of the Division until June 3rd. Mr. A.G.F. Ditcham, Assistant District Officer, arrived from the United Kingdom on 24th February and took over from Mr. Cornish on the latter's departure on leave. Mr. L.S. Watt, Assistant District Officer, relieved Mr. Ditcham on 2nd July and remained in charge until 13th October 1948, when he proceeded on leave and Mr. Ditcham took over again. Mr. Ditcham was posted to Kaduna and departed on November 20th, and until Mr. Cornish returned to duty on December 1st, Mr. T.P.G. Hopkins, District Officer, Igbirra, was in charge of the Division.

Clerical
Staff

23. Mr. T.A. Collier, 1st Class Clerk, was Divisional Clerk from 1st January, 1948 until 3rd September, when he was relieved by Mr. M.O. Sanl, 3rd Class Clerk, who remained in charge Divisional Office until he was relieved by Mr. S.C.M. Marke, 2nd Class Clerk on 18th November. Mr. M.O. Adebosin, Clerical Assistant, served in the Divisional Office until 10th December, when he was relieved by Mr. M.C.N. Nwogalanya, Clerical Assistant.

Non-Clerical
Staff

24. The following served in the division during the year. Mr. F.O. Olaitan, Land Ranger - 1st January, 1948 to 31st August, 1948. Both ex-MGSM Braima Kabba and M.Mundi Government Messenger served in the division throughout the year. Baba Dauchi, Messenger, was employed in June 1948 at Lokoja and transferred to this Division.

Visitors

25. Visits were paid to the division as under :-

His Excellency the Governor	Once
Resident, Kabba Province	Numerous
Assistant Public Relations Officer	Once
Magistrate Benin	Twice

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

Kabba Divisional Annual Report 1948
Part I - Divisional Summary.

1948 has been a good year. Harvests, taken all round, have been above average, and there has been no shortage of food. Food prices have not risen appreciably and it is possible that we are at the beginning of a period of stability in the cost of living. There are still - and no doubt will be for years to come - shortages of imported goods, but they appear to be growing less acute. It is worthy of note that raw cotton carried a better price in the local markets than at the counters of the exporting firms. Even more encouraging is the sight of the new buildings, both Government and Native Administration, that have grown near to completion during the year. The stagnation of the post-war years seems to be at an end. Those projects which for years have been discussed on paper are at last becoming tangible facts. And they are encouraging facts to a people who were beginning to have doubts as to whether or not some of the proposals ever would become reality. Be it from the implementation of the Philipson Report or from the generous provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Funds Act, definite action is now proceeding. The atmosphere of frustration is dispersing. Government expenditure in this Division is assuming massive proportions - at a rough calculation and excluding salaries of officials, it amounts to more than two thirds of the combined expenditure of the two Native Treasuries - and is infusing new life into the poverty stricken Native Administration finances.

2. There is, however, still a reverse of the medallion to be considered. Government and Native Administration expenditure is largely directed into the channels of Administration, and educational and public services; the economic life of the people remain practically untouched. Yet it is upon this rural economy that the improved services must eventually rely for their maintenance and upkeep. So far we have only scratched the surface of this intricate problem. Propaganda and small demonstration farms have failed to produce results. What is needed is a long range plan, backed if necessary by Government finance, based on sound experience, and carried out under the supervision of a trained Agricultural officer. As things stand at present, we know neither what we want to do, nor how to do it.

3. The administrative reorganization in Yagba from a Native Authority consisting of a Central Council to two separate Native Authorities of East and West Yagba, seems to be working reasonably well. Yagba has a long tradition of Missionary activity, and the influence of Mission-educated literate and progressive young men, both inside and outside the Division, is increasingly making itself felt. An example was the backing given to the Village Head of Mopa in his opposition to the appointment of the Agbana Iyanlu as Native Authority of East Yagba. Since the visit of His Excellency the Governor on September 18th, and his unequivocal words, this opposition has faded, and the Alok of Mopa has agreed to take his place on the Native Authority's Council. In West Yagba, the reorganization proceeded smoothly and has been received by the people with satisfaction. In Egbe the supporters of the dismissed Village Head, the ex-Owa, having failed to obtain the latter's re-instatement by means of petitions, are seeking an Injunction of the Supreme Court to restrain the present Village Head of Egbe from exercising his administrative functions. The cause has yet to be heard.

4. In the Adde Group of Ijumu, the death of the Group Head, Olu Adde, in January was followed by some months of squabbling over the succession. Finally, following local custom, the Olukoyi of Ilukpa was chosen. He assumed the title of Oluyara on his appointment, which included that of Court President to the Adde Court, and has settled down satisfactorily to his duties. The late Olu Adde was also Village Head of Ekinrin, and the squabble continues as to who should succeed him in this office. The Ijumu Central Council continues to maintain itself more as a debating society than as an effective Native Authority. Considerations of geography and the temperament of its members, indeed, prevent it being anything else. However, administration is not entirely ineffective with each Group Head acting as a semi-autonomous Native Authority for his own group area.

5. The affairs of those districts under independent Native Authorities have proceeded smoothly during the year. A strong effort is being made this dry season to complete the road to Akutukpa so that more attention may be given to Bunu District.

6. Progress on the Kampe River Development works has been fitful in the extreme. At first the work was held up for lack of material and transport. During the earlier months of the year fair progress was made, but owing to the lack of a suitable pump it was not possible to put in the under-water foundations of two of the piers of the main bridge. From June to September, under the supervision of an Inspector of Works, the work pressed on rapidly. The existing piers and approaches were built up and the remaining culverts built. However at the end of September the Inspector departed on leave, and by that time the work was nearly exhausted. Stagnation therefore ensued, and at the moment nothing can be done pending a fresh allocation of money. The Government decision to pay 90% of the costs of this work was welcomed on all sides.

7. Other development works, which are now nearing completion, are the Post Office, the Postmaster's quarter, the new Divisional Office and the District Officer's quarter at Kabba.

8. Native Courts. All the Native Courts of the Division, with the exception of those of Bunu and Aworo, have been working at full pressure, deciding for the most divorce cases. The problem of divorce is a thorny one, and so far it has defeated all attempts to solve it. It is possible that a solution will not be found until African society, disrupted from its former rigid tribal framework by the impact of new ideas, easier communications, and the disuetude of former pagan sanctions, settles down into a new pattern. Some alleviation from the burden the Courts are now shouldering may be possible by some alteration in the Native Authority Marriage Rules. The Divisional Chiefs Conference will again examine this problem in its next Session.

9. Kabba, Aworo, and West Yagba Courts have done their work well. It is gratifying to record some signs of improvement in Ijumu Court. Bunu Court needs more supervision - which I trust it will get in the coming year. East Yagba Court remains unsatisfactory and a large number of reviews of its decisions have been necessary.

10. Economic: The General Tax was not raised during the year. It remains at 13/- per adult male; except in Aworo where it is 9/6d for men and 3/6d for women.

11. The figures for graded produce for the period January - November 1948 are :-

	Kabba		Yagba	
	1947	1948	1947	1948
Kernels	73 tons	88 tons	18 tons	111
Cocoa	120 "	82 "		111

1 1/2 tons of Shea nuts and 187 1/2 tons of Castor Seed were also exported. These figures represent the produce graded at Kabba only, and are not valuable as a guide to the entire production of the Division. Much produce is exported to the South by lorry and no figures for these exports are available. - The export of tobacco and peppers, especially from the Gbedde area, remains high. The proposal to develop the ginger farming in East Yagba came to nothing owing to the failure to find a market. In East Yagba certain farmers have joined together to form the "Yagba Farmers Co-operative Society". They have collected together £700, and propose to buy a lorry with which to market their produce in the large population centres of the South. A similar scheme is starting in Gbedde and is being given every encouragement.

12. The prices of food have not risen appreciably.

13. Education: The even tenor of the Scholastic world of Kabba Division was rudely shattered at the beginning of the year by a strike of teachers in the Sudan Interior Mission School at Isantu Makuba. The cause of the strike was the insistence by the Sudan Interior Mission on the signature by the teachers of an engagement contract which prohibited memberships of the Nigerian Union of Teachers. The cause of the teachers was taken up by the Nigerian Union of Teachers, and a certain tension ensued. Some indulgence in insolence towards the school manager resulted in the dismissal and replacement of the staff. The school then re-opened with new staff. However the Sudan Interior Mission are reported to have conceded the omission of the offending clause from their teachers contracts, and an uneasy peace has been restored. The dismissed headmaster was given a job in the Apostolic Mission School at Amuro, and has applied for a scholarship to the United Kingdom.

14. No progress has been made in the Sudan Interior Mission plan to build a Secondary School in the Epebe area. The Sudan Interior Mission report a serious shortage in trained teachers.

15. The news that Government is to build a new Elementary Training Centre and Middle School, and a Senior Girls Primary School in this Province, was received with universal pleasure. It is to be hoped that one, at least, of these schools will find its way into this Division, where the proportion of primary schools per head of population must be one of the highest in the Northern Provinces. But the financial burden of such a step, in spite of generous Government assistance, would be well nigh crippling to our penurious Native Treasuries.

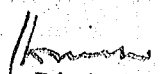
16. The Community Schools have made good progress. Two new schools started to function during the year and applications to open another two, at Iya Gbedde and at Taketo Idi, have been received. The schools have received the close attention of the Education Department and the District Officer. The problem of how these schools can qualify for Government Grants under the Education Ordinance, and yet retain their individual character as Village schools and pay their way, is one that remains to be solved.

17. Mining: Mining activity diminished during the year. The London and African Mining Trust gave up their option on Hamber's reef at Okolom early in the year, after a somewhat feeble attempt to explore its possibilities. Hamber has now resumed operations there, and has placed an American expeditionary called Johnson in charge of the work. Hamber is reported to have bought Paravicini's lease at Bakin Kogi, where Sandford is also operating. No accidents have been reported. Illegal gold mining is still widespread and needs more drastic action than has heretofore been applied. Mr. de Swardt, of the Geological Survey Department, has recently arrived in the Division, and will be carrying on the mineral survey in Bunu District where Mr. Jacques left off.

18. Medical: An Ambulance, the cost of which is shared with Igbirra Native Administration, now operates from Kabba for half the week. It is doubtful whether this luxury can continue to be afforded, especially since a Government ambulance has now arrived at Lokoja. The Mission Dispensaries and that of Kabba continue to do excellent work. The task of building new dispensaries at Agbaja and Ifo Yagba is about to begin. Next year new dispensaries are planned for Ekinrin and Okeri. Miss Agnes Oloniyi, the Midwife, continues her apparently indefinite training in Ilorin Hospital. The Medical Officer, Lokoja, visits the Division monthly. Dr. Morris of the Oyi River Leper Settlement deals with the more serious cases in Yagba.

19. At the Oyi River Leper Settlement the new hospital and Administrative block have been finished. Dr. Morris, his wife, and a European nurse have been running the Settlement the whole year. Mr. and Mrs. Virgint, who are now in charge of the Sudan Interior Mission at Isanlu, helped there for about 4 months. There are nearly 1100 lepers in the Settlement. Permission has been given to open a school, which at the moment lacks certificated teachers, and so does not qualify for Government assistance. (vide para.14). Dr. Morris is planning a trades training centre for the lepers next year in which they will be taught blacksmithing, carpentering, weaving, and perhaps Dutch thatching. If funds permit he hopes to build a creche. He informs me that the problem of what to do with children born at the settlement is an acute one. The mothers do not like the present procedure - which is to send them home and not allow them back until they have left their children in the care of some relative. A creche would cost about £1,000 to build and would need a European worker to take charge. So far this year no Government grant has been forthcoming, but the Senior Leprosy Officer may be inspecting the Settlement shortly, and it is to be hoped that it will be possible for Government to make some contribution to the cost of running this invaluable institution. Little progress has been made with regard to the plan for a mixed farming demonstrations at the Settlement. Nine cows have been bought, but Dr. Morris informs me that there is now no money available to buy more. The whole area of the Settlement has been mapped by the Koton Karifi Town Planning Officer, and the map, approved by the Agbana, is now in the hands of Dr. Morris.

MCN.


Asst. District Officer,
i/c Kabba Division.