

Debates in the Legislative Council of Nigeria

Tuesday, 8th March, 1949

Pursuant to notice the Honourable Members of the Legislative Council met in the Hall of the Western House of Assembly, Ibadan, at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, the 8th of March, 1949.

PRESENT

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- His Excellency the Governor,
Sir John S. Macpherson, K.C.M.G.
- The Chief Secretary to the Government,
The Honourable H. M. Foot, C.M.G., O.B.E.
- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,
His Honour T. C. Hoskyns-Abrahall, C.M.G.
- The Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces,
His Honour E. W. Thompson, C.M.G., M.C.
- The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,
His Honour Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, C.M.G.
- The Attorney-General,
The Honourable G. L. Howe, K.C.
- The Financial Secretary,
The Honourable A. W. L. Savage, C.M.G.
- The Director of Medical Services,
Dr the Honourable G. B. Walker, C.B.E.
- The Development Secretary,
The Honourable C. J. Pleass.
- The Director of Education,
The Honourable R. A. McL. Davidson, C.M.G.
- The Director of Agriculture,
The Honourable A. G. Beattie.
- The Director of Public Works,
The Honourable R. W. Taylor.
- The Commissioner of Labour,
The Honourable A. H. Couzens.
- The Senior Resident, Kano Province,
The Honourable E. K. Featherstone, C.M.G.
- The Resident, Ogoja Province,
The Honourable P. M. Riley.
- The Resident, Abeokuta Province,
The Honourable J. H. Blair, E.D.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Member for the Colony,
The Rev. and Honourable T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.

- The First Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Obisesan, O.B.E.
- The Second Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.
- The First Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable I. Olorun-Nimbe.
- The Emir of Gwandu,
The Honourable Yahaya, C.B.E.
- The Emir of Katsina,
Alhaji the Honourable Usuman Nagogo, C.B.E.
- The Oni of Ife,
The Honourable Aderemi I, C.M.G.
- The Oba of Benin,
The Honourable Akenzua II, C.M.G.
- The Atta of Igbirra,
Alhaji the Honourable Ibrahim.
- The Emir of Abuja,
The Honourable Sulemanu.
- The First Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Bello Kano.
- The First Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable C. D. Onyeama.
- The Second Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.
- The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable H. Bowari Brown.
- The Third Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Iro Katsina.
- The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable A. Ikoku.
- The Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Aliyu, Makama Bida.
- The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.
- The Second Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe.
- The First Nominated Member,
The Honourable P. J. Rogers.
- The Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Yahaya Ilorin.
- The Third Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.
- The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable N. Essien.
- The Third Lagos Member,
The Honourable Adeleke Adedoyin.
- The Member for Calabar,
The Honourable E. E. E. Anwan.
- The Second Nominated Member,
Major the Honourable J. West, M.C.
- The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Soetan.

ABSENT

OFFICIAL MEMBER

The Acting Commissioner of the Colony,
The Honourable J. G. C. Allen.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBER

The Third Nominated Member,
The Honourable N. B. Edwards.

PRAYERS

His Excellency the Governor opened the proceedings of the Council with prayers.

OATHS

His Honour Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, c.m.g., Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces; the Honourable A. H. Couzens, Commissioner of Labour; the Honourable E. K. Featherstone, c.m.g., Senior Resident, Kano Province; the Honourable P. M. Riley, Resident, Ogoja Province; the Honourable J. H. Blair, e.d., Resident, Abeokuta Province; and the Honourable A. Soetan, Fourth Member for the Western Provinces, took the Oath as Members of the Council.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 24th day of August, 1948, having been printed and circulated to Honourable Members, were taken as read and confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Your Excellency, I beg to lay on the table the following papers :—

- Sessional Paper No. 21 of 1948—Annual Report on the general progress of Development and Welfare Schemes, 1946-47 and 1947-48.
- Sessional Paper No. 22 of 1948—Annual Report on Antiquities for the year 1947.
- Sessional Paper No. 23 of 1948—Report on Fisheries Investigations, 1942-48.
- Sessional Paper No. 24 of 1948—Annual Report of the Mines Department for the year 1947.
- Sessional Paper No. 25 of 1948—Annual Report on the Agricultural Department for the year 1945.
- Sessional Paper No. 26 of 1948—Annual Report on the Agricultural Department for the year 1946.
- Sessional Paper No. 27 of 1948—Annual Report of the Survey Department for the year 1947-48.
- Sessional Paper No. 28 of 1948—Annual Report of the Veterinary Department for the year 1947.
- Sessional Paper No. 29 of 1948—Annual Report of the Electricity Branch of the Public Works Department for the year 1946-47.
- Sessional Paper No. 30 of 1948—Annual Report of the Department of Labour and Resettlement of Ex-Servicemen for the year 1947.

- Sessional Paper No. 31 of 1948—Annual Report on the Nigerian Railway, 1947.
- Sessional Paper No. 32 of 1948—Annual Report of the Commerce and Industries Department, 1947-48.
- Sessional Paper No. 33 of 1948—Report on the Audit of the Accounts of the Nigerian Government Railway (including Road Motor Services) for the year ending 31st March, 1947.
- Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1949—Annual Report of the Nigeria Marine for the year 1947.
- Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1949—Annual Report on the Posts and Telegraphs Department for the year 1947-48.
- Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1949—Annual Report on the Medical Department for the year 1947.
- Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1949—Annual Report on the Education Department for the year 1947.
- Sessional Paper No. 5 of 1949—Annual Report on the Forest Administration of Nigeria for the year 1947-48.
- Sessional Paper No. 6 of 1949—Annual Report of the Nigeria Local Development Board for the year 1948.
- Sessional Paper No. 7 of 1949—Report on Banks and Banking in Nigeria by G. D. Paton.
- Address by His Excellency, the Governor, Sir John Macpherson, K.C.M.G., to the Legislative Council on 8th March, 1949.
- Report of the Accountant-General with financial statements for the year ended 31st March, 1948.
- Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board, First Annual Report, 1947-48 Season.
- Debates of the Western House of Assembly, December, 1948.
- Information in respect of Nigeria for the year 1947.
- Reports of the Standing Committee on Finance of the Northern House of Assembly for the period (i) March to July, 1948 (ii) August to December, 1948.
- Reports of the Standing Committee on Finance of the Western House of Assembly for the period (i) April to June, 1948 (ii) July to November, 1948.
- Reports of the Standing Committee on Finance of the Eastern House of Assembly (i) for the month of July, 1948 (ii) for the period August to November, 1948.
- Annual Report by the Registrar of Companies for the year ending 31st December, 1948.
- Subsidiary Legislations made since the last meeting of the Council.
- Resolutions adopted by the House of Chiefs under section 53 (1) of the Nigeria (Legislative Council) Order in Ordinance, 1945.
- Resolutions adopted by the Northern House of Assembly under section 53 (1) of the Nigeria (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1946.

Resolutions adopted by the Western House of Assembly under section 53 (1) of the Nigeria (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1946.

Resolutions adopted by the Eastern House of Assembly under section 53 (1) of the Nigeria (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1946.

Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year, 1949-50, in respect of the Northern Region and the Resolutions on the said Estimates, together with the statement of apportioned or assigned revenues for the Region, adopted by the Houses of Chiefs and Assembly respectively, under section 52 (5) of the Nigeria (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1946.

Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year, 1949-50, in respect of the Western Region and the Resolution on the said Estimates, together with the statement of apportioned or assigned revenues for the Region, adopted by the House of Assembly under section 52 (5) of the Nigeria (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1946.

Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year, 1949-50, in respect of the Eastern Region and the Resolution on the said Estimates, together with the statement of apportioned or assigned revenues for the Region, adopted by the House of Assembly under section 52 (5) of the Nigeria (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1946.

Draft Railway Estimates for the financial year, 1949-50.

Draft Estimates for the financial year, 1949-50.

Certificate of Urgency in respect of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance further to amend the Labour Code Ordinance, 1945".

SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

Today we begin the third session of this Council. So effective is its operation—in my experience to date—that it is difficult for me, as a newcomer, to realise how short a time the Constitution and this Council have been in existence. For example, I am deeply impressed by the fact that this is only the second year in which the Estimates have been presented on a Regional as well as a Nigerian basis.

This is the second time that the Council has met outside Lagos, and our first meeting in the Western Provinces. It is less than three months since I laid the foundation stone of this Council Chamber, and I warmly congratulate the Public Works Department in the Western Provinces, the contractors, and the workers upon the expedition and the skill with which the work has been carried out. I feel sure that you would also like me to express, on behalf of all of us who have journeyed to Ibadan, our sincere gratitude to His Honour the Chief Commissioner and his staff for the excellent arrangements made for our convenience and comfort, and to the

people of the Western Provinces, and of Ibadan in particular, for the friendliness of their welcome. In these matters the Regions are, I suggest, setting a standard for Lagos to emulate.

In welcoming new Members I should like to extend a special greeting to His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces. It is good to think that wise men sometimes go to the East as well as come from that quarter. I also wish to pay a tribute to Sir Bernard Carr, the late Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces. I had intended to do this at the close of our meeting last August when he was present but, as Honourable Members will recall, our proceedings ended abruptly at an unusual hour of the day after the unexpected prolongation of a debate, and the time was not opportune. Sir Bernard Carr was held in high esteem by the Members of this Council and of the Eastern House of Assembly, and he won the deep affection of the people of the Eastern Provinces, to whom he gave devoted service. He left this country on retirement with his vigour unimpaired, and no one who knew him will be surprised to learn that he soon undertook a fresh assignment in another part of the world. To him and to Lady Carr we send our best wishes.

My review of the past year has already been printed and circulated to you and I now propose to deal in a more general and rather less impersonal way with our past actions, present programme, and future prospects. For myself it has been a busy year, with much happiness and some anxieties—on Nigeria's behalf. We have no reason to be complacent, but I believe that we can take solid satisfaction in the work that we have been able to do together. When I arrived last April I said that I knew that I was returning to a different Nigeria. Experience has amply confirmed that statement—with one important exception. What I found not to have changed was the personal friendliness of the people of this country and their ready response to friendship sincerely offered.

The main difference between the Nigeria of 1938-1939 and the Nigeria of 1948-1949 is, of course, the tremendous increase in vigour and vitality, the new political consciousness, the new awareness of our problems. This is a sound and healthy development which causes no dismay or uneasiness to the British Colonial official who understands and loyally carries out British Colonial policy; indeed it is welcomed by him because it is the natural result of the education and progress which he has fostered. I am bound to say that I cannot regard some of the manifestations of the new political consciousness, notably in sections of the Press, as admirable or just or conducive to true progress, but in spite of this I can sincerely declare that I rejoice in the new interest in public affairs, the new spirit of enquiry, the new testing of the actions and intentions of Government, of local authorities, and of all who aspire to leadership, political or otherwise. But I pray, for the sake of Nigeria, that this testing and appraising will be done honestly in a spirit of service to the country, and not with destructive or self-seeking motives.

As Members of this Council well know, the growing volume and pace and complexity of the work that falls upon all who are engaged in public service make it more and more difficult to detach oneself from time to time from the pressure of day by day work, and to assess Nigeria's problems as a whole. But I sometimes ask myself what are the main issues that people in this country most care about: what are the things closest to their hearts. It is perhaps rash of me to tell you of the conclusions that I reach, but I propose to do so.

I mention first the desire and the determination of the people to take an ever-increasing share in the management of their own affairs. This stems, of course, from the new political consciousness to which I have referred, and which informs and conditions all our activities.

Accepting that as a general background, I would say that, in so far as one can generalize about a country so large and so diverse, the people place first emphasis upon economic development, including improved agriculture and land use, industrialization, internal as well as external trade, and the basic services such as communications, power, light and water, which are necessary for economic development. As I judge, the people give this form of development first priority not because they do not want improved social services—and we do not need to be reminded how much remains to be done before we can hope to have for our people conditions of life that are judged adequate by the standards of the twentieth century—nor because they fail to appreciate the long-term economic value of social services which will result in having a healthier, better fed, better educated population with greater earning capacity and wiser saving habits. It is just that they are realistic and see the danger of becoming committed to recurrent expenditure on a vast increase of social services before they can see their way to pay for them after external aid ceases. It is a blunt truth that a country can only have the social services which it can afford.

Second to economic development, but very close to it, I judge that the people want education: education of all kinds, primary, secondary and higher, academic and technical or vocational—with a special bias in favour of the last mentioned because it fits in with the desire for economic development—education for girls as well as boys, and adult education.

Next I would place health measures, and in this category water supplies come very high on the list. In addition to the demand for more hospitals I am glad to note a growing realisation of the value of preventive health measures. Too many of our hospitals are filled with patients who would not be there if our health measures were more widespread.

Finally, in this short list of the things that I feel are closest to the hearts of the people of this country I would put—the land. Everywhere in the world one finds a deep love of the land, but nowhere is that feeling stronger than in Nigeria: nowhere is the determination to keep and guard the land more intense.

I go on to ask what Government is doing about these issues, and how it is helping the people to solve their problems and attain their aims. And here are the answers I give. As regards the desire of the people to take a greater part in the management and direction of their own affairs, I shall not here discuss the Constitution which, because of the success of its operation, is coming under review much earlier than had been planned. I shall touch later on the question of local government, a subject in which my deep interest is well-known. As regards boards and committees, both advisory and executive, I invite Members to recall my Address to this Council last August, when I referred to the "pattern of participation" in the subjects we were then considering, education, agriculture, marketing of export crops, and local development. Since I made that Address, less than six months ago, prompt action has been taken on the report of the Nigerianization Commission: an increasing number of Nigerians are being appointed and promoted to the Senior Service, scholarship and training schemes are being greatly extended, and we have set up the new Public Service Boards. Since that date, too, we have begun to establish a system of Whitley Councils in Nigeria. And the Trade Unions have not been forgotten, for approval has been given for scholarships for study courses to be taken by Union officials.

Turning to economic development, there is also progress to report. First in importance are the arrangements for marketing export crops, about which I shall have more to say presently. The proposed regionalization of the Nigerian Local Development Board should greatly accelerate local development by encouraging local enterprise. Another important development is the new scheme for improvements of village lay-outs and other communal developments. The Council will be asked to approve, within the draft Estimates for the coming year, the doubling of the present approved annual provision of £50,000 for this purpose, and it is proposed that funds should be made available at the Provincial and Divisional level, so that no delay need impede schemes arising from local communal enterprise. As regards industrialization, there is not yet a great deal to be seen on the ground as a result of Government action. But last August the Finance Committee made available an initial sum of £500,000 to cover the cost of preliminary investigations into industrial schemes and to make possible the investment of public funds in such companies as may be established to carry out approved schemes. Negotiations are proceeding in connection with cotton spinning, a new agricultural project in the North, a cassava starch factory and a sack factory, and Government has had close consultations with the Colonial Development Corporation, which now has its representatives in Nigeria, on the subject of such schemes. The Department of Commerce and Industries is expanding its operations; I need mention only pioneer oil mills, textile centres, rice mills and production of clarified butter fat, cheese and butter. Like the Nigerianization Commission report, the report of the Conditional

ments—for example the Trade Centres at Yaba, Kaduna, and Sales Commission was not allowed to gather dust in office pigeon holes; most of its recommendations have already been, or are in process of being, implemented. Steps have been taken, with the vigorous and sympathetic help of the United Kingdom authorities, to improve the supply of consumer and capital goods, and the import position has improved in recent months. Plans are on foot to establish a Trade Office in London. And as regards the Government Colliery, a report by top-ranking experts on development prospects has been made. I might mention also the bold plan for manilla redemption which is proceeding smoothly and the relief which has consequently been given to the wage-earning classes in the areas affected.

We must never forget, in thinking about economic development, that agriculture is the main industry of this country. In the section on Agriculture in my printed Address Members will find much of interest regarding the work that is being done by the Department of Agriculture, despite a desperate shortage of staff, in such matters as testing, demonstrating, encouraging the use of artificial fertilizers, and mechanical aids to cultivation. And we have, during the past year, acquired a vast amount of information and advice on agriculture and related subjects from visiting experts and missions. Some people say that there are too many of these visits, but the wiser view surely is that we are glad to receive expert advice and guidance, and that we are grateful to those who point the way to further advance after examining our problems on the spot. I may mention as examples of recent visiting missions those on hides and skins, livestock, mechanised agriculture and rice. One final comment under the head of economic development concerns the Development Plan which in the main will provide the basic services that I have mentioned. I suggest that most of us have been twice wrong in our attitude towards the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. First we were too optimistic; then when post-war difficulties, which we might have foreseen, occurred, we became too pessimistic. It is now fashionable to make disparaging remarks about the results under the Development Plan. In fact, a great deal has been done, and with unofficial help and advice at the Regional and Provincial levels I am sure that the momentum will now very noticeably increase.

Under the head of Education we may note the advance made by the new Ordinance and the new grant-in-aid regulations about which I spoke in this Council last August. The University College, here in Ibadan, is well established and has made an excellent start. Consideration is being given to the establishment of a Regional College for Nigeria, with branches in different regions, following a recommendation of the Inter-University Council's delegation; Professor Harlow, Principal of Chelsea Polytechnic, has just completed a survey of the country and his report is awaited with interest. As regards technical training, I hope that the Members of this Council have visited existing technical training establish-

Enugu, or the Yaba Technical Institute—and have seen the quite remarkable work that is being done there. Advances are being made in the education of girls and women, and Women Education Officers have achieved heartening results in backward areas. As proof of Government's interest in expanding and developing education it is perhaps sufficient to note that expenditure on this service ten years ago was just over £250,000, whereas the draft Estimates for 1949-50 provide for a total expenditure both recurrent and from loan funds of over £3,000,000.

My remarks on health services will be brief. When I go on tour I often meet with requests for new hospitals. But hospitals are expensive, both in original cost and in upkeep, and they must be spaced with regard to this consideration. In spite of shortage of materials work was completed or in hand during the year on about ten new hospitals or extensions of existing hospitals. In this connection I hope that Sir Sydney Phillipson's reports, recently published, on grants-in-aid of medical and health services provided by Voluntary Agencies, and on private practice by Government Medical Officers, will be widely read and studied. In the Health section of my printed Address Members will find information about the establishment of rural health centres, the work of medical field units, the Sleeping Sickness Service, the malaria service, leprosy control, and the training of nurses, sanitary inspectors, dispensary attendants and the like. And, of course, many of our people are training to be doctors.

I turn now to land. The people of this country owe much to the sound customs of their forbears and to the wisdom of the early administrators and legislators of Nigeria who saw to it that the old customary rights were enshrined in the legislation of the territory. As Honourable Members know, in the Northern Provinces and the Cameroons no non-native (if the Honourable the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces will forgive me for using this term to avoid a long and clumsy periphrasis) can obtain land under freehold; and in the Western and Eastern Provinces any transfer of land to an alien requires the authority of the Governor, which is almost never given. In the Colony of Lagos, where land can be held under freehold, uneasiness has been expressed about the transfer of land to aliens and regarding the acquisition of land for town planning purposes. Criticisms have been made against certain of the provisions of the Public Lands Acquisition Ordinance, and where these criticisms are constructive and informed, as some of them are, changes in the law will be proposed. In a different vein, there have been frequent references in sections of the Press recently to the arrival of large numbers of white settlers. There is not a word of truth in this allegation. It is a lie, and those who made the statement must know that it is a lie. The policy of this Government has always been opposed to alienation of land from Nigerians for the settlement of any non-Nigerian community. That will remain the policy.

I have dealt very briefly with some of the things that I feel are close to the hearts of the people, and with Government's attitude and actions in regard to these issues. Before touching on political matters, I should like to deal rather more fully with the subject of marketing and prices of our export crops; and I shall make a very brief reference to finance.

Honourable Members will recall that at its meeting last August this Council accepted in principle proposals for the future marketing of our edible oils, oilseeds, and cotton. Bills to give legislative effect to these proposals have been considered by the Regional Houses, and these Houses have proposed valuable amendments. I said in my Address last August that these proposals were at once a challenge and a glorious opportunity. I hope that Council at this meeting will pass these Bills. If they do an important legislative achievement, calculated to bring tremendous advantages to the country, will ever stand to the credit of this Council. Let me describe again the basic purpose of the legislation. It is to ensure that the produce in question is marketed in an orderly way, and with reference to one paramount interest, the interest of the producer. This it seeks to do by protecting the producer against price changes in any one season, and against the worst effects of falling oversea prices from season to season; and also by providing funds for research and for the development of the industries and the economic benefit of the areas of production. The responsibility for marketing, price stabilization and research will rest on the Marketing Boards, as will also responsibility for allocating development monies to the three Regional Production Development Boards, and these in turn will have the important responsibility of planning and seeing executed measures for the development of the industries and the economic benefit of the areas of production. (My reference here is to the arrangements for oil palm produce and groundnuts; in the case of cotton these various responsibilities will be centred in the Cotton Marketing Board).

My purpose in repeating information on these matters with which Members of this Council are already fully conversant is twofold. First, I want the wider public outside the Council to grasp the nature and scope of the scheme, and to appreciate the progressive and highly beneficial purpose which underlies and has shaped it. Second, I wish to emphasize the immense importance which must be attached to the work and responsibility of Regional Production Development Boards, and to wish them well in their labours. It seems likely that these Boards will have at their disposal resources substantial enough to enable them to adopt a bold and imaginative policy.

Recently, new prices have been negotiated with the Ministry of Food, the principal buyer of these commodities. The groundnut price for 1948-49 is up from £45 to £55 a ton, and as a consequence of this substantial rise, and the sum accumulated by the West African Produce Control Board from its earlier operations, it appears that the Groundnut Board may begin its work with a

surplus which may approximate to £10,000,000, although the actual working surplus will be considerably less because of commitments in respect of the large part of the 1948-49 crop which will remain undelivered on the 1st April next. Prices for the 1949 palm produce season which has just opened have recently been announced and explained. The oversea price for kernels is increased by £10 a ton to £50, and for palm oil by £5 a ton to £75. There is reason to hope that the Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board may, by the end of the year, be possessed of resources amounting to some £14,500,000, less, of course, any sums which it may in the meanwhile have allocated to the Production Development Boards in the Eastern and Western Provinces. I am certain that the producers of Nigeria will find in these facts satisfaction and confidence. The funds at the credit of all the marketing boards, including the Cocoa Marketing Board, may well reach in the course of this year a sum of about £36,000,000, a figure which, I suggest, represents a strong buttress supporting the financial and economic stability of the country. I feel that it is right that we should pay a respectful tribute to His Majesty's Government, whose wise and far-sighted policy is in a considerable degree responsible for this satisfactory and hopeful position.

My reference to the Cocoa Marketing Board and its funds must, however, be accompanied by a note not of despondency but certainly of caution. This Council will recall that at the meeting in August, I stated in effect that, if only the ravages of the swollen shoot disease could be checked, the Nigerian cocoa industry could be regarded as in a very strong position. That is still true, but since then, largely owing to the unexpectedly large crop offering from West Africa as a whole, there has been a very serious fall in the prices offered by buyers in the United States of America, the principal consuming country. Prices have indeed fallen well below the level of the high producer prices which are at present being paid and the Cocoa Marketing Board, earlier than the Board or anyone else anticipated, has had to begin to fulfil its primary purpose of supporting the producer prices at a level which the current oversea prices presently obtainable could not support unaided. Had our marketing arrangements not been in force, there is no doubt whatever that the producers of cocoa would at this moment be confronted with all the difficulties which sudden drops in income entail, and that the whole economy of the producing areas would have been thrown into some confusion—with harmful consequences to the rest of the country. I want Honourable Members of this Council to realise this important fact and to help the cocoa farmers also to realise it. There is not a cocoa farmer who would not during the last few weeks have had to revise his scale of personal expenditure, possibly, for example, on the education of his children or on the rebuilding of his homestead, but for the price stabilization reserves which have been built up against precisely such an occasion as this. It is even possible that the Cocoa Marketing Board, in spite of having sold the early part of the crop at high prices, may make a small overall

loss on the current season, and it has of course to face the implications of the guarantee which it has given regarding the minimum prices which are to be paid during the next two seasons. Unless there is a marked recovery in the oversea prices that guarantee may cost the Board a very large sum of money; how large it is impossible to say, but one can reasonably hope that it will not prove so large as to impair drastically the ability of the Board to carry out thereafter the primary purpose for which it was set up.

It will be appreciated that, in the case of cocoa, the market is free and that the oversea prices are largely determined by the prices offering in the principal consuming country in which trade is in private hands. Oilseeds and cotton are in a different case for at present the Boards concerned will be in a position to negotiate bulk and possibly medium or long-term contracts with the purchasing authorities in the United Kingdom. It seems to me incontrovertible that this constitutes a stabilizing factor of immense advantage. That the oil palm produce for the whole of the current season and the whole groundnut crop for the 1948-49 season should have been sold to one buyer, the Ministry of Food, at a price which enables both a good local price to be paid to the producer and large sums to be set aside for price stabilization, research and development, is a circumstance beneficial to the whole economy of the country. It will fall to the Groundnut and Oil Palm Produce Boards, with the expert advice available to them both in Nigeria and Great Britain, to negotiate contracts of sale for future seasons, and it is reasonable to hope that they may be able to establish security and stability by negotiating contracts which may extend over a period much longer than one season. Both the terms and the period of any such contract are matters which the relative Boards must negotiate and settle; I mention the matter now because of its inherent importance and because the necessity to begin these negotiations will arise very soon in the case of groundnuts and cotton and somewhat later in the year in the case of oil palm produce. The issue will be of very great interest to this Council and I shall see that the Council is kept fully informed of important future developments.

I take this opportunity of mentioning that the Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board has, in its "shadow" form, already begun to function. It was essential to call this body into non-statutory existence before the enactment of legislation as the marketing season traditionally begins in January of each year, and the important question of the producer prices for 1948-49, as well as many other questions, called for urgent settlement. I am happy to say that the Board has made a good beginning and has settled down to its appointed task in a manner which augurs well for the future. Although the need for "shadow" Groundnut and Cotton Marketing Boards has been contemplated, and appointments have in fact been made to such Boards, it will now probably be unnecessary to call them into being, as it appears that all the necessary business can be settled in April next by the statutory Boards.

In concluding these observations on produce marketing, I desire to make a special reference to cotton. Cotton, although it is an important crop both for local use and export, has never figured so largely in the Nigerian economy as have the other products to which I have referred. It has been marketed under arrangements different from those which have applied for a long time to cocoa and in recent years to oilseeds, and in consequence there has been no accumulation of trading profits with which to start the new Board on its way. I am, however, happy to be able to announce that, as a result of representations from this Government, the Raw Cotton Commission, which is a statutory body in the United Kingdom charged with responsibility for buying raw cotton from overseas, has agreed to make a grant to the Nigerian Cotton Marketing Board of £250,000 on the condition, obviously acceptable, that the Commission will have the option to buy all Nigeria's exportable surplus for the next two or three years.

The Financial Secretary is going to deal with economic policy in his Budget Speech, and I fear that already I may have trenched too far upon his province. I must at least be careful not to anticipate his speech on the actual Budget. I shall make only two brief comments. I should like to pay a sincere tribute to those Members of Finance Committee who, although burdened with so many other responsibilities, manage to attend the monthly meetings of the Committee in Lagos, often at much inconvenience to themselves. I see the agenda and minutes of each meeting and I appreciate to the full the valuable contribution that the Committee makes to the execution of public business. As regards the Budget itself I shall say just this. The increasing demands for the development of public services can be met only if there is evidence of an equal progressive expansion in revenue. It would prove a grave disservice to the country if we allowed recurrent expenditure to advance with undue acceleration, and were later compelled to reduce the services to the public, and to retrench Government employees who had been led to believe that they were secure in their employment.

I turn now to political affairs, in which there have been marked advances during the past year.

It has become a platitude but remains the truth that a country can be well governed only if a sound system of local government has been created—and then only if there are many men and women of public spirit ready to give public service in making that system work. We are talking and thinking in these days about constitutional advance but I am sure that you will agree with me that there is no reason while we consider larger constitutional issues to neglect the problems of local government. Indeed I think that it is all the more necessary to give our thought to local government problems so that the constitution which we build may have firm and lasting foundations.

I congratulate the Eastern House of Assembly on the time and effort which it has devoted to this subject and particularly, if I may say so, on the manner in which members of that House have dealt with the problem. They well realised that it was not merely a matter of working out a new system; they knew that success could only be achieved if the greatest care were taken to see that the people at every level might understand the proposals and be given the fullest opportunity to discuss them and express their views upon them. The Select Committee of the Eastern House did good work in preparing its report: it also showed wisdom in not trying to rush its recommendations through but in being willing to consider making changes in the light of full public discussion. I trust that the bold and constructive experiments on which they have decided to embark in the sphere of local government will succeed not only in giving more efficient local services but, most important of all, in making the people of each area realise that their progress depends principally on their own wishes and their own efforts.

I should like too to take this opportunity of congratulating Port Harcourt on becoming the first town in Nigeria to administer its affairs through a Council with a majority of elected councillors. We shall watch the work of the new Council, shortly to be elected, with interest and with the hope that it will fully justify the confidence which the Eastern House of Assembly and this Council placed in the people of the town when the Port Harcourt Ordinance was passed last year.

With regard to Lagos you will remember that I referred when I spoke to you last in this Council to my anxiety to see municipal legislation revised to provide for a Council in Lagos with an elected majority, with wider powers and a wider franchise. I am glad that the existing Council and other bodies interested in municipal affairs in Lagos have given thought to this matter and I have been most interested to study their recommendations. On the difficult question of the voting qualifications some further investigation will be necessary but I can say now that I gladly accept the main recommendation made that the majority, if not all, of the Councillors should be elected and that they in turn should elect a Mayor. A Bill to include these provisions is being drafted and will, I trust, be brought to this Council within the year.

I am sure that local government advance is no less important in other parts of the country. I have already said that it would, in my view, be a serious mistake to try to advance in exactly the same way in the widely varying circumstances of different parts of the country, but I trust that in each Region all those concerned will join together in working out plans for improvement—the object being to advance in such a way that the best in the existing systems can be retained and at the same time the support of all sections of the people can be won.

You are going to consider at this meeting of the Council what steps and methods are to be adopted for the review of the Constitution of Nigeria, and I do not wish to take up your time in discussing the questions which must already be uppermost in your minds. I pray that each one of us who has any responsibility in this great undertaking will rid his mind of any preconceived prejudice and will enter the task with a true spirit of humility and a desire to understand and respect the views of others and to cooperate generously with all those who show themselves anxious to serve the best interests of Nigeria.

I do not underestimate the dangers and the risks which will beset our course. The greatest danger of all is that animosities might be aroused or exploited which would result in the different races of this country falling apart. The lesson which we have learnt in the operation of the existing Constitution is that we can achieve unity at the centre through strength in the Regions. It is the success which that basic principle has brought that led me to say last August that in my considered opinion the progress made under the present Constitution had been so rapid and so sound that another step forward was fully justified. I suggest to you that in the work on which you are to embark your watchword should be "Unity through Strength".

I have said that there are dangers and risks. I have previously given expression to my faith in Nigeria and in its people, and I am by nature an optimist. But I frankly admit to you that when I consider the magnitude and complexity of the constitutional task which we have to undertake together, and when I see daily in sections of the Press evidence of hatred and envy and malice, I am at times filled with depression, and with sorrow for the country. A people cannot be trained for self-government on a diet of abuse and malicious lies, not directed solely against the Government—that is perhaps not so bad—but directed against any Nigerian who happens to be of a different party or a different opinion. Unless we approach our task with a determination to think first of the good of the country as a whole, and with a determination to see the other man's point of view, we shall certainly fail and those who come after us will rightly condemn us for our failure.

Everyone must choose today whether they are to devote their energies towards construction or confusion. Those who choose confusion will rightly earn the contempt of their fellows and the future. For those who choose construction there are unique opportunities in this generation to render services to Nigeria. We cannot progress on the road of constitutional advance unless we can achieve mutual respect and tolerance and good will between the races of the country. There was never a time when those qualities were more necessary, and I pray that everyone of us, whatever our position, may show ourselves capable of rising to the great opportunity before us.

QUESTIONS

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

If you will permit me, Sir, I should explain why there are no answers to questions noted today. Outstanding questions should have been on the Order Paper for today. We have a large number of answers ready but there have been certain printing difficulties, and we propose that they should be included in the Order Paper of tomorrow. I apologise for the fact that they are not noted today.

BILLS

*(First Readings)*THE EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN (AMENDMENT)
ORDINANCE, 1949**The Hon. the Commissioner of Labour :**

Sir, I rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled :—

“ An Ordinance to amend the Employment of Ex-Servicemen Ordinance, 1945.”

The principal Ordinance, Sir, was mainly designed to ensure that the persons who enlisted in the Armed Forces should have a fair chance of securing employment after the war. Despite this there are unfortunately many ex-Servicemen who served during the war who are still in need of employment. Their numbers are being increased by Servicemen who did not serve during the war, but who enlisted after hostilities had ceased, and have since been discharged. The principal Ordinance does not distinguish between those who enlisted during the war and those who enlisted after the war.

This Bill, Sir, is to enable the Commissioner of Labour to fix a date after which no ex-Serviceman who did not serve at any time between the 25th May, 1939, and the 31st March, 1949, shall be entitled to be placed on the register of ex-Servicemen. There is a proviso which would nevertheless permit such registration in cases in which it might be desirable.

The Ordinance affects only able-bodied men. The disabled are in no way affected.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Resident, Abeokuta Province :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Commissioner of Labour :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

THE NIGERIA GROUNDNUT MARKETING ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled :—

“ An Ordinance to make provision for the Marketing and Export of Nigerian Groundnuts and certain other Oilseeds and for matters connected therewith.”

This Bill is designed to implement the proposals contained in Sessional Paper No. 18 of 1948 which this Council discussed last August. It is for the controlled marketing of groundnuts and benniseed. There is no need, Sir, for me to speak at length on this Bill since the proposals in the Paper to which I have referred were accepted by this House in August last and since then the proposals have been debated in the Regional Houses, and subject to certain suggested amendments have been accepted by those Houses.

The machinery set up under the Bill is in general very similar to that set up by the Cocoa Marketing Board Ordinance which has worked so well during the past eighteen months. The machinery consists of a Board, an Advisory Representative Committee with a Nigerian majority, and a Regional Production Development Board.

The constitution, functions and powers of the Board are similar to those of the Cocoa Marketing Board, except that in so far as the development of the industry is concerned, the Groundnut Marketing Board, instead of itself spending its funds on development, will allocate those funds to a Regional Production Development Board. Furthermore, whereas in the case of the Cocoa Marketing Board those funds must be spent for the benefit and prosperity of the producers, under this Bill the Regional Production Development Board may spend theirs on the development of the producing industries and for the benefit and prosperity of the producers, and in the area of production. This is a most important provision, and from the point of view of development I need not stress its importance. It is the intention, Sir, that the development undertaken by this Board should be fitted into the general pattern of development of the Regions as a whole, and to ensure this the Unofficial Members of the Production Development Board will be appointed by the House of Chiefs and the Northern House of Assembly. In their dual capacity as Members of those Houses and of the Board they should be able to further the co-ordination of development.

One other difference of some importance is that the Cocoa Advisory Representative Committee may only advise upon matters referred to it by the Marketing Board. The Groundnut Representative Committee may tender advice to the Marketing Board on its own initiative, and it also has the duty of advising the Production Development Board on any matters relating to the exercise by that body of its powers and duties.

A brief word should, I think, be said in regard to Part VII of the Bill, which deals with the restriction on export and on purchase for local processing in certain circumstances. It is important that I should make crystal clear that nothing in that part of the Ordinance will apply to small scale local processing for local consumption. It is, however, very desirable that any oil or other product resulting from the local processing of groundnuts or benniseed should be exported by the Marketing Board and not by

the processor, because otherwise the processor could purchase groundnuts or benniseed at locally controlled prices and then sell the products on a free market, thereby obtaining a very large profit which should accrue to the Marketing Board in the interest of its stabilization fund and of general development.

So much for the organization to be set up under the Bill. Since the publication of the Bill it has become apparent that amendments to certain clauses are desirable, while in the discussions in the House of Chiefs and in the Regional Houses of Assembly certain additional amendments have been recommended. I think, Sir, that at this point it would help Honourable Members if I gave a list of amendments, and of the Government attitude towards them. I would wish to make it clear that the acceptance by Government of any amendment recommended by either the House of Chiefs or one of the Regional Houses of Assembly does not mean finality on the amendment, and all Honourable Members will have an opportunity to support or reject the amendment when moved at the Committee stage.

Clause 9 of the Bill provides that "at a meeting of the Marketing Board two members and the Chairman shall be a quorum". The Western House of Assembly recommended that clause 9 should be amended to read that "At a meeting of the Marketing Board two members of whom one shall be a Nigerian Unofficial and the Chairman shall be a quorum". Now the effect of such an amendment would be to confer a power of veto on the unofficial members of the Board who would be in a position to invalidate any proceedings of the Board by abstaining from attendance at meetings, and this, I think Honourable Members will agree would be undesirable, and for that reason Government cannot accept the amendment. I should make it clear, perhaps, that there is no possibility of a quorum of officials being got together without unofficial members being invited, since no meeting is duly convened unless all members of the Board have been advised of the time and place of the meeting.

Clause 13. Clause 13 refers to the Income Tax Ordinance and it is proposed to revise it merely to simplify it by saying "The Marketing Board is hereby exempted from the provisions of sections 26 and 43 of the Income Tax Ordinance of 1943".

Clause 23. I propose to move an amendment, Sir, to provide that for the mutual advantage of both the Marketing Board may make loans to Government.

Clause 30. The House of Chiefs and the Northern House of Assembly both recommended that sub-clause (d) of clause 30 which reads

" five Nigerian members, of whom one shall be a member of the Marketing Board to be appointed by that Board, and four shall be appointed by the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces "

should be amended to read

“ Six Nigerian members of whom one shall be appointed by the Marketing Board from among its Nigerian Members, two shall be appointed by the House of Chiefs, and three shall be appointed by the Unofficial Members of the Northern House of Assembly.”

Government is prepared to accept this amendment.

Clause 38. Clause 38 provides that “ not less than four nor more than eight shall be Unofficial Members of the Northern House of Assembly or the House of Chiefs, to be appointed by those bodies; and ”

should be deleted and the following substituted therefor

“ not less than two and not more than four shall be appointed from among their number by the Unofficial Members of the Northern House of Assembly; and, not less than two and not more than four shall be appointed from among their number by the Unofficial Members of the House of Chiefs; ”

Government is prepared to accept this amendment.

Clause 52. Clause 52 should be amended in the same way as that proposed to amend section 13. This provides that similar treatment may be accorded to the Production Development Boards with regard to the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance.

Clause 57. Clause 57 provides that “ a copy of the report together with a copy of the report of the auditor shall be printed and laid on the table of the Northern House of Assembly ” should be amended to provide for the annual report and statement of accounts of the Production Development Board to be laid also on the table of the House of Chiefs.

Government will also accept that amendment, Sir.

Clause 65 reads

“ When the Marketing Board or the Production Development Board cease for any reason to exercise their functions under this Ordinance or when the Ordinance ceases to have effect whether by reason of its repeal or otherwise, the funds of the Boards shall be disposed of for the benefit of the Northern Region and in such manner as the Northern House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs may by resolution direct.”

The Eastern House of Assembly has recommended that that clause should be modified so as to provide that the allocation of those funds should be allocated for the benefit of the Northern, Eastern and Western Regions and of the Colony in such proportions as the Legislative Council may by resolution direct. Government is prepared to accept that amendment subject, however, to the inclusion of the words

“ having due regard to the volume of produce marketed in each Region ”,

and the insertion in sub-clause 3 after the words " and in such manner as the " of the words " House of Chiefs and the ".
Government will accept this amendment.

Sir, this Bill is designed solely in the interests of the producers of groundnuts, and I have no doubt that, if enacted, it will work to their very considerable benefit. Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

THE NIGERIA OIL PALM PRODUCE MARKETING ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to move the first reading of a Bill entitled :—

" An Ordinance to make provision for the Marketing and Export of Nigerian Oil Palm Produce and for matters connected therewith."

This is the second of the three Bills which are being introduced at this meeting to bring under public direction the marketing of the major part of Nigeria's export produce. I do not feel it is necessary for me, Sir, to speak at great length on this subject but again I feel that it is desirable that I should refer to the amendments which have arisen from the discussions which have taken place in the various Houses of Assembly and the House of Chiefs. I think it would help Honourable Members if they would look through the clauses as I mention them. Before doing so may I just repeat that Part 7 of the Bill which deals with processing does not refer to processing for local consumption. Now, if Honourable Members will be good enough to look at clause 3. Sub-clause (2) of clause 3 relates to the Marketing Board which shall consist of a Chairman to be appointed by the Governor, two official members to be appointed by the Governor, and three Nigerian unofficial members to be appointed by the Governor, of whom two shall be normally resident in the Eastern Region and one normally resident in the Western Region. The Western House of Assembly has proposed that,

" The Marketing Board shall consist of a Chairman to be appointed as such by the Governor, two official members to be appointed by the Governor, and four Nigerian unofficial members to be appointed on the recommendation of the Chief Commissioner concerned and of whom two shall be normally resident in the Eastern Region and two in the Western Region."

The object of the amendment is to give equal representation to the Eastern and Western Regions on the Board. The result of the

amendment, if accepted, would also be to give the unofficial members a majority on the Board. The constitution of the Board was clearly set out in Sessional Paper No. 18 of 1948 which we discussed in August last, and it was accepted by this House. Some differentiation between the East and the West is, I suggest, justified on the grounds of the volume of produce handled. Nor, I suggest, is the time really opportune for the Marketing Board to have an unofficial majority. There is an unofficial majority on the Representative Committee, and the Marketing Board is bound by its constitution to consult the Representative Committee on matters connected with the purchase and growing of produce subject to this Ordinance. The Government is, therefore, Sir, unwilling to accept this amendment.

Clause 9. The Western House of Assembly proposed that this should be amended to read,

“ At a meeting of the Marketing Board three members and the Chairman shall be a quorum.”

Although this is an amendment consequential on the amendment recommended to section 3 (2), there is something to be said for adopting it. A quorum of three members and the Chairman is not unreasonable, and Government will accept the amendment.

Clause 13. This relates to an amendment in the operation of the Income Tax Ordinance in relation to the Marketing Board, and as proposed the amendment should read:

“ The Marketing Board is hereby exempted from the provisions of sections 26 and 43 of the Income Tax Ordinance of 1943.”

Clause 17. It is proposed to amend sub-clause (b) of clause 17, which reads:

“ to prescribe as may be necessary grades of produce subject to this Ordinance which may be exported;”

to read

“ To prescribe as may be necessary standards and/or grades of produce subject to this Ordinance which may be exported.”

The object of the amendment is to give the Board power to prescribe standards in addition to grades. Palm kernels, for example, are not classified by grades and exportable palm kernels are those conforming to a specifically defined standard known as first quality. The amendment was recommended by the Shadow Marketing Board and is necessary, and I may add, Sir, is acceptable to Government.

The Western House of Assembly recommended that sub-clause (g) of clause 17 should be amended by the deletion of the words “ for each crop year ” in the first line. The effect of this amendment would be to make a buying agent's licence valid for an unlimited period. In the case of the Cocoa Marketing Board licences are issued for each crop year, and there is, I suggest, advantage in

fixing a definite period during which a licence to a buying agent should run, and the crop year seems as good as any other period which can be fixed. The amendment recommended seems to be without particular merit, and unless convincing arguments are adduced in support of it Government would be unwilling to accept this amendment.

Clause 23. The object of the proposed amendment is to provide for loans to be made by the Marketing Board to Government for the mutual advantage of both.

Clause 51. The Eastern House of Assembly has recommended the insertion of the words " or lease " after the word " purchase " in line 2 of the clause.

Government accepts this amendment.

Clause 54. It is desired to amend clause 54 in a manner similar to that in which clause 13 has been amended, in order that similar treatment may be accorded to the Production Development Boards with regard to the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance.

Clause 60. The Western House of Assembly recommended that sub-clause (b) of clause 60, which reads

" any other person duly authorised by the Marketing Board to act on its behalf "

should be amended by the deletion of the words " to act on its behalf " and the addition of a proviso reading

" Provided that the Marketing Board may issue a general licence for the export of small quantities of produce, not exceeding four gallons each of palm oil or palm kernel oil, as accompanied or unaccompanied personal effects or by parcel post."

The effect of this amendment will be to give the Board slightly wider powers than those existing, and to permit the export of small quantities of palm oil and palm kernel oil for personal as opposed to commercial purposes. Government is prepared to accept the amendment.

Clause 62. The Western House of Assembly recommended that the following proviso should be added to clause 62.

" Provided that in giving any direction under this section the Marketing Board shall have regard to the interests of Nigerian industries. For the purpose of this section an industry shall not be deemed to be Nigerian unless all the shareholders are natives of Nigeria."

The purpose of this clause is to guard against a large scale factory purchasing oil in competition with the Marketing Board for use in, for example, soap making. The first part of the amendment seems a somewhat strange provision to introduce into the Ordinance, since it is obvious that the Board will have regard to the interests of Nigerian industries, but Government is willing to accept the first

part of that amendment. The words "For the purpose of this section an industry shall not be deemed to be Nigerian unless all the shareholders are natives of Nigeria" are, I suggest, inadvisable since they might militate against the interests of Nigerian industry itself. It might well happen that a Nigerian company would wish to attract to itself additional capital for the development and expansion of its enterprise; the existence of such legislation would effectively preclude it from having recourse to a source outside Nigeria—to its own probable disadvantage. For this reason Government would be unwilling to accept the second part of this amendment. Honourable Members may rest assured, however, that everything will be done to further the interests of Nigerian industry. Indeed the whole object of these Marketing Bills is to further the interest of the Nigerian producer.

Clause 67. Clause 67 relates to the allocation of the funds of the Board in such a manner as the Northern House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs may direct. The House of Chiefs and the Northern House of Assembly have recommended that the following sub-clause (3) of clause 67 should be deleted and an amendment made that such funds as are thereby allocated for the benefit of the Western or Eastern Regions shall be disposed of for the benefit of such Regions and in such manner as the Western or Eastern Houses of Assembly respectively may by resolution direct. This amendment, Sir, it is felt is an improvement on the section as it now stands, since it specifies in detail the method of disposal in each Region and includes provision for reference to the House of Chiefs, which was inadvertently omitted from the original draft. Government will therefore accept this amendment but with the further amendment which I referred to in the earlier Bill by the insertion of the words, "having due regard to the volume of produce marketed in each Region."

Clause 69. The Eastern House of Assembly recommended that clause 69 should be amended by the substitution of the word "twenty-one" for the word "fourteen" in line 4 thereof.

Government will accept the amendment.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

THE NIGERIA COTTON MARKETING ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to move the first reading of a Bill entitled ;—

“ An Ordinance to make provision for the Marketing and Export of Nigerian Cotton and for matters connected therewith.”

This is the third and last of the Bills designed to implement the proposals contained in Sessional Paper No. 18 of 1948, and to bring the marketing of the main export crops of Nigeria under public direction. I do not propose to refer in detail to the provisions of the Bill, except that I would like to refer to those clauses which have been subject to proposed amendment in the Regional Houses which have considered the Bill.

Clause 9. The Western House of Assembly have recommended that clause 9, which reads

“ At a meeting of the Marketing Board two members and the Chairman shall be a quorum ”

should be amended to read

“ At a meeting of the Marketing Board two members of whom one shall be a Nigerian official and the Chairman shall be a quorum.”

Sir, I referred to this point in the earlier Bill about which I spoke, and I explained the reasons why the amendment would not be acceptable to Government.

Clause 13. The amendment proposed is in relation to the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance, which reads:

“ The Marketing Board is hereby exempted from all the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance, 1943, other than the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 29, sections 39, 44 and 46, sub-section (2) of section 48, and section 49 thereof ”

to read

“ The Marketing Board is hereby exempted from the provisions of sections 26 and 43 of the Income Tax Ordinance of 1943.”

The reasons for this amendment have already been sufficiently explained in the case of similar amendments to the corresponding sections of the Groundnut and Palm Produce Ordinances, and there is no need to repeat them.

Clause 23. It is desired to amend clause 23 so as to allow the Board to lend money to Government for the mutual advantage of both.

Clause 26. The Northern House of Assembly recommends that sub-clause (j) which reads

“ to the development of the cotton industry in Nigeria and on any development scheme which the Marketing Board may refer to the Cotton Representative Committees for their views ”

should be deleted and the following substituted therefor

“ to the development of the cotton industry in Nigeria and for the economic benefit and prosperity of the producers and the areas of production and on any development scheme which the Marketing Board may refer to the Cotton Representative Committees for their views.”

The suggested amendment would bring this clause into line with the like clauses in the Groundnut and Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board Bills, and would permit of the expenditure of the funds of the Board on general development and welfare schemes in the producing areas. This provision was deliberately excluded from this Bill when it was drafted, because it was anticipated that the surplus funds at the disposal of the Cotton Marketing Board would be so limited for some years to come that there would be nothing available for general welfare schemes (as has already been explained) and that all the funds available would have to be devoted to the development of the cotton industry. The decision as to the disposal of its funds will lie, in any case, with the Marketing Board, and I suggest that for the time being at least it would be advisable not to include this amendment.

Section 31. The Northern House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs recommend that sub-clause (d) of clause 31, which reads

“ six Nigerian unofficial members, of whom one shall be appointed by the Cotton Marketing Board and five by the Northern House of Assembly ”

should be deleted and the following substituted

“ six Nigerian members, of whom one shall be appointed by the Cotton Marketing Board, two shall be appointed by the House of Chiefs and three shall be appointed by the unofficial members of the House of Assembly.”

This amendment is designed to provide for proportionate representation between the Northern House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs, and is an improvement upon the original draft. Government will therefore accept the amendment.

Clause 32. The Western House of Assembly recommended that sub-clause (d) of clause 32, which reads

“ four Nigerian unofficial members who shall be appointed by the Western House of Assembly ”

should be amended to read

“ six Nigerian unofficial members of whom one shall be appointed by the Cotton Marketing Board and one by the producers which follows the Cocoa Marketing Bill Ordinance, and four by the Western House of Assembly. ”

The meaning of the words “ which follows the Cocoa Marketing Bill Ordinance ” is not clear, and it may be that the words have been included inadvertently. Subject to the exclusion of these words Government will accept the amendment.

Section 42. The Western House of Assembly recommended that a proviso should be added to sub-clause (1) clause 42, to read

“ Provided that in giving any direction under this sub-section the Marketing Board shall have regard to the interests of Nigerian industries. For the purpose of this sub-section an industry shall not be deemed to be Nigerian unless all the shareholders are natives of Nigeria ”.

As in the case of the similar clause in the Oil Palm Produce Marketing Ordinance the purpose of this clause is to guard against a large scale factory purchasing oil in competition with the Marketing Board for use in, for example, soap making. As has been explained in the previous case, Government is prepared to accept this amendment, with the deletion of the last sentence thereof.

It is also desired, Sir, to amend sub-clause (2) of this clause to correspond with sub-clause (2) of clause 60 of the Groundnut Marketing Board Bill, to read as follows:

“ No oil or other product resulting from the local processing of produce subject to this Ordinance shall be exported except by the Marketing Board ”.

As it stands the clause does not give the Marketing Board control over the export of the other products which may result from the processing of cotton seed, such as cotton seed cake and cotton seed meal. While there is, of course, a local market for these, it is probable that there will from time to time be an exportable surplus, and it is considered advisable that the Marketing Board should be in a position to control their export in the interest of the producers.

The Western House of Assembly also recommended that a proviso should be added to sub-clause (2) of clause 42 to read:

“ Provided that the Marketing Board may issue a general licence for the export of small quantities of cotton seed oil, not exceeding four gallons, as accompanied or unaccompanied personal effects or by parcel post.”

Government is willing to accept this amendment.

Clause 47. The Northern House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs recommended that clause 47 should be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

“ (1) Where the Marketing Board ceases for any reason to exercise its functions under this Ordinance by reason of the repeal of the Ordinance or otherwise the funds of the Marketing Board shall be allocated for the benefit of the Northern and Western Regions in such proportion as the Legislative Council may by resolution direct.

(2) Such funds as are thereby allocated for the benefit of the Northern Region shall be disposed of for the benefit of such Region and in such manner as the Northern House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs may by resolution direct.

- (3) Such funds as are thereby allocated for the benefit of the Western Region shall be disposed of for the benefit of such Region and in such manner as the Western House of Assembly may by resolution direct ”.

I read out a similar amendment in relation to the previous Bill, and I repeat that under this Bill Government is willing to accept the amendment provided that the words “ having due regard to the volume of produce marketed in each Region ” are included.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

THE LOCAL LOANS (REGISTERED STOCK AND SECURITIES)
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to move the first reading of a Bill entitled:—

“ An Ordinance to amend the Local Loans (Registered Stock and Securities) Ordinance, 1946 ”.

There is nothing, Sir, that I can add to the statement of Objects and Reasons at the end of the Bill. It is quite a simple Bill which has been accepted by the Regional Houses, and I have no doubt that it will be welcomed by all those Honourable Members who wish to see the greatest possible increase in facilities for the investment of Nigerian capital in Nigeria.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

THE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

Sir, I rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled:—

“ An Ordinance further to amend the Public Holidays Ordinance ”.

Sir, the object of this Bill is to declare a public holiday the day of the birth of the Prophet Mohammed. It has become necessary to the wishes of the Muslim community, in fact it was first initiated in the House of Chiefs, where they recommended that the Birthday of the Prophet Mohammed should be observed as a statutory Public

Holiday. I would like to mention that it has been through the three Houses of Assembly and the House of Chiefs. I would like to mention too that when we reach the Committee stage of this Bill I propose to move an official amendment. Subsequent to this Bill being considered by the Regional Houses it has been realized that owing to the variation of the two calendars, the day of the Prophet's Birthday will become a moveable holiday, and therefore it may well happen that it might fall upon another Public Holiday as it works through the year, so that the purpose of the amendment is that if it falls on a Sunday, Your Excellency can declare Monday will be a Public Holiday in celebration of the Prophet's Birthday. It is merely a moveable holiday. I think that explains the position Sir.

I therefore beg to move.

The Hon. the Senior Resident, Kano Province :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

THE MANILLA PROHIBITION ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

I rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled :—

“ An Ordinance to prohibit the use of Manillas as Currency ”.

Sir, I do not propose to add to the Objects and Reasons which are stated at the back of the Bill, but I think it is proper that I should give the Council a report on the progress of the withdrawal operation.

When the operation began no one had any means of estimating how many manillas were in circulation: and this is not surprising when one remembers that although the importation of manillas into Nigeria had ceased in the last years of last century and was formally prohibited some years later, manillas had been associated with trade in West Africa for several centuries, indeed, since the earliest recorded trading transactions with the Portuguese. The best approximation which could be made was that there were probably fifteen to twenty million manillas in circulation when the operation began on the 1st October last. In fact this has proved too small an estimate. Up to the middle of February, twenty-seven million manillas had been withdrawn from circulation and information about the rate in which exchange operations are proceeding and about the continued presence of manillas in the market in some areas suggests that the total number in circulation when the operation began was at least forty million. The money paid out in exchange for manillas is not entirely a charge against the funds of Nigeria as we have been able to find a market for the manillas

as scrap metal at £62 a ton. Upon the assumption that a total of forty million manillas will be withdrawn from circulation up to the end of March, the gross cost, including expenses for transport to collecting centres, payment of labour and collecting teams, rail freight to port and port handling charges will be £537,000. If, as we hope, the whole quantity can be sold as scrap metal, we shall realize £189,000; and the net cost to the country will be £348,000.

If the Bill now before the Council is passed into law, we shall be able to prevent any unscrupulous persons from manipulating the exchange rate of such manillas as have not been withdrawn from circulation so as to impose further hardship on the people. It will be an offence to use manillas as a means of trade and since this alone would not suffice to prevent abuses, it will also be an offence to have, without lawful authority or excuse, more than two hundred manillas in one's possession. There are plentiful supplies of small denomination coins in the areas where manillas were used, and no trading difficulties will result from the withdrawal. This withdrawal operation has been carried through at great expense to this country and at the cost of considerable effort on the part of those responsible for it. I should like to say, Sir, that great assistance has been given freely by the banks and commercial concerns in the Eastern Region in the course of this operation. Up to the middle of February 31 per cent of the manillas taken into the main collecting centres has been received through the agency of the commercial firms and these firms have made no charge for their services but have been content to help in the operation receiving only a return of their actual out-of-pocket expenses of transport, etc. To meet the wishes of the majority of the people in the former manilla areas it is necessary to pass into law the provisions of this Bill, and I trust that this Council will give it the welcome it has already received in the Eastern House of Assembly.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Resident, Ogoja Province :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

THE ROYAL WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE (NIGERIA
REGIMENT) COURTS-MARTIAL VALIDATION
ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled :—

“ An Ordinance relating to certain Courts-Martial convened between the 30th day of October, 1945, and the 11th day of July, 1946, both dates inclusive.

Honourable Members will see that there is a long Preamble to this Bill which is self-explanatory, and the Objects and Reasons set out in detail for the purpose of the Bill. What has actually happened, Sir, is this. Under the Royal West African Frontier Force (Nigeria Regiment) Ordinance, in normal times it is for Your Excellency to appoint an officer to convene and confirm Courts-Martial under that Ordinance. Some years ago, Sir, our Regiment went on active service and it ceased such active service on the 30th day of October, 1945. Unfortunately, Sir, this escaped notice and the system of convening Courts-Martial under the Army Act ceased and between that date and the 11th July, 1946, Courts-Martial were held under the Royal West African (Nigeria Regiment) Frontier Force Ordinance but it was not until that latter date, that you formally appointed an officer to convene and confirm these Courts-Martial. Now this Bill, Sir, seeks to validate such Courts-Martial, but only in so far as the convening and confirmation is concerned. No Court-Martial will become valid now by reason of this Bill if for any other reason it was invalid before. The Bill, Sir, has been to the Houses of Assembly and no amendments have been suggested, but I would stress the point that it will not, validate anything except the convening and the confirmation and that no other invalidity of any kind is affected by the Bill.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARDS ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled:—

“ An Ordinance to provide for the Establishment of Regional Development Boards for the purpose of fostering the Economic Development of Nigeria by making Grants and Advances out of such moneys as may be made available, and for purposes connected therewith ”.

As Honourable Members will remember the Nigeria Local Development Board was established as part of the Ten-Year Plan of Development and Welfare, and the then Development Secretary in moving the first reading of the Bill to establish the Board remarked of that Bill:—

“ This is possibly one of the most important Bills connected with the development of Nigeria ”.

The functions of the Nigeria Local Development Board were to make grants or loans to certain bodies such as Native Authorities, Co-operative Societies, Planning Authorities and the like for the

financing and operation of local schemes of development. The original Bill did not give the Board authority to make loans to Companies registered in Nigeria, partnerships operating in Nigeria or individuals, although by section 12 of the Ordinance, Sir, you had authority to make other authorisations if you saw fit. At the end of 1947, Sir, your predecessor authorised the making of loans to companies registered in Nigeria and to partnerships operating in Nigeria.

I am afraid that, like other schemes in the Development Plan, the Board was somewhat slow in getting into its stride, but during the past year, Sir, there has been a great increase in the work of the Board. Honourable Members may like to know that, whereas in 1946 and 1947 the total amounts authorised either by way of grants or loans, and to finance the schemes operated by the Board, amounted to £108,000 in 1948 the similar total was £310,000.

Experience of the working of the Board has, however, shown that the Board with the best will in the world was too remote a body to deal adequately in the matter of loans and grants for what are essentially local schemes in a country as vast as Nigeria, and it was felt that the Board was not fulfilling adequately the purposes for which it was appointed, particularly at a time like the present when there is an obvious need for the quickening of the tempo of economic development and for small schemes including those undertaken by individual enterprise to be further encouraged. Moreover, it had become apparent that the original sum allocated, £1½ million, would be insufficient and that a larger sum might be, and indeed would be, necessary.

Accordingly at the August session, proposals were laid before this House, Sir, in Sessional Paper No. 20, whereby the existing Nigeria Local Development Board would be wound up and Regional Development Boards were to be set up with similar functions. Those Boards will, of course, Sir, assume all the responsibilities and liabilities of the existing Central Board. There will be certain differences and I hope, Sir, improvements. The Regional Boards will have power to make loans to individuals. They will also be authorised to receive loans from the Native Administrations and they are to have the power to borrow money over and above the original allocation to them of the balance of the £1½ million from the Government of Nigeria. The interest and repayment charges on such loans from the Government of Nigeria will be borne upon the annual estimates of expenditure of the Region concerned.

In moving the motion welcoming these proposals at the August Session, my Honourable friend, the Financial Secretary, remarked that when the Nigeria Local Development Board was established the new Constitution had not been set up, whereas now there are Regional Houses of Assembly and Regional Budgets. Not only was it legitimate that members of Regional Houses should take a

closer interest in the development of their Regions, it was essential that they should do so in the interest of Regional development, and as a first step towards financial autonomy. It is for this reason and in order that the responsibility for Regional development may rest fairly and squarely where it belongs on the shoulders of the members of the Regional Houses of Assembly, that the application of a Regional Development Board to borrow money from the Government of Nigeria must be supported by a resolution of the Regional House of Assembly concerned.

The proposals in Sessional Paper No. 20 of 1948, were accepted by this House, and the Bill now before the Council embodies these proposals with one important addition, and that is that Lagos and the Colony will be treated as though it were a Region, with its own Development Board which, in the first instance, will receive a free grant of £50,000 from the Government of Nigeria. With the differences already referred to, Sir, the Bill follows the lines of the existing Ordinance, with which, I think, all Honourable Members are well acquainted, and there is no need for me to describe them in detail.

Since the Bill was published it has become apparent that certain minor amendments are desirable, while Regional Houses have also recommended certain amendments which will be proposed at the Committee stage, and it might be convenient if I acquaint Honourable Members with those now. I should, of course, make it plain that the acceptance by Government of an amendment does not mean finality on the amendment, and that Honourable Members will have an opportunity to oppose or support the amendment when moved at the Committee stage.

Clause 4 (1). The Eastern House of Assembly recommended that at the end of clause 4 (1) (b) the following proviso should be added:

“ Provided that when any such Board consists of more than five members, the Unofficial Members of the Northern Regional Council or of the appropriate House of Assembly, as the case may be, shall be in the majority ”.

The purpose of the amendment is clear. It is to ensure that the members of the House of Chiefs and/or the Regional Houses of Assembly shall be in a majority on the Boards. The Government will accept this amendment.

Clause 5 (4) (a) The Eastern House of Assembly recommended that this clause, which now reads:—

“ If the appropriate authority be satisfied that a member of a Board:—

(a) has been absent from meetings of the Board for a period longer than three consecutive months without the permission of the Board; or ”

should be amended to read

“ has been absent from two consecutive meetings of the Board without the permission of the Board; or ”

Government will accept this amendment.

Clause 6. The Eastern House of Assembly recommended that a new clause 6 should be inserted, reading as follows:—

“ Where upon any special occasion Board desires to obtain the advice of any person on any particular matter, the Board may co-opt such person to be a member for such meeting or meetings as may be required, and such person while so co-opted shall have all the rights and privileges of a member save that he shall not be entitled to vote on any question ”.

and that subsequent clauses should be renumbered.

The purpose of the amendment is obvious and Government will accept the amendment.

As a result of this amendment many alterations in the numbering of subsequent clauses will be necessary, and the necessary formal amendments will be moved in Committee.

Clause 22 as drafted provides that the Board, with the approval of the appropriate authority, may from its funds and resources make certain payments. Clause 12, however, empowers the Board, with the approval of the appropriate authority, to make rules providing for certain payments. It is desired to amend clause 22 to provide that the further approval of the appropriate authority under clause 22 need not be required for payments authorised by rules lawfully made under clause 12.

Before I move the first reading of the Bill, Sir, I should like, if I may, to be allowed to pay a tribute to Unofficial Members of this House who have been members of the Board. I am sure that it is the interest they have taken and the hard work they have put into it which has been very largely responsible for the success of the Bill.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

THE DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES (EXTENSION) (AMENDMENT)
ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled:—

“ An Ordinance further to amend the Diplomatic Privileges (Extension) Ordinance, 1947 ”.

Honourable Members are aware that the objects of the principal Ordinance are to confer upon Committees and Representatives on missions of the United Nations who may come to Nigeria the same privileges as are normally reserved for diplomatic representatives. From time to time, Sir, we have had to amend our Ordinance here to come into line with the United Kingdom legislation and legislation in other territories. This particular amendment, Sir, enables representatives of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to receive the same privileges in Nigeria as the representatives of Foreign Sovereign powers.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

THE INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

I rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled :—

“ An Ordinance further to amend the Income Tax Ordinance, 1943.”

Income Tax legislation, Sir, is unfortunately never simple and I fear that, despite the best endeavours of those concerned in the drafting of this Bill, it is rather complicated. I regret that I must further complicate it at the Committee stage by moving some further amendments.

The Bill before the Council today is in the form in which it was submitted to the House of Assembly and to the Northern Regional Council, save that it includes three new clauses which were introduced as amendments when the Bill was discussed in the Regional Councils and which were then recommended to your Excellency as acceptable to the Regional Councils. Those three clauses are marked marginally with a deep black line in the copies of the Bill which have been circulated to Honourable Members and their total effect is to alter the manner of fixing the rate of tax upon companies to correspond to the manner prescribed in relation to individuals. As Honourable Members know, the rates of tax payable are set out in Schedules to the Income Tax Ordinance, 1943, and those Schedules may be varied by Resolution of this Council. Under the law as it now stands, an amending Ordinance is required if the rate of company tax is to be varied; and this is a cumbersome

arrangement which has no particular merit. The Regional Councils have, therefore, accepted the principle that the law should be amended so that the rate of tax payable by companies can be varied by a Resolution of this Council. Clauses 8, 10 and 15 of the Bill as published—that is to say, the clauses marked marginally with a deep black line, give legal effect to this principle.

The most important new provision which the Bill seeks to add to the law, and a provision which I hope will be welcomed by all Members of this Council is clause 9 which aims at granting relief from tax during the early life of companies locally incorporated and controlled. Nigeria has now reached the stage of economic development at which the local limited-liability company has a great part to play. There is a large, and ever increasing, number of commercial activities in which the people of this country can engage to their own profit and to the greater well-being of their country. But many of these ventures may require capital beyond the resources of individuals. In such cases one solution is the formation of a company so that individuals interested in the venture can share in it according to their means and so that the total capital available will be adequate for the company's purposes. There are many advantages, both legal and practical, which an incorporated company has over a partnership and there is no need for me to dwell on them here. Nevertheless, it has been justly argued that the present incidence of taxation tends to deter a small concern from incorporating its business as a limited liability company.

At present a company pays income tax at a flat rate of 7s 6d in the £ on its profits. So far as undistributed profits are concerned the company bears the liability to tax out of its own funds and as the flat rate of 7s 6d is normally much higher than the personal income tax rates of the individual shareholders, a small concern would generally reject the idea of incorporation because incorporation would increase its liability to tax. Even if the advantages of incorporation were recognized as outweighing the disadvantage of increased taxation, the tendency would be for a small concern to distribute its profits, so that they became taxable at the shareholders' individual rates, rather than to retain them, to "plough them back into the business", and so incur the higher rate of tax.

It is therefore proposed to provide a diminishing scale of relief from taxation for newly incorporated companies over the first six years from the commencement of their trading. For the first two of such years the relief will be at the full rate of company tax; for the second two years the relief will be at two-thirds of the full rate; and for the last two years the relief will be at one-third of the full rate. The relief will be limited to the first £1,000 of the total income of a company, and where the total income exceeds £1,000,

the amount of income to be relieved will be reduced by one-half of the excess of such income over the sum of £1,000. An arithmetical example of the working of this limitation was given in the Objects and Reasons published with the Bill.

Sub-section 4 of the proposed new section 27A is designed to prevent a company from winding up its business and reforming as another company merely to obtain the benefits of relief from taxation.

I have no doubt that the principle of this relief will be acceptable to this Council as it was to the Regional Councils, but there may be some criticism aimed, on the one hand, at showing that the relief is not sufficiently generous or, on the other, at showing that even this relief will involve a loss to revenue at a time when the country must collect all the revenue that it can. To this criticism, if it is offered, I would only say, Sir, that the limitation of relief as drafted in the Bill has been proposed after careful examination of the assessments of new companies over the last few years, and is considered such as will give a reasonable inducement to the formation of new companies without imposing any undue strain on the revenues. Suggestions have been made to me by non-official persons and organizations that this relief might be supplemented by other measures, such as a graduated scale of tax. Some of these suggestions are attractive if one is concerned only to encourage the formation of new companies but if one is also charged with the duty of conserving the revenues of the country at this admittedly difficult time, they must be rejected.

If I may now go through the other clauses in the Bill in the order in which they are published, I shall seek briefly to explain the intention of each.

Clause 2 adds a definition of "married woman" and "wife" which is necessary to prevent the claiming of allowances by an alien who is not himself subject to local customary law but who contracts a marriage with an African woman in accordance with local custom even though he may not subsequently be bound by that marriage. This amendment, which is mainly precautionary as far as Nigeria is concerned, will bring Nigerian legislation on this point into line with that in other British West African territories.

Clause 3 is designed to make clear that while the value of free quarters is not taxable, any allowance paid in cash is liable to assessment. This is designed to prevent evasion by the paying of allowance, *e.g.*, to a wife on behalf of an employee, represented as an allowance for quarters but in fact designed as a means of evading tax.

Clause 4 extends to members of defence organizations, the exemption granted to members of the armed forces and to private individuals who may receive disability pensions in respect of injuries.

Clause 5 (a) is designed to prevent the avoidance of tax by the formation of provident funds to which large sums, being in fact allocations of profits, may be payable as contributions. This clause is connected with clause 6 (b) which provides for increases in the maximum allowance in respect of insurance premiums from seven per cent to ten per cent of the capital sum assured and from one-sixth to one-fifth of total income. These increases are desirable because the original limitations were based on those in the United Kingdom legislation and do not take into consideration the "loading" or additions to premiums, imposed by insurance companies in respect of people living in West Africa. This loading varies from two per cent to four per cent according to the period of the policy. It is considered proper that no one person should be entitled to a total deduction of more than £1,000 in respect of provident fund and insurance payments and the proviso (iii) in clause 6 imposes this limitation.

It has been suggested that the limitation of £1,000 in respect of insurance payments should not be applied in relation to existing contracts of insurance. Government has considered this question both in principle and practice and has reached the conclusion that no sound case can be made for giving such relief.

Clause 5 (b) limits wear and tear allowance to buildings erected or acquired by a trader for his own use and prevents the extension to property he erects or acquires for letting. The existing law does not grant the relief in respect of property owned and let before the relief was first introduced, and there is no reason why new property should be given a relief, to which older properties are not entitled.

Clause 5 (c) is designed to extend the present relief to such premises as hospitals, etc., which are used by employees and their families. The present relief is too restricted.

Clause 6 (a) remedies the defect in the Ordinance which limits the adopted children in respect of whom an allowance is granted to children "adopted in accordance with any statutory provision" although in fact there are no such statutory provisions in Nigeria.

Clause 7 remedies a defect in the Ordinance which omitted to include any charge of tax upon a woman who was separated from her husband and was treated as an unmarried woman, although there is a charge upon an unmarried woman, and opportunity is taken to amend inconsistencies in the present wording.

Clause 9 is designed to overcome a legal ruling that if one additional assessment is made, no further additional assessment can be made for the same year. In practice it often happens that the Department have to elicit information from traders bit by bit and if they make one additional assessment upon a first instalment of information, they can make no more.

Clause 10 is a consequential amendment which was overlooked when the limit for assessment under section 25 (1) was raised from £50 to £150.

Clause 11 will result in all appeal cases where the amount of tax in dispute exceeds £50 going direct to the Supreme Court: it has been found in practice that in appeals in respect of a substantial amount of tax the taxpayer invariably refuses to accept the decision of the Board of Commissioners if it is against him.

Clause 12 is an amendment made in conformity with the new Constitution of Nigeria.

A table of proposed amendments has been circulated to Honourable Members.

The first is purely formal—to fix the date on which the amending Ordinance shall come into operation.

The second makes it plain that allowances in respect of medical or dental expenses of an employee are not taxable.

Clause 4 has added to it a provision to relieve from taxation any lump sum payment made in Nigeria to a contributor to the proposed Colonial Superannuation Scheme.

Clause 5 is to be amended to make it clear that deductions are allowable in respect of bad debts due to a professional man and in respect of irrecoverable advances in the normal course of trade, etc.; and the words “for the purposes of health or recreation”, which unnecessarily limit the deduction allowed by paragraph (1) of section 10 (1) of the Ordinance and which result in administrative complications are deleted.

Clause 9 requires amendment to make it clear that the relief from taxation will run with relation to a company's commencing trading and not from the date of its incorporation.

A further amendment is designed to prevent a company using the provisions of section 28 of the Ordinance so as to deduct from dividends tax at the full rate even though the company may have obtained relief from taxation under the new arrangements proposed by the Bill.

I may say, Sir, that other amendments have been suggested to me designed to prevent any abuse of the system of relief which is proposed for newly incorporated companies, but I do not think that we would serve the principal purpose of this relief, namely the encouragement of small concerns to become incorporated, if we were to hedge our system of relief about with a multitude of restrictions and provisoes.

I do apologize for wearying the Council with these matters in detail, but I trust that these explanations will help to make clear legislation which, though simple enough in intention, is necessarily complicated in drafting.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

THE WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' PENSION (PALESTINE EX-OFFICERS)
ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled:—

“ An Ordinance to make provision with respect to former Contributors to the Palestine Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund who are appointed to the service of the Government ”.

I should say at once, Sir, that as this is a Bill “ with respect to former contributors to the Palestine Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund who are appointed to the service of the Government ” and as I am such a one, I have an interest in this Bill. I would add, however, that the interest is not such and the benefits I may expect to derive are not such as greatly to embarrass me in moving that the Bill be read a first time. I go further and wish to make it quite clear that I am moving this Bill as Financial Secretary.

The principle underlying this Bill was discussed at the Standing Committee on Finance of this Council some months ago, and it has been considered by all three Regional Councils and recommended to Your Excellency as acceptable. There are, however, four amendments to be moved at this stage, and copies of these have been circulated to Honourable Members. The first three of these substitute the word “ transfer ” and its derivatives for the word “ appointment ”. In fact, Sir, in the title of the Bill the word should be “ transfer ”. It would obviously be inappropriate to accord any benefits to an officer who, having left the service of the Government of Palestine some time ago and having received a refund of his contributions, then joined this Government after a lapse of time and sought to obtain the same treatment as regards a voluntary lump sum contribution to the Widows' and Orphans' Pension scheme as officers with unbroken service and an unbroken series of monthly contributions. Such a case is ruled out if the word “ transfer ” is used.

The other amendment covers the case of an officer who, under the Palestine legislation, was permitted to make a lump sum contribution in respect of the period for which he could have contributed had the Palestine Ordinance come into force five years earlier.

These additional contributions attracted no contribution from the Palestine Government and consequently nothing would be paid into Nigerian revenue in respect of them if an officer elected to make a lump sum payment to the Nigerian scheme under the provisions of this Bill. Actuarial calculations show that any such lump sum contribution should provide only five-ninths of the benefit to be obtained under the Nigerian Ordinance from a contribution of the same amount in respect of which the appropriate amount had accrued to Nigerian revenue from the funds of the Palestine Government. It is therefore proposed to add a proviso to clause 4 of the Bill limiting the benefits to be derived from any such additional contribution under the provisions of the Palestine Ordinance.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

THE WATERWORKS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Director of Public Works :

Sir, I rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled :—

“ An Ordinance further to amend the Waterworks Ordinance ”.

There is at present no provision in the Waterworks Ordinance for the control of fishing and boating in and on waterworks, and the purpose of this Bill is to remedy this by the insertion of a new clause whereby rules and regulations may be made. Honourable Members will appreciate the necessity for pure water supplies, and the prevention of pollution in storage reservoirs is of paramount importance not only in diminishing the risk of water-borne diseases but also in reducing the costs of purification. If there were completely free and unrestricted usage of waterworks for such things as boating or fishing, this risk would be increased and costs may rise. It does not follow that these activities will necessarily be prohibited. Each case will be considered on its merits, and the interests of the local inhabitants will be kept in view by the authorities empowered to make rules. Such control is common practice in other countries, and this Bill already has the approval of the Regional Houses of Assembly.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Director of Public Works :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

THE MINERALS (AMENDMENT No. 2) ORDINANCE, 1949**The Hon. the Attorney-General :**

Sir, I do not rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled " An Ordinance to amend the Minerals Ordinance, 1945 " but rather I move that the Bill be struck out of the order of the day. What has happened is this. At the August meeting of this Council, this Bill was considered. Objection was taken to the Bill and the Bill was withdrawn. It was withdrawn for further consideration. Unfortunately, Sir, we are now in another Session—six months have elapsed—and before this Bill can be brought to the House it must be re-published. I suggest that we strike it out of the Order of the Day as though it had never been there at all.

Bill was by leave of Council accordingly deleted from the Order Paper.

THE LABOUR CODE (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949**The Hon. the Attorney-General :**

Sir, I rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled :—

“ An Ordinance further to amend the Labour Code Ordinance, 1945 ”.

Sir, I move this Bill with shame. What has happened, Sir, is that in former Bills passed by this Council to amend the Labour Code Ordinance, mistakes have occurred, which I am afraid, Sir, were pointed out to us by the Secretary of State. What has happened, was this. In one of the Bills before the House we unfortunately, in the certified copy of the Bill, attached a sub-section to the wrong section—that made that section nonsense. In another Bill before this House again a mistake arose in the authenticated version, and we put in provisoes to a sub-section but forgot to put in the sub-section. That again made nonsense. This Bill is, I hope, Sir, the last time I shall worry the House in this way, and I ask that it be given a first reading.

The Hon. the Commissioner of Labour :

Sir, I rise to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

As we have completed the business on the Order Paper for today perhaps Your Excellency will permit me to say a word about the business of the House and the programme of work which we have ahead of us. As the leader of this House I have some responsibility in the arrangements for our work and I felt some regret, as I listened to the proceedings today, that we could not make better arrangements for the first day. I think most of us felt, Sir, that having listened to the speech of Your Excellency, it was a pity to have to proceed at once with ordinary business. I think Honourable Members will agree with me, however, that we should paddle along as diligently as possible through the comparatively placid waters of official business so that we can reach as soon as possible the stormier seas of our other business later on.

I suggest that we should meet at 10 o'clock each morning and sit until one, and then meet again at four and sit until six; that would be tomorrow and Thursday. It is not proposed to meet on Friday afternoon, and I do not propose that we meet on Saturday afternoon following the speech to be made by the Financial Secretary on the First Reading of the Appropriation Bill. We hope to dispose of Government Bills this week, and I hope that it will be possible to take on Friday the Motion which I shall move regarding the Select Committee on the ways and means for the review of the Constitution. On Saturday we shall have the First Reading of the Appropriation Bill with the main statement by the Financial Secretary. We shall then proceed, at the beginning of next week, with the Budget Debate, and go into Select Committee as soon as that Debate is completed, leaving the remainder of the business, that is the Unofficial Motions, until we come back from the Select Committee on the Budget.

His Excellency :

Is it the pleasure of Honourable Members that our progress this week should be as outlined by the Chief Secretary?

May I take silence as meaning consent?

In that case we will meet tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

Council adjourned at 12.50 p.m.

APPENDIX TO FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

I am glad to follow the practice of recent years in presenting to you in printed form, before the opening day of the Session, my address which, with the ever-increasing scope and complexity of Government activities, is of such length that oral delivery would be wearisome to you and to me.

Finance

I deal first with financial matters. Honourable Unofficial Members have already had an opportunity of studying a memorandum prepared by my Honourable friend the Financial Secretary, and of discussing with him, at a meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance, called for this purpose early in February, the expected results of the financial year 1948-49 and the prospects for the coming financial year. It may be convenient, however, to Honourable Members, and useful to a wider audience, if I recapitulate some of the more important considerations.

At the opening of the financial year 1948-49, the Government declared its policy to be the stabilization for two years of the current level of ordinary expenditure with a view to increasing the cushion of revenue to take, in due course, the impact of the recurrent costs of the development programme presently met by the British taxpayer. The cushion of revenue is being established by means of an annual and increasing contribution to a Revenue Equalization Fund. In time, these contributions will be reduced and replaced by the recurrent residual cost of the Development Plan as it is translated from the British to the Nigerian taxpayer. This residual cost was originally estimated at less than £4 million nett, but, with increased costs, it is now more likely to reach £6 million in the next decade. To achieve a cushion of revenue of this size would require an annual contribution increasing by £750,000 each year during a period of eight years but this would ignore the indirect benefits to be derived from the development plan and the fact that the translation of recurrent expenditure from the United Kingdom taxpayer to the Nigerian taxpayer will be spread over a number of years. As a first step on the road to an annual contribution of the size ultimately needed, provision was made in the approved estimates of 1948-49 for a payment of £750,000.

Despite careful examination of all proposals for supplementary expenditure before they were submitted to the Standing Committee on Finance and further scrutiny by Honourable Unofficial Members in the Committee, it was necessary to approve, up to the 31st of December, 1948, additional provision from Nigerian funds of over two and a quarter million pounds, of which nearly £400,000 was in

respect of items requiring recurrent expenditure. This additional expenditure is classified as follows:—

HEADS 1 TO 46 (NIGERIAN)	£	£	£
Personal Emoluments ...	85,679		
Other Charges ...	289,000	374,679	
Special Expenditure ...		1,647,627	2,022,306
HEADS 47 TO 49 (REGIONAL) ...			213,642
HEAD 50 (DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE)			
Personal Emoluments ...	4,620		
Other Charges ...	8,720	13,340	
Special Expenditure ...		37,950	51,290
			<u>£2,287,238</u>

Two of the items of special expenditure are fortuitously budgetary debits, viz:—

	£
(a) Purchase of Debenture Stock, West African Airways Corporation ...	316,200
(b) s.d. <i>Lady Bourdillon</i> —Repayment of Loan ...	100,000
	<u>£416,200</u>

The total estimate of revenue for the year 1948-49 has been revised to £20,028,020, compared with the approved estimate of £19,568,810. There were shortfalls on the proportionate estimates of both import duties and export duties over the first eight months of the financial year and, although there was a normal recovery in December so far as collections of import duties were concerned and although it is possible that we shall exceed the approved estimate by about £340,000, export duties were over-estimated and there is likely to be a shortfall of about £200,000. The revised estimate of revenue under all Heads also includes a windfall of income tax arrears of the order of £100,000 and an unforeseen (and unforeseeable) increase in the distributed profits of the West African Currency Board of £90,000.

The total expenditure approved for 1948-49, including the supplementary expenditure to which I have referred, is of the order of £21,500,000 but it is probable that as a result of deferred expenditure and savings, the final figure of actual expenditure will be about £1 million less than this. The figure given in the Financial Statement which precedes the draft estimates for 1949-50 is £20,487,592, and this gives an estimated deficit on the year's working, so far as the Estimates of Nigeria are concerned, of £459,572.

In making these calculations, there is included as "expenditure" the total amounts voted for Regional Services and Works from Nigerian funds (*i.e.*, excluding money charged off to the regions for expenditure under Colonial Development and Welfare

Schemes which is reimbursable by His Majesty's Government). It is the intention that any amount by which expenditure in a region falls short of the total voted for Regional Services and Works shall be credited to that region as the nucleus of a Regional Reserve Fund. It is proper, therefore, that for present purposes the total of such amounts should be regarded as "expenditure" so far as the Estimates of Nigeria are concerned but it should be borne in mind in considering the estimated deficit of £459,572 that a considerable part of this sum will in fact be available for ultimate use within the regions.

The grants under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act are self-balancing with the relative expenditure. It is estimated that £2,082,010 will be spent from these grants during the financial year 1948-49, compared with the approved estimate of £2,908,020. This under-expenditure is the result of the continued difficulties in getting supplies of material and the services of professional and technical staff, difficulties which have so disappointed the hopes of Honourable Members and have been so grave a concern to the Government. It would be idle to pretend that these difficulties no longer exist but estimates of expenditure in 1949-50 have been framed with a reasonably optimistic view of improved prospects in future.

The General Revenue Balance is estimated to stand at about £8,540,000 at the 31st of March, 1949, but it is proposed to apply £1,000,000 of this towards the cost of redemption of the two loans which mature respectively at the end of 1949 and the beginning of 1950.

During the year, in accordance with a Resolution of this Council, the balance of the Reserve Fund was transferred to the newly established Revenue Equalization Fund and it is estimated that the combined Fund will stand at just under £2,300,000 at the 31st of March, 1949.

YEAR 1949-50

The draft estimates for the coming year are in the same form as those for 1948-49, that is to say, the detailed Estimates of Revenue of Nigeria are followed by Estimates of Expenditure in three parts, the first showing purely Nigerian expenditure, the second showing the three one-line votes for Regional Services and Works, and the third dealing with expenditure under the Ten-Year Plan of Development and Welfare. The only difference in form between these and the Estimates for 1948-49 is that the procedure of "charging-off" to the one-line votes for Regional Services and Works the amounts to be spent on such services and works under the Ten-Year Plan has been discontinued as it proved cumbersome in practice and led to accounting difficulties and the possibility of error. Heads 52 and 53 of draft Estimates therefore provide for the full amounts proposed to be spent under those Heads, whether on Nigerian or on Regional services and works. The Regional Expenditure Estimates are published, as in 1948-49, as Appendices to the Estimates of Nigeria.

The draft estimates are accompanied by memoranda which deal fully with all important matters calling for special comment; and the prospects of the coming year, which have already been the subject of some discussion with Honourable Unofficial Members by the Financial Secretary, will be further explained by him in Council. I shall therefore refer here to only one or two of the more important features of the Budget which will be presented to you.

Excluding the self-balancing revenue and expenditure under Colonial Development and Welfare Grants, estimated expenditure for 1949-50 amounts to £22,951,710 (including under the term "expenditure", for this purpose, the total allocations of revenue to the regions). Estimated revenue is £21,529,160: so that there is a shortfall of over £1,400,000. In order to cover this shortfall and to provide a surplus, modest in relation to the size of the budget, of the order of £300,000, new fiscal measures are proposed which are estimated to bring in revenue of the order of £1,750,000. These have already been discussed in general terms with the Standing Committee on Finance by the Financial Secretary, who will be giving a more detailed explanation of his proposals during the proceedings of Council. It will suffice for me to say here that although it had been hoped that it would be possible to maintain for (say) five years the rates of taxation as they stood after the Budget Meeting of this Council in 1948, rising costs and the urgent need for development have so increased our financial commitments that either further revenue, both recurrent and non-recurrent, must be obtained or we must limit our public services.

The estimated expenditure includes a second contribution to the Revenue Equalization Fund, this time of £1,500,000. Lest it be thought that the need to raise additional revenue could be obviated by reduction in this contribution, I stress again the need, to which I have earlier drawn your attention, to increase annually the contributions which we make to this Fund until we achieve a level of annual contribution equal to the residual cost of the Development Plan for which we must ultimately assume responsibility. Unless we make this annual provision we shall be building our budgets on inadequate foundations and shall, in fact, be incurring liabilities which we have no reasonable expectation of being able to meet.

One of the most difficult problems facing the country today is the lack of a satisfactory method of allocating revenue to the regions. The method originally devised and set out in the "Statement of Administrative and Financial Procedure under the New Constitution" was admittedly a compromise between two conflicting principles and, although it was an excellent compromise, it has been found to have not only the defects common to all compromises but other grave defects both of principle and in practice. This problem was discussed by the Financial Secretary with Honourable Unofficial Members at the special meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance in February and the Committee

approved a proposal that it should be formally re-examined by the Financial Secretary with the help, if this can be secured, of an expert in federal systems of finance.

Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes.—The estimated expenditure under grant-aided Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes in 1949-50 is £3,240,800 and full details of this expenditure are shown in Part 3 of the Estimates under Head 53. In 1948-49, expenditure under this head on Regional Services and Works was "charged off" to the Regions and added to the three one-line votes for Regional Services and Works. As I have explained, this system has been discontinued. In 1949-50, therefore, all the expenditure on grant-aided schemes is shown in Part 3 of the Estimates of Nigeria, but it is shown in such a way as to make clear what is being done in each region.

I am pleased to be able to invite attention to the fact that the expenditure proposed is some £330,000 greater than the approved estimate for 1948-49 and £1,160,000 greater than the revised estimate for this year. As is stated in paragraph 180 of the Memorandum on Draft Estimates, the 1949-50 estimate is framed with due regard to the slightly improved prospects for supplies of materials and recruitment of technical staff.

Loan Expenditure.—Actual expenditure during 1947-48 on that part of the Ten-Year Plan of Development and Welfare which is being financed from loan funds was £1,194,344; the approved estimate for 1948-49 was £2,244,820 and the revised estimate £1,675,926. For the same reasons which warrant reasonable optimism in framing the estimates of expenditure under Heads 52 and 53, the estimated expenditure on the Ten-Year Plan from loan funds has been put at £2,847,540 in 1949-50, to be expended on the following objects:—

	£
(a) Urban Water Supplies	236,600
(b) Building Programme for Development	818,875
(c) Electricity Development	133,140
(d) Development of General Education	418,350
(e) Marine Development	730,250
(f) Road Development	10,325
(g) Regional Development Boards	500,000
	£2,847,540

I wish to bring particularly to your notice the last of these items. Honourable Members will recall that this Council gave approval at its meeting in August, 1948, to the proposals for the regionalization of the Nigeria Local Development Board contained in Sessional Paper No. 20/1948. Legislation will be submitted to you at this meeting to give effect to those proposals and I trust that the Regional Development Boards will become a most useful part of the machinery required for developing this vast territory.

It will be noticed that the draft estimates for 1949-50 show Appendix I in two parts: the first covers expenditure chargeable to advances pending reimbursement from the loan authorised by the Development Loan Ordinance, 1945. The proceeds of this loan are now fully committed and it will be necessary to seek, in due course, legislative authority for the raising of other loans. In the meantime we must provide for further expenditure of a kind properly to be financed from loans. Part 2 of the Schedule, therefore, covers developmental expenditure chargeable to advances pending reimbursement from loans not yet authorised. There are two sub-heads of such expenditure in 1949-50 Estimates: the first, £106,000 for the Colliery, is the first instalment of the capital required over ten years to carry out the improvements recommended by the Powell Duffryn Technical Services, Ltd., and certain other expenditure of a purely developmental nature. The second sub-head relates to the extension to the Apapa Wharf. At its Meeting in March, 1948, this Council approved the expenditure of up to £1,750,000 upon this object and it is hoped that plans will be so far advanced during 1949-50 as to enable the useful expenditure of £300,000 out of this sum.

Expenditure Reimbursable from Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board Grants.—A new feature of the estimates is Appendix U, relating to money made available by the Cocoa Marketing Board for expenditure through the agency of the Government upon schemes for the benefit of Nigerian cocoa-producers in exercise of the obligations laid upon the Board by the Ordinance which created it. The Board proposes to expend £540,000 upon the first five of such schemes over varying periods not exceeding fifteen years, and some £93,000 is to be provided for this purpose in 1949-50. The schemes and the method of expenditure are explained in paragraph 177 of the Memorandum on the Draft Estimates but I mention them here because of the pleasure it gives me to draw attention to these first (and generous) measures for the benefit of primary producers under the system of controlled marketing which has been approved by this Council. Legislation for the creation of other Boards is to be considered at this Meeting and I hope that the financial provision made by the Cocoa Marketing Board will be followed by other expenditure of this kind for similarly beneficial purposes.

Northern Provinces

Another page of history was written when the Legislative Council met at Kaduna for the 1948 Budget Session: it was the first occasion on which the Council has met outside Lagos and the interest taken throughout the North in its proceedings underlined the general popularity of the new Constitution. The Regional Council, in its turn, met twice during the year, and the deliberations both of the House of Chiefs and of the House of Assembly were marked by frank comment which was well informed and mainly constructive. The Council set up from among its own members four

unofficial consultative committees whose purpose is to provide a reliable source of information and opinion for Government to draw upon when planning legislation or development projects, or in matters of administration affecting the region as a whole. Of these committees, two, the Public Order and the Economic Committees, have already started work. Many Village, District and Urban Councils have made notable progress and, from their traditional function of providing a sounding board for public opinion, have advanced to executive duties, undertaking projects for the improvement of their communities. Given a measure of control over their own affairs these Councils have shown themselves to be capable of combining in a united effort to advance and to be imbued with a due sense of civic responsibility.

During a great part of the year an enquiry into the forms of land tenure in the Northern Region was pursued, and much interest in the results has been displayed by unofficial members of the Regional Council. In May a party of Senior Native Administration officials paid a visit, under the auspices of the British Council, to the United Kingdom where they made a brief study of local government and were afforded an opportunity of studying the English way of life. One Native Administration official is now in England on a two-year course in local government.

In May there was another small disturbance at Oke Ode but the speedy arrival of a detachment of Police prevented further lawlessness, and the changes since effected in the administration of this area have met with the widespread approbation of the community.

There were no important changes among the Native Authorities but Sokoto suffered a severe loss by the death of the Waziri, and Kano by the death of the Wali. The reorganised Native Authorities of Tiv and Idoma have continued to maintain their effectiveness and popularity and in the Plateau Province the Bi Rom Tribal Council under its new President has spent a busy year. The death of Isiaku, head of Jos town, after nearly fifty years of loyal service to the community necessitated some local changes, and a representative council was established as a subordinate Native Authority, responsible for the administration of the town.

With the arrival early this year of thirty-six Administrative Cadets the staff situation has shown real improvement, and normal touring should be possible again for the first time since 1939. In spite of the volume of office work the existing staff of Administrative Officers have been resolute in touring their Divisions and in keeping in close touch with the people.

Notwithstanding the adoption of revised salary scales the Native Treasuries increased their reserves by some £200,000 during the last financial year; these reserves now total over £3,500,000. This was made possible by a revenue increase of over £300,000, in itself almost entirely attributable to the higher rates of General Tax as well as to further unavoidable postponement of many

development projects. By remaining steady under the strain of the major changes initiated during the year and, with a few exceptions, by balancing their budgets, the Native Treasuries exhibited a satisfactory buoyancy. This has enabled them to make provision for capital expenditure of £332,000 over and above the margin between revenue and recurrent expenditure—a welcome start in the use of reserves for the purpose for which they have been accumulated.

In many areas the Native Authorities have built new elementary schools, dispensaries, and reading rooms as well as carrying out urban improvements.

In rural areas a spectacular advance has been made with the well-sinking programme, over four hundred wells being completed in 1948. Rural development also included the planning and financing of settlement schemes which, with their improved methods of farming, are likely to have far-reaching effects on productivity in those areas. Early in the year a resettlement scheme was started in Shendam Division in a formerly uninhabited tract of country. Fifty ex-servicemen and their families have been settled in the new village and they have played their part enthusiastically. Two more settlements are planned for the same area in the immediate future and will be occupied by farmers from hill villages.

A similar scheme has been started in Kontagora and twenty families have been established in a model hamlet. Each of the settlers will farm thirty acres of new farmland and will be assisted by a share in the use of a tractor to do heavy work. A tractor is also to be used on the Mbakon Scheme in Tiv Division but there it is intended to concentrate on improving the methods of farming and not to open up new ground.

Western Provinces

The Western House of Assembly met in July and December. Twenty bills were laid on the table of the House and in every case I was advised that the bills were acceptable to the House. A number of amendments were passed, and many of these were included in the Ordinances in their final form. The most important bills considered by the House were the Agricultural Bill, the Education Bill, the Chieftaincy Disputes (Preclusion of Courts) Bill, the Regional Development Boards Bill and the various Marketing Bills. The House also considered and passed the Western Regional Estimates for 1949-50. The proceedings of the House were marked by a high standard of debate and close co-operation between official and unofficial members. On December 14th I laid the foundation stone of the new Western House of Assembly.

In order to give members experience in the more detailed working of the Government Departments, a number of informal committees have been set up. Each committee consists of two or three members and sits twice a year with the Regional Deputy to discuss various facets of departmental policy. While it is too early

to judge the success of these committees, it is true to say that members have taken great interest and already shew a wider knowledge of the work of the departments with which they are concerned.

During the year additional public boards have been set up, including the Board of Agriculture, the Central and Regional Boards of Education, the Regional Development Board and various Marketing Boards and Committees. Opportunity has thereby been given to responsible citizens to engage in public service and to gain an experience in administration which should be of very great value in future years.

Provincial Conferences have now been formed in five out of the six Western Provinces. Their value has already been demonstrated not only in promoting co-operation between the different Native Authorities, but in stimulating the interest of the various representatives in regional and Nigerian affairs and in breaking down narrow parochialism, which is still too often prevalent.

Further progress has been made in the policy of developing local government units on a divisional basis, especially in the Benin and Warri Provinces. In the Jekri-Sobo Division the federation of the six independent Urhobo Native Authorities was completed. In the Asaba Division plans have been approved for the establishment of a federal court of appeal for the Eastern Aniocha clans, based on Asaba, and it is hoped that this will prove to be the nucleus of a larger federation comprising all the clans in Ogwashi-Uku district. The Ika Federal Native Authority in the Agbor District already consists of representatives of all the Ika clans. In the Kukuruku Division an active Divisional Development Committee and a provisional Advisory Council for the whole Division give promise of eventual fusion of the federations which have been successfully formed during recent years. In Ilaro Division the Native Authorities decided to form a federation of the whole Division with one superior Native Authority. In Okitipupa Division it has recently been decided to federate all Native Authorities for a trial period of three years and in Owo Division Akoko District has now formed a single Native Authority.

Where a Native Authority Area already comprises a whole division Government's policy is to encourage a measure of decentralisation to subordinate local government units. Much progress has been made in this respect in recent years, especially in the Oyo Province. This year Ijebu-Igbo in the Ijebu Province was created a Subordinate Native Authority.

In general, throughout the divisions of the Western Provinces the development of local government continues, resulting in the increased efficiency of the executive, in the broadening of representation and in political education. Special mention should be made of Benin Native Authority, which has recently made very considerable progress towards democratic local government. In a number of places, however, political disputes have caused temporary setbacks. In Abeokuta a demand for the Alake's abdication was

accompanied by disturbances and popular feeling rose so high that in July he left the Egba Division in order to avoid bloodshed. The Egba Central Council has been appointed interim Native Authority, but party politics and differences have hampered the council's work and have resulted in financial difficulties. It is hoped that in future wiser counsels will prevail, and that throughout the Western Provinces political disputes will not be allowed to interfere with steady constitutional development.

During the financial year 1947-48 revised scales of salaries and wages were introduced and in spite of a 50 per cent grant by Government, Native Administrations had to meet substantial commitments for arrears. They were able to do so, and to undertake a programme of Capital Works costing £77,000, with a reduction of their surplus funds by only £27,000: from £698,000 on 1st April, 1947, to £671,000 on 1st April, 1948.

During the present financial year the gross revenue of Native Authorities is estimated at £1,139,000, while the estimates of expenditure total £1,229,000. The excess of £90,000 will be met from surplus funds.

At the time the estimates were prepared the Native Authorities expected to finish the year with a surplus of £545,000, or 60 per cent of the ordinary annual revenue. Revised in the light of the actual surplus on 31st March, 1948, the figure becomes £581,000.

While no widespread increases of taxation have taken place during the current financial year, the Native Authorities are already considering increases in taxation in the next financial year, commensurate with the rise in produce prices and their own substantial commitments.

During the 1947-48 season the amount of cocoa graded in the Western Provinces fell from 104,800 tons to 71,163 tons owing to a severe attack of black pod. Quality on the other hand increased and 48 per cent of the total was grade I. High prices prevented the farmers from being hard hit. There was strong opposition to the campaign to cut out cocoa affected by swollen shoot in Ibadan Division and in some places there was so much forceful resistance by farmers that cutting out gangs had to be withdrawn. An intensive propaganda campaign has been carried out to overcome this opposition and it is hoped that cutting out will be resumed without further incident.

Eastern Provinces

Perhaps the outstanding feature of the period under review has been the preparation for local government reform. During the July meeting of the Eastern House of Assembly a Select Committee of all the Unofficial Members was appointed to examine existing local government machinery and make recommendations for reform. The report of the Select Committee has been printed and has had the widest circulation among Native Authorities, Councils, Tribal and Welfare Unions and individuals. Comments on and criticism of the Report have been invited, and Members of

the House have taken and are taking an active part in sounding public opinion on this question of paramount importance to every individual in the Eastern Region.

The intention is that the subject be fully debated at the next meeting of the House of Assembly, and that in the light of this debate draft legislation for a local government bill be prepared and placed before the House with the least possible delay. The bill will of course be subject to the usual constitutional procedure.

An important development in local government has been the raising to Municipality status of the township of Port Harcourt. The Port Harcourt Township Ordinance operates as from the 1st January, 1949, creating a first class Township, and providing for a Town Council consisting of a number of members elected by wards and of not more than half that number of appointed members. The Council will have authority to levy a rate and will employ its own municipal officers and staff.

During the period under review the Port Harcourt Town Planning Authority has gone ahead with the planning and putting into operation of new residential layouts.

Progress in the field of Native Administration has been mainly in the directions of consolidation and of trial. It was considered that the establishment and operation of numerous small treasuries had done much to inculcate and foster a sense of financial responsibility, and that federation into larger treasury units had become a matter of practical necessity. This policy has been carried out in the Onitsha, Awgu and Awka Divisions of the Onitsha Province, and in the Okigwi Division of the Owerri Province, while proposals for such federation are under consideration for the Afikpo Division of the Ogoja Province and in the Aba Division of the Owerri Province.

Financial considerations are not, however, alone in the conditioning of reform, since institutions should always accord with the ever changing economic and social conditions of the people. Where possible, therefore, and after due consultation with the people, the aim has been to create larger units of local government over the existing framework of subsidiary councils, the authorities consisting of compact bodies with as large a proportion of educated and literate men as possible, with the object of bringing more vigour and efficiency into local government affairs.

This policy has been achieved in the case of the Bende Division of the Owerri Province, where the four federal Native Authorities were replaced by a Divisional Native Authority on 1st April, after a series of popular elections: and in the Onitsha Division, where the whole Division, with the exception of the existing Onitsha Town Native Authority area, was placed under a single Native Authority, known as the Onitsha Rural Areas Native Authority, with a single treasury.

Perhaps the boldest measure of reform was carried out in the Kalabari Clan of the Degema Division, Rivers Province, where, after careful preparation, a Native Authority was elected by the

two means of secret ballot and popular election, the first occasion on which the use of the secret ballot has been made in such elections. The innovation was most successful, and has resulted in a more progressive Native Authority, including a substantial proportion of the educated and literate.

The Native Court system has been under constant review throughout the region, and measures of reform designed to improve efficiency have taken place. The panels of Court members have in the past been such as to give the individual member little opportunity of learning the practice and procedure of Native Courts, and many members were ill-fitted to dispense the law. Throughout the period under review, and in all Provinces, panels have been reduced to manageable proportions and efforts have been made to secure the most suitable men for such work.

For some time past there has been a steadily growing demand for the withdrawal of the manilla from circulation and an equally steady increase in the value of the manilla as against currency. The wage-earning classes were the hardest hit by this hardening of manilla value. Accordingly, Government has made available the necessary funds for withdrawal of the manilla from circulation by way of redemption, and general publicity was given to the programme by which redemption of the manilla was to begin on 1st October, and be carried on for a period of six months. Careful arrangements have been made so that the people can change their manillas into currency with the minimum amount of trouble and travelling. This operation is proceeding satisfactorily and without difficulty.

Colony

At the end of April, 1948, reconciliation was successfully effected between the Oba Falolu and his White Cap Chiefs. The Oba agreed to abrogate the appointments which he had made contrary to native custom and to give certain undertakings for the future. On the strength of this reconciliation Government agreed to restore recognition to the Oba whose stipend was therefore renewed as from the 12th of May, 1948.

On the 20th of May, Lagos was struck by the worst tornado experienced within living memory. The storm cut a narrow path through Lagos and the Colony and in a few minutes large numbers of African houses and other buildings were either demolished or seriously damaged, while telephone services and electrical supplies were put out of action for several days. Fortunately, only a few minor casualties were reported but very considerable hardship was suffered by the poorer classes many of whom were rendered homeless. Prompt action was, however, taken by the Lagos Town Council which helped in the supply of materials for emergency repairs and opened a fund for the financial assistance of those who were not in a position to repair the losses suffered by them through the violence of the storm. The administration of this fund was entrusted to a private committee of Africans and by the end of the year all accepted claims had been met.

At the end of November the District Commander formally opened the Club and Canteen for ex-servicemen which had been constructed by the Colony Regional Council of N.E.W.A. with funds supplied by the central organisation. The object of the Club, which provides excellent facilities for refreshment, games and other social activities, is to provide a common meeting-place for ex-servicemen of all races; to give to the poorer members at nominal cost the amenities usually reserved for those who can afford to pay a heavy subscription, and to foster a spirit of *esprit-de-corps* and self-help among those ex-servicemen who are unable to find employment. At the end of the year the Club had already enrolled some six hundred members and gave every indication of becoming a popular and flourishing institution.

In order to provide further for the welfare of ex-servicemen generally a Committee was appointed by me in March to enquire into the means of finding employment for ex-servicemen and to submit recommendations as to how this could be done. The Committee held over forty meetings during the year and after very considerable labour and prolonged deliberation has formulated detailed proposals which will shortly be issued in the form of a report.

On the 19th November a ceremonial parade was held on the Race-course in honour of the birth of Prince Charles of Edinburgh. The function was attended by a large concourse of people who gave testimony to the interest excited by this happy event.

From the 23rd of November to the 1st of December, Lagos was visited by the cruiser, H.M.S. *Nigeria* for the second time since it was commissioned. An ambitious programme of entertainments was prepared and the ship's company mixed on friendly terms with all classes of the community.

There is evidence that in every respect the township of Lagos has entered upon a period of rapid expansion, and the clearest indication of this is the extensive building of industrial, commercial and residential premises which is proceeding in every quarter. This development has had a marked reaction on the financial position of the Lagos Town Council, the recurrent annual expenditure of which has risen from £95,000 to £254,000 during the last ten years. Although a large proportion of this increased expenditure has been devoted to improving the conditions of service of its employees, much has also been done to extend and develop public services generally. The Council's financial position is now sounder than it has ever been as funds have been allocated to a reserve large enough to cover renewal of plant and machinery and to meet future pension liabilities.

Despite this large increase in expenditure the amount of the rate in the pound has remained constant for the last two and a half years and the prospects are that in the coming year it will remain at the present figure of 4s 8d in the £. It is interesting to note that,

assuming a total population of 200,000, the rates payable amount to 14s. 10d compared with approximately £6 per head in the United Kingdom, which is not unreasonable when the relative incomes of the manual workers in both countries are borne in mind.

The development of the Council has resulted in a demand by the more vocal elements among the ratepayers for a greater degree of representation and in May, a public announcement was made that Government considered that a review of the Council's constitution was due, and wished to obtain the views of the public as to the form which any future constitutional development might take. Later in the year, various bodies began to take an interest in the matter and eventually a number of resolutions were received which, together with the considered recommendations of the Council, were submitted to Government for consideration.

During the past year the Lagos Executive Development Board has been busy in preparing for the work of active replanning and slum clearance but progress has been seriously hampered by lack of trained staff and the extreme difficulty of recruiting suitable officers. There is in particular a need of trained engineers if the Board is to fulfil adequately the gigantic tasks with which it is faced. Further efforts are being made and it is hoped that before long the Board will be in a position to show the public some visible signs of replanning and slum clearance. A tentative estimate has already been prepared, amounting to £17,000,000, which sum covers the cost of slum clearance, swamp reclamation, road widening, bridge construction and the complete development of replanned areas.

In the absence of the staff necessary to start the main work of replanning, attention has been chiefly concentrated on the development of Apapa as a new township. The area concerned covers some 750 acres and extends from the existing port area to the western boundary of Lagos Township. The reclamation of the swamp area therein involves the depositing of 5,000,000 cubic yards of pumped sand, for which work complete plans and documents have been prepared and are now with the Consulting Engineers in London preparatory to being offered for tender. Part of the area already consists of firm dry land and the work of laying this out into roads and plots is already in hand. When the proposed extension to the shipping wharves is completed the Apapa development will supply all facilities necessary to enable importing and exporting firms to concentrate the shipping section of their business at Apapa, while at the same time the new township layout will provide accommodation for some 15,000 people and will thus, it is hoped, relieve the existing congestion in Lagos Island.

On Lagos Island a scheme has been prepared for the replanning of a slum area of sixty-eight acres in an extremely congested part of the town, at an estimated cost of £700,000. On the mainland the Ikeja Area Planning Authority has been handicapped by the lack of any source of revenue, although schemes are being prepared for new satellite townships at Mushin, Oshodi, Ikeja and Agege.

Welfare officers in Lagos have again done most valuable work, and the services of the Probation Officer are now receiving some degree of welcome and appreciation. Much good work has been done by the women welfare workers, who are now also able to do a great deal to improve the standard of living in the Colony villages. Over 1,000 juveniles passed through the Boys' and Girls' Hostels, and the Boys' Hostel has developed also into a centre for advice and guidance to parents. There is, however, still great need for a wider awakening of public opinion to evils of the exploitation of children, and the paramount importance of good home training and supervision cannot be too greatly emphasised. The number of inmates of the Boys' Approved School is growing, and the system of devolving responsibility for order and discipline on the shoulders of the senior boys has given successful results.

The Port Welfare staff have worked efficiently and have done much to cater for the comfort and welfare of seamen of all races. An African Seamen's Society has been formed to promote interest in the welfare of seamen, and to co-ordinate local services to this end, and has made a promising start.

The Colony Native Authorities have shown slow, but not unsatisfactory progress. A successful annual conference of Native Authorities was held in September, and an Education Week at Ikeja was a pleasing example of local initiative.

Agriculture

The shortage of trained Senior staff has continued to hamper progress, and most regrettably has made necessary the closing of the Benin Agricultural Station and the temporary withdrawal of subordinate staff in the absence of an Agricultural Officer for the Benin/Warri Area. The staff position in the Northern and Eastern regions has been almost equally acute. In September, 1948, the Produce Inspection Branch of the Department was transferred to the newly created Department of Marketing and Exports.

The farming season has in general been a fair one. In the Northern belt of the Northern Provinces rainfall has been above average and exceptionally heavy rains fell during August and early September in Katsina, Sokoto and Kontagora Provinces, causing some flooding. The rains started early, but good precipitation in April was followed by drought in May and early June. There was little rain after the end of September, and the early onset of the harmattan had an adverse effect on the guinea corn and cotton crops. In the middle belt rainfall was near the average. The 1948 Millet Crop was a poor one as a result of the drought in May, while, following the early ending of the rains, guinea corn yields were expected to be below average, particularly in the large producing area of Southern Katsina.

In the Eastern Region the rains were late in starting, but then continued without any serious break until the end of October. The growth of early planted crops was somewhat retarded, but the

position improved as the season advanced and food supplies remained normal, although prices continued to be high and in some areas actually rose.

In the Western Region and Colony the year has also been a favourable one, notwithstanding a mid-season dry spell of unusual length in parts of Oyo and Abeokuta Provinces.

The Department has continued its policy of distributing cotton in the Northern Provinces. Figures of the crop purchased are given in the section dealing with Marketing and Exports.

Boll-worm damage continued to be a serious pest in the main cotton belt and as in 1946-47 most of the damage was caused by the Sudan Red boll-worm. Government has therefore gratefully accepted the services of an Entomologist offered by the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation to carry out investigations into the measures required for the control of this pest and of the pink boll-worm.

In 1948 planting conditions were favourable and a very large acreage was planted. In all 6,468 tons of seed was distributed for planting which is nearly 1,000 tons more than in 1947.

The quantity of cotton seed distributed in the Western Region was again very small and no revival in the export crop from this region can at present be forecast.

Soya Beans are a crop of potential importance which is becoming popular in the Benue Province amongst the Tiv farmers and it is anticipated that from the 1948 crop 250 tons will be available for purchase in that area, and a further fifty tons in other areas of the Northern Provinces.

Successful efforts have been made to popularise the growing of Sunflower seed for the export market. Seed has been distributed in promising areas and it is anticipated that with the attractive prices being offered up to 100 tons will be purchased this season mainly from Katsina Province.

The continued growth of the local sugar industry in the Northern Region deserves mention. At the end of 1947 there were 175 sugar crushers in operation with an estimated output of "jaggery" sugar of 2,693 tons for the twelve months to November, 1947. From November, 1947 to October, 1948 recorded railings of sugar from Zaria Province increased from 833 tons in the previous year to 1,964 tons. Production is entirely absorbed by the internal markets of the Northern Provinces.

The demand for new crushing mills is extremely heavy. Over 300 are on order in India, and it is hoped that 152 of these will have been received and be available for distribution in time for the next crushing season.

In the Bamenda Division of the Cameroons trials with Linseed have been continued both on the Government Experimental Farm and on farmers' own lands, but present indications are that the crop will only prove economic on very fertile soils.

In the same area selection work on Arabica Coffee has also been started.

In the Western Region, the Botanical staff of the Department have continued their work to improve the quality of citrus fruits, and have started a programme of oil palm breeding at Moor Plantation designed to provide strains suitable for planting in the drier areas of the Western Provinces.

Work on Cassava and Cocoa has been maintained. The search for high yielding strains of cocoa has been continued and multiplication plots of the best material already obtained are now being established at strategic points in the Western Provinces as a future source of improved seed for issue to farmers.

In the Northern Region the Botanist's Cotton selection 26C is being multiplied for general distribution, and has now reached the third stage of this process. The ginning percentages of this cotton have again shown marked superiority over ordinary Allen cotton. The Empire Cotton Growing Corporation have offered to provide a plant breeder for work on cotton in addition to the entomologist already mentioned. This offer too has been gratefully accepted, and with the plant breeder's arrival it will be possible to intensify the breeding and selection work on this crop.

A new wet land farm at Maska has been opened by the Botanical Section where multiplication of swamp rices and trials with imported sugar cane varieties can be undertaken.

In both the Western and Eastern regions trials of *Tetradium Conophorum*, a plant regarded as a possible alternative to linseed as a source of drying oil are in progress. Knowledge is being obtained of the growth requirements of the plant, but some years are likely to elapse before the trial plantings which have been made reach the fruit bearing stage.

Extensive trials have been carried out at Agricultural Stations in the Northern Provinces with artificial manures and particularly with the technique of "placement" planting in which seed and fertiliser pellets are set close together in the soil at planting time.

New farms were also opened near Kontagora and at Damaturu in Bornu Province, in the vicinity of areas suggested as suitable for large scale mechanised cultivation, and a number of manurial trials have been carried out. Trials have also been made of artificial manures on cotton at Daudawa.

Some important results have been obtained from this work and indications are that a combination of nitrogenous and phosphatic manures will be required to produce optimum results.

The Department has also carried out a number of experiments into methods applicable to the restoration of fertility of farmlands on the Plateau damaged by tin-mining operations. Twenty-three experiments and observation plots have been laid down for this work. Trials have been made of the use of artificial manures and composts, alone and in combination. The results of the first year's

work show that very considerable applications of manures are required to produce normal growth of grain crops on land damaged in this way. The cost of levelling mining dumps by hand labour has also been found to be prohibitive and efforts are being made to obtain suitable mechanical equipment for this work.

The Department has pressed on with fertiliser experiments in the Eastern Provinces. During the year nineteen experiments were carried out, mainly on farmers' own plots, in various parts of the region to determine the effects of artificial manures on crops. Complete results are not yet available but it is clear that in every experiment completed so far the effect of the applications of nitrogen was most marked, whilst in a few experiments a response to potash was also secured. In as many areas as possible simple demonstration plots were also laid down by the side of the more complex experiments, and farmers were encouraged to observe for themselves the harvesting of the differently treated plots. The interest shown has been most gratifying, and plans have been made for carrying out a large number of demonstrations on farmers' plots in the coming seasons. If adequate supplies of fertilisers can be made available at an economic price to the farmer it is confidently expected that the practice of manuring with artificials will be widely adopted with far reaching effects on the fertility and agricultural productivity of this area.

Demonstrations of the effects of lime locally burned at Awgu were also continued on farmers' lands, and some 350 demonstrations were made during the year. Farmers have begun to appreciate the value of lime. The results of liming are not so spectacular as those obtained with artificials, but it will probably be advisable, where lime has not already been applied, to combine liming with artificial manuring in order to obtain optimum results.

In the Northern Provinces soil conservation measures have been continued at a number of Departmental farms. Major works were confined to the farms at Samaru and Shika, where a further 992 acres have been protected by new terraces. The cost of terracing has now been reduced from £4 1s 9d to £3 6s 4d per acre.

Conservation work has also been started on the Plateau at Vom Turu. Here the standard method of conservation by means of broad-base terraces has been modified to permit easier construction and more economical use of land.

An interesting experiment in conservation for the protection of grazing ground is also in progress at Dambarta in Kano Province, where considerable success has been achieved to date.

In the Eastern Provinces work on the control and prevention of gully erosion at Agulu has continued, and it is encouraging to observe that local farmers in this region are reacting favourably to advice and making more use of the shrub *Acioa Barteri* as a bush fallow on their farm lands.

Further trials have been made of chemical sprays for control of the weed *Acanthospermum hispidum* (Kashin Yawo). Sprays containing various concentrations of Di-nitro-orthocresol, Chloroxone and Methoxone have been tested, and under favourable conditions good control of the weed has been obtained with 1 lb and 2 lbs of Chloroxone and 2-3 gallons dressings of Methoxone per acre. Power sprayers are, however, essential if large areas are to be treated and steps have accordingly been taken to order the necessary equipment.

The assistance of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation in providing an entomologist to investigate the Boll-worm pests of cotton in the Northern Provinces has already been mentioned, and this officer took up his duties in Nigeria during the year. The entomological section of the Department has also been largely concerned with the insect pests of cotton in the Western Provinces. Considerable initial progress can be recorded, but it remains to be seen how far the control methods found to be successful in small scale trials can be adopted for use on a more extensive scale.

Research on Chrysops, the vector of filariasis, has also been conducted at the Oil Palm Research Station in Benin Province.

The important contribution which mechanised farming methods may have to make to agricultural production in Nigeria has been kept very much in mind, and the need for experimental work on a large scale is fully appreciated. In addition to the need to determine the most suitable equipment for use in this country, and the economics of its operation, new problems in the maintenance of soil fertility and the control of soil erosion will be presented, the solution of which is a prerequisite of the successful adoption of mechanised farming methods.

To provide facilities for this work it has been decided to open eight experimental Tractor Unit Farms at various centres in the Northern Provinces, and to carry out similar experimental work at the Government farms at Oyo and Abakaliki in the Western and Eastern regions. The necessary land has been acquired at five of these centres in the Northern Provinces, on two of which clearing operations have been started. It is proposed to clear 100 acres for arable farming at each centre in 1949, and eventually to expand this area to 250 acres. Seventeen tractors of various makes with a full range of tractor implements have been ordered, in addition to four Ferguson 18 h.p. tractors received during the year, two of which have been worked experimentally at Kano and Daudawa. A Farmall tractor and Motrac plough have also been in use for ploughing rice lands near Sokoto, and 150 acres have been cultivated for the benefit of rice farmers. It is clear that there is scope for developing this type of work in co-operation with local cultivators, and heavier equipment is now on order.

The workshop buildings at Samaru in charge of the Agricultural Engineer have now been completed, and in order to provide for the efficient operation and servicing of the mechanical equipment which will shortly come into use, as well as for the training of agricultural staff and employees, approval has been given for the creation of an Agricultural Engineering branch of the Department.

Preliminary work on irrigation projects has again been limited by lack of staff and by diversion of effort to the urgent survey work undertaken on behalf of the Rice Mission which visited Nigeria early last year.

Survey work on the Wuya-Edozhigi project was continued up to September by the Executive Engineer seconded from the Public Works Department. A survey has also been started in the Badeggi area. In September the work was taken over by an Irrigation Engineer, seconded to the Department by the Public Works Department. Plans and estimates for the Wuya-Edozhigi irrigation project are in course of preparation and if on further examination the scheme promises to be feasible it may be possible to start construction work in 1949.

No new experimental stations have been opened during the year. Development of the new Provincial Farm at Abakaliki opened in 1947 has proceeded, and it is proposed to make this farm the centre for mechanised trials in the Eastern region. Negotiations for the acquisition of land for a new Provincial Experimental Farm and an Oil Palm Research sub-station at Abak in Calabar Province were nearing conclusion at the end of the year, whilst preliminary steps had been taken to select a site for a Provincial experimental farm to serve the Rivers Province. Progress here will however depend on staff recruitment. In the Western Provinces sites have been selected for experimental farms at Akure in Ondo Province, and at Abeokuta, and search has been made for a suitable site in Ijebu Province.

A start was made during the year in the selection of sites and the opening of a number of Demonstration Farm Centres in the Eastern Provinces. It is intended that centres of this type, each of some ten to fifteen acres in extent should be opened in most Administrative Divisions of the Eastern Region, to serve as bases for extension work by the demonstration of improved agricultural practices and by the propagation and distribution of improved planting material.

An increase of 652 in the number of practising mixed farmers in the Northern Region during the year brought the total number to 4,729 at the end of September. The largest increase in numbers has occurred in Katsina Province where 316 new farmers were enrolled and 139 failures close down. The scarcity and high prices of working cattle and the difficulty of securing new ploughs in adequate numbers has hampered progress, but the supply of ploughs has now greatly improved.

The Department has continued its cattle breeding programme at Shika and Samaru and at Ilorin and Oyo in the middle belt. At Shika the Sokoto Gudali herd has produced a number of young cows, the progeny of Stock Bull No. 17, which show considerable promise. The White Fulani herd on the other hand is only just holding its own, and a more closely controlled system of breeding has been introduced.

Contagious abortion has again given trouble during the year, and the consequent restrictions on the movements of cattle have resulted in overstocking at Shika. Some cases of trypanosomiasis occurred at Shika in the latter half of the year, and further bush clearing operations have been carried out.

The best lactation of the year was recorded not at Shika but at Maiduguri, where a cow of the Shuwa breed completed a lactation of 7,543 lb of milk, the highest so far recorded at any Departmental farm.

The poultry centre at Oyo has started work with new equipment and buildings. Fresh stocks of pure bred Rhode Island Red poultry have been successfully imported by air both as eggs and as day-old chicks. Growth rates have been very satisfactory and already some surplus cockerels have been available for distribution. Regular but limited supplies of birds and hatching eggs should be available from the latter half of 1949.

Sales of milk and cream from the Kano milk scheme totalled 4,713 gallons and 1,613 lb respectively, compared with 4,304 and 1,025 lb in 1946-47. 15,520 gallons of milk were also sold from the Shika and Samaru dairies.

During the year the Lagos dairy was transferred from Yaba to Agege. The restrictions imposed on the movement of dairy replacements from the Northern Provinces as a result of Contagious abortion were lifted, and milk output rose from 3,686 gallons in 1947 valued at £923 to 7,418 gallons valued at £1,868 in 1948. Further reorganisation of the dairy is, however, required to place it on a sound commercial footing, and this is now receiving close attention.

The Government piggery at Daudawa was reopened early in the year for the production of bacon pigs. From October, 1947 to September, 1948, 4,472 baconers were reared from Government piggeries and by private producers as against 3,732 in the previous year. Of this total 1,807 were supplied by private breeders.

No new commercial piggeries were established during the year in the Northern Provinces, but in the Eastern region many applications were received from private persons for assistance in starting piggeries, and a number of those previously started made good progress. The lesson that adequate feeding is essential to success in pig keeping is gradually being learned.

Railings of potatoes from the Plateau and Zaria Provinces fell in 1947. The tonnage railed from Zaria Province has again been low in 1948, but railments from the Plateau have been consistently above the level of the previous year. Imports from South Africa have kept down local prices.

Encouragement has been given wherever possible to the cultivation of swamp rice, and an important aspect of such support is the provision of power-operated machinery for processing the crop.

The two rice mills at Baro and Badeggi in Niger Province handled 395 tons of clean rice in the year ending the 30th September, 1948. Two small mills have been established in the Eastern Provinces. One of these, at Aguleri in Onitsha Province, which was opened in February, 1948, achieved considerable popularity. A second was opened at Okpoha in November, and a third is being erected at Abakaliki.

In the Western Provinces four mills have been operating in Benin, Warri, Ondo and Abeokuta Provinces, and have received a measure of support.

The development of the Oil Palm Research Station has continued, but the building programme is still very much behind schedule. A temporary water supply has been installed. The new administrative offices have been completed, but progress with the laboratories has been very slow. The construction of houses for junior and senior staff has proceeded as fast as circumstances have permitted, but the majority of the staff is still inadequately housed.

The research programme is still considerably handicapped by the acute shortage of specialist staff. For a crop which is so important to the economy of the country the number of scientists available for posting to the station is quite inadequate for the full programme of research which must be carried out for the improvement of the industry.

Although the central research station is situated in Benin Province the greater part of its activities must be concerned with the problems of the main palm belt in the Eastern Provinces. Experiments are in progress at various stations throughout this area, but in order to increase the facilities for this type of work it is intended to establish an important sub-station covering some three or four hundred acres in the middle of the palm belt. Negotiations for the acquisition of a suitable area of land near Abak have already been mentioned.

To learn more of the problems of the palm belt, as a basis on which to build the research programme, an agricultural survey is being undertaken in the Nung Edoe area of Uyo Division. This is at present on a very small scale but it will be expanded as further experience is gained.

Plans for a comprehensive series of fertiliser experiments in various parts of the country have been drawn up and one of the experiments has already been started at Umuahia.

At the main station near Benin a further seventy acres of palms were planted in 1948 bringing the total planted area up to 675 acres. The greater part of the 1948 planting was for the purpose of a fundamental manurial trial. Other cultural experiments and progeny trials have continued according to schedule but the inadequate staff has been unable to deal with the enormous mass of data which is accumulating.

The growth of the palms at the main station has been very good indeed and there is scarcely a sign of any disease in them. Nevertheless a pathologist was seconded to the station to study, among other diseases, the important wilt disease brought to notice by Professor Wardlaw. The pathologist was able to complete a useful preliminary survey of the general disease situation throughout the country.

About half a million improved seeds were produced for farmers, all by hand pollination. There has been an acute shortage of improved seedlings owing to the diversion of the greater part of the available supplies to the B.C.C. Scheme. The laborious revision of seed trees at Ogba Farm, Benin, undertaken by the plant breeder in 1947 should lead to greatly increased supplies of seed and from 1950 onwards, unless unexpectedly heavy demands arise, planters should experience little difficulty in obtaining all the seedlings they require.

The Officer-in-Charge visited the Belgian Congo for six weeks during the early part of the year and was able to study in some detail the progress made there in oil palm research in recent years. Information obtained during this visit will be of the greatest value in the Nigerian research programme.

At the end of the year there were forty-seven students in training at the Departmental School at Samaru, and sixty-three at the Ibadan school. At Samaru the teaching staff has been increased from two to eight. In January, 1948, the erection of new students' quarters was started at Samaru where seventy-six quarters are planned. Temporary quarters for both students and staff were provided to accommodate the increased number of first year students entering the school in 1948. The standard of entry to the school has been lowered in order to allow more Northern boys to be recruited. This has made necessary more classes and longer periods of training, and it has accordingly been decided to postpone the erection of the main school buildings to allow replanning for the increased accommodation now required. Building should now take place in 1949.

At Ibadan, Departmental courses and appointments are now available to women entrants. It is hoped that the young women of Nigeria, as in other countries, will seize the opportunities for technical training in such subjects as horticulture and laboratory work.

On the Ibadan School farm which covers forty acres and provides facilities for responsible training in animal and plant husbandry as well as material for study in the laboratory, preliminary experiments in mechanised cultivation with tractor implements were undertaken for the first time this year.

It is gratifying to be able to record that during the year a fourth member of the staff went to the United Kingdom to take up a degree course in Botany, and that two members of the Junior Staff received probationary promotion to the rank of Agricultural Superintendent.

Some difficulty was experienced this year, in contrast to the previous one, in recruiting the full quota of students for the Oyo Farm School. The 1947 class has continued to work well, and considerable attention has been paid to the settlers of the earlier classes, whose efficiency tends to deteriorate without close supervision and encouragement. Twenty-two out of twenty-four ex-servicemen passed out of their training course to settle on their holdings.

The Farm School at Ogbomosho has been opened and recruitment of the first class has begun.

The Daudawa Settlement farmers continue to prosper and many visitors have seen the Settlement during the year. Legislation is now being prepared to regularise Settlements and enforce certain conditions on settlers. New Settlements are being planned at Mbakon in the Tiv Division of Benue and near Kontagora in Niger Province. Both these settlements, it is hoped, will be based on mechanised cultivation and proposals are afoot to this end. A further settlement is planned for Kabba Province and one in Adamawa.

At the end of the year the survey of cocoa farms was complete except in a few districts in Ibadan Division where work had been retarded owing to opposition to the cutting out of trees infected with swollen shoot. A total of 326,299 farms comprising 588,553 acres had been surveyed since 1944, and 524,932 trees infected with swollen shoot disease had been cut out, equivalent to an area of about 1,050 acres. The disease was mainly confined to an area within a radius of thirty miles from Ibadan, and in July, 1948, it was estimated that about 400 acres of diseased cocoa remained to be treated. Any delay in completing the cutting out programme must, however, be expected to lead to the further spread of the disease, and an increase in the area requiring treatment.

Farmers whose trees have been cut out have been encouraged to replant their cocoa with the aid of a grant of 2s 6d per tree from Cocoa Marketing Board Funds. Payments from these funds is being made through the agency of the Ibadan Native Administration.

Co-operative Societies

There was no remarkable change in the average rate of increase in the number of societies added to the Register or brought under the supervision of the Department of Co-operative Societies, and the main objective during the year was consolidation of the work which is being done by existing co-operative units. This operation absorbed the attention of a substantial portion of the trained Government staff, chiefly in the Western Region and Colony area, and to a lesser degree in the Eastern Region, and much has yet to be done in the Northern Provinces in this respect.

As regards detailed working, much attention had to be devoted, in the light of experience of the past few years, to the exercise of greater financial economy in the Co-operative marketing of cocoa, and the loss recorded on the main crop season transactions in June made it necessary to overhaul the whole system of co-ordination of the working of the Association of Nigerian Co-operative Exporters and its seven member Marketing Unions. The financing of co-operative cocoa purchases at the price of £120 per ton presented much difficulty, as the necessary capital had to be borrowed, and although by December there had been hopeful signs of a recovery, there is still a great deal of ground to be covered. It is to be hoped cocoa societies will address themselves steadily to the object of accumulating their own funds, and so save co-operative farmers many thousands of pounds annually in interest charges.

Detailed statistics of cocoa marketed co-operatively in the period 1st April, 1947 to 31st March, 1948 (the latest available at the time of writing, and the period succeeding that covered in last year's address) are as follows:

Total tonnage 11,091, comprising 14.6 per cent of the total Nigerian crop. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 13,253 and 12 per cent. 9,031 tons were exported by the co-operatives themselves, 462 more than in 1946-47. Over 90 per cent of co-operative cocoa was graded in the two top categories, a very creditable improvement over the figure of 68 per cent in grade one the previous year.

Societies made loans of £12,479 to their members, a threefold increase, but 20 per cent of this sum had not been repaid at the due date. Deposits by members also fell away, from £16,061 in the previous year to £15,870 on 31st March, 1948. These statistics are obviously warning notes and the Department instructed its staff to give special attention to loans and deposits, particularly in the areas of Ife, Ilesha and Ondo where the sharpest trends were observed.

Thrift and Loan Societies continued to multiply, and the total figure has grown from 224 societies, with 8,717 members and assets of £154,048 in 1945-46 to 280 societies, with 12,354 members and assets of £266,048 in 1947-48. The greatest proportionate increase is shown in the Northern Provinces, but there has been much

advance also in the Eastern Provinces, which now has 102 societies of this class. It is, however, necessary that this expansion in numbers should be accompanied by improvement in record-keeping and accountancy, and by greater readiness on the part of members to assume the burdens of executive office.

The Thrift and Credit Societies of Calabar Province maintained their leading place in this branch of the movement. They have two noteworthy features: first, that 20 per cent of the Societies have an exclusively female membership, and secondly, that over 40 per cent are themselves organised at a secondary level into a Union which has the function of pooling the resources of wealthier societies and of lending the money thus obtained to younger societies. The development of this Union is being watched with especial interest by those who look forward to the day when Nigeria will have its first Co-operative Bank.

Co-operative Consumer Societies were the object of much interest during the year, especially when during the first six months a comparatively large amount of imported goods (value approximately £20,000) was imported by the Nigerian Co-operative Supply Association and distributed to Societies. Some difficulty was occasioned by the extremely local character of consumer preferences and the future of the Supply Association and of the Consumer Societies which are indebted to it cannot be foreseen until the financial results of this first effort in the field of wholesale and retail trading are ascertained and assessed.

The various miscellaneous types of societies had an average year. In particular the Ikot Ekpene Co-operative Raffia Workers did very well by exporting their products to the United Kingdom in large quantities until July; then sales suddenly declined and forced the Society to reduce its output pending the discovery of alternative markets.

The statutory audit of Societies was carried out by fourteen employees of the Nigeria Co-operative Federation. It is hoped that in time there will be an audit service which will reach every registered Society at least once a year.

The Government Co-operative staff was augmented in an exceptional manner in April when sixteen Inspectors were transferred to the Department from the service of various Native Administrations. Other significant changes in the staff position were the appointment of a new Registrar and of the first Departmental Secretary. With five new Assistant Registrars (all but one temporarily on secondment) the total strength of the senior staff at the end of the year was fourteen. The posts of Deputy Registrar, seven permanent posts of Assistant Registrar and the new post of Accountant all remain to be filled.

Forestry

The recruitment of Senior Service Officers improved and seven were accepted in the year under review. There were, however, three retirements of senior men on age limit. It is expected that the improvement will continue and that expansion under the Development Plan will be possible during the coming year.

The hope expressed in last year's Address that three Nigerians would go to the United Kingdom for training in forestry has been fulfilled. Two Assistant Regional Forest Officers are now at Oxford reading a special course intended to qualify them for appointment as Assistant Conservators in October, 1949, and one Forest Assistant is reading for an Honours Degree in Botany at Nottingham University. In addition a young Forest Assistant was admitted to University College, Ibadan, to read for a Natural Science Degree after which it is hoped that he will qualify by a post-graduate course for appointment as an Assistant Conservator.

Higher training along these lines will be continued during the coming year both in the United Kingdom and at Ibadan.

Thirty-seven Nigerians entered for the 1948 course at the Ibadan Forest School which trains technical assistants. Eighteen were successful, twelve resigned and seven failed. In addition two students sent by the Sierra Leone Government successfully completed the course. The high rate of resignation is due, it is believed, to the failure of the Department to make it sufficiently clear, in its recruiting, that a Forest Assistant's life lies largely in the field with all its discomforts and exposure to weather. Students for the 1949 year have been carefully enlightened on this point and it is hoped that there will in future be fewer men failing to finish the course.

Of seven students who were given a supplementary revision course four passed. A twelve-month Promotion Course for four selected Forest Assistants of some service started in July.

Forty-two students were selected for the 1949 Course. By chance again, as last year, the number of students from the Eastern and the Western Regions was almost equal, but a far higher number from the Northern Region would be welcomed.

The Northern Region remains understaffed but it is hoped that the situation will be substantially remedied during 1949. The Anara sawbench referred to in last year's Address was in work throughout the year and despite difficulties caused by the somewhat rough treatment of the machinery and the lack of spare parts, it has shown encouraging results. It is, however, already apparent that the market for small dimensioned timber does not yet exist in the North, and can be built up only by slow degrees. Nevertheless, the experiment is of such importance to the vast savannah woodlands

of the North that it must be steadily continued as a true development project, even though it may show a considerable initial financial loss. Financial responsibility for it has therefore been transferred from the Zaria Native Administration to Nigerian Development.

The Fuel Supply scheme south of the Jos Plateau to which reference was made last year had to be reduced to quite modest proportions. It was impossible to obtain railway waggons for the ambitious scheme at first proposed and road transport proved uneconomic, so much so that deliveries had no effect in lowering market prices at Jos. The scheme will be reconsidered as soon as rolling stock becomes available in sufficient quantity for the Railway to be used. The necessary plans are made and merely await this opportunity.

The privately owned sawmill at Jema'a in Plateau Province continued to make progress, still hampered, of course, by the difficulties in obtaining new machinery.

Forestry in the Western Region requires little comment. It is believed that it is almost through its teething troubles. This is the main timber exporting region of Nigeria; the forests show a substantial revenue surplus and are being steadily brought under planned management. There is little reason to doubt the soundness of the structure which has been created and which can be built upon as experience increases and opportunity offers. I must mention the establishment of a new sawmill by a Nigerian business man and a member of this Council (the Hon. Gaius Obaseki) in Benin Division and wish it every success.

The Gambari Native Administration Reserves in the Ibadan Division of the Oyo Province produced in 1948 over 100,000 cubic feet of pilsawn fitches and also a monthly supply of over 1,000 cords of firewood for the Ibadan Power Station. Progress is being made with the establishment of plantations which will serve to relieve the growing shortage of fuel in all the bigger towns of the Western Provinces.

The Forestry situation in the Eastern Provinces has been clarified. Control is now confined to the secure reserves where it can be effective, and vexatious restrictions over farmlands have been abandoned in all heavily populated areas. The present year will be devoted to the next stage, the development of methods of utilizing the forests, which is the essential preliminary to planned management. This is a far more difficult problem than is generally realised and may well take several years to solve. The chief obstacle to an easy solution is the poor timber quality of the extensive Cross River and Cameroons forests and enquiries must be directed towards the possibility of their use, not for logs and sawn timber but for some derived product of wood.

Exports have risen to 2,867,052 cubic feet of logs and 828,624 cubic feet of sawn timber, a total of 3,695,676 cubic feet, against the 1947 figure of 3,429,286 cubic feet made up of 2,685,051 cubic feet of logs and 744,235 cubic feet of sawn timber. There were many complaints from overseas buyers of bad quality consignments not agreeing with specification.

The total revenue received by Central Government from Forestry during 1948 was £43,339 against £32,633 for 1947. Native Administration revenue rose from £80,497 in 1947 to £120,920 in 1948. These rises in revenue are due to the increases in fees as from 1st April, 1948, and also to the increased demand for timber. Expenditure incurred by Central Government totalled £147,026 as against £164,531 in 1947. This 1948 expenditure includes £24,965 incurred on Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes and £3,891 on the Resettlement of Ex-Servicemen. Expenditure by Native Administrations rose from £79,107 in 1947 to £101,590 in 1948.

It is fair to say that the Forest Department has recovered from the inevitable set back of the war years. It has consolidated its position and the coming year should show not only a technical advance and expansion but also political progress of importance in the appointment of the first African Forest Officers of the West Coast.

Marketing and Exports

During the first eight months of 1948 the arrangements for the export of the main Nigerian crops were the responsibility of the Department of Commerce and Industries. The Export and Shipping sections of that Department carried out the executive work of the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board and operated the Oil and Oil Seeds Marketing Schemes of the West African Produce Control Board.

At its August Session, this Council approved in principle the policy outlined in the "Statement on the Policy proposed for the future Marketing of Nigerian Oil, Oilseeds and Cotton", tabled as Sessional Paper No. 18 of 1948. Measures have already been taken to put this policy into effect. In the first place, bills for the establishment of Oil Palm Produce, Groundnut and Cotton Marketing Boards, together with the related Representative Committees and Regional Production Development Boards, have already been considered by the Regional Houses of Assembly and the Northern House of Chiefs. These bills will be introduced into this Session of the Council and Honourable Members will be invited to give them their approval.

Secondly, as foreshadowed in Sessional Paper No. 18 of 1948, a new Government Department was brought into being on the 1st of September, 1948, under the title of the Department of Marketing and Exports.

The new Department which has been designed specifically to enable it to become the common executive organisation of the projected new Marketing Boards on their formation, took over from the Department of Commerce and Industries the functions previously discharged by the latter in all matters relating to the purchase and overseas sale of export produce. In addition to the former Export and Shipping Sections of the Department of Commerce and Industries the new Department included within its organisation the Produce Inspection Branch which had previously formed part of the Agricultural Department. It was considered that the transfer of this Branch to the Department of Marketing and Exports was fully justified in view of the close relationship between the inspection and grading of export produce and its shipment and sale overseas. The Produce Inspection Branch joined the Department of Marketing and Exports on the 20th of September.

The total cocoa crop for the 1947-48 season amounted to 75,500 tons as compared with an average production over five years of 95,900 tons. This decrease was caused by exceptionally heavy rains in the main producing areas in the Western Provinces and a resulting high incidence of black-pod disease. The 1947-48 crop was the first cocoa crop purchased and exported by the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board and, despite the disappointing yield, it proved a notable crop on account of the remarkable improvement which took place in quality. The tonnage of Grade I cocoa marketed amounted to 49 per cent of the total crop as compared with 23 per cent during the previous season. This very gratifying development is attributable in large measure to the deliberate price policy followed by the Cocoa Board which encouraged the production of high-quality cocoa by placing a substantial premium on the top grades.

The prudent price policy adopted by the new Board during its first season of operation also led to the accumulation of sufficient funds to enable it to fix the producer prices for the 1948-49 season at a considerably higher level than in the previous season. The actual prices fixed for the two seasons were:—

Main Crop :	Naked ex-scale port of shipment price per ton :					
	1947-48			1948-49		
	£	s	d	£	s	d
Grade I	62	10	0	120	0	0
Grade II	60	0	0	115	0	0
Grade III	57	0	0	105	0	0
Grade IV	47	10	0	90	0	0

In addition, when it came to fix the prices for the new season in August, the Board found itself in a position to bring into play its policy of price stabilisation, the primary purpose for which it had been established. When announcing its prices for the 1948-49 season the Board announced at the same time that for the two seasons following that season there would be a guaranteed *minimum*

naked ex-scale port of shipment price for Grade I Main Crop cocoa of £100 and for Grade II Main Crop cocoa of £95, and that towards the end of the 1948-49 season it would consider, in the light of the results of that season and the future market prospects, the possible extension of this guarantee to cover the 1951-52 season.

The 1948-49 season opened on the 23rd of September, a week earlier than in the previous year. A heavy crop was forecast and purchases during the opening weeks of the season were at a high rate. Later indications were that the season was an early one and that the total crop would be unlikely to exceed 90,000 tons. Total purchases of 1948-49 Main Crop cocoa from the beginning of the season up to the end of January as compared with purchases during the corresponding period of the previous season were:—

<i>Main Crop :</i>	<i>October, 1947-January, 1948</i>	<i>October, 1948-January, 1949</i>
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>
Grade I	28,000	73,023
Grade II	12,500	13,635
Grade III	11,800	1,071
Grade IV	4,500	657
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	56,800	88,386
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The quality of the 1948-49 Main Crop cocoa has proved to be excellent. The notable improvement in the proportion of high-grade cocoa marketed which had taken place during the previous season was more than maintained in the new season as is shown by the following percentage purchases of the various grades up to the end of January:—

<i>Main Crop :</i>	<i>October, 1947-January, 1948</i>	<i>October, 1948-January, 1949</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Grade I	49.3	82.7
Grade II	22.0	15.4
Grade III	20.8	1.2
Grade IV	7.9	0.7
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	100.0	100.0
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Percentage of Grades I and II: 71.3%

98.1%

The comparatively negligible quantities of Grade IV cocoa coming forward indicate that the Cocoa Board was fully justified in its decision, announced at the beginning of the season, that after the 1948-49 season the purchase of Grade IV cocoa would be discontinued, as the steady improvement in production methods would by that time have eliminated this low grade.

World cocoa prices were already tending to decline towards the end of the 1947-48 season and this tendency was accentuated at the beginning of the new season by early and heavy purchases both in Nigeria and on the Gold Coast. The effect of the falling market was that overseas sales and consequently shipments were slow in

relation to the rate of evacuation and stocks of cocoa had to be stored at port and up-country. The decline in the level of world prices makes it inevitable that the trading results of the 1948-49 season will be appreciably less profitable than those of the 1947-48 and previous seasons.

During the year the Cocoa Board undertook to finance a number of schemes now being operated by the Agricultural Department and which are designed to survey growing conditions, increase the yield of cocoa per acre and reduce the incidence of the pest diseases which threaten the industry. Publicity measures, including visits by Ibadan cocoa farmers to the West African Cocoa Research Institute at Tafo, were also organised during the year by the Cocoa Board to assist in the anti-swollen shoot campaign. A scheme of rehabilitation subsidies to facilitate the replanting of trees cut out was also instituted by the Board in June and the rate of subsidy payable was increased in November from 1s 6d to 2s 6d per tree.

The total quantity of palm kernels purchased for export during the year as compared with 1947 was as follows:—

					<i>Tons</i>
1947	...	...	...	...	325,208
1948	...	...	...	...	341,764

The quality throughout the year was satisfactory. The naked ex-scale port of shipment price advanced in March to £21 per ton. In anticipation of the price increase a hold-up occurred in January and February, particularly in the Eastern Provinces. Heavy purchases were made as soon as the increase came into effect and marketing proceeded normally thereafter. The crop was purchased throughout the year by the West African Produce Control Board through its licensed buying agents in Nigeria and two additional African firms were appointed as licensed buying agents by the Board when the 1948-49 Marketing Scheme came into effect in August.

The total quantity of palm oil purchased for export during the year as compared with 1947 was as follows:—

					<i>Tons</i>
1947	...	...	...	...	139,576
1948	...	...	...	...	164,564

Grading, based on the percentage of free fatty acid present, gave the following proportions expressed in percentages of the total tonnage passed:

Grade I (0 — 9% F.F.A.)	...	...	64%
Grade II (over 9—18% F.F.A.)	...	...	15%
Grade III („ 18—27% F.F.A.)	...	...	13%
Grade IV („ 27—36% F.F.A.)	...	...	7%
Grade V („ 36% F.F.A.)	...	...	1%

While this is generally satisfactory, a marked increase in the proportion of high grade oil produced is essential if Nigeria is to retain its overseas markets for palm oil in the face of growing competition from other producing areas.

In anticipation of legislation in 1949 to establish an Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board, a Shadow Board was formed in November and held its first meeting in Lagos on the 14th of December. The official membership of the Shadow Board is the same as for the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board.

The more important items of policy considered by the Shadow Board at its first meeting included the Palm Produce Marketing Schemes to be issued by the Department of Marketing and Exports on behalf of the Board to cover the year 1949, measures to introduce a planned improvement of quality programme for palm oil and, most important of all, the fixation of the producer prices for palm kernels and palm oil which will apply throughout 1949. The proposals of the Shadow Board on these subjects were considered by the Shadow Representative Committee which met at Enugu on the 29th of December, and after the second meeting of the Shadow Board held on the 18th of January the following prices for palm kernels and palm oil were brought into effect:

Palm Kernels £26 per ton

	Grade I	II	III	IV	V
<i>Palm Oil</i>	£42 15 0	£37 2 6	£33	£29 12 6	£26 5 0

The Shadow Board has already made public the main considerations which it took into account in fixing the above prices. They are the prices which, in the view of the Board and the Representative Committee are consistent with a prudent price policy when considered in relation to the funds likely to be placed at the Board's disposal as a result of the operations of the West African Produce Control Board and the demands for price stabilisation, working capital and development grants which the Board will have to face.

In formulating its producer price policy the Shadow Board and Representative Committee paid particular attention to the special need for the price structure to be so arranged as to offer the maximum inducement to the production of high grade oil. A premium has been placed on the top grades and it is hoped that this will provide an inducement for the improvement of quality and that the highly satisfactory results achieved by the Cocoa Board through a similar policy will be repeated in the case of palm oil. The whole future of the Nigerian palm oil industry depends in large measure on its ability to improve the quality of its production to enable it to compete with palm oil produced on scientific plantation lines in other parts of the world.

The total purchases of Kano and River Areas groundnuts in the 1947-48 season as compared with the previous season's purchases were:—

	1946-47	1947-48
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>
Kano Area ...	305,000	315,000
River Areas ...	18,000	14,600

An increase of 6,000 tons. The rise was due entirely to the increase of over 37,000 tons bought in Kano Province, whereas with the exception of Adamawa and Plateau, purchases fell in all other Provinces. The heavy 1947-48 crop, added to the carry-over awaiting evacuation from the previous season's crop, led to conditions of longer storage than had occurred in any previous season. Every effort is made by the West African Produce Control Board and its licensed buying agents, in conjunction with the Agricultural Department, to protect groundnuts in stores and in pyramids while awaiting railment from the Kano area. The remarkably low rate (0.1 per cent) of losses through deterioration provides evidence that the protective measures taken have proved very effective.

During the past two months the *Trogaderma* weevil, which has not previously been known to attack stored nuts, has appeared in the Kano pyramids. Energetic steps for its eradication are being taken, but its presence may mean an increase in the percentage lost.

Rail evacuation during the early part of the year took place at a disappointingly slow rate and the carry-over of the old crop at the beginning of the 1948-49 season had increased to 155,000 tons as against 92,000 tons at the end of October, 1947. The effect of deliveries to the Railway of new locomotives and rolling stock began to make itself felt in the autumn and from July onwards the rate of railment rose steadily. In November a total tonnage of 35,100 tons was railed—the highest figure for any month in the post-war years.

The 1948-49 season opened in November and the crop estimates indicated that the new crop would be at least as heavy as that of the previous season. The 1948-49 producer prices as compared with those of the previous season are as follows:—

<i>Naked ex-scale price at railhead buying station</i>		
<i>per ton</i>		
	1947-48	1948-49
Kano Area	£16	£19 4s 0d
<i>Flat rate buying station price</i>		
<i>per ton</i>		
	1947-48	1948-49
Rivers Area	£13 to £15	£15 to £18

As in previous seasons a minimum buying station price was fixed for Kano Area stations and this price (£13 4s 0d per ton) has been maintained by the payment of transport subsidies. Purchases of 1948-49 groundnuts up to the end of January as compared with the corresponding period of the 1947-48 season were as follows:—

	<i>November, 1947-January, 1948</i>	<i>November, 1948-January, 1949</i>
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>
Kano Area	272,600	271,000
Rivers Area	11,900	11,300

The 1948-49 groundnuts crop is being purchased as previously by the West African Produce Control Board through its licensed buying agents in Nigeria. It is expected that this will be the last groundnuts crop purchased and shipped under these arrangements.

As stated earlier, draft legislation for the establishment of a Groundnuts Marketing Board has been published. The new organisation, which it is intended should begin its operations with the opening of the 1949-50 season, is likely to follow closely the lines of the Cocoa Board and the Oil Palm Produce Board. It is likely, however, that its activities will include the marketing and export of a number of smaller oil seeds crops in addition to groundnuts.

A notable increase in the production of benniseed has taken place over the past two seasons, as 9,300 tons were purchased in the 1947-48 season as against 4,500 tons for 1946-47. The 1948-49 season opened in March and total purchases of 15,000 tons up to the end of January show that production is still increasing. At the beginning of the 1948-49 season the producer price advanced to £18 per ton at all buying stations as compared with £15 per ton in the previous season. As from next season it is the intention that the marketing and export of benniseed will be undertaken by the projected Groundnuts Marketing Board.

The total 1947-48 Export cotton crop in the Northern Provinces amounted to only 16,500 bales as compared with 29,600 bales in 1946-47. This decrease was caused partly by unsuitable rains and partly by increased competition of the local markets. The current season's crop is an exceptionally heavy one and it is hoped that the increase in the export price to 4d per lb to be paid as a flat rate at the markets, combined with a wider distribution of seed and the opening of additional markets on the Northern perimeter of the main cotton belt, will attract increased quantities for export.

As in previous seasons the 1948-49 cotton crop is being marketed and ginned under the arrangements made by the British Cotton Growing Association with the Raw Cotton Commission in the United Kingdom. As from next season it is intended, in accordance with the Government's produce marketing policy, that the responsibility for the marketing of seed cotton for export and the export of cotton seed and cotton lint will be assumed by a Marketing Board.

Plantation-produced rubber is not subject to inspection, and no figures are available. Production figures of rubber from other sources for the last two years show 5,244 tons for 1948 and 3,380 tons for 1947. While actual production over the last twelve months has increased there has been a marked deterioration in quality. From Produce Inspection staff reports it is clear that most producers are taking little interest or care in the preparation of rubber, with the result that thousands of sheets of unexportable rubber are tendered for inspection. When such sheets are rejected at one store they are frequently tendered at another and the task of inspection and grading is consequently rendered difficult and arduous. Until the producers realise that it is in their own interest and in the interest of the industry as a whole to exercise the necessary care in the preparation of rubber for export an improvement in the quality and reputation of Nigerian rubber in overseas markets is not to be expected.

The following quantities of birdseye chillies were passed for export in the Ibadan area during the 1947-48 season :

During the 1947-48 season sixty-six tons of Grade II birdseye chillies, and thirty-two tons of Grade III chillies were passed for export in the Ibadan area, showing an improvement upon the previous season when all the chillies offered failed to pass and had to be exported under special licence. Weather is the determining factor, adverse climatic conditions quickly spoiling the colour, while the extreme susceptibility of chillies to insect attack also perpetually hampers the trade.

The prospects for the 1948-49 season seemed good but the opening of the market was delayed owing to an absence of offers to purchase and it is feared that the late start of the buying season will adversely affect the quality of the crop.

Twelve tons of Grade II Ordinary Capsicums were passed for export in Lagos. In the Northern Provinces an increased acreage had been planted in anticipation of a continued demand and the crop was harvested in a better condition than in previous years. Buyers were, however, reluctant to come forward owing to uncertainty in the demand on overseas markets, and none were purchased for export.

The 1948 ginger crop amounted to 112 tons as compared with 105 in 1947; a reduction in the tonnage bought in 1949 is to be expected, as high prices are ruling for the uncured root.

Commerce and Industries

The Department absorbed, as from the 1st December, 1948, the Directorate of Supplies and the duties of Import and Export Licensing, Food Control and Oil and Transport Control. In the previous September it had been relieved of all duties connected with export produce by the creation of the new Department of Marketing and Exports.

As a result of the report of the Conditional Sales Commission, price control was removed in November from all commodities except petroleum products, whisky, salt (United Kingdom), galvanised corrugated iron sheets, cement, stockfish of Norwegian origin, caustic soda, motor vehicles of Canadian and American origin, sewing thread and sewing machines.

The persistence of the 'economic crisis' has led to a considerable expansion during the year of the work of the Import Control Office, of which the efforts have been principally directed to confining within the lowest possible limits the expenditure of hard currency. Imports from the Western Hemisphere and Belgium in particular have had to be restricted to the minimum quantities of those commodities deemed essential to the economy of Nigeria. In the interests of the country as a whole, the issue of import licences for these commodities has been confined as far as possible to importers with the known ability both to procure the goods and to distribute them fairly throughout the country.

The Export Section has had a greatly increased volume of trade to handle during the year and Permits and Licences are now being issued at an average rate of 1,200 a month.

Early this year the quota system of supplies to Ijora Saw-mills prior to export was relaxed and the export of timber to the sterling area was put on Open General Licence. Exports to the non-sterling areas continued to be on Specific Licences. The effect of this change in procedure was a temporary increase in the volume of export; but owing to the poor quality of many consignments in particular to the United States of America, shipments decreased alarmingly in the latter part of the year.

The export of locally woven cloth to the neighbouring West African Colonies has greatly increased. It now ranges in value between fourteen and twenty thousand pounds a month, the bulk of this trade going by post.

The Department, in its capacity as Imperial Trade Correspondent, has been instrumental in making many valuable contacts between intending exporters to Nigeria and importers in this country. It is able in many cases to advise prospective customers of the status of their contracts.

The monthly Trade Bulletin of the Department has been slightly expanded during the year. Its circulation over the country is now about 1,000 copies. The library has been expanded and considerable use is made of it by small importers.

Motor Transport and Oil Control has worked smoothly during 1948 and enough petrol has been available to supply the needs of produce evacuation and essential services. Although the number of vehicles licensed in Nigeria increased from 12,750 in September, 1947, to 18,836 in September, 1948, consumption of petrol rose by only 10 per cent.

Government control over the sale of motor vehicles imported from non-dollar sources was revoked during the year.

During the latter part of the year progress was made in planning for the development of both commercial and peasant fishing. Recommendations have been made for the better use of inland waters and it is proposed to extend the farming of fish, in ponds of about one acre in extent, to feed communities such as villages, labour camps and plantations.

The first practical sea fishing tests have been made off Victoria in the Cameroons after co-operation with the Cameroons Development Corporation, which is anxious to increase the protein supplies to plantation labour. Catches of up to £40 in three days have been made with simple tackle from a powered vessel. This experiment is being pursued by the Master Fisherman posted to the Cameroons.

A 45 ft. special craft to carry out deep sea trawling as well as river and seine net fishing has been ordered and will arrive next year. It will be used to investigate the prospects of sea fishing outside Lagos and Port Harcourt.

Peasant fishing has not been neglected. A successful demonstration and test of more seaworthy canoes and various types of gear has been conducted all along the coast from Forcados to Victoria and back. In addition progress has been made in developing the trade in swim bladders, which fetch up to 2s per pound at beach in Lagos and are in keen demand in Europe as isinglass. The trade in shark livers for export appears promising and it may be possible to offer 1s per pound for these at beach.

During the year four Pioneer Palm Oil Mills—at Amuro, Azumini, Umuchima and Ahoada—were in production. Amuro and Umuchima have proved profitable and are now considered to be ready for disposal to African companies. The poor results at Azumini were attributable to manilla exchange difficulties which affected half of the fruit supplying area.

Ahoada mill started well, although it operates in an area where the people are slow to produce fresh fruit. An application has already been received from a group of local businessmen who wish to purchase the mill on 1st April, 1949.

In June, 1948, the Amansi River mill near Awka was completed by the Department and handed over officially to an African company by His Honour the Chief Commissioner of the Eastern Provinces. This mill has had the usual teething troubles, but it is hoped that fruit purchases will be satisfactory next season. Akpabuyo mill, near Calabar, was opened in January, 1949. Equipment for a further fifteen mills, ordered fifteen months ago, is now coming forward steadily though delays occur over such items as ball bearings for special nut-crackers.

Because of lack of supervisory staff, mills have not been erected as quickly in the past as they might have been. To offset this difficulty fifteen pre-fabricated buildings have been ordered and are expected to arrive at an early date, to house the projected new mills. Construction will be further expedited by building mills in groups reasonably close to each other, thus eliminating long and wasteful journeys by the supervisory staff.

The average extraction rate of palm oil at the mills is still more than 18 per cent and of palm kernels more than 10 per cent, while the average percentage of F.F.A. is 5 per cent. Collectively, the mills have operated at a small net profit.

Three Textile Centres are now in operation in the Western Provinces, and the building programme in that area is complete. Each centre has taken its full quota of trainees and each has a waiting list of applicants. A textile centre is able to accommodate forty to fifty trainees and, up to the present, the wastage owing to failure to reach the set standard of efficiency has been low.

Results from the introduction of new methods of spinning continue to be disappointing, but the training of weavers is now beginning to prove its worth and the output of broad loom cloth is rapidly increasing. The bulk of the cloth produced is superior in quality to that usually expected in Nigeria from hand woven cloth

Efforts are being made to encourage the production of designs that will attract in the African market, and weavers, who are now acquiring freedom in handling a new technique, show ability and confidence in designing cloth which is really Nigerian in character. The world shortage of dyestuffs has seriously hampered the production of designs incorporating colours suited to Nigerian requirements.

The establishment of Weaving Centres planned for 1948 was delayed until newly appointed Textile Officers began to arrive in July. The preparatory work necessary to the establishment of four centres has been carried out and building has begun at Aba, Kano, Ilorin and Sokoto. Demonstrations of spinning and weaving continue to be valuable in carrying the work of existing centres into remote areas or areas wanting special attention, and of breaking new ground while a Weaving Centre is being built, thus giving spinners and weavers an opportunity of assessing the value of the training offered. During the year demonstrations have been held in the North, in Kano, Katsina, Zaria, Kabba and Ilorin Provinces and, in the South in Oyo, Benin and Onitsha Provinces. The demonstrations have been well attended by both craftsmen and the general public.

The main item of the year's research has been that carried out by the Fibre Officer in the utilisation of fibres belonging to the jute class. A series of fibres has been examined and the production areas surveyed. It has been established that there are in Nigeria valuable textile fibres other than cotton which are capable of a more extensive cultivation and useful for a variety of purposes. This examination brings into view the possibility of a valuable light Industry for the making of produce bags, hessians and similar cloths, ropes, twines and cordage, matting and possibly paper.

On the 1st April, 1948, the Department took over the dairy scheme operating at Vom and Kumbul in the Plateau Province. It was purchased direct from the Veterinary Department by means of a loan of £25,000 granted by the Nigerian Local Development Board. Subsequently operations were extended and the number of units producing cream for butter making, milk for cheese making and clarified butter fat have been increased from twenty-six to fifty-two.

In January, 1948, a scheme submitted by the Director of Veterinary Services to the Nigerian Local Development Board was approved for the establishment of small units in inaccessible areas of the Northern Provinces in order to purchase surplus milk from the Fulani cattle owners and make it into clarified butter fat. The necessary funds were made available by the Board which requested the Department to undertake the management and development from the initial stages. In June the first training school was established in Yelwa to serve the Southern part of Sokoto Province and the Northern portions of Niger, in particular the Zuru

confederation and Yauri Emirate. Some fifteen clarified butter fat units have been established in this area but these have not been very successful so far. It is intended that only surplus milk shall be purchased and that the resultant clarified butter fat will be sold first, within the Province where it is produced and, secondly, within Nigeria before exporting the ultimate surplus to the United Kingdom.

As regards other projects the Agricultural Department has assisted in investigating the development of the fruit and fruit juice industries; plant for establishing a small food canning factory has arrived; and brick and tile working has received attention; it is hoped to acquire the services of an expert at an early date.

Development of the Tanning Industry is delayed by lack of staff, but enquiries concerning the use of bagaruwa and mangrove bark for tanning continue. Other schemes under investigation include the production of fertilisers and the expansion of the local sugar industry so as to provide white sugar for internal consumption.

During the year, the Nigerian Local Development Board made loans totalling £218,492. Assistance was given to cabinet makers, shoe manufacturers, soap factories, manufacturing tailors, textile mills, bakers and other small industries.

Electricity Undertakings

The senior staff of the Department, already attenuated, was further reduced during the year by the loss of the services of the Electrical Engineer-in-Chief, four Engineer Officers, one Mechanical Engineer and two Shift Charge Engineers. Of the twenty-four posts of Electrical Engineer on the establishment, eleven are now vacant, and of the twelve Mechanical Engineer posts on the establishment, seven are now vacant. The greatest credit is due to the present engineers who continue, often single handed, to man the stations, and who despite extended tours, very long hours, frequent sickness, and lack of recreation show a loyalty and devotion to duty that deserves the highest praise. In these circumstances the Development programme has been inevitably retarded and all preliminary investigation works for new installations have stopped. Large quantities of electrical equipment ordered in 1946 are now coming to hand, and where necessary are being stored until the staff position improves.

It is hoped that draft legislation creating an Electricity Corporation of Nigeria will be ready for introduction into this Council at a later meeting this year, and that the vesting date will be 1st October, 1949. Preliminary financial investigations are now in hand:

The fact that the Commercial Accounts of all Government-owned Electricity Undertakings for the year 1947-48 shew an adverse balance is due primarily to the increased cost of fuels, and the impact of the revision of salaries and wages. A full

investigation into the operating costs of the various undertakings—an essential preliminary to a revision of tariffs—could not be undertaken owing to the shortage of staff. It was therefore decided to seek to remedy the rapidly worsening situation by applying to all undertakings, as from the 1st of February, 1949, a temporary surcharge of 33½ per cent.

Possible sources of hydro-electric power now under investigation are the Gurara Falls, and the falls at Obokum on the Cross River. Preliminary surveys show that many thousands of kilowatts, which might be used for industrial development in the two areas, are running to waste.

Mines

Mr H. A. Cochran, Chief Inspector of Mines, proceeded on leave in June and was appointed Divisional Manager, Minerals Division, Colonial Development Corporation in September. He has been succeeded as Chief Inspector of Mines by Mr H. R. Mitchell. The Inspectorate staff position again improved a little during the year but with the continued world-wide demand for mining engineers it was not found possible to fill all the vacancies in the Senior Service establishment. The first Nigerian to be sent to the United Kingdom for training as a mining engineer was successful in passing in all subjects except engineering drawing, the second year of the honours degree course at the University of Glasgow. He also gained some months' practical underground experience in a Cornish tin mine. A second Nigerian was sent to the United Kingdom for similar training during 1948.

Keen activity in the tin mining industry continued throughout the year, although operations have been hampered by the acute shortage and increased cost of mining equipment and machinery. The steady annual fall in production, which in these post-war years has been a natural consequence of the patriotic co-operation of the mining community during wartime in the intensive working of their richest areas appears to have been at least temporarily arrested; the production of cassiterite for the year 1948 amounted to 12,741 tons. To some extent this high production is due to the record high price of tin (£569 a ton), a factor which has stimulated the working of previously unpayable deposits and the search for further tin-bearing ground. During the past year there has been a marked increase in the number of applications for mining land. A feature of considerable importance is the number of mining leases granted in the congested area of Jos Division where practical schemes of land restoration have been devised and put into operation. Systematic prospecting of existing mining leases continues with the satisfactory result that many of the large companies have been able to add to their proved ore reserves a tonnage at least equivalent to that extracted from them during the year. The prospecting by geophysical location and drilling of the deep-lead tin deposits indicated as extending under the basalt flows is still mainly in the planning stage. Heavy drilling equipment is in short supply; during the year

only two such plants were delivered and these had been on order since 1945. Preliminary exploration by shaft sinking has revealed some of the difficulties which will be encountered but it is these deep-lead deposits to which we optimistically look for the prolongation of intensive mining on the tinfield. The Ministry of Supply continues to purchase all the tin ore produced in Nigeria.

Columbite production has fallen slightly during the year, and the United States of America still absorbs most of the output. There has been no activity in either tantalite or wolfram production, although a few tons of these minerals have been produced during the process of cleaning tin concentrates.

During the year under review both lead and zinc have risen in value to unprecedented levels and the renewed activity which started last year has continued and increased. A total area of 5,376 square miles is up to date covered by applications for Special Exclusive Prospecting Licences for these metals. Development of the known lead/zinc deposits at Nyebea, Ogoja Province, has been pushed ahead. The fact that 345 tons of lead ore and 541 tons of zinc ore were produced during the year is significant, but assuming that the deposits are as favourable as geophysical results indicate, some years must elapse before large scale production can be achieved.

Gold production has risen slightly. In the Ife-Ilesha field, however, almost all the known auriferous deposits are planted over with cocoa trees, and compensation costs would accordingly increase. The lodes in Sokoto Province are again receiving some attention. In this country, however, the current high price of tin has a direct bearing on gold production, for with the present acute shortage of trained mining engineers the operators on the tinfield have been unable to spare either time or man-power for gold prospecting.

The investigation by the Shell D'Arcy Exploration parties of the possibility of an economic oilfield in the Eastern Provinces has continued, while in February, 1948, the Cameroons Mining Corporation Limited, through its technical managers, A.O. Nigeria Limited, completed the preliminary aerial reconnaissance of their Special Exclusive Prospecting Licences Nos. 29, 30 and 31.

Geological Survey

The examination and mapping of the sub-bituminous coals of the Enugu area and of the lignites of Benin Province were continued in association with Powell Duffryn Technical Services Limited. Attention was also paid to other coal and lignite seams at Ute in Benin Province, Moroko in Abeokuta Province, and near Lafia in Benue Province. This work is still in progress.

Re-mapping of the Plateau tinfield has been completed and it is hoped to publish this year an account of the geology, with a revised geological map. Mapping of the Ife-Ilesha goldfield is also almost complete and interim reports have been published. The

mapping of the pegmatite area in Kabba and Ilorin Provinces is being completed. Geophysical measurements have been made on the Jos Plateau in connection with the occurrence of deep tin leads under the basalt flows.

During the year, much geological investigation has been accomplished by geologists employed by the mining companies, who have worked in close co-operation with the Geological Survey. The Bethlehem Steel Corporation has been examining the iron ore deposits near Lokoja; geologists and geophysicists of the Minerals Development Syndicate have been employed on the lead-zinc deposits of the Eastern Provinces; Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria, Limited, have investigated metalliferous deposits in many parts of Nigeria; and Shell D'Arcy Exploration Parties have continued their geological and geophysical work in the Eastern Provinces.

Water Supply investigations have occupied much of the Department's time. Electrical resistivity examinations for sub-surface water were made in Bauchi and Plateau Provinces, and a report on the water resources of part of Plateau Province has been prepared with suggestions for the use of the water for minor irrigation schemes.

There has been little improvement in the staff position during the year and it has not always been possible to provide geologists to meet the demands for geological work. The chemical and petrological laboratory maintained by the Department has been fully employed on the examination of economic rocks and minerals for government departments, mining companies and private individuals. The geological museum at Kaduna continues to attract an ever-increasing number of visitors.

Colliery

The output from the Iva mine has now risen to almost 1,000 tons per day whilst the Obwetti Mine is producing approximately 1,500 tons per day. Both mines could greatly improve on this performance if the necessary mine rolling stock to handle the output were available. It is therefore reassuring to know that at least 650 mine tubs are promised for delivery during the first six months of 1949.

The construction of the Coal Storage Bunkers and their ancillary equipment at the Obwetti Mine is nearing completion, three cells with a capacity of 300 tons each being available for use already. The remaining seven cells, which will bring the total storage capacity to 3,000 tons, will be completed early in April, 1949.

Mechanisation has again been retarded by delays in the receipt of equipment from the United Kingdom but some chain conveyors have arrived and have been put to use during the year. The workmen, who were at first suspicious of the Management's motives in installing this equipment, are now showing a decided interest in its use, an attitude which augurs well for the complete mechanisation of the mines at a later date.

The deep core boring equipment mentioned last year has arrived, together with a trained operator, and is being used to prove and assess the measures necessary for the extension of the Colliery.

The total number of Colliery workmen, wives and children housed in the Colliery Housing Schemes at the end of the year was 5,976. Because of the difficulty of securing accommodation in the Enugu Township and because of the high cost of rents paid there, the Colliery Workers' Union requested that the Schemes should be continued until accommodation had been provided for all Colliery labour. After much deliberation, the Union agreed, on behalf of all workmen, that a rental of 5s per room per month should be paid and, partially as a result of this agreement, it was possible to vote the sum of £40,000 for the erection of a further extension to the schemes.

The first Report of the Powell Duffryn Technical Services, Limited, has been received and is receiving the urgent attention of Government. As a result of discussions on the Report, plans for the formation of a Board of Management for the Collieries have been made.

Lands

In the Colony Section, the staff have been chiefly occupied with the checking, collating, and assessing of claims, and the payment of compensation, under the Public Lands Acquisition Ordinance.

Three new notices of intention to acquire were issued; six judgments of the Supreme Court were delivered regarding either ownership of the land or the amount of compensation payable; and at the end of the year sixteen outstanding acquisitions were being dealt with, questions regarding thirteen of which had been referred to the Supreme Court for determination.

A further area of the Yaba Estate was handed back by the Military Authorities, and the layout of this area into residential plots for leasing is proceeding.

Excluding those in Yaba Estate, forty Crown Leases have been issued during the year. Twenty-eight of these were in the Government Residential Area at Ikoyi, which continues to expand rapidly.

The past year has seen much development on the Yaba Estate. Forty-six new houses have been built, twenty-three new leases have been issued, and sixty-three freeholds have been granted.

Two hundred and sixty-three claims have been lodged under the Epetedo Lands Ordinance, as well as many objections to such claims, all of which have been investigated and the sites inspected.

A Regional Land Registry was opened at Enugu on the 9th February, 1948, but so far, owing to shortage of staff and accommodation, it is able to deal only with instruments relating to private lands. Since the opening of the Registry ninety-eight instruments have been registered.

In July a Special Committee was appointed by the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces, to examine the question of valuation of land, trees, and crops in connection with the acquisition of land by Government for public purposes, and to compile a report

for the guidance of administrative and technical Officers. The Committee was composed of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, the Assistant Chief Conservator of Forests, the Assistant Commissioner of Lands, and the Assistant Secretary (Development). The report was completed in November and approved by His Honour.

During the year three new layouts on Crown Land were completed, two at Port Harcourt and one at Enugu. A portion of a third layout at Port Harcourt was surveyed and demarcated, but the work was interrupted by local opposition. An extension to Aba Town layout is under construction, and plans are being prepared for extensions to the layout at Umuahia.

Proposals for the standardisation of Crown rents in the Eastern Provinces were also approved by the Chief Commissioner and the new scale has been applied with effect from the 1st January, 1949.

At the request of the Chief Commissioner, the Commissioner of Lands undertook an inquiry into the question of stranger immigration into the Cameroons, a subject which has been causing anxiety to the administration over the past quarter of a century. The inquiry involved study and correlation of existing data over the whole range of customary tenure.

The Western Regional Office of the Department was opened at Ibadan in April, but its activities, like those of the other Regional Office at Enugu, have been restricted by the inability to fill the vacant posts of Land Officer.

Survey

The strength of the Senior Service is still eight short of the authorised establishment of twenty-three officers. This is a serious handicap to the Nigerianisation of the Department since senior officers are so occupied with the pressure of routine work that they cannot be spared to coach promising juniors in the difficult task of field administration.

Nevertheless, two junior service surveyors with long service were promoted to the Senior Service during the year. One Junior Service surveyor is now taking a degree course in mathematics at London University while another has been under instruction in the use of air survey equipment at the Directorate of Colonial Surveys in the United Kingdom. Two draughtsmen and two lithographers are taking courses of instruction at the Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

Fifteen Survey Assistants have commenced the Inter B.Sc. course at the University College, Ibadan, preparatory to final training and appointment as junior service surveyors. Fifty Survey Assistants are attending short survey courses in the field near Kaduna and Enugu with a view to their employment on minor survey work which has in the past been undertaken by surveyors.

Twelve students from Native Administrations in the Northern Provinces and Cameroons started a course in elementary survey work at Kano in August.

During the year a party measured the new base along the Nsude-Ukehe motor road to replace the Old Udi base of the primary triangulation network.

On the average five surveyors have been employed throughout the year on the establishment of ground control in the Northern and Western Provinces where 10,000 square miles have recently been photographed by the Royal Air Force, prior to the preparation of line maps by the Directorate of Colonial Surveys.

Primary levels for a distance of seventy miles have been re-observed along the section of railway from Otobi to Enugu. Level sections were observed in the Bida area of Niger Province and in the Mahin Creek area of Ondo Province for the Rice Mission.

The number of mining areas surveyed again shows a considerable increase. During the eight months ending 30th November, forty-one surveys of mining areas were made by Government surveyors and one hundred and eighty-eight were submitted by licensed surveyors. Despite this increase, the number of mining areas awaiting survey has risen from four hundred and thirteen on 1st April to six hundred and fifty-three at the end of November.

There were numerous important cadastral surveys in all parts of the country, many of them in connection with new township layouts or buildings under the Development Plan.

Twelve new maps were printed during the year but the demand for maps and plans has increased to such an extent that it is impossible to maintain stocks of the more important map series. Additional staff are being trained so that the lithographic machinery will be kept working for twelve hours daily by means of two shift of six hours.

The two engine de Havilland *Dove* survey aircraft, chartered from the West African Airways Corporation, arrived at Lagos in December. An air photographer has recently been appointed and it is expected that aerial survey for development projects will be commenced before the end of the financial year.

Education

A great deal of time and energy has been devoted to matters connected with the new Education Ordinance which was passed by this Council at its last meeting and brought into force on the 1st of January. During the latter part of 1948 and the early months of this year Education Officers and Committees have been hard at work conducting the surveys and research needed to give effect to Schedule A of the new Regulations, the latter being based on the Report on Grants-in-Aid of Education in Nigeria. To be assisted under the new Ordinance a school must be educationally necessary and socially useful: thus a considerable re-arrangement has proved necessary, particularly in the disposition of the available force of trained teachers.

In the Western Region, Education Committees have further consolidated their position during the year, and the more progressive have been successful in organizing refresher courses for teachers, in developing a school meals system and in the improvement of education in general so far as their own particular localities are concerned. The efforts of these Committees are to be commended; and the time is not far off when it should be possible to endow them with statutory powers as provided for in the new Ordinance. Developments in this direction have been less spectacular in the other Regions but it is of interest to record that in the Ogoja Province, which was one of the slowest to evince a real interest in education, Committees have been formed at several centres.

The Houses of Assembly and the House of Chiefs have elected their representatives to the Regional and Central Boards of Education and the latter have already held meetings, one of their first duties being to propose Regulations under section 30 of the Ordinance. Honourable Members will appreciate that these Regulations must inevitably have a provisional flavour, inasmuch as the next few years will witness the building up of a corpus of practices to meet the Territory's emerging system of local government.

The widely representative character of the Boards will ensure that attention is given to the needs of every part of the Territory and to the problems confronting those engaged in education. At a lower level the concept of co-operation between the Central Government and the local communities is being actively fostered. It is essential that the public in general as well as the parents should be kept fully informed on questions of education and to this end the development of parents' associations is being encouraged. Schools which stand apart from the community are of little social value, whereas those which are closely integrated with the community are a powerful source of social progress.

The general pattern of educational development in the Northern Region has taken more definite shape during the period under review. The approval by this Council of special funds for the Region, in addition to those available under Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes, has made possible the preparation of a Five-Year Supplementary Plan. Provision from both these sources has been made for two secondary schools, two Men's Higher Elementary Training Centres, seven Men's Elementary Training Centres, four Women's Elementary Training Centres, nine Boys' and nine Girls' Senior Primary Schools. The effective carrying out of these plans will depend almost entirely on the early recruitment of expatriate staff. Meanwhile the new Zaria Secondary School buildings are nearing completion and the former Kaduna College, with a greatly increased enrolment, moved into them in January, the vacated buildings at Kaduna Junction being utilized to establish the nucleus of the proposed new secondary school at Keffi. A Higher Elementary Training Centre is being

built at Katsina, to open in April with forty students. A new Elementary Training Centre, on the Tóro Model, is to be opened at Maru, in the Sokoto Province, at the same time. To speed up the expansion of junior primary education, special one year courses have been held for uncertificated teachers at Bauchi and Katsina Elementary Training Centres. The proportion of trained to untrained teachers in the Northern Region is high and further "dilution" is under consideration as a means of accelerating expansion.

In the Eastern and Western Regions where dilution has proceeded too far and consolidation of the existing structure is the prime requirement, progress has been made with the development plan for general education though, in the case of certain Government projects, this progress has been slower than the Department and the general public would wish.

In all Regions, the Voluntary Agencies have made a general advance with the assistance of development funds. In the East such assistance has been afforded to eleven teacher training centres and ten secondary school projects and in the West to eight teacher training and six secondary school projects. In the North, the Sudan United Mission Centre at Gindiri, which is multilateral, is expanding its Teacher Training Centre, developing its Middle into a Secondary School and providing special vocational courses for women. The Church Missionary Society has submitted plans for an Elementary Training Centre at Samaru in the Zaria Province and, in the more undeveloped areas of Adamawa Province, the Church of the Brethren Mission at Gaskida and the Sudan United Mission (Danish Branch) are reorganizing their curricula to provide a full Elementary Certificate course. The Roman Catholic Mission has developed secondary school facilities at Kaduna, is erecting a Higher Elementary Training Centre at Kafanchan and is translating its Elementary Training Centre at Guni to new buildings at Minna.

In the matter of secondary education I must reiterate the note of warning sounded by my predecessor against the danger of dissipating our human resources. The thin stream of trained personnel now available must be confined to the existing channels of secondary education if standards are to be maintained and quality achieved. When societies and individuals aim at opening secondary schools which can meet even minimum staff requirements only by withdrawing staff from existing schools, there can be no real progress. Two schools of mediocre quality will in the long run be of less benefit to the Territory than one school of high quality.

As the need for secondary teachers is as great as ever it has been decided to continue the Special Teachers' Training Course at Ibadan. The co-operation of the University College staff in this venture is gratefully acknowledged.

Continued efforts are being made to reduce the leeway in the education of women and girls. Women Education Officers posted to Riyom and Mbakon, in the Plateau and Benue Provinces respectively, have found the local women responsive; and classes for various kinds of domestic crafts are proving popular. Similarly, the officer stationed at Banso to carry out work amongst adult women has achieved a noteworthy success in community development.

The Voluntary Agencies' development plans have proceeded satisfactorily. Particularly rapid progress has been made by the Roman Catholic Mission in all Regions. The expansion of the United Missionary College at Ibadan and the establishment of a Community Centre at Akure are noteworthy examples of enterprise by Protestant Societies. As regards direct Government activity, the Girls' Training Centre at Kano continues to expand and more candidates for the Elementary Training Centre Course are anticipated. Land has been acquired for a Women's Training Centre at Ilesha and for a Girls' Secondary School at Ede and it is hoped that these projects will be expedited. The slow progress made in the erection of the Women's Training Centre at Enugu is a matter of keen disappointment to the Department. Amongst other things it has involved a delay in the production of qualified women to staff the Domestic Science Centres for which there is a rapidly growing popular demand.

Queen's College, which draws pupils from all over the territory, is being expanded with a view to becoming a full "double-stream" secondary school. The accommodation for boarders has been increased and improved and the curriculum has been extended. A special feature is made of Physical Training throughout the school. In October, 1948, the School celebrated the 21st birthday of its foundation: in this connection it is encouraging that the Old Girls Association are making good progress with a scholarship fund.

The employment of many more girls in various spheres, particularly in urban areas, is a marked feature of the times. For girls with a primary education the need for technical education has become manifest and preliminary steps are being taken to deal with the situation.

Much has been written (and will doubtless continue to be written) on the subject of Mass Education or Community Development. It is increasingly realized that the term embraces the sum total of Government's developmental activities in the districts in co-operation with the communities concerned. In this general movement the Department of Education has devoted particular attention to Adult Literacy Campaigns: the number of the latter has increased to twenty, seven in the North, four in the West, seven in the East and two in the Colony. The early campaigns which were little more than experiments gave useful experience and new campaigns in the main language areas can now be started

with greater confidence. It is hoped that with an increase in staff these campaigns will be extended and that it will also be possible to give more attention to the problem of the small language groups. During the course of the year about 29,000 adults passed through 1,200 classes in 432 villages.

One of the main factors in popularising literacy is an adequate supply of low-priced literature. It has not been possible in the past to conduct active propaganda because of lack of suitable reading matter. This problem is now, however, on the way to being solved in the principal languages and it is hoped next year to enlist the co-operation of the Press in the problem of removing illiteracy by encouraging associations, Unions, Clubs, etc. to make use of the special low-priced literature now being produced. The number of publications in the five languages is Hausa (26), Tiv (8), Yoruba (14), Ibo (13) and Efik (15), making a total of seventy-six.

In the course of the year the number of newsheets produced in support of literacy campaigns has increased from three to six. One in Hausa and another in Tiv are published by the Gaskiya Corporation, with the support of government and native administration funds, and are sold at a subsidised price; the third, in Efik, is a public-spirited effort by a local publisher acting on his own initiative.

Booklets are sold at subsidised prices varying from ½d to 3d, principally though not entirely in the campaign areas. Sales for the first nine months of 1948 were:

		<i>Hausa</i>	<i>Yoruba</i>	<i>Ibo</i>	<i>Efik</i>
Number	...	216,000	29,400	26,900	11,450
Value	...	£1,153	£184	£164	£65

Special thanks are again due to the Gaskiya Corporation and the Co-operative Supply Association for their indispensable assistance in producing and distributing literature.

A problem which it is hoped to attack in the forthcoming year is that of distribution of literature in rural areas. Native Administrations, particularly in the North, have given valuable assistance to literature production by making large bulk purchases; they have still however to develop organisations for selling this literature.

With the help of the Co-operative Supply Association a scheme for village libraries has been started in the Western Provinces. In addition, lists of English and vernacular books suitable for village libraries are being circulated throughout the country.

As regards the plan for technical education, excellent progress has been made with the building programme, notwithstanding supply difficulties, and at Yaba and Kaduna the work is well ahead of schedule. The rate of recruitment of technical instructors continues to be satisfactory but in the case of lecturers who are required for higher technological work the position is far otherwise, two appointments only having been made in the past eighteen

months. Supplies of tools and machinery are coming forward regularly and in fair quantities, though electricity power supply difficulties in some cases have prevented the prompt installation and operation of the machines.

At Yaba Technical Institute the following courses are now in operation:—

Junior Technical (pre-employment apprentices' course).

Handicraft Instructors' Course (to train handicraft instructors for Secondary Schools).

Manual Instructors' Course (to train manual instructors for senior primary schools and handicraft centres).

Mechanical Engineering Assistants' Course (to train engineering assistants for Government Departments and private concerns).

These are full-time courses and the ninety students in attendance are resident. In addition the Institute provides part-time day and evening instruction for ninety-six apprentices in general fitting and carpentry and joinery; and for 208 evening students in mechanical engineering, carpentry and joinery, and electrical installation work.

The new woodwork and metalwork shops have been completed and are now in use. The new building construction block, comprising lecture and drawing rooms and a laboratory for building science, has also been completed. Good progress has been made in the erection of the new mechanical engineering block which should be finished by the end of the present financial year.

At Yaba Trade Centre the twenty apprentice carpenters and twenty apprentice cabinet-makers already in attendance have made satisfactory progress during the quarter. An additional twenty carpenters, twenty cabinet-makers and twenty motor vehicle fitters will shortly be admitted. Recruitment for the Centre will then have covered the districts of Lagos, Abeokuta, Ibadan, Oyo and Ondo.

At Kaduna Trade Centre the work of the apprentices in fitting, carpentry and joinery, and bricklaying, both on the practical and theoretical sides, continues to be satisfactory. Visitors to the Centre from all classes of the community have been greatly impressed by the standard of the work of the trainees.

The new mechanical engineering shop has been completed, the timber store is rapidly nearing completion, and the construction of the motor engineering shop and additional round houses proceeds apace—most satisfactory results to which the carpentry and bricklaying apprentices have made an important contribution.

At Enugu Trade Centre work has started on the erection of five staff quarters and it is hoped shortly to proceed with the construction of general offices, a general store and a wood machine shop.

Though the year 1948, like 1947, has been largely occupied with problems of reorganization the content of education has not passed unnoticed. Much hard work has been put in by the

Curriculum Committee of the old Southern Provinces and Colony Board and new syllabuses have been prepared to widen and improve the teachers' work. A similar development can be reported from the Northern Region. Here, too, the Gaskiya Corporation has got under way and a considerable supply of text books and newsheets is being produced. Arrangements are in hand for the production of more text books in the Fulani, Tiv and Kanuri languages. The introduction of English as a subject in the Native Administration Junior Primary Schools in this Region, wherever a qualified teacher is available, has proved a popular innovation.

Two agencies have been at work in the field of education in addition to the Department, namely, the Extra Mural Studies Delegacy of Oxford University and the British Council. As to the former, the lectures given by Mr Collins and Mr Maclean were extremely popular, and it is hoped that the interest so stimulated will be maintained either from the same source or by the establishment of a Department of Extra Mural Studies at the University College, Ibadan. The British Council's activities in the educational field have included assistance to libraries and the organization of discussion groups and playreading meetings; while in the wider cultural field music and drama have received notable encouragement.

Honourable Members will recollect that consideration is being given to the question of Regional Colleges which formed the subject of a recommendation in the Report of the Inter-University Council's delegation. An investigation into this complex and important problem has recently been undertaken by Dr F. J. Harlow, Principal of Chelsea Polytechnic, and Mr W. H. Thorp, Chief Inspector of Technical Education. Their Report is awaited with interest.

Finally, I should like to mention that the University College, with the passing of the Provisional Council Ordinance (No. 25 of 1948) has become a legal entity. I understand that the present teaching commitments have been met although many more undergraduates were admitted than the College Authorities had planned to accommodate in the first full academic year. It is significant that the most spectacular results in the College entrance examination were achieved by the small and select band of schools which have developed "sixth form" work. The ceremony of transfer of the permanent site of the University College to its keeping and of the inauguration of building by the Right Honourable Arthur Creech Jones, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies, took place on the 17th of November, 1948, before a large assembly which included representatives from all the Regions.

Medical

Despite the continued shortage of senior and junior staff the Development programme made slow but sure progress with the inauguration of training schemes and the building of rural health centres and hospitals.

At Kano, the Sanitary Inspectors' School is in full swing and it is anticipated that the hostels for Maternity Assistants, Dispensary Attendants and Nurses-in-training will be built in the near future. Sokoto has introduced successfully a school for the training of men and women with elementary school education. The candidates are given a general education in the first place and suitable candidates pass on to training as nurses, sanitary inspectors, dispensary attendants and midwives. At Aba, the Sanitary Inspectors' School has received its first batch of students. The shortage of qualified Sister Tutors inevitably retards the production of trained nurses.

Rural health work is beginning to make satisfactory progress especially in the Provinces of Katsina and Sokoto. In Katsina, the first provincial registration of births and deaths was set up, while in Sokoto the township of Asabo has elected to build its own rural health centre. Buildings for the Rural Health Centres at Ilaro and Auchi are nearing completion.

Work on new, or on extensions to existing hospitals is continually held up by shortage of materials. The Abakaliki Hospital is completed except for one female ward; the building of a new hospital at Onitsha progresses; the additions to the Enugu General Hospital have been made; Adeoyo Hospital, Ibadan has been enlarged and has been taken over by the University College; the new hospital at Akure is not yet completed owing to a shortage of water; the work of building the new hospital at Birnin Kebbi is in hand; Pankshin Hospital was taken over by the Nigerian Government from the Native Administration; Offa Hospital opened its wards earlier in the year; additions were made to the hospitals at Gusau and Minna; a new Infant Welfare Clinic was built in Kano City; and the Infectious Diseases Hospital in the same City nears completion. A dental surgery is under construction at Jos.

The most serious brake on all the activities of the Department is the lack of trained staff. The recruitment of senior officers and nursing sisters from the United Kingdom has not come up to expectation, and the position has been further aggravated by the frequent retirement of Yaba graduates, some of whom have preferred to seek their fortune in private practice rather than remain in public service.

The Malaria Scheme came into being during the year under review. Much of the work in the early years will be devoted to research. A preliminary survey was made in the Ilaro area which may throw light on the possibility of establishing an "island of eradication" of anopheles mosquitoes. Surveys have also been made in the townships of Enugu and Onitsha. Work continues to be carried out by the Medical Research Council of the United Kingdom on the effect of Paludrine on the West African strain of malaria parasites.

The work of leprosy control has made significant progress, following the arrival of a Senior Leprosy Officer. It is hoped in the near future to lay down a more comprehensive policy towards tackling this widespread socio-medical problem. Meantime research work at Uzuakoli, both social and in the use of new drugs, is proving most valuable.

Routine surveys made by the Sleeping Sickness Service indicate that the incidence of trypanosomiasis is now down to one per cent, a good working average. The drug trials with the new prophylactic Pentaminide have proved very satisfactory. It is hoped the animal inoculation with the prophylactic drug Antrycide will be equally effective when supplies become available.

The staff of the West African Trypanosomiasis Research Institute have arrived and are busy building up their organization and laboratories at Vom and Kaduna.

A nutrition survey was carried out in the Kontagora area during the year. The conclusions reached were that the farmers' diet showed marked deficiencies in animal proteins and fats and that these deficiencies had a pronounced effect on the agricultural production of the country.

Many Medical Stations both Government and Native Administration had received new ambulances and supplies of new vehicles continue to arrive.

There were serious outbreaks of Relapsing Fever on the Jos Plateau and in the provinces of Katsina and Sokoto. Small-pox epidemics were reported from Sokoto and the Ijaw country, with minor outbreaks at Kano and Onitsha. An intensified campaign of vaccination checked the spread of this fatal disease.

Further steps have been taken to implement the policy of collaboration between the Government and Missionary Medical Services by the appointment of the Phillipson Commission of Enquiry. Provision was made in the current estimates towards assisting Missions in the construction and extension of hospital building and the purchase of equipment.

The Medical Department has taken an active interest in the examination of the Niger Agricultural Project under the auspices of the Colonial Development Corporation, since it realizes that the control of Malaria and Sleeping Sickness, improved sanitation and a nutrition policy are essential to the success of an agricultural project of this kind.

More Medical Field Units are being trained in Makurdi. Several sections of the Units did excellent work in dealing with the epidemics of Relapsing Fever and Small-pox. The Units in the field are making surveys and the information obtained is proving invaluable.

Under the Nuffield Foundation scheme for providing a panel of consultants for the Colonial Medical Services, we welcomed visits from Dr Douglas Miller, Consulting Gynaecologist, Edinburgh

University, Dr F. R. G. Heaf, Tuberculosis Specialist, London County Council and Professor A. Topping, Professor of Social and Preventive Medicine at Manchester University. We were given much valuable advice and encouragement.

Veterinary

In spite of the continued shortage of professional staff, of quarters, and of office accommodation, regionalisation with a framework of staff has been effected during 1948, and it is now a question of building up the organisation to give the maximum assistance to the greatest number of stockowners, as men and materials become available.

In the field, emphasis has again been placed on the control of animal diseases, but a positive policy in respect of the animal in health is being extended. The number of animals being brought voluntarily for prophylactic treatment increases yearly and reached the total of approximately two million in 1948 compared with one and a half million in 1947.

Rinderpest is well under control and plans are being made for its total eradication by the use of new vaccines. Pleuro-pneumonia assumed serious proportions in Sokoto, but energetic measures cut the outbreak short. A policy of compensation for slaughter where the outbreak is voluntarily reported has been a success. Trypanosomiasis remains widespread and tests on various chemotherapeutics are always in hand. "Antrycide" the latest trypanocidal drug is now on trial under laboratory control at Vom, and the hopeful results obtained in East Africa seem likely to be confirmed in Nigeria. The other diseases of domestic animals are less obvious, but undoubtedly take their steady toll.

Livestock improvement must go hand in hand with disease control as a natural corollary. This responsibility of the Veterinary Department is being actively undertaken with schemes for the improvement of local breeds by selection, the economic development of animal products, the initiation and supervision of grazing control, water and food conservation, and the marketing of livestock.

A Livestock Mission from the United Kingdom recently toured Nigeria, and their report is now awaited. A Livestock Centre has been completed in Bamenda and the results achieved already by rotational grazing, the introduction of exotic pasture grasses, modern animal husbandry in keeping with local environment and selection by performance, have been spectacular.

Other centres at Katsina and Bornu and in the Western Region will be under construction during 1949. Surveys of Stock routes and a general investigation into the marketing of livestock are continuing to remove the many obstacles to a free flowing but controlled movement of meat supplies. Funds have been made available in all regions for an extension of this valuable work, while the anticipated arrival shortly of more cattle railway wagons is

looked forward to eagerly by the trade which realises that losses of stock have been reduced by an orderly system of inspection, prophylactic inoculation, and transport, and the protection of the interests of the genuine cattle dealer. An intensification of this control must inevitably increase meat supplies and reduce the price to consumers.

The Hides and Skins trade received as close supervision as was possible with the trained personnel available and in general it may be said that producers at least in the Northern Region realise the financial value of the instruction given on improvement of quality. More active measures are now being taken in the Eastern and Western Regions. Publicity by means of instructive posters and demonstrations at Agricultural shows have proved of value.

A Mission of Tanners from the United Kingdom under the leadership of Dr J. R. Furlong of the Imperial Institute visited Nigeria and were favourably impressed with production methods in the North. Experimental work continues on alternative methods of drying and the preservation of hides and skins.

Proposals for a reorganisation of the control of the Hides and Skins, Leather and Allied Industries are under consideration.

The Dairies section of the Departmental food production scheme was taken over at the beginning of the financial year 1948-49 by the Department of Commerce and Industries at a valuation of £12,000. The Piggeries section has been continued with success. An experiment commenced eighteen months ago to encourage Africans to fatten pigs on contract has been most successful for all concerned, and an extension of the system has been undertaken.

The Bacon factory has for six months been worked on the technical side exclusively by trained Africans who have shown marked proficiency. Several private trainees have taken a course on Pig husbandry and the manufacture of pig-meat products.

Milk recording and vigorous culling of dairy stock on the Farm at Vom have steadily raised the average output. Fencing and rotational grazing and cropping have made it possible to change the system of management to an intensive one in place of the previous pastoral extensive system. A steady increase in the consumption of whole milk by Africans of Southern Provinces origin at Vom has been noticed.

The Laboratory Staff was strengthened late in the year by the filling of two vacancies and more long term research is in hand in respect of rinderpest immunisation and prophylactic vaccination in such diseases as Contagious Bovine Pleuro-pneumonia and Contagious Abortion. A new rinderpest vaccine established in rabbits has been successfully propagated, and is now under production and trial in the field. Its high immunising properties with the minimum of symptoms has great potentialities in the immunisation of the highly susceptible cattle of the Southern and Eastern Provinces especially. Rinderpest immunisation with a view to total eradication in a limited period is now a feasible proposition, and a campaign with this object is now beginning.

A comprehensive survey of the ticks of Nigeria is being carried out and over 18,000 specimens have been examined and identified during the year. This work will indicate how common are the species which are vectors of disease, and in particular of East Coast Fever, the introduction of which by air communication is so greatly feared.

The output of biological products from the Laboratories at Vom exceeded last year's total of over two and a quarter million by one million doses. A proportion of the output was sold to Egypt, Gold Coast, and the Gambia. Proposals are under consideration for the establishment of a West African Veterinary Research Organisation with headquarters at Vom.

The Veterinary School at Vom is still fully controlled and maintained by the Nigerian Government, but ways and means by which this technical training institution may become affiliated with the University College, Ibadan, are under consideration. Thirty-seven students are in attendance including three from the Gold Coast. Three students taking the Assistant Veterinary Officer Course have regrettably been "sent down" after repeated failures in examinations. Only two now remain in that important Course. During the year nine students successfully completed the Junior Veterinary Assistant Course and ten students were successful in the final examination of the 3-year Senior Veterinary Assistant Course. These trained men are very valuable additions to the Junior Service.

Chemistry

Shortage of staff and equipment continued to hamper development. Work has not started on the construction of the three new provincial laboratories at Ibadan, Kaduna and Enugu nor has the equipment ordered three years ago for the mobile laboratory arrived. The officer appointed to fill one of the two vacancies for trained water chemists and bacteriologists made a fairly exhaustive tour of the urban water supplies in the Western and Eastern Provinces.

The Department, as in previous years, carried out investigations and analyses for other Government Departments, the Services and to a lesser extent for firms and private individuals. More than 6,000 samples and exhibits were examined during the year. Most of these related to Public Health and to criminal cases under investigation. In particular, daily bacteriological examinations were made of the Lagos, Port Harcourt and Kaduna water supplies, which gave very satisfactory results throughout the year: also of the Ibadan supply: and weekly tests were made of the Kano, Zaria and Jos supplies, which also indicated satisfactory operation.

Chemical and bacteriological analyses were carried out on existing and projected water supplies, on boiler and feed water for power stations, railway engines, pilot oil mills and other industrial uses.

Various unclassified samples received from almost every Government department, and from firms and private individuals, included mineral, lubricating and other oils, motor spirit, coal for calorific value, charcoal deposits in oil and fuel tanks, boilers, pipes and turbines, boiler and pipe scales, locally produced soaps, bitumen, talc and mineral salts, cigarettes, spirits, paints, metallic alloys and other samples for identification and advice.

Public Works

The year 1948-49 is witnessing a steady expansion of the work done by the Public Works Department. Except for certain specialist types, materials have been in easier supply than in previous years and the predominant factor in delaying progress has been shortage of qualified and experienced staff.

New construction under Public Works Extraordinary is expected to exceed £950,000, of which some £320,000 is on Regional account. When the establishment of the Department was fixed in 1945-46, a steady expenditure of £700,000 per annum was visualised. That this figure has been so greatly exceeded is due in part to the increase in costs since that date, but more important in their effect on expenditure have been the additional quarters, offices and public buildings necessitated by expansion of Departments and the Regionalisation of a number of them. Among many works included in the Extraordinary programme completed or expected to be completed this financial year, are Hospitals at Victoria and Abakaliki, Printing offices at Kaduna and Enugu, an Educational Establishment at Abraka, a Police Training Centre at Kaduna and a large number of Offices, quarters, post offices and radio diffusion stations scattered over Nigeria. The large Police Training Centre at Ikeja and the House of Assembly at Ibadan should be almost, if not quite completed. The list of works on hand is more formidable and includes the new Secretariat at Kaduna, Houses of Assembly at Enugu and Kaduna, the new Head Office of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, Police Barracks in Lagos, Benin, Burutu and Ibadan and many other buildings.

Constructional activity on account of air services expansion has continued. The extensions of Airfields at Tiko and Mamfe are approaching completion while the new runway at Calabar is well in hand. It has not yet been decided whether air traffic to Lokoja will be likely to justify the heavy expenditure needed for any extension of that Airfield. A Ministry of Civil Aviation representative has arrived with special equipment to carry out extensive stability tests at Ikeja, Kano and Maiduguri and on the results of these tests, it will be decided whether any large measure of strengthening is needed at these airfields to cater for increasingly heavy types of aircraft expected in the future. Radio and Meteorological buildings are being provided at a number of other airfields and stations throughout Nigeria.

As for the Development Programme, progress is definitely better although there have been tiresome delays on certain works. The 1948-49 Estimates provide for an expenditure of some £1,600,000 on construction and plant and it is expected that £1,000,000 will be spent. This amount will probably be incurred in the proportions of £400,000, £175,000 and £225,000 in the Northern, Western and Eastern Regions respectively leaving £200,000 as Colony and Central expenditure. This compares with an expenditure on works of £605,566 in 1947-48.

Best progress has been made on Road Works and at the end of September a total mileage of 770 miles had been completed and a further 287 miles were in hand, 110 miles of Bituminous surfacing were also completed. In addition to road work proper a number of bridges are completed or in hand including twelve of between 100 feet and 300 feet in length.

Building construction has made steady if unspectacular progress. Schools for Sanitary Inspectors at Kano and Aba, a Nurses Training School at Aba, Medical Establishments at Akure, Ibadan, Kumba and Makurdi and schools and colleges of various types at Kano, Umuahia, Ibadan and Uyo are all expected to be completed. Zaria Secondary School will soon be ready to be opened.

Among the numerous works in hand are Hospitals and medical buildings at Onitsha, Shagamu, Yaba, Auchi, Ilaro, Maiduguri, Abeokuta and Birnin Kebbi, schools and training centres at Enugu, Toro, Ibadan and Ughelli, buildings for Technical Education at Yaba, Enugu and Ibadan, the Trypanosomiasis Research buildings at Kaduna and Vom, the Isheri Institution, the Oil Palm Research Station and various Leprosy settlements.

Urban Water Supply schemes lag behind, mainly because of shortage of staff, as it is only recently that the first water engineer has arrived out of sixteen allowed for in the Development Estimates. Delay in delivery of prime moving plant and piping has also been a source of delay. The Minna Scheme is nearly completed and work is proceeding reasonably steadily at Lagos, Warri, Abakaliki, Ogbomosho, Jos and Sokoto. For the past three years investigations have been in hand for Water Supplies at a number of towns in the South Western area of Nigeria. Unfortunately the schemes which have so far been finalised will prove very expensive.

At the 30th September, 1948, 1,203 rural water points had been completed, which on the planned basis of 500 persons to a water point means that over 600,000 people have now been provided with water.

It does not seem to be generally realised that it was not the intention of the Development Plan to provide free power pumping for supply of water from Boreholes. In many cases it is hoped that a sub-artesian rise will be obtained to within 120 feet of the surface, when an open well will be provided to give access to the water so

that it can be raised by hand methods. But where power pumping is necessary it is intended, save in exceptional circumstances, that rural communities should themselves raise the necessary funds for the capital expenditure on pumps and tanks and meet annual running and maintenance costs.

Of first importance to the country is the proper maintenance of all Government property whether in the form of roads, buildings, water supplies or plant. In the financial year now approaching completion the cost of Public Works Recurrent, inclusive of the three Regions, is estimated at over £1,200,000 of which £930,000 represents works and the balance services.

It is calculated that by the time the Development Programme is complete Road maintenance costs alone, which stood at £378,000 in 1947-48, will have risen to over £580,000, on the assumption that existing wage rates remain static. In the case of Native Administration Roads the rise in maintenance costs is expected to be from £232,000 to £420,000.

A total annual maintenance bill of £1,000,000 for Roads alone is a serious financial burden and it is the duty of the Department, with the co-operation of the Native Administrations, to make every search for economy by better methods and more intensive supervision.

As regards buildings, the Development Programme will increase the annual maintenance bill by £180,000, or a good deal more if there are any further rises in wages or costs of materials. Here also the search for economy must lie in improved methods and greater output by the Artisans.

A very important section of the maintenance organisation is that devoted to the upkeep of plant and vehicles. Proper workshops and equipment are essential and good progress has been made with the main workshops at Ijora, Ibadan, Kaduna, Port Harcourt and Enugu. Provincial workshops are in hand at Jos, Makurdi, Akure and Victoria.

The staff position remains serious although the intake of Inspectors is satisfactory. There is however still a shortage of thirty-two in the Permanent Establishment of Civil Engineers. On the development side, the position is far worse. At this stage the original Development Plan allowed for 108 Engineers and Architects, a figure which was reduced to eighty-two to preserve a greater degree of realism in the 1947-48 Estimates. In actual fact only eighteen have been recruited. This shortage is particularly acute in respect of Rural and Urban Water Supplies where the strength is now two Engineers out of a Budgetary Establishment of thirty-one, or an original Plan establishment of fifty-two. The consequence has been that a considerable additional burden has been placed on the Permanent Establishment which is itself short-staffed and it is to its credit that it has carried out so much of the Development Programme.

The effects of the shortage on investigation and planning have been serious as by now many schemes should have been completed and ready to put out to construction whether by direct labour or by contract.

The Director of Public Works is also Controller of Civil Aviation and so some particulars for Aviation are included in this review. The Staff position as regards operation and control officers has improved sufficiently to enable a night watch to be maintained at Kano but not at Ikeja. Kano Airport is the busiest in Nigeria and has proved popular with international air operating companies. Movements have now reached a total of 200 a month, compared with 172 a month, at Ikeja.

West African Airways Corporation in 1948 completed their first plan of development. In Nigeria they have aimed at carrying all first class mail without additional postage charges. A penny stamp carries a letter a thousand miles—without question the cheapest airmail service in the world. This policy has brought widespread benefits to all classes of the community, and that it is fully appreciated can be seen by the carriage of over 1,000,000 letters in December. During the year nearly 6,000 passengers were carried in Nigeria and a large quantity of urgent air cargo. The fleet now consists of eleven Doves (one specially fitted for air photography for working with the Survey Department). In Nigeria alone Airways have flown over half a million miles during the year and by December, 1948, the scheduled distance each week had reached 11,308 miles. The Corporation serves eighteen active airports of which eleven are in the charge of trained African Staff.

Railway

Although the net surplus is now likely to fall short of the original estimate by £130,830, the working results of the Railway for the current financial year are by no means unsatisfactory. It is now calculated that revenue may amount to £5,816,890, and expenditure to £5,773,000. These figures are in excess of the estimated figures by £123,000 and £259,000 respectively.

The main items which account for the rise in expenditure are pensions, increased running costs resulting from the adoption of the 48-hour week, and arrears of pay under the Gorman award. A small surplus of approximately £44,000 should be available and it is proposed that this should be appropriated to the Railway Reserve Fund.

Turning to the prospects for 1949-50, the General Manager's draft estimates forecast a total revenue of £6,484,150, an increase of approximately £667,000 over the revised estimate for the present year. The major portion of the increase is expected to result from the transport of a greater tonnage of groundnuts, the target being 480,000 tons earning £2,047,000, compared with 337,000 tons and £1,471,000 for 1948-49. Expenditure goes up by £608,000 but more

than half of this increase is to meet the cost of purchasing replacements for parts of locomotives and rebuilding wagons, neither of which items can, under Renewals Fund Regulations, be charged against the Fund. The remainder of the increase represents the cost of additional wages and stores needed for the performance of a greater amount of work. If actual operations conform in any substantial degree to those envisaged by the estimates, the ratio of expenditure to receipts on operating account will fall from 67 per cent in the present year to 64 per cent in 1949-50, indicating that efficiency of operation is increasing and that revenue is rising faster than expenditure. The net surplus for 1949-50 has been estimated at £102,400, but there have been later developments to which I shall presently refer.

Railway capital expenditure during 1949-50 is expected to exceed £2,000,000. In Statement F of the Railway draft estimates a greater sum than this is shown but it is most unlikely that all of the equipment on order will be received during the year.

As stated in last year's Address new capital will have to be borrowed to meet the heavy expenditure necessary to carry out the vast expansion programme now before the Railway; this is absolutely essential in order that the Railway may cope with the increased traffic which is now offering. It is envisaged that such borrowing will be on a short-term basis, since the expansion will enable the Railway to increase its earning capacity and thereby pay off the loan.

Renewals expenditure is likely to be even greater than capital expenditure, but in this case the fund is ample to meet the calls to be made upon it. The combined capital and renewals programme for the year includes the purchase of fifty main line locomotives, six shunting locomotives, sixty-six coaches of various types and 800 wagons and brake vans, as well as extensive housing and building projects, numerous machinery replacements or additions and track re-laying between Zaria and Kano. Never before has so large a programme of replacement of and additions to the Railway's productive capacity been undertaken on lines open for traffic and when it is complete the Railway will be able to move goods traffic expeditiously and provide more comfortable, punctual and frequent passenger trains.

Although the outlook for 1949-50 may be considered satisfactory the continued rise in the cost of wages and materials cannot be disregarded. So far, the increase in revenue has kept pace with rising costs, but it will be recalled that Railway rates were revised at the beginning of the current financial year and it was intended that more than half of the additional revenue, estimated at £400,000, should be put aside in the Railway Reserve Fund which must, as a matter of urgency, be built up to at least three million pounds. In the result, the increased earnings have been largely absorbed by increased working costs.

Since the compilation of the 1949-50 Railway Estimates, increases have been made in the price of coal and electricity, which throws an additional burden of £69,000 upon Railway expenditure and this, together with increased marine freight on coal (£11,000), plus additional special expenditure on staff welfare (£22,000) reduces the estimated net surplus to no more than a few hundred pounds. The General Manager will, therefore, have to increase Railway revenue in order to provide necessary funds and this can only be done by some increase in the rates; this question is now receiving special consideration.

The Railway still has to repay to Government interest charges totalling £900,780—approximately two-thirds of which is calculated at a rate of 5 per cent. Although I intimated last year that there was under consideration a proposal to reduce by £200,000 these interest charges, it has not yet been possible to act upon it.

Marine

The work of the Marine Department is still seriously hampered by the shortage of fully qualified engineer officers. Several Africans are near completing the sea time necessary to enable them to take the Board of Trade examination for the Second class certificate. Their success in the examination can, however, bring only a partial easing of the situation, as there will still be the examination for the First class certificate to be passed before full qualifications are obtained.

Steps are being taken to remedy a slight deterioration in depths of water off the Customs Wharf, Lagos. Depths in other Lagos harbour channels have been maintained.

Reclamation work has continued between Five Cowrie Creek and Victoria Beach, Lagos, and although shortage of staff precluded the full use of the dredging and reclamation plant, 734,440 tons of spoil were deposited in this area during the year.

Unusually rough seas have resulted in considerable erosion on both the eastern and western foreshores at Lagos, in the former case averaging about thirty feet over the first two and a half miles eastward from the East Mole. The rough season reached its peak in mid-July. In September and October accretion started and is continuing.

The batteries of groynes were extended landwards as the sea encroached but at a reduced height of not more than eighteen inches above the eroded beach level. Erosion generally was more severe on the eastern side of each battery than on the western. With the advent of accretion the upper lengths of the groynes accumulated sand and became buried. No attempt was made to increase the height of the parts affected as it was decided that low groynes would ultimately be more effective, and that it would be best to wait until the completion of the model experiments being carried out as Delft had made possible the designing of definite protective works. Construction of the model of Delft is well in hand and it was expected that working experiments would begin early in 1949.

Silting occurred at the entrance to Opobo to such an extent that deep sea vessels can no longer use this port. The Government's Consulting Engineers were advised of the position and data supplied to them with a request for their advice as to what remedial measures, if any, could be taken. They suggested the building of protective works similar to the moles at Lagos, followed by dredging. One of the Consulting Engineers recently visited Nigeria and went to Opobo. His report, after seeing conditions there, is awaited.

The clearing of inland waterways continued throughout the year and particular attention was given to feeder rivers used principally by canoe traffic.

Apapa dockyard and the outstation repair yards have been fully employed with new construction and repair work.

The new dredger "Oyo", which has a capacity of 4,000 tons, is now in service. The second new dredger "Ibadan" will not arrive until the middle of 1949. The delay in delivering her has meant the postponement of development work on Escravos river bar.

Posts and Telegraphs

Postal business continues to expand and a number of new Agencies and Post Offices have been opened. Parcel traffic to and from other countries, particularly the United Kingdom, has increased considerably, and owing to heavy and irregular receipts some delays in deliveries are unavoidable. Despite an extension of the house to house delivery of correspondence in the urban areas, demands for private box services at all large offices were more numerous than ever.

Surface mail services have been improved. A twice-weekly service now operates throughout the Cameroons and a thrice-weekly service between Enugu, Abakaliki and Ogoja. A motor mail service between Ikom and Mamfe has replaced a mail runner service. Internal air mail services were expanded and there is now a once-weekly service with the Cameroons; approximately 500,000 letters are carried monthly by airmail services.

There was a marked increase in Money Order and Postal Order business as a result of the reduction made in commission and poundage last year. The balance to the credit of depositors in the Savings Bank rose from £2,114,000 to £2,386,000.

There was a slight increase in the number of telegrams handled. The existing system has reached saturation point and cannot carry more traffic without heavy delay. Work was mainly confined to maintenance and reconstruction. AW/T circuit between Brass and Port Harcourt was brought into operation and a telegraph line between Owerri and Orlu was built. A teleprinter circuit Lagos-Oshogbo using army S+DX equipment was also brought into use.

A new public telephone exchange was opened at Ogwashi-Uku and an Agbor-Ogwashi-Uku trunk constructed. An extension to the Lagos telephone exchange was completed and at several exchanges larger switchboards were installed.

More radio and navigational services have been provided for aircraft. It was possible during the year to equip the aerodromes at Benin, Calabar, Sokoto and Tiko with beacon and point to point stations for the internal services, while similar stations are being installed at Katsina and Gusau.

Although equipment has been received for the new station at Kano and a building designed and a site selected, construction work has been suspended until the question of the suitability of Kano North for larger aircraft can be settled.

A new commitment is the broadcasting from Kano of Continental meteorological information, as well as the Nigerian collectives.

Work on the reconstruction of the Oshogbo-Akure overhead telegraph route and on the Zaria-Funtua-Gusau, Akure-Ado Ekiti and Uyo-Abak telephone trunks will be completed by the end of the financial year. The Owerri-Orlu trunk is already completed.

The three channel carrier telephone equipment for the Lagos-Oshogbo-Enugu circuit is being installed.

At the end of the year ten officers of the Junior Service were undergoing courses of instruction in the British Post Office.

Labour

The staff difficulties mentioned in the last Budget Address have been overcome to a considerable extent in the present year, with the appointment of five new Labour Officers and three new Exchange Managers. In addition to these, five members of the Junior Service were promoted, two to Labour Officer, two to Labour Inspector and one to Exchange Manager. The Department now has eight Africans in Senior Service posts. At the end of the year, Mr E. A. Miller, who founded the Department in 1942 and built it up to its present state of development, proceeded on leave pending retirement, and was succeeded by Mr A. H. Couzens who assumed duty in December.

Training of the Department's Assistant Labour Officers continued as usual, and efforts were made to try and encourage an interest in world affairs outside the narrower scope of previous training. A four months' course for Assistant Labour Officers and Assistant Industrial Welfare Officers of other Departments was also arranged.

The Department is sending a newly promoted Labour Officer and one of the Labour Inspectors, in addition to one or two expatriate officers, to attend, in the United Kingdom, the first three months' course arranged for Labour Officers.

A Senior Inspector of Factories from the Factory Department of the Ministry of Labour and National Service arrived in May, and has begun preliminary surveys in connection with the preparation of a Factories Ordinance.

The various Labour Advisory bodies have been very active. The Labour Advisory Board for Lagos and the Colony, as constituted in 1946, completed its two years' term of office on the 31st of May, 1948, and a new Board has been appointed for the period expiring 1st of June, 1950.

The actual work of the Labour Advisory Boards was separated from that of the Department of Labour and placed under the control of a permanent Chairman, and a Labour Officer was seconded from the Department as Secretary of the Boards. Under the new organisation the Secretary is able to devote his full time to the work of the Boards and to concentrate on investigations and thereby expedite the completion of enquiries.

After consideration had been given to the recommendations of the Minesfield Labour Advisory Board, Orders-in-Council laying down minimum rates of wages and conditions of employment in respect of time-workers and task-workers engaged in the tin mining industry of the Plateau area were promulgated on the 1st of May, 1948. The new wage-rates are a marked improvement upon the rates previously paid, and, in addition, the workers are guaranteed supplies of grain and firewood at a subsidised and reasonable cost. Simultaneously with the promulgation of the Orders-in-Council, Labour Health Areas Regulations were enacted for the Plateau Minesfield, laying down minimum standards of housing, medical care and general amenities for minesfield workers and their families.

Orders-in-Council laying down conditions of employment and rates of wages in the motor industry in Lagos and Colony have been promulgated and came into operation on the 1st of September, 1948. These Orders-in-Council cover drivers of commercial vehicles and persons other than clerks employed in the motor industry, and provide, notably, for improved arrangements for medical attention, and for limitation of the hours of driving.

Draft legislation has also been prepared to cover minimum wages and conditions of employment for stevedores and dock labourers. The present wages and conditions of employment at the docks are, on the whole, not unfavourable, but the method of engaging dock labour has left much to be desired, and while the Board's recommendations have covered wages and conditions generally, the main concern has been to reduce the numbers seeking employment at the docks to a level which would ensure better standards for those employed.

As a result of a request by the Nigerian Domestic Servants' Union an *ad hoc* committee was set up in Lagos to consider the demands of workers in private domestic service for improvements in wages and conditions of employment. Owing to the failure of

the committee to reach agreement on the main issues in dispute, the matter has been referred to the Labour Advisory Board for Lagos and the Colony, and its report and recommendations are being considered by Government.

A comprehensive picture of the conditions in the retail trade has been produced by the Board, and its recommendations are being considered by Government. The report of the investigations disclosed that, apart from market traders and petty businesses which were outside the terms of reference of the enquiry, there is a considerable number of retail businesses where conditions of employment are in need of improvement.

The fact-finding enquiry into conditions of labourers in the timber industry of the Western Provinces has been completed and the report of the investigating officer has been examined. As was expected, the report disclosed a pressing need for improving conditions in many of the timber camps, and Government has directed the Protectorate Labour Advisory Board to enquire into the rates of wages and the conditions of employment of all persons employed in the timber industry of the Western Provinces.

The fifth West African Labour Officers' Conference was held at Jos in February, 1948. Matters discussed included trade union development, scholarships for trade union leaders, wage fixing legislation and joint industrial councils. The conference was attended by trade union leaders and Labour Officers from Nigeria, the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone and the Gambia.

Trade union development, in particular, has been receiving very careful and sympathetic attention from the Trade Union Section of the Department of Labour. Trade Unionists have derived considerable benefit from the Trade Union "Summer School" and the day-to-day advice given them by the Trade Union Section. The "Summer School" was held in January and the subjects discussed included industrial relations, trade unionism and the Press, the economics of trade unionism, trade unionism in African societies, Trade Union Congress of Nigeria, trade union organisation, trade unions and Government Departments, co-operative societies and trade unions.

It was attended by ninety-two students representing thirty-two unions. Among the students was one woman, and the lecturers included officers of Government Departments and leaders of opinion in the community.

Trade union development was not only encouraged from the educational stand-point; it was also given the practical benefit of the Trade Union Officer's experience and the experience and guidance of other officers of the Department of Labour. An officer from the Headquarters of the Department visited Jos to assist in the amalgamation of the Mineworkers' Union. The immediate achievements were the establishment of a central amalgamation fund and the commencement of monthly consultative meetings with the employers of minesfield labour.

The Colliery Workers' Union at Enugu received much attention from the Department, and a body has been constituted so as to be representative of every section of the workers at the Colliery. The Public Works Department Technical and General Workers' Union, which had split up into factions was assisted in settling its difficulties. Annual conferences of other trade unions such as the Railway Workers' Union, Nigerian Marine African Workers' Union, the Amalgamated Union of United African Company African Workers, the Mineworkers' Union of Nigeria and the Railway Station Staff Union, were also attended by the Trade Union Officer.

Government has approved a number of scholarships for trade unions officials, tenable in the United Kingdom. Two types are proposed: either a full course of study lasting for one year and followed by some three months practical work with a British trade union; or a short course of practical study and work with a British trade union, and if possible a course of lectures on trade unionism and a series of study visits to industrial establishments. This second course may last from six to nine months. Trade unions, including those catering for Government employees and those dealing with staffs of industrial and commercial concerns, will benefit from these courses, which are intended to train trade union officials to organise and operate their unions on efficient and up-to-date lines. Such a course of study will not qualify a student for appointment to or advancement within Government Service.

Joint industrial councils was another major subject discussed at the West African Labour Officers' Conference. In Nigeria good progress has been made in this direction. Early in the year, Mr T. M. Cowan of the Ministry of Labour and National Service visited Nigeria, at the invitation of Government, with a view to advising on the introduction of the "Whitley" system of consultation between Government as an employer and the unions and associations of Government employees. The trade unions were very co-operative. Mr Cowan's reports have been accepted by Government and his recommendations have been implemented to the best extent possible, having regard to the composition of the various unions with junior service membership. Three Councils have been established, one for the Senior Service and two for the Junior Service.

Government Departmental Consultative Committees were also active and private establishments have shown interest in such organisations. Experimental committees were set up in different plantations of the Cameroons Development Corporation and gave satisfaction to both employees and management.

The terms and conditions of service recommended by Sir Walter Harragin and accepted by Government continued to receive careful study by trade unions and individual officials. Amendments and adjustments to certain salary scales were made arising from representations from departmental unions and similar modifications

were made to the approved recommendations of the Miller Committee for daily-paid and unestablished persons. The modifications were mostly in regard to the area-grouping of certain localities such as the cocoa-producing areas of the Western Provinces. Here, in particular, regrouping was necessary in order to achieve stability in the supply of labour required for work on cocoa farms.

There were eighteen industrial disputes giving rise to strikes, involving about 5,800 workers. The causes ranged from workers' demands for increased wages and better conditions of service and protests against methods of wage payment to objections against termination of the appointment of certain employees, payment of overtime, and working in the rain. Two of these strikes lasted thirteen days; another lasted seven days; two others lasted two days and the remainder lasted less than two days. The two most notable of these disputes were in connection with employees of the West African Soap Company at Apapa and the building trade workers in Lagos.

Other disputes which did not involve stoppages of work were settled by the intervention of the Department, by conciliation or by arbitration. The disputes settled by arbitration numbered four. One dispute involved the Railway Workers' Union and the Nigerian Railway, and for this Mr William Gorman, K.C., a member of the National Arbitration Tribunal of the United Kingdom, was appointed arbitrator. A second dispute also involved the Nigerian Railway, together with the Railway Station Staff. Professor I. W. Macdonald was the arbitrator, and Honourable Dr N. Azikiwe and Mr H. F. Plumridge were assessors nominated by the Station Staff Union and the Railway Administration respectively. The third dispute was between the Nigerian Mercantile Shipping Workers' Union and the United Africa Company, Limited, in respect of overtime payment, but the Union's claim was rejected. The fourth dispute arose between Government and the Federation of Government and Municipal Non-clerical Workers' Unions. The Federation demanded a 40-hour working week in place of the 45-hour week at present taken as standard. A Board of Inquiry, consisting of Mr W. Gorman, K.C., was appointed and although he was not satisfied in respect of the main claim he recommended a reduction of one hour in respect of the hour of work of certain categories of workers in some establishments.

Four disputes which yielded to conciliation involved the Locomotive Drivers' Union, the Railway Press Workers' Union, the Railway Workers' Union, and the Marine Workers' Union and their respective employers. Two of these involved increase in wage rates.

As regards labour registration, Lagos and Sapele Townships (and the neighbouring rubber, timber and oil palm estates) together with Benin and Plateau Provinces were declared Labour Registration Areas in February, 1948, and Jos Employment Exchange opened in September. Registration of workers in the

Plateau Province began on the 1st of October, 1948. Registration of Public Works Department employees progresses satisfactorily and has been extended to Enugu, Aba, Port Harcourt, Umuahia and Calabar.

Enquiries, with a view to establishing a unified juvenile employment service in the country, have been completed, and the question of providing and operating schemes of vocational guidance and industrial supervision, the compilation and maintenance of a record containing essential details of occupations in which juveniles with Middle II, or higher, educational qualifications or above can be employed, and closer contact and fuller co-operation between private employers, Employment Exchanges and Government Departments in the matter of placing juveniles are now under consideration.

Trade testing of employed, unemployed and ex-service tradesmen continues. The equipping of a new workshop at Ijora is progressing satisfactorily and it is anticipated that it will be opened shortly.

A marked improvement in the feeding and welfare arrangements of Nigerian labourers recruited for work in Fernando Po has been made. A fund has been established to assist labourers who are in need of assistance on their return from Fernando Po, and the assets of labourers who have died in Fernando Po without leaving next-of-kin are credited to this fund. These assets had previously been forfeited to the Spanish authorities.

The Labour Offices in the outstations continued their general functions of interpreting to employers and workers the provisions of the Labour Code Ordinance; conciliating in industrial disputes affecting non-government establishments on the instructions of the Commissioner of Labour; assisting workers and employers in determining cases coming under the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance; and inspecting industrial establishments to see employees at work and check their conditions of service.

The Labour Officer posted to Fernando Po continued in his dual capacity as British Vice-Consul and Labour Officer. He supervises the housing, treatment, and working conditions of labourers recruited from the Eastern Provinces to work on plantations in this territory.

As regards resettlement, most of the men who had enlisted during the war had been released by the end of the first quarter of the year and since then registration of newly discharged men has decreased considerably in volume.

The Trades Training School at Enugu, started in February, 1947, continues to turn out artisans of a good standard; 357 bricklayers, vehicle and general fitters, carpenters, and electricians passed out during the year, and most were able to pass the standard Class III tests. A Trade Tester of the Department of Labour has visited Enugu at the conclusion of each course.

The Nigerian Ex-servicemen's Welfare Association continues to afford such assistance as its limited funds allows to deserving ex-servicemen.

Up to the end of December, 1948, 116,864 men had been demobilised, 79,741 had registered themselves as applicant for paid employment, 36,768 had been found employment and 4,467 had re-enlisted. Of the 38,506 still on the register, a considerable proportion have undoubtedly gone back to their homes and farms, but still leave their names with the resettlement organisation in the hope that opportunities of paid work may arise.

To meet the case of the men still unemployed and anxious for paid work, a committee has been set up to enquire into the possibilities of secondary industries and other enterprises which might provide a means of utilising their abilities till the major Development Plan for the country is in full operation. The question of merging the organisation for the resettlement of ex-servicemen into the Department of Labour has been under consideration.

Public Relations

The Public Relations Department, which already had a Regional Office at Ibadan, opened similar Offices at Kaduna and Enugu during the year. The central office issued more than four thousand press releases and it was again necessary to increase the print run of both the "Nigeria Review" and the "Children's Own Paper" to meet the growing demand for these two popular publications. Lack of equipment hampered plans for the production of pamphlets and also made it impossible for the Department to undertake the distribution of printed material in the vernacular. The Finance Committee of this Council has voted funds for the purchase of additional printing machinery which will be used chiefly for vernacular publications. A booklet entitled "Legislative Council at Work", which reported the August, 1948, deliberations of this assembly, was favourably received by the public.

A new Radio Distribution station was opened at Jos in May and another at Kaduna in December. Lack of materials delayed the opening of stations at Ijebu Ode and Enugu. Finance Committee approved a recommendation that funds should be made available to cover the cost of installing and operating a national broadcasting transmitter, but further action on this project has been deferred until a B.B.C. survey team which is studying the problem of broadcasting in the West African Colonies generally has presented its report.

The mobile cinema vans, one of which was constantly in use in each Region while a fourth was based on Lagos, continued to attract big audiences. The Films Officer, who was ably assisted in his research by his team of Commentators, prepared a detailed report on audience reaction which will be of great value here and probably in other African territories. Three members of the junior staff of

the Cinema Section have been sent to Accra for training at a special school which is being conducted by the Colonial Film Unit. On their return to Nigeria they will be employed largely on film production.

The Process Engraving Section was working at high pressure throughout the year and the orders received from other Colonial Governments and from private concerns in Nigeria increased so greatly in volume that by December the value of blocks made had risen to nearly £600 a month, of which all but a small proportion represented actual revenue.

The newly appointed Arts Supervisor, Mr Ben. Enwonwu, assumed duty during the year. He has already visited many schools in the Western and Eastern Provinces and has given a number of broadcasts and public lectures.

Police

Recruitment for the Force has been satisfactory and the general standard of education has improved. The 539 recruits needed to bring the Force up to its authorised additional establishment will have been trained and absorbed by the end of the financial year. This intensive training programme has kept the Southern Training School, Enugu, working at full capacity and it was not possible this year to find places in the School for Native Administration personnel. The new School at Ikeja is likely to be ready early in 1949, and the task of training recruits will then be greatly eased.

The Northern Police College, Kaduna, is expected to have completed by the end of the financial year the training of 242 recruits required to replace ordinary wastage. Here, again, the burden of training will be greatly eased when the new College, with its increased facilities, is ready for use.

Most of the vacancies in the officer establishment have been filled by promotions from the Junior Service and by transfers from other Dependencies. The Force has been fortunate in recruiting Superior Police Officers who have had considerable and varied experience in their duties.

Sixteen Superior Police Officers attended courses or attachments in the United Kingdom during 1948, and the Commissioner spent part of his leave examining the organisation of the Police Forces in Northern Ireland and Eire.

Although statistics indicate, at first glance, a general increase in crime, they can in some measure be taken as a reflection of the increased activity of the Force, made possible by its expansion.

The Wireless equipment for the Control Room and radio cars operating in Lagos (a system popularly known as "666") arrived in January and is now in use. The mobile emergency squads have been very effective in dealing with crime and with the added facility of radio even better results may be expected, but at the same time a greater readiness on the part of the general public to come forward as witnesses would be welcome.

The wave of "leopard" murders in Calabar Province, which lasted for over two years, subsided at the beginning of 1948 and the special duty Police were withdrawn in May.

One Sub-Inspector left for the United Kingdom in October, 1948, to take a course of training in photography. It is hoped that other junior service officers will go to the United Kingdom for courses in 1949.

Training of Native Administration Police personnel in the Northern Provinces has continued at the Northern Police College, Kaduna, and by Superior Police Officers who are attached to Native Administration Forces in an advisory capacity. In the Southern Provinces, Superior Police Officers have been similarly attached to Native Administration Forces at Ibadan and Abeokuta. Excellent relations exist between the Nigeria Police Force and all Native Administration Police Forces.

Corporal J. Adeola, who went to the United Kingdom with the Nigerian Athletic team in June, 1948, was attached to the Army Physical Training School at Aldershot for a period of five weeks. He gained for himself an excellent report from the Commanding Officer and since his return has been instructing Physical Training classes in Lagos.

A much improved annual musketry course has been authorised and was introduced in the Training Schools in 1948. It will be used by the whole Force in 1949.

The increase in the number of motor traffic offences and accidents continues. This is attributable to the poor standard of driving and the greatly increased number of vehicles, many of them badly maintained, on the road. The Road Traffic Ordinance provides for a thorough check of all commercial vehicles, but it has not yet been possible to recruit the six Superior Police Officers with technical experience who are to be responsible for this work.

Although there has been some improvement in recent months, the congestion of Motor traffic cases in the Lagos Courts continues to be a handicap to the Police and a very great inconvenience to the public.

Traffic Control Posts have been abolished and during 1949; mobile motor traffic units supervised by Superior Police Officers will be introduced. These will operate on roads throughout the country and it is hoped that they will be effective in reducing accidents and curbing motor traffic offences.

A start has been made on the new Obalende Barracks and three blocks of flats are being built. It is planned to start work on three other blocks early in 1949. Building is also going on in other parts of the country.

Abeokuta was the scene, during the year, of considerable political unrest, which culminated in the departure of the Alake at the

end of July. It was necessary to send Police re-inforcements on three occasions. Each time their arrival had a sobering effect and no major breach of the peace occurred.

There was a disturbance at Oke Ode in Ilorin Province, and at the request of the Resident a force of one Superior Police Officer and fifty rank and file was sent there. Its presence had an immediate salutary effect.

In the Abakiliki Division, Ogoja Province, a disturbance between the Amagu Ikwo and Okputuma Ikwo clans in January, 1948, in which two persons were killed, was quelled on the arrival of the Police. Thirty-five persons were arrested and charged.

In November, a long standing boundary dispute between the Okposi Oku and Okposi Nigbom Villages in the Afikpo Division of Ogoja Province flared into a serious riot. Two people were killed and many houses burnt. Order was re-established on the arrival of the Police.

In November, also, another long standing dispute between the Kalabaris and Okrikas in Rivers Province reached a climax and one Superior Police Officer and fifty rank and file were sent to maintain order. Relations are still strained but most of the Police have been withdrawn.

Just before Christmas there were disturbances at Shagamu and Iperu in Ijebu Province and substantial Police re-inforcements had to be sent to the area. A Police lorry was held up by a road block and there were several baton charges. One shot was fired by the Police, but no one was injured. The Army assisted by sending a mobile wireless van to Iperu so that radio communication could be maintained with Lagos.

During the year there was an outburst of inter-tribal feeling in Lagos which resulted in much extra work for the Police. At one time there seemed every possibility of serious trouble. All processions and assemblies in public places were banned and extra patrols in lorries were ordered. The only actual incidents were a few minor breaches of the peace. During the period of tension all ranks in Lagos were frequently confined to barracks and it was a period of great strain for officers and men.

Immigration duties were exceedingly heavy and the Harbour Police have been fully engaged in patrolling the wharves and harbour. The new Barracks at Ajegunle were opened on 2nd January, 1949.

The Railway Police continues to justify its establishment, and there has been a further marked decrease in the incidence of thefts of Railway property and goods in transit.

Prisons

The Department has persisted in its ambitious plans for the training of staff. During the past year, more than two hundred recruit students passed examinations following courses of instruction

at the Warders' Training School at Enugu; and special classes for senior warders have been arranged. It is hoped that within a period of four years it will have been found possible to give all literate serving warders, as well as recruits, a thorough training in every aspect of prison administration. Two Cadets were selected from seven hundred applicants for these new appointments, and they are now undergoing training as candidates for the senior service. In addition, two vacancies for Assistant Superintendents have been reserved for African Senior Warders. Within the short space of eighteen months, the warder establishment was increased by 249, and 136 warders received promotion. Promotion in the prison service cannot therefore be regarded as stagnant, and there is now a waiting list of more than seven hundred candidates.

Two additional Inspectors of Prisons were appointed during the year, and all the prisons in the Territory were inspected with much greater frequency than in the past. One of the officers was seconded to the North and the greater part of his time was spent in advising the Native Administration Prison Authorities on matters connected with their establishments.

Prison industries have been reorganised, and a Technical Instructor was appointed during the year to supervise this branch of prison administration.

The earnings scheme, which permits selected long-term prisoners to earn two shillings a month, continued to be a great incentive to good conduct and industry, and of the 363 participants less than one per cent committed prison offences during the year.

Religious instruction in most of the Convict Prisons was carried out by Chaplains appointed to the department last year. These chaplains, representing the principal denominations in the country, have free access to all prisoners.

Funds were provided for the establishment of libraries in the convict Prisons, and an educational system will be introduced this year. Two certificated teachers will be employed in the first place, and if the experiment is successful, three more will join the department the following year.

The daily average number of women in custody is small. They are concentrated, as far as possible, in the large prisons where the long-term prisoners may enjoy the privileges of the earning schemes and the benefits of other reformatory influences. Elementary domestic science was taught in the Lagos prison by unofficial Lady Visitors.

Prison discipline was well maintained during the year, and there were no untoward incidents. The number of whippings for prison offences was twenty-three as against eighty-eight in 1947. This gratifying reduction is due to the fact that corporal punishment is now reserved for the three most serious offences against prison discipline, *i.e.*, mutiny, incitement to mutiny and assaults

upon officers of the prison. For the majority of prison offences, which in the main were trivial, deprivation of privileges and reduced diets were the usual punishments.

Medical statistics received so far indicate that the health of the prisoners was, on the whole, satisfactory, and the various prisons have been free from the more serious forms of infectious disease.

It is, unfortunately, still necessary to accommodate lunatics in the prisons and the number in custody during the year under review was 465. There is abundant evidence that mental patients are treated with kindness and tolerance by the warders and wardresses.

Visiting Committees, consisting of officials and unofficials, inspected the convict prisons monthly, and the smaller prisons quarterly.

In spite of the fact that it is becoming increasingly difficult to find employment for discharged prisoners, the year 1948 marked a further advance in the development of the department's after-care organisation. The After-Care Officers were instructed not to compete with ex-servicemen in the labour market, but many discharged long-term prisoners were given the tools and equipment to follow the trades that they had been taught in prison. The percentage of successes remains high, and the results of this work have once again demonstrated that the men selected for aid on discharge seldom revert to crime.

The average daily population of the Enugu Industrial School in 1948 was 185 boys, although the maximum accommodation is for 250. The policy of applying non-penal methods in the administration of the School is having the desired effect on juvenile offenders, and most of the boys are behaving in a normal school-boy manner. Selected senior boys, together with members of the staff, formed committees to arrange sports, entertainments, etc., and they were also encouraged to make suggestions with regard to the actual administration of the school.

Judicial

The main feature of the year has been the heavy strain placed on the Courts by the increase in volume of cases on the one hand, and the shortage of Judges and Magistrates on the other. Approval has been given for an increase of five in the number of Judges, and it is hoped that four of these will be appointed in the near future. It is intended to re-inforce the single Judge at present sitting in the Northern Provinces by a second Judge, and the two Judges will probably hold Court at Kano and Jos. In the Eastern Provinces a Judge has been posted to Port Harcourt, taking into his division both the new Rivers Province and Opobo, with the result that the Judge at Calabar (in which division Opobo was previously included) is now able to visit the Cameroons twice a year. In the Western Provinces the arrangements have been strengthened by

dividing the judicial division of Warri, and Judges now sit at Warri and Benin. An extra Judge has also been appointed at Lagos, where the growth of the Colony population, and of the Bar, has added to the volume of litigation.

As regards Magistrates, some immediate relief was possible in Lagos, where two temporary Grade III appointments were made, for minor cases, and for dower cases. Four other temporary appointments were made in June and July. It was, however, not possible to give assistance to the overworked Court at Warri, and it is hoped to provide for this by an early appointment at Sapele. This appointment will be one of ten new Magisterial appointments, which should provide also for postings at Uyo, Makurdi, and Kaduna, as well as for extra Courts at Lagos. At Lagos the work of the Juvenile Court in particular has greatly increased, although most valuable assistance has been given by a panel of ladies and gentlemen who have shown much public spirit by giving freely of their services in this Court and sitting with the Magistrate. In many cases shortage of recruits to the judicial staff has made it necessary to make continued call on the services of older judicial officers even after the age of retirement.

The most important judicial development of the year was the reconstitution of the West African Court of Appeal. It was formerly constituted of the three Chief Justices in the West African Colonies, with the result that a Chief Justice was frequently absent for quite long periods from his own territory. Under the new arrangement the Court consists of a permanent President and one other Judge, and the Chief Justice of the Colony concerned (or with one of the Puisne Judges where an appeal is from a decision of the Chief Justice). The first session in Nigeria of the new Court was held at the end of October. The Court has its permanent headquarters at Accra, and the President is Sir Henry Blackall, who served in Nigeria as a Crown Counsel in his younger days.

It has for some time been clear that the Ordinances brought into force in 1945 in connection with the reorganisation of the judicial system, were in need of revision,—especially the Criminal Code Ordinance, which has been the subject of frequent criticism. A committee, under the chairmanship of Mr Justice Abbott, and with Mr Manyo-Plange, O.B.E., Senior Crown Counsel, and Mr Ademola, Magistrate as members, has therefore been appointed to examine and revise these Ordinances, and to consider consequential amendment to other Ordinances. Its work should be of very great importance.

It is unfortunate that no definite progress can be reported in regard to the erection of new Supreme Court buildings, either at Lagos or elsewhere, but it is hoped that a standard plan will shortly be prepared, and that new Magistrates' Court buildings will also be provided.

Legal

The number of Crown Counsel was during the year increased by one but this again was offset by the promotion of Mr R. A. Doherty. The recent retirement of Mr S. A. McKinstry has made another gap in the ranks and brings to three the posts of Senior Crown Counsel at present unfilled.

Despite the fact that the majority of officers of the Department were appointed within a few months of each other and that the dates on which they became due for leave have therefore overlapped, it has proved possible to maintain an adequate staff and moreover to arrange for the Eastern Provinces to have the services of two Crown Counsel for a considerable part of the year.

The volume of work in the Department shows no signs of decrease. There was slightly less new legislation during the year, but what there was included some Ordinances of great importance, such as the Education Ordinance, the Agriculture Ordinance, and the Native Courts Ordinance.

Mr J. S. Manyo Plange, o.B.E., was in July appointed a member of a Committee to examine certain of the Judicial Reform Ordinances of 1943 and 1945 with a view to their revision or amendment.

Administrator-General

Lack of accommodation continues to hamper the recruitment of the staff needed to cope with the growing volume of work undertaken by this Department.

During the year 1948 the administration of 1,323 estates was undertaken by the Administrator-General as against 948 in 1947. Applications to the Probate Registrar for grants of Letters of Administration and Probate of Wills of deceased persons increased from 590 to 643. By the end of the year there were 243 Trusts under the Public Trustee, with 908 *cestui qui* trusts, as against 267 with 806 *cestui qui* trusts in 1947. There were 101 properties under his management and the aggregate value of trust property held was nearly £16,000 higher than in the previous year.

The number of Trade Unions on the Register at the 31st December, 1948, was 120. There has been a marked improvement in the preparation of accounts required to be filed with the Registrar of Trade Unions under the Trade Unions Ordinance.

Eight companies incorporated abroad and thirty-four incorporated locally were registered during the year, bringing the totals in the two categories to 188 and 227. 1,591 business names were registered, as against 1,428 for the previous year.

Customs and Excise

Up to the 30th November, 1948, revenue receipts from Import Duty had exceeded the estimate by £57,000, while receipts from Export Duty were short of the estimate by some £200,000, and

Excise Duty on cigarettes showed a deficit of £14,000. Total receipts were £1,886,500 higher than those for the same period of 1947.

The Excise activities of the Department will expand with the opening of the Brewery at Apapa.

Legislation passed during the year included a large number of amendments to the recently published Customs Ordinance; the basis of the assessment of rent was amended, and a number of amendments to the rates of duty were made.

In regard to import duties the additional duty of one-fourth part of the rate on goods liable to specific rates was consolidated into the basic rates and fractions of 1d less than $\frac{1}{2}$ d eliminated. The basic *ad valorem* rate was increased from 16 per cent to 20 per cent, except in the apparel item. A new duty of 1d each was imposed on Bags and Sacks. Increased rates were imposed on several items, the principal ones being: Bicycles—12s 6d to 15s; Motor Cars and Lorries of less than 3,000 lb carrying capacity—10s per 28 lb net weight instead of £6 5s per vehicle; Cotton Piece Goods—increases per square yard of from $\frac{1}{2}$ d to $1\frac{1}{2}$ d; Spirits—increased by 10s per gallon to £3 15s; Tobacco unmanufactured—increased by 6d per lb to 4s 3d. Decreases were made in the rates on Trailers—now 2 per cent *ad valorem*, and on crude furnace oil—from $3\frac{3}{4}$ d per gallon to 1d per gallon.

The only export duty rates not raised were those on bananas and palm kernel oil. The amendments per ton were, Cattle Hides—4s to £19; Cocoa—£2 2s to £6 10s; Goat Skins—12s 6d to £55; Groundnuts—10s to £2 10s; Palm Kernels—10s 6d to £2; Palm Oil—11s 6d to £3; Sheep Skins—12s 6d to £33.

A long overdue revision was made in the list of exemptions; wording was clarified; items were tabulated in a more sensible order; and many little anomalies of no real revenue importance were eliminated. Valuable concessions were given to commerce and industry in the items which deal with Machinery, Vehicles and Ships.

Unification of Customs Laws in the four British West African territories made some initial progress. Unification of the Import/Export List has been retained. The first steps are being taken in the production of a Nigerian Import/Export List based on the Minimum List published in 1938 by the late League of Nations.

Departmental procedure has been under continuous review. A number of changes have been introduced and some progress made in expediting the service to the public. The production of the Annual Trade Report and the Monthly Trade Summary was handed over on 1st January, 1948 to the Department of Statistics.

Smuggling continues to be a problem of some magnitude. The Preventive Services operates only on two comparatively short sections of the land boundary and the *M.V. Vigilant* patrols the coast line between Calabar and Victoria. No expansion of this service has been made.

At seaports and airports much has yet to be done to perfect revenue control by the provision of adequate shed space and fences. At Apapa and Lagos Airport some small measure of improvement has been attained in the clearance of passengers' baggage. Adequate space, staff and appliances for the handling, sorting and stacking of packages are absolutely essential to speedy clearance and the organisations responsible for the provision of these are applying themselves to the solution of the problem.

The Officer Grade Training Centre has not yet commenced to function as instructors from the United Kingdom have not been obtained. The Preventive Service Training Depot at Ido-roko has not yet been built. Two Nigerian Officers are undergoing full courses of instruction at the Training Centres of H.M. Customs and Excise in London; European Officers continue to attend part courses during their vacation leaves. Efforts to fill vacancies in the Senior Service by experienced officers from other Colonies or from the United Kingdom Department have not been successful.

African Ex-Servicemen employed in the Department include forty-three Officers Grade Permanent Establishment, two Supernumeraries, 216 men in the Preventive Service, and five Messengers and others.

Inland Revenue

The final revenue from Income Tax for the year 1948-49 will not vary greatly from the approved estimate. Revenue benefitted to the extent of £100,000 from a "windfall" but otherwise collections are expected to follow the pattern upon which the estimates were based. The revised estimate of Income Tax in respect of individuals is the same as the approved estimate and this figure has been repeated in draft estimates for 1949-50. Unless there were to be an increase in the tax rate the yield from individuals' tax is likely to remain stable until such time as the recruitment of additional qualified staff makes it possible to extend the scope and effectiveness of assessments. The recruiting position is still unsatisfactory and any improvement during the current year was more than offset by unexpected casualties. The extreme shortage of professionally qualified accountants both in Government service and in private practice not only adds to the difficulties of the Department of Inland Revenue but prevents the training of sufficient numbers of local entrants to the profession. There has been valuable co-operation by one firm of accountants and the Government is most appreciative of their help but the major problem of training still remains and, for the present, the Department is dependent on overseas applicants for most of the higher-grade posts.

Shortage of staff has prevented the Department from fulfilling its intention of assisting Local Taxation Authorities in the assessment of tax. It is felt that the attention of the Department should not be diverted from the administration of the Income Tax

Ordinance until it is able to secure a higher proportion of the revenue properly due under that Ordinance.

As regards the estimate for 1949-50 in respect of companies, there is firm evidence of decreased profits during the current year, the most important cause being the substantial increase in wage costs, and it has therefore been necessary to budget for a decrease of £300,000 in revenue from this source.

Treasury

Regional Treasuries, established under the control of Regional Treasurers in April and May, 1947, were placed on a Sub-Accounting basis as from the 1st April, 1948. This necessitated major changes in the accounting system to provide for the maintenance of separate accounts for each Region. Some difficulties arose during the transitional period, but these have been overcome and the new system is now operating smoothly.

The Treasury Training School in Lagos was established in November, 1946, since when 153 newcomers to the Treasury have passed through the school, and seven students from other departments. The results, as applied in Treasury Offices, reflect some improvement in the standard of efficiency. Elementary Courses have also been initiated at Regional Treasury Headquarters, but on a limited scale owing to the difficulty of releasing supervising staff from their normal duties. Nevertheless good results have been achieved. It is a matter of regret that it was not possible to initiate the more advanced courses at Treasury Headquarters which were planned to commence this year. The Treasury school has served a very useful purpose, but if the level of efficiency is to be raised appreciably within the next four years, its scope must be considerably widened, and it is with that objective in view that the Accountant-General has submitted his proposals for the Accounting School; this was the subject of a recommendation by the recent Nigerianisation Commission in paragraph 36 (c) of its Report. These proposals, which have regard to the objectives of the clerical school to be established in Oshogbo in April next, are designed to provide advanced training in accounts and finance for the more senior members of the Junior Service, and a more advanced course to provide special tuition for selected staff to fit them for accelerated promotion to the Senior Service. The proposals are now under consideration by Government.

During the year two members of the Junior Service proceeded to the United Kingdom for a two years' course of instruction with the Crown Agents for the Colonies and for study at an approved College with a view to taking a diploma in certain specified subjects.

The Treasury Consultative Committee was formed on the 27th of December, 1947. The meetings were marked from the outset by

a spirit of co-operation and goodwill, and have done much to establish a better understanding of the day to day problems of the Treasury.

The Lagos and Colony Treasury is, for accounting purposes, the equivalent of Regional Treasuries. During the year under review Personal Emoluments records together with appropriate staff were transferred from Headquarters to the Colony Treasury. This constituted a big step towards making it self-contained, in preparation for the transfer of the Colony Treasury Office from Headquarters to a site more suited to public convenience.

The redemption of Manillas began on the 1st October, 1948, and will end on March 31st next. The operation is under the management of the Accountant-General and is proceeding smoothly.

Currency stocks at the beginning of the groundnut and cocoa seasons totalled £8,335,000. This figure was in keeping with the policy of maintaining a ratio of 1:3 in respect of currency stocks and a stabilised level of currency circulation.

Currency in circulation in Nigeria on the 31st December, 1948, totalled approximately £31,300,000, compared with £24,600,000 and £6,000,000 on the corresponding dates in 1948 and 1939 respectively.

The proportion of notes in circulation continues to rise, the total for the end of December, 1948, showing an increase of nearly £2,000,000 during the previous twelve months. This trend is particularly noticeable in the Western and to a slightly lesser extent in the Eastern Region. The proportions of notes, alloy and nickel in circulation are now 24.2 per cent, 67.5 per cent and 8.3 per cent, compared with 4.3 per cent, 80.8 per cent and 14.9 per cent, in 1939.

Audit

The past year has seen a further expansion in the activities of the Department. The Branch Office in Ibadan was opened, and the audit of the Regional Accounts can now be carried out at all three Regional Headquarters. The examining staff was provided by transfers from Lagos.

The status of the three Examiners of Accounts was raised to that of Assistant Auditor and in addition two additional posts of Assistant Auditor were filled by the promotion of Junior Service Officers.

Staff difficulties, together with the shortage of housing in the Western and Eastern Regions, retarded the inspection of District Offices and the audit of Native Administration Accounts.

The accounts of N.E.W.A. and the British Council were added to the list of audits carried out by the Department.

Statistics

While the growth of the Department of Statistics has been nothing like as rapid as had been hoped, it has relieved other departments of some of their statistical work and has taken on important



Debates in the Legislative Council of Nigeria

Wednesday, 9th March, 1949

Pursuant to notice the Honourable Members of the Legislative Council met in the Hall of the Western House of Assembly, Ibadan, at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, the 9th of March, 1949.

PRESENT

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- His Excellency the Governor,
Sir John S. Macpherson, K.C.M.G.
- The Chief Secretary to the Government,
The Honourable H. M. Foot, C.M.G., O.B.E.
- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,
His Honour T. C. Hoskyns-Abrahall, C.M.G.
- The Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces,
His Honour E. W. Thompstone, C.M.G., M.C.
- The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,
His Honour Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, C.M.G.
- The Attorney-General,
The Honourable G. L. Howe, K.C.
- The Financial Secretary,
The Honourable A. W. L. Savage, C.M.G.
- The Director of Medical Services,
Dr the Honourable G. B. Walker, C.B.E.
- The Development Secretary,
The Honourable C. J. Pleass.
- The Director of Education,
The Honourable R. A. McL. Davidson, C.M.G.
- The Director of Agriculture,
The Honourable A. G. Beattie.
- The Director of Public Works,
The Honourable R. W. Taylor.
- The Commissioner of Labour,
The Honourable A. H. Couzens.
- The Senior Resident, Kano Province,
The Honourable E. K. Featherstone, C.M.G.
- The Resident, Ogoja Province,
The Honourable P. M. Riley.
- The Resident, Abeokuta Province,
The Honourable J. H. Blair, E.D.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Member for the Colony,
The Rev. and Honourable T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.
- The First Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Obisesan, O.B.E.
- The Second Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.
- The First Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable I. Olorun-Nimbe.
- The Emir of Gwandu,
The Honourable Yahaya, C.B.E.
- The Emir of Katsina,
Alhaji the Honourable Usuman Nagogo, C.B.E.
- The Oni of Ife,
The Honourable Aderemi I, C.M.G.
- The Oba of Benin,
The Honourable Akenzua II, C.M.G.
- The Atta of Igbirra,
Alhaji the Honourable Ibrahim.
- The Emir of Abuja,
The Honourable Sulemanu.
- The First Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Bello Kano.
- The First Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable C. D. Onyeama.
- The Second Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.
- The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable H. Bowari Brown.
- The Third Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Iro Katsina.
- The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable A. Ikoku.
- The Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Aliyu, Makaman Bida.
- The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.
- The Second Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe.
- The First Nominated Member,
The Honourable P. J. Rogers.
- The Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Yahaya Ilorin.
- The Third Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.
- The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable N. Essien.
- The Third Lagos Member,
The Honourable Adeleke Adedoyin.
- The Member for Calabar,
The Honourable E. E. E. Anwan.

The Second Nominated Member,
Major the Honourable J. West, M.C.

The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Soetan.

ABSENT

OFFICIAL MEMBER

The Acting Commissioner of the Colony,
The Honourable J. G. C. Allen.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBER

The Third Nominated Member,
The Honourable N. B. Edwards.

PRAYERS

His Excellency the Governor opened the proceedings of the Council with prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 8th day of March, 1949, having been printed and circulated to the Honourable Members, were taken as read and confirmed.

PETITIONS

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

Your Excellency, I beg to present to this Honourable House a petition from the Elders of Amaeze Village, Nsukka, Onitsha Province. Following the Okpoga rising and the expedition sent to quell same, it appears that it became necessary for His Majesty's Government to extend the gracious protection of His Majesty to this territory. In doing so, land was acquired apparently for public purposes, for the erection of a Government station, Provincial Office, Native Courts, Police Barracks, Post Office, etc.

According to the allegation contained in the petition of the humble petitioners, they state that they are the direct descendants of the owners of this communal land which was acquired by Government. They allege that since the acquisition of the said land, no compensation whatsoever was paid to them or to any person connected with the ownership of such communal land. They also allege that in acquiring such land their food and cash crops were destroyed and no compensation was paid.

I am not in a position to substantiate these allegations, but I submit that, if they are substantially correct, then this Honourable House is in position to consider sympathetically the claims of the land owners. According to the Public Lands Acquisition Ordinance, land may be acquired for public purposes, but when such is the case compensation is usually paid, and if crops are destroyed the owners are also compensated for the destruction of such crops. That being the case, and assuming that the allegations contained in this petition are correct, then I submit that there is a reason for presenting this humble petition to this Honourable House.

The petitioners pray that adequate compensation be paid to them for acquiring their land, and that in doing so it should be retrospective from the time the acquisition was made. They also pray that adequate compensation should be paid to them, with retrospective effect, (a) in connection with the destruction of their crops and (b) in connection with the allegation that, after obtaining land for public purposes, the Government leased part of it to two European firms—namely, the United Africa Company Limited and John Holt and Company (Liverpool) Limited—presumably on a temporary occupation licence, without compensation to them for their crops which were destroyed.

In view of the reasons set forth in the petition, and in view of the provisions of the Public Lands Acquisition Ordinance, I present this petition to this Honourable House for its sympathetic consideration.

His Excellency :

Under Standing Orders the petition is ordered to lie upon the table.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

Your Excellency, I beg to present a petition from Francis Eugene da Silva, formerly Second Class Clerk of the Provincial Administration, who served his King and country meritoriously for seventeen years and for the commission of a statutory offence he was dismissed from the Civil Service and his pensions rights forfeited.

It is necessary to inform this Honourable House of the background relating to the fate of this young man. During the general strike of 1945 he was stationed at Yola, Adamawa Province, and was the Secretary of the Civil Service Union, so that whatever acts he committed in connection with the Union he did in an official, and not a personal, capacity. Due to difficulty in communications arising out of the general strike, the Yola branch of the Union were under the impression that the strike included clerical, as well as non-clerical, workers and so they went on strike. A few days later, when they were informed from the head office of the Civil Service Union in Lagos that clerical workers were not involved, they called off the strike and resumed duty.

Coincidentally, within a relatively short space of time, the humble petitioner was served with a writ for an offence against the Liquor Ordinance. He was charged with being in possession of illicit spirit, found guilty and a fine of £5 or one month's imprisonment was inflicted on him. As a result of this conviction, the humble petitioner was dismissed from the Civil Service and his pension rights forfeited.

It is not suggested that his dismissal was due to victimisation. But the humble submission of the petitioner is that, having served, without blemish, for seventeen years, and being a first offender at that, for a statutory offence, to be deprived of his means of livelihood and his pension rights, he considered deserved reconsideration by this Honourable House.

There have been instances of Civil Servants, African and European, being convicted for statutory or criminal offences, and the punishment inflicted was either less or more than that inflicted on the petitioner, yet those Civil Servants were only reprimanded and allowed to continue their service unimpaired. The humble petitioner submits ten instances to justify his assertion, and I do not propose to weary this House by citing their names, which are incorporated in this humble petition.

The petitioner also prays that when he claims for restitution of his rights, he does so, cognisant of the fact that, at least, there are five instances of Civil Servants convicted for statutory and criminal offences being dismissed from the Civil Service but their pension rights were not forfeited.

Assuming that the allegations contained in this humble petition are correct, I respectfully present the petition of Mr da Silva, praying either for a reinstatement in the Civil Service or for restitution of his pension rights.

His Excellency:

Let this paper lie on the table.

QUESTIONS

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

2. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

(a) How many Sanitary Inspectors are there in the Ogoja Province?

(b) What are their grades and qualifications?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

(a) Ten.

(b) Their grades and qualifications are as shown in the schedule below:—

<i>Station</i>	<i>Number and Grade</i>	<i>Qualification</i>
OBUBRA ..	1 Third-class Sanitary Inspector (Government) 2 Native Administration Sanitary Inspectors	School Standard Six. Trained as Sanitary Inspector at Ibadan. School Standard Six. Trained as Sanitary Inspectors at Ibadan.
IKOM ..	1 Second-class Sanitary Inspector (Government) 1 Native Administration Sanitary Inspector-in-training	Formerly Vaccinator. No prior training as Sanitary Inspector. School Standard Six.
OGOJA ..	2 Second-class Sanitary Inspectors (Government)	School Standard Six. Trained as Sanitary Inspectors.
ABAKALIKI ..	1 Second-class Sanitary Inspector (Government)	do. do. do.
AFIKPO ..	1 Third-class Sanitary Inspector (Government) 1 Native Administration Sanitary Inspector	Formerly Vaccinator. No prior training as Sanitary Inspector. Middle II. No prior training as Sanitary Inspector.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E):

3. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many Welfare Officers are serving in the Ogoja Province?

(b) Where are they located?

(c) If none, why not?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) None, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The number of Social Welfare Officers available is very limited and it has been considered advisable in order that the best use may be made of their services to post those available to places where specific practical tasks require concentrated attention. There is no prospect, I am afraid, that it will be possible to post Welfare Officers to all Provinces for a long time to come.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E):

4. To ask the Honourable the Development Secretary:—

(a) What place do the towns in the Ogoja Province take in the Electricity Development Programme and the R.D.S. Development?

(b) What is being done to help meet the scarcity of water supply in the wide areas inhabited by the people of Ohaozara and Agmaseri in the Afikpo Division, and the Ezas of Abakaliki Division, both in the Ogoja Province?

Answer—

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

(a) Abakaliki is included in the list of towns to be supplied with electricity under the Ten Year Development Plan. It is estimated that £9,500 will have been spent on this project up to the end of the current financial year, and that £4,500 will be spent in 1949-50.

With regard to the provision of a Radio Diffusion Service, the Eastern Provinces priority list does not at present include any towns in the Ogoja Province. The Honourable Member will appreciate that in the case of radio-diffusion, the aim when establishing a service is to secure the greatest possible number of subscribers, and it therefore follows that the largest centres of population take precedence over the smaller. The Eastern Provinces present list comprises eight of the larger centres—Port Harcourt and Calabar (where the service is already in operation), Enugu, Onitsha, Aba, Owerri, Uyo and Victoria—and any revision of the priorities and/or additions to the list are matters for the Eastern Area Development Committee.

(b) By the 31st of March, this year, it is anticipated that £4,352 will have been spent on the construction of wells in the Ogoja Province under the Rural Water Supplies Scheme. At the moment, one well has been completed and twenty-three are under construction—8 in Abakaliki Division, 11 in Afikpo Division, 3 in Ogoja Division and 1 in Obudu District. As regards next financial year (1949-50), there is provision of £3,000 for the continuation of this work. It may also be mentioned that further provision has been made for the Urban Water Supply at Abakaliki.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

5. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) If he has in his archives records in respect of the period between 1897 to circa 1905 of the boundaries, ethnological and tribal settlements of the following parts of Ekiti under his jurisdiction:— Ilesha, Akure, Ado Ewi, Ise, Ikole, Owo, Iddo, Otun, Ijero, Efon and Ara.

(b) Were these towns consulted before the grant of independence to villages formerly owing allegiance to them?

(c) What are the names of such villages granted independence in the last two years and from which towns in his jurisdiction?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) All Councils concerned were informed of Government's intention to grant independence to certain villages in Ekiti Division, as this step appeared to be the only satisfactory solution to a problem that had caused much discontent in the past.

(c) Ilawe, Osi and Igbara-Odo were granted independence from Ado District and Iddo-Irappa from Efon District.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

6. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) Is the *Egba Bulletin* the official organ of the Egba Native Authority?

(b) Who controls or formulates its policy, and to whom are such policy-makers accountable?

(c) What is its circulation, annually, since its inception?

(d) Will statement of account of revenues and expenditures of that periodical, since its inception, be published.

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Policy is controlled by the Resident, Abeokuta Province, and the District Officer, Egba Division, who are responsible to Government for the publication of the paper.

(c) 11,650 copies were published in 1946, 16,500 in 1947 and 15,550 in 1948.

(d) No charge is made for the *Egba Bulletin* and only a very small revenue has been received from the few advertisements published. A statement of accounts is as follows:—

			1946	£	s d
Expenditure ...	...	...	75	4	3
Revenue ...	...	...		Nil.	
			1947	£	s d
Expenditure ...	...	...	174	12	6
Revenue ...	...	...	2	13	9

	1948	£	s	d
Expenditure ...	...	204	0	3
Revenue ...	...	0	11	6

The full cost of this publication is borne by Government.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

10. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

How many students were graduated from the Secondary Schools of Nigeria in 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, on a regional basis?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education:

The number of pupils who completed the Secondary phase of education over the period 1943-1947.

	<i>Northern Provinces</i>	<i>Eastern Provinces</i>	<i>Western Provinces</i>	<i>Colony</i>
1943	41	217	145	142
1944	38	209	167	160
1945	50	214	175	207
1946	62	219	270	197
1947	54	256	312	223

The Third Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. Gaius I. Obaseki):

12. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

Is it true that the Forcados District Headquarters is about to be removed to Patani in the heart of the Western Ijaw District? If so when? If not why not?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is now generally agreed that Forcados is no longer suitable as the headquarters of the Western Ijaw Division though no decision has yet been taken as to an alternative site. The headquarters of the Native Administration are, however, being moved from Forcados to Bomadi, not Patani, and the move will be effected as soon as the new buildings now under construction at Bomadi are completed.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe):

13. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many Africans in each of the departments in the Railway are in the Senior Service?

(b) How many non-African ex-servicemen have been appointed to the posts of Workshop Foremen, Administrative Assistants, Permanent Way Inspectors and kindred posts, and what experience and qualification each of them possesses?

(c) Whether it is correct that the Railway Workers' Union of Nigeria has persistently made representations to the effect that such posts should be reserved exclusively for Africans in furtherance of Government's declared intentions to Africanise the Civil Service, and if so what effort Government is making to meet the Union's demands?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) Management	...	...	...	...	...	2
Accounts	...	...	...	...	...	10
Stores	...	...	...	...	...	2
Civil Engineering	...	...	...	...	...	2
Mechanical Engineering	...	...	...	...	...	23
Traffic	...	...	...	...	...	7
						<u>46</u>

(b)		SCHEDULE
Appointment	No. of officers appointed	Remarks re Experience and Qualifications
(a) Workshop Foreman	6	The persons appointed were skilled men, having served a regular apprenticeship in the appropriate branch of engineering and worked mainly in the shops of British Railways prior to war service.
(b) Wharf Foreman	1	Performed similar duties at a London wharf, followed by war service, and a return to wharf working before appointment to Nigeria.
(c) Road Transport Foreman	1	The person appointed served a regular apprenticeship, and was then engaged on running repair and maintenance duties up to his period of war service, followed by employment as Foreman with a transport Company.
(d) Assistant Storekeeper	2	Engaged on duties connected with the stores on British Railways and after performing war service returned to those former duties.
(e) Inspector of Works	2	The persons appointed were regularly apprenticed to Carpentry and building, with private Companies. Subsequent employment was interrupted by war service with a return to the work of building.
(f) Permanent Way Inspector	4	The persons appointed were mainly engaged with British Railways on track duties prior to war service, followed by a return to those duties before appointment to Nigeria.
(g) Carriage and Waggon Inspector	1	Engaged on engineering duties with a private Company followed by Carriage and Wagon duties with British Railways.
(h) Loco Inspectors	1	Engaged on Loco duties with British Railways followed by war service.
(i) Boiler Inspector	1	Regularly apprenticed to a Boiler Maker, followed by war service and return to Boiler duties.
(j) Administrative Assistant or Assistant Establishment Officer	4	The persons appointed were engaged in kindred appointments of Administration of either British Railways or private undertakings, followed by war service and return to those duties or to appointment in Nigeria.
(k) Traffic Inspector	10	The persons appointed were all engaged on allied duties with British Railways, followed by war service, and in most cases a return to those civilian duties before appointment to Nigeria.

(c) In July, 1947, the Railway Workers' Union informed the General Manager, Railway that their Conference had resolved that no further appointments of expatriates should be made to posts such as Workshop Foreman, etc. and they were assured that no expatriate was recruited to any post until the availability of suitable Nigerians had been fully considered. It was however pointed out that the stage had not yet been reached where Nigerians qualified both technically and in all other respects, were immediately available for every such vacancy, and that lives and property must not be endangered by placing men in responsible positions before they were ready. Nevertheless as will be seen from (a) a substantial number of appointments has already been made and others are under consideration. The Railway Departmental Selection Board which is already formed (and which includes two representatives of the Civil Service Commission, one a Nigerian) is specifically charged with the selection of candidates likely to be suitable for the Senior Service, and with ensuring that the claims of Nigerians for appointment to all vacancies as they arise receive the fullest possible consideration.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

14. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

What is the incidence of taxation in the (a) Northern Provinces, (b) Eastern Provinces, (c) Western Provinces, (d) Cameroons, (e) the Colony, and (f) the country for 1938-1947, year by year?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

It is regretted that the information is not available and cannot be obtained until the Department of Statistics is in a position to undertake the necessary enquiry and census and to analyse both direct and indirect taxation.

The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. A. Ikoku):

16. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(i) Is Government aware of the fact that only approximately two-thirds of the vote for Scholarships and Students' Welfare was expended in the financial year 1946-47. (£20,933 out of a vote of £30,000)?

(ii) Is Government satisfied with this state of affairs in the face of the all-round acute shortage of staff both within and without the Government service?

(iii) In view of the fact that Educational Agencies and School Proprietors have approved Development Programmes will Government consider the allocation of part of the vote for educational scholarships available under the Government Scholarship Scheme to these Educational Agencies and Proprietors on the analogy of departmental scholarships? (*vide* paragraph 32 (i) of the Memorandum on the Nigerian Estimates 1948-49).

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(i) No, Sir. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to page 48 of Sessional Report No. 3 of 1948 where it is recorded that the actual expenditure was £25,566 10s 7d and that the saving of £4,433 9s 5d derived from the non-availability of vacancies for all scholarships awarded. As the scholars concerned were suitably placed in the following year, a consequential over expenditure occurred in the relevant Head and Sub-head for the year 1947-48.

(ii) Does not arise.

(iii) The duties of the recently created Central Public Service Board include the selection of candidates from outside the Service for scholarships and training courses to fit them for posts in the Government, Native Administrations, other Local Government Authorities or *Voluntary Agencies*.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

17. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :—

(a) Whether Government is aware of appeal by the Koko Ojumba Progressive Union in respect of the construction of a motorable road linking Koko and the Benin—Sapele Road, through Ajagbodudu?

(b) If so, will Government state the facts with reference to the news prevalent in Koko that a sum of £12,000 under the Colonial Welfare and Development Scheme had been recommended for the said road by the Provincial Development Board?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to include provision to commence work on the construction of this road in the draft estimates for 1949-50 for the consideration of the Legislature.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.) :

19. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services :—

(a) Have there been any African Medical Officer posted to be in charge of the following medical divisions or areas?

East.—Abakaliki, Enugu, Ikot Ekpene, Obubra, Ogoja, Okigwi, and Onitsha.

West.—Akure, Benin, Ibadan, Sapele, and Warri.

North.—Bauchi, Bukuru, Jos, Kaduna, Kano, and Zaria.

(b) Is it the intention of Government to reserve these areas, and any others solely for Non-African Medical Officers?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

(a) On the assumption that the Honourable Member refers to stations and the areas served thereby, and not to medical divisions in the administrative charge of Senior Medical Officers, the

following stations of those specified by the Honourable Member, have from time to time been the charge of African Medical Officers:—

East.—Abakaliki, Ikot Ekpene, Obubra, Ogoja and Onitsha.

West.—Sapele.

North.—Bukuru.

(b) No, Sir.

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. H. Buowari Brown):

20. To ask the Honourable the Development Secretary:—

Whether it is possible for Government to consider favourably an increase of from ten per cent to twenty per cent of Grants to Villages with reference to the Town Planning and Village Reconstruction Scheme D.574 under Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme as this is likely to encourage more Village Reconstructions while building materials are so very dear and difficult to obtain?

Answer—

The Hon. the Development Secretary:

In September, 1948, the Standing Committee on Finance of the Legislative Council agreed to a proposal that the funds available under Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme D.574 should be applied only to grants in respect of planning schemes in the larger towns, such grants being as heretofore on the basis of 33½ per cent of the cost of the planning scheme, and that provision should be made from Nigerian Funds for more generous assistance towards the cost of village planning and reconstruction. Supplementary provision of £25,000 was voted for the second half of the financial year 1948-49 to be devoted to grants towards the cost of improving village layouts and other communal amenities desired by the people and carried out by them, such grants to be up to 33½ per cent of the estimated cost and to be payable in advance, under a decentralised system designed to provide every District Officer with funds with which to stimulate local development enterprise without the need for applying to Regional Headquarters for authority to expend. The Standing Committee on Finance approved a proposal that £50,000 per annum should be devoted to this purpose but the Legislature will be asked to increase provision to £100,000 in 1949-50.

The Atta of Igbirra (Alhaji the Hon. Ibrahim):

22. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many lorry owners are there in Yagba, Kabba and Igbirra Divisions of Kabba Province, stating the names of the lorry owners and the number of lorries in possession of each of them?

(b) How many new lorries have been bought in these Divisions since the end of the war and by whom?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

The following information is supplied from the records of Transport Control:—

(a) *Yagba District*.—J. B. Egbe, Musa Oluyori, Alimi Balogun, one each.

Kabba District.—G. Dare, three. Abaro of Kabba, N. L. Rowlands, Ayo Dare, S. Dare, K. Olanayo, one each.

Igbirra Division.—D. Ladejo, three, Adamu Atta, two; Amadu Oloto, Nwabudeze, Udano, Z. Adelu, Masha, Lasisi, one each.

(b) Seven permits have been granted: one each to O. Agboola, G. Dare, Z. Adelu, Ogbomosho Union, Musa Oluyori, K. Olanayo.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

23. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many prisoners have been placed in solitary confinement at Enugu in the period 1st January, 1948 to 30th June, 1948?

(b) If any, for what period was each prisoner so confined?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) Two.

(b) Twelve days.

Supplementary Questions to No. 23 by the First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama).

Your Excellency, is there a limit to the time which a person can be kept in solitary confinement?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Yes, Sir. I am sure there is such a provision for a limitation, and the information can be supplied to the Honourable Member at a later date.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

Would Government consider abolishing this form of punishment except in the case of violent criminal lunatics?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

I think, Sir, that if this question is to be raised, it should be raised on a substantive motion and not in a supplementary question.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

24. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) What facilities exist for the segregation of political offenders from common felons and convicts in prisons in Nigeria?

(b) Have prisoners access to any books while in prison? If so, what type of books? If not, why not?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) First offenders would be segregated from recidivists, and offenders whose cultural background were such that ordinary imprisonment would constitute a heavier punishment than that intended by law would be granted certain privileges designed to ameliorate the conditions under which they would serve their sentences. Otherwise, no special facilities for this type of offender exist.

(b) At present only a few books and magazines are available for the use of literate prisoners, but funds have been provided this year for the establishment of modern prison libraries, and a large number of suitable books has been ordered from the United Kingdom.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. and Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

26. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) If it is a fact that the Ata of the ancient town of Idah on the River Niger is being asked to shift his capital to a place called "Atene-goma" some 56 miles away from his present place where he was born and bred?

(b) If so what are the reasons behind the suggestions and the demand for the Ata of Igala to quit his ancestral Home and City for a new-found-settlement?

(c) Were the Ata of Igala and his people consulted before the decision was taken to shift the Ata's capital from Idah?

(d) If so, are they willing and ready voluntarily to make the shift?

(e) Could Government compulsorily move any Natural Ruler in Nigeria from place to place?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

(a) It is the intention to move the Headquarters of the Igala Division and of the Igala Native Authority to a new site called "Ataneguma" in the centre of the Division.

(b) The principal reasons for the change are to enable an efficient administration to be carried out from a central headquarters in a healthy part of the country, to allow the peoples of the outlying centres of Ankpa and Dekina to play their proper part in the development of the country, and to establish a new and progressive centre in which the peoples of all Igala and not those of Idah alone may benefit.

(c) The Ata of Igala, his Council and the Igala people have been fully consulted both in the inauguration and in the planning of the move.

(d) The move was approved by the Ata of Igala and his Council, and by the majority of District and Village headmen and of the Tribal Assembly of the people.

(e) No, Sir.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

Sir, might I make a short statement about this question? The printed answer seems to me to be very much out of date now. The actual position is that it is not now the intention to move the Atta's headquarters from Idah. Some three years ago (the rest of the answers are correct) there was a scheme drawn up, but towards the end of last year the Native Administration changed their minds and said they did not wish to change, so that we also changed the plan and it would be now correct to say that it is not now the intention to move the headquarters.

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. H. Buowari Brown) :

27. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) What are the reasons for the disparity now existing between the Salary Groups and Scales of African Members of the Prison and Police Departments judging by the Salary Scales of the two Departments prior to the year 1934?

(b) What are the daily duty hours of Prison Warders and are their duties now less irksome and responsible?

(c) Do Prison Warders draw any allowances for overtime work?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) There is no disparity now. Prior to 1934 prison warders were graded higher than the equivalent ranks of police. Thus a 3rd Class Warder was then on the same salary scale as a 2nd Class Constable (£33-3-42). In 1934 there was some down-grading of warders' salary scales but they were still superior to those of the police in some cases. As the result of the Harragin revision police and prison staffs were all graded on Scale H. Identical scales are now applicable to Third, Second and First Class Warders, and Third, Second and First Class Constables. The fact that a Second Class Warder wears a stripe and a First Class Warder wears two stripes whereas the Second and First Class Constables wear none is perhaps confusing but it does not indicate that the duties and responsibilities of Second and First Class Warders are the equivalent of those of Lance-Corporals and Corporals of the Police, who also wear stripes. The duties and responsibilities of First, Second and Third Class Warders and First, Second and Third Class Police Constables are assessed as of equal value to Government and this is reflected in the identical grading. Similarly with the higher ranks of each Department the revised grading is the same.

(b) The hours of duty average nine a day. In a few of the smaller prisons the hours may be longer but this will be obviated as soon as more staff is recruited. Financial provision for the necessary increased staff is being included in the 1949-50 Estimates. Objectionable conservancy duties are no longer performed by warders and their duties are now less irksome though not less responsible.

(c) Warders do not draw overtime allowances, and it is not considered appropriate to pay overtime to such Government officers.

The Emir of Abuja (The Hon. Sulemanu):

28. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

(a) If he is aware of the very grave concern felt by all people most deeply interested in the education of our Northern girls at the recent summary expulsion of thirteen pupils from the Kano Girls' School?

(b) What were the circumstances which led to such sudden and drastic action?

(c) Is it a fact that the Principal responsible for these expulsions had been only a few weeks in that Office, that she had no previous experience of working in the Northern Provinces, and that she does not understand the Hausa language?

(d) If so, were steps taken to make sure, firstly that the girls quite understood the complaints against them; and secondly that the Headmistress understood their answer before dismissing them home?

(e) If yes, what were these steps, and does the Honourable the Director of Education consider that they were adequate to ensure full understanding of the circumstances and careful consideration of the matter, in view of the very serious effects that this action may be expected to have in discouraging our girls and their parents from education? If not, why were such steps not taken?

(f) If the fullest possible enquiries into this matter are being or have been made, and if so, with what result?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education:

(a) I am aware that considerable concern has been expressed at the incident to which the Honourable Member refers.

(b) The circumstances which led to the expulsion derived from the fact that a small minority of girls had been consistently unsatisfactory in their behaviour and inclined to rebellion since their admission to the Centre and had an unwholesome influence on the great majority of the pupils.

(c) The Acting Principal has had eighteen years experience in the Colonial Service and was transferred to Nigeria in 1946. Her service in the Northern Provinces had been relatively short prior to her posting to the Centre at Kano, and it is a fact that her knowledge of the Hausa language is limited.

(d) Yes, Sir. The trouble came to a climax in the presence of the whole staff of the Centre, of whom several had an adequate knowledge of the Hausa language, and for one, at least, it was the mother tongue. The Acting Principal took her decision only after consultation with the entire staff, and the fact that some of the girls expressed contrition and were allowed to remain at the Centre is an indication that they fully understood the complaints against them.

(e) It is considered that the steps taken were adequate to ensure full understanding of the circumstances. As mentioned in paragraph (d) above, the Acting Principal consulted the entire staff in the matter before deciding on the disciplinary action that should be taken.

(f) Yes, Sir. The fullest enquiries have been made, and I am entirely satisfied that had the Acting Principal not acted as she did, the consequences to girls' education in the Northern Provinces would have been lamentable. Since the expulsion, the temper in the Centre has completely changed, the remaining girls being cheerful, willing and amenable to suitable discipline. It is regretted that such strong steps had to be taken, but I am satisfied that they were inevitable in the circumstances, and that, had any delay occurred, the school discipline would have been further undermined.

If a more careful selection of entrants had been made in the first place, the undesirable element would never have been admitted to the Centre and this trouble would not have occurred. Steps are therefore being taken to ensure that more care is exercised in future by Native Authorities and others concerned in the selection of candidates for admission to the Centre.

The Emir of Abuja (The Hon. Sulemanu):

29. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

(a) What steps, if any, have been taken in the six months since the last meeting of the Legislative Council to increase the amount of printed matter in Hausa language?

(b) How many pamphlets in Hausa have now been issued by the Gaskiya Corporation, and how many copies of each? Of these how many new ones have been issued by Gaskiya Corporation in this period, and how many copies of each?

(c) If any steps have yet been taken to get Hausa books, now out of print, reprinted in England in order to fill quickly the large gap between the supply and demand? If so, when are the first issues to be expected? If not, will the Honourable the Director of Education not give this matter his urgent attention?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education:

(a) With the co-operation of the Gaskiya Corporation, the following new publications in Hausa have been printed:—

- (i) a fortnightly periodical for distribution primarily among newly-literates in rural areas;
- (ii) a monthly news-sheet for Elementary Teachers;
- (iii) two books for school and general reading;
- (iv) Mass Education pamphlets.

In addition, official translations and publications, such as records of debates in the House of Chiefs and the House of Assembly, have been undertaken.

(b) Eighteen pamphlets in Hausa have been published for Mass Literacy campaigns, the number of copies printed being:—

<i>Pamphlets</i>	<i>Copies</i>
3	10,000 each
15	15,000 ,,

Of these, fifteen pamphlets have been issued over the last six months as follows:—

Pamphlets				Copies
2	...	...	...	10,000 each
13	...	...	...	15,000 ,,

In addition to these pamphlets, four booklets for general reading have been printed (11,000 copies of each) and are now being distributed.

The above figures do not include publications printed by other concerns and distributed by the Gaskiya Corporation, nor do they include Gaskiya Corporation publications printed before the installation of its own Press.

(c) No, Sir. At present the number of Hausa books which can be printed is not restricted by the resources of the Gaskiya Corporation, but by the public demand. On account of the relatively high price of full-sized Hausa books, this demand is necessarily somewhat limited, and most of the books are taken up by the Elementary Schools. As soon as there is a sufficient demand, the Gaskiya Corporation can produce or reprint as many books as may be required. The limited sales of the following two books published this year, in spite of strong backing by the Education Department, is an indication of the present state of the market:—

Book	Copies printed	Copies Sold
" Mungo Park "	3,000	1,754
" Zaman Mutum da Sana'arsa "	3,000	594

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

30. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many Puisne Judges of the Supreme Court are there in Nigeria?

(b) When will Government increase their number?

(c) What is the ratio between Europeans and Africans or people of African descent who normally hold these posts?

(d) What will be the ratio between these Nationals when increase in personnel is contemplated having regard to the fact that Nigerianisation is now the official watchword?

(e) How many Europeans and Africans or people of African descent have held or still holding Acting Appointments and for how long?

(f) In view of the fact that some of those in acting capacity have discharged their onerous duties with conspicuous merit, will Government explain the difficulty in promoting them to the substantive post?

(g) Are there none of the senior African or European Magistrates of proved ability and of good character to be elevated to the Bench?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) Twelve.

(b) The Secretary of State has approved an increase in the number of Puisne Judges to seventeen, and appointments will be made as soon as possible.

(c) At present there are ten expatriate Puisne Judges and two Africans.

(d) It is not proposed to establish any fixed ratio but it is Government's declared policy not to appoint non-Nigerians to Government posts when suitable Nigerian candidates are available.

(e) Apart from special appointments of short duration for specific purposes, three Magistrates, the Chief Registrar and one temporary Magistrate, who are still in the service, have acted from time to time as Puisne Judges since the 1st January, 1945, for periods which vary in the aggregate from 4 months to 2½ years. Of these three were expatriate and two were non-expatriate officers.

(f) The posts of Puisne Judge in Nigeria are scheduled posts within the Unified Colonial Legal Service. Appointments thereto are made by the Secretary of State after reviewing the respective merits of all members of the Unified Service, whether serving in Nigeria or elsewhere: recommendations to the Secretary of State from this Government will of course be based on the policy stated in (d) above.

(g) See (f) above.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

32. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

(a) How soon shall we have an African Principal in the King's College, Lagos?

(b) What are the criteria for the appointment of King's College Masters as Acting Principal of the School?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education:

(a) It is hoped that in due course an African principal will be appointed to the College, but it is not considered that a fully suitable Nigerian candidate is at present available. It has therefore been decided that it will be in the best interests of the College to select a Principal in the United Kingdom who has both the best possible educational qualifications and proved administrative ability.

(b) The criterion for the appointment of an Acting Principal for King's College (or any other Government Secondary School) is his ability to carry out the general policy of the substantive Principal and to administer the school efficiently.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

33. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many expatriate Officers are there in Nigeria and what is the total amount of the expatriation component part of their Salaries?

(b) How many of the expatriate Officers are people of African descent, and why are they entitled to expatriation pay. Give details.

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) There are 2,330 expatriate officers in the Senior Service who draw annually approximately £505,600 in expatriation pay.

(b) I am afraid that the term "people of African descent" is not sufficiently exact to enable figures to be given without prolonged research. The number of officers of African or mixed African descent who are in receipt of expatriation pay is however extremely small in relation to the total, and they are entitled to expatriation pay because they are domiciled in a territory other than a West African territory. The conditions rendering an officer eligible for expatriation pay are set out in full in paragraph 2 of Circular No. 10/1947 published in Sessional Paper No. 4/1947, and no officer who does not fulfil these conditions is in receipt of expatriation pay.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

34. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

(a) How many Civil Servants Europeans and Africans have been invalided from the Service within the last five years?

(b) How many of them were recommended for invalidation by Private Medical Practitioners, and how many sought invalidation through Government Hospitals?

(c) Will the Honourable the Director please give details of those in Lagos Colony for comparison with those in other parts of Nigeria and the Cameroons?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

(a) *Europeans* *Africans*

53 1,091

(b) Separate figures for cases in which invaliding from the Service resulted from the recommendation of a Private Medical Practitioner are only available for the Lagos area.

The figures are as follows:—

	<i>Europeans</i>	<i>Africans</i>
Invalidings from the service regarded as having resulted from a recommendation by a Private Medical Practitioner ..	Nil	68 (Lagos area)
Invalidings from the service in respect of which records indicate that they did not result from a recommendation by a Private Medical Practitioner	53	612 (Lagos area)
Invalidings from the service in respect of which records regarding Private Practitioner's recommendations are not available	Nil	411 (Up country)
(c)	<i>Lagos</i>	<i>Other parts of Nigeria and the Cameroons</i>
Europeans	22	31
Africans	680	411

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

35. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many Senior Service Officials recruited in the last twelve months were previously employed by the British Government in Palestine?

- (b) How much is the total of their basic annual emoluments?
- (c) How much is the total of their expatriation allowances?
- (d) If any such officers were employed, what was the necessity for employing them in Nigeria?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

- (a) Twenty-five.
- (b) £17,650.
- (c) £5,250.

The Honourable Member well knows the difficulties which have existed in recent years in recruiting qualified candidates to fill a large number of vacancies in Nigeria, many of which have been long unfilled. The opportunity to secure the services of experienced and qualified officers on transfer from the Palestine Service to fill some of these vacancies was welcomed by this Government.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama) :

36. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education :—

- (a) What is the estimated percentage of illiteracy in Nigeria?
- (b) How soon does Government hope that this percentage will be reduced to nil under the present Education Policy of Government?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education :

(a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply which was given to Questions 112 and 283 at the last session of this Council. Until a complete census of the population has been carried out it will not be possible to provide reliable statistics of literacy. Meanwhile, it can be stated that the measures taken in recent years have brought about a very considerable increase in the number of literates throughout the Territory.

(b) The present Education policy of Government is that approved by this Council. Government is unable to express an opinion as to the date on which illiteracy will be abolished in Nigeria, but the following factors are relevant to the Honourable Member's question :—

- (i) A reasonably accurate reply could be furnished were it possible to say when free compulsory education for at least a four-year school course could be introduced.
- (ii) To introduce free compulsory education of the nature indicated would involve an expenditure on Education not far removed from the present total revenue of the Territory. It would also need comparable building resources and professional staff to train the requisite number of teachers. It is thus not possible to state when illiteracy can be abolished through the medium of the junior primary schools until it has been ascertained whether the Nigerian tax-payer is willing and able to sustain the financial burden involved.

- (iii) The alternative approach to the abolition of illiteracy is through the medium of Adult Education on the lines recommended in Chapter XIX of Sessional Paper No. 20/1947 and approved by this Council. The solution through this medium depends on a number of imponderable factors, notably the availability of funds, the extent of the desire for literacy on the part of the masses, the extent of the voluntary effort exerted by the more educated Nigerian and the rate at which supervisory staff can be trained. As none of these interrelated factors can be assessed with accuracy it is not feasible to estimate a time limit by which illiteracy can be abolished by this method.

The Honourable Member is reminded that at the last Session of this Council a Select Committee was appointed to discuss with the Board of Education the problem of mass illiteracy and the steps that might reasonably be taken to combat it. Steps are being taken to give effect to the motion adopted by the Council on that occasion.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

37. To ask His Honour, the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) How many persons were sentenced to death for "man-leopard" murders?

(b) How many such persons were reprieved and sentenced to imprisonment?

(c) Were any leopards killed in the "man-leopard" areas during the period of "proclamation"?

(d) If so, how many leopards were killed?

(e) Is Government aware that the story of "man-leopard" murders spread throughout the world?

(f) If leopards were killed in fact within the "man-leopard" area, what steps did Government take to publicise this fact as it is bound to have a favourable effect on world opinion?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

(a) 102.

(b) Fifteen. In addition, the death sentences of thirteen persons were either set aside and the convictions quashed on appeal, or the terms of imprisonment wholly remitted by order of His Excellency the Governor.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Thirty-seven of which five were known to be cubs.

(e) The story of the man-leopard murders has received wide publicity within and without Nigeria.

(f) Government took no steps to give publicity either to the murders or to the killing of leopards within the area.

Supplementary Question to No. 37 by the First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama).

Why did Government take no steps to give publicity to the presence of leopards in this area?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

It was not considered, Sir, that the fact that there were leopards in this area had any bearing on those brutal murders.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama) :

Surely the Government will agree that if it were known to the whole world that there were leopards in the area at that time it would have been bound to have had an effect on public opinion.

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

I don't think so, Sir, not necessarily correct public opinion.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama) :

38. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

How many wives of European Civil Servants are still employed by Government?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

A total of twenty-three made up as follows:—

(a) Eight fully qualified Women Education Officers, five fully qualified Nursing Sisters, one fully qualified Doctor, and one fully qualified Statistician filling vacancies for which neither qualified non-expatriate nor qualified unmarried expatriate officers can be found.

(b) One Expert Monotype Operator engaged in the special task of clearing arrears of type setting for the printing of the proposed revised edition of the Laws of Nigeria.

(c) Four fully qualified Secretary-Typists and one Agricultural Development Officer with specialized scientific qualifications whose marriages took place after they had entered the Service, and who have consented to remain on duty until replacements can be found.

(d) One fully qualified Nursing Sister acting as a leave relief for the Colliery Social Welfare Officer.

(e) One experienced woman officer temporarily undertaking the duties of Telephone Exchange Superintendent as an emergency measure pending the filling of one of the two vacancies recently caused by the unexpected and simultaneous resignation of both substantive holders.

The Honourable Member will remember that the policy followed by the Government in this respect was explained in a public announcement made last year which read as follows:—

“ It is officially announced, with reference to recent comment in the Press, that since the beginning of 1947 it has been the policy of the Government not to employ European wives except in posts requiring special Qualifications (such as doctors, nursing sisters and qualified teachers) for which sufficient Nigerian candidates are not at present available.

“ This policy has been strictly followed except that the employment of a few married women has been continued in temporary posts in Transport and Food Control Offices. There are five married women still employed in such posts, but a decision was taken in May last that this practice should cease as soon as possible and in any event not later than the end of this year.

“ The only other exceptions to the rule are when women officers are engaged on a daily basis for special purposes (*e.g.*, when additional stenographers are required for Commissioners of Enquiries), or when women officers marry in Nigeria and are retained in the Service until replacements can be found.”

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

39. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many Aliens are there in Nigeria and the Cameroons? Give details, *e.g.*, Swiss, Greeks, Lebanese, etc.

(b) In view of the fact that some undesirable Aliens have easily found their way into Nigeria, what efforts are being made by Government for the more rigid application of our Immigration Laws?

(c) How many Aliens have applied for and granted permission for Naturalisation in Nigeria during the past ten years?

(d) Does the Government not consider the present mode of Naturalisation require more rigid inquiries than hitherto?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) On the 10th February, 1949, there were 2,689 aliens in Nigeria of the following nationalities:—

American	.. 719	Greek	.. 121	Stateless	.. 3
Arabs	.. 43	German	.. 1	Swiss	.. 118
Albanian	.. 1	Hungarian	.. 2	Spanish	.. 5
Argentinian	.. 3	Italian	.. 54	Syrian	.. 127
Belgian	.. 8	Lebanese	.. 961	Sudanese	.. 14
Brazilian	.. 2	Norwegian	.. 5	Swedish	.. 3
Czech	.. 22	Polish	.. 5	Turkish	.. 12
Dutch	.. 107	Portuguese	.. 2	Tunisian	.. 1
Danish	.. 36	Palestinian	.. 5	Tripolitan	.. 11
French	.. 278	Russian	.. 1	Egyptian	.. 19

(These figures do not include persons under the age of sixteen years).

(b) I am not aware of any undesirable aliens having easily found their way into Nigeria. Visas are granted only after the most careful investigation has been made and I have no reason to think that the precautions taken are inadequate.

(c) Twenty-two.

(d) Thorough enquiries are made and I think that the existing safeguards are adequate. I should perhaps add that the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914, under which naturalisation has hitherto been granted, has been repealed and replaced by the British Nationality Act, 1948, which came into effect on the 1st of January, 1949.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

40. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

(i) Has the Medical Department any definite policy within the Administration machinery of the Government of Nigeria?

(ii) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Honourable the Director please state what the policy is, and what is the relationship between Government Medical Officers and Private Medical Practitioners including the Missions?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

(i) The policy of the Medical Department is to pursue the combat of epidemic disease, organise prevention of endemic disease, encourage the adoption of adequate sanitary standards, improve nutrition and promote the establishment of curative services within Nigeria's economic structure.

(ii) It is within departmental policy to encourage friendly co-operation with Private Medical Practitioners, including those attached to Medical Missions.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

41. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(i) What is the present day population of Lagos Island including the Mainland?

(ii) Can the Government classify the inhabitants, in percentages, according to their religious susceptibilities?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(i) Approximately 250,000 (this figure is based on a rough computation made in 1947).

(ii) *Christians*, 50 per cent; *Mohammedans*, 45 per cent; *Pagans*, 4 per cent; *Others*, 1 per cent.

These percentage figures are based on figures taken from the 1931 Census, no more recent figures being available. I am afraid therefore that both the figure of total population and the percentages cannot be regarded as accurate.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

44. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many vacancies are there for Radio Engineers under the Development Scheme and at what scale of salaries?

(b) Are these posts exclusively reserved for European applicants?

(c) What is the difference between a Radio Officer, a Radio Engineer and Radio Telegraph Inspectors?

What are their respective qualifications?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) There is no post called " Radio Engineer " in the Posts and Telegraphs Department. According to the Telecommunication Development Plan four Construction Engineers on Scale A were to be employed. Suitable candidates have not yet been obtained. The duties of Radio Engineer are covered by Engineers in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs.

(b) The post of Engineer is open to all suitably qualified applicants regardless of race. Preference will be given to suitably qualified Nigerians.

(c) The duties and the qualifications required for an Engineer on Wireless Duties, a Radio Officer and a Radio Telegraph Inspector are given below:—

(i) ENGINEER ON WIRELESS DUTIES

Duties of office.—Include the supervision of African and European staff, the installation of W/T and R/T short wave plant for internal communication. Experience in the installation of prime movers of diesel type of five H.P. and small petrol engines is essential. Pelapone and Lister diesels driving 230v alternators from which H.T. and L. T. are derived through rotary converters or transformers and rectifier plant will be most commonly used. Knowledge of installation of transformer and smoothing gear for supply of transmitter and receiver power and for battery charging from 230 volt 50 cycle A.C. mains is also essential.

Qualifications.—Applicants should have a B.Sc. degree in Engineering or should have passed, or obtained exemption from, the A.M.I.E.E.

(ii) RADIO OFFICER

Duties of office.—Operation of aeronautical wireless stations including ground to aircraft and point to point wireless circuits together with H.F. and M.F. Marconi direction finding apparatus.

Qualifications.—Applicants should preferably hold a Postmaster-General's Certificate and should have had recent experience in operating wireless and direction finding stations used for air service circuits.

(iii) RADIO TELEGRAPH INSPECTOR

Duties of office.—Include that of a construction Foreman engaged on the installation of radio diffusion stations with diversity reception receivers, aerial arrays, etc., and subscribers' lines and apparatus. Duties also include supervision of African staff.

Qualifications.—Applicants should have served in one of the companies operating radio relay services in England or elsewhere. Previous tropical experience desirable but not essential. Age 30 to 45 years.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

45. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(i) What is the precise meaning and significance of the expression "Honourable Members of the Legislative Council"?

(ii) Does such an appellation confer any rights and privileges? If so, could details of such rights and privileges be given?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) A Member of the Legislative Council is styled "the Honourable" as a mark of respect for the position which he holds as a Member of the Council.

(b) No Sir: Members of the Legislative Council have certain privileges which attach to membership but not to the courtesy title.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

49. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

(a) How many Senior Medical Officers, Assistant Directors of Medical Services, Medical Officers of Health, Senior Specialists and Specialists are there in the Western Provinces of Nigeria, and where are they posted, stating the corresponding figures for the Eastern and Northern Provinces for comparison?

(b) How many Nigerians are at present holding the post of Senior Medical Officers in the Medical Department, what are their respective ages, and how long have they been so appointed?

(c) Will the Honourable the Director not consider the advisability of selecting capable Nigerian Medical Officers who are temperamentally suitable for Administrative work for training with a view to promoting them to Senior Medical Officers' post before they reach the age of fifty?

(d) What is the difference between a Dental Officer, a Dental Mechanic, and a Dental Mechanical Instructor? What are their qualifications and experience?

Answer—
The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :
 (a)

	S.M.O.	A.D.M.S.	M.O.H.	Senior Specialists and Specialists
WESTERN PROVINCES ..	Ibadan, 1 acting	Ibadan, 1 acting	Nil.	Government—Nil. University College Hospital—There are five clinical specialists the Departments of Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University College Medical School. In addition, there are four other specialists in the ancillary subjects of Public Health, Pathology and Parasitology. It is hoped shortly to recruit further specialists and other junior members of the clinical and scientific staff.
EASTERN PROVINCES ..	Enugu, 1 acting Aba, 1 acting Victoria, 1	Enugu, 1	Port Harcourt, 1	Enugu, 1.
NORTHERN PROVINCES ..	Kano, 1 B'Ladi (Minesfield), 1 acting Jos, 1 Zaria, 1 acting Field Units, 1 acting (Makurdi) Sleeping Sickness, Kaduna, 1.	Kaduna, 1	Kano, 1 Jos, 1 acting	Kano, 1

(b) One—One Nigerian Officer is acting as Senior Medical Officer at Aba from 22/4/47. He is still acting—aged fifty-one years on 7/1/49.

(c) Certainly.

(d) *Dental Officer*.—A Dental Surgeon holding a qualification from a University, Teaching Hospital or College, which is recognised by the General Medical Council and Dental Board. The Officer may be selected either by the Appointments Board of the Colonial Office and recommended for appointment or selected locally and recommended to the Civil Service Commissioner.

Dental Mechanic.—A technician experienced in all branches of Dental Mechanics over a number of years and who has been trained by a body such as the Army or apprenticed to a large practice, or works. He is not qualified to practise on patients in any way.

Dental Mechanic Instructor.—A man who has all the experience of a Dental Mechanic and who, in addition, has experience on lecturing and demonstrating. He, also, is not qualified or allowed to practise on patients in any way.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

51. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Now that Sir John Patterson has retired from His Majesty's Service in Nigeria (*see* Government Gazette No. 61, Vol. 35 of 25.11.48) will Government be equitably disposed to bringing the scale of salary of the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces, in line with those in the East and West?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

No, Sir. The salary drawn by Sir John Patterson was the approved salary of the post of Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces, and not personal to him. The Northern Provinces comprise nearly half the total population and more than half the total area of Nigeria. The post of Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces, therefore carries a higher salary than the corresponding posts in the Western and Eastern Provinces.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

52. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

What efforts had been made by the Honourable the Director of Medical Services to recruit competent Radiologists to the General Hospitals in Lagos, Ibadan, Kaduna, Kano, Enugu and Port Harcourt?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

The Crown Agents were requested on the 7th of July last year to recruit six qualified Radiographers but so far it has not been found possible to obtain suitable candidates to fill these vacancies. The

Crown Agents have stated that there is at present an acute shortage of qualified Radiographers but efforts to fill the vacancies continue. No Nigerian candidate with the necessary qualification has been found.

Supplementary Question to No. 52 by the First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe).

Sir, it would appear that the answer to the question is wrong. I was asking for the recruitment of competent radiologists, not radiographers. A radiologist is a doctor who specialises in radiographical work, and he can interpret the actual photographs that he has taken. A radiographer is only a glorified photographer. He can take the photograph all right, but he cannot interpret what he has taken for the guidance of physicians and surgeons before they do any operation. I want a reply to radiologists, Sir, and not to radiographers.

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

Sir, I apologise for the misinterpretation of the Honourable Member's question. The answer in the case of radiologists is that they are difficult to secure, but that we have been actively trying to obtain the services of a competent radiologist for some two years now.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

If that were so, Sir, would the Honourable the Director of Medical Services be prepared to award scholarships to Nigerian doctors who are quite willing to go and specialise in radiography.

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

I, Sir, am perfectly willing to support the Honourable Member's suggestion.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

Thank you, Sir.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

53. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government :—

(a) How many Nigerian Students are now pursuing further studies in Great Britain and Ireland?

(b) Will the Honourable the Chief Secretary give in detail the faculty or faculties to which they are attached?

(c) Will any of them be absorbed in any Department of Government to posts for which they are qualified on their return?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) I am afraid that we have no exact and up to date information regarding all Nigerian students overseas. In 1947 there were 414 Nigerian students pursuing studies in the United Kingdom and the Director of Colonial Scholars is being asked to supply more up to date figures.

(b) Details of the courses of study which the students were (in 1947) following are as follows:—

Arts	38
Commerce	12
Dentistry	2
Domestic Science	6
Engineering	27
Law	120
Medicine	88
Science	20
Social Science	1
Teacher Training	22
Nursing	26
Miscellaneous	52
Total	<u>414</u>

(c) Certainly. A special Liaison Officer is being posted to the Colonial Office to assist in the selection of Nigerian students in the United Kingdom for posts in the Nigerian Civil Service, and all students who wish to join the Government Service will have a chance to do so provided that vacancies exist and that the Central Public Selection Board recommends their appointment.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

56. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

(i) How many Dermatologists, Oto-Laryngologists, Ophthalmologists and Gynaecologists are there in Nigeria and where are they stationed?

(ii) Under what circumstances did the following officers leave the Medical Service of Nigeria:—

(a) Dr Walkingshaw

(b) Dr Ellis

(c) Dr Stock

(d) Dr Freshwater and

(e) Dr K. Tole Moir, Specialist-Medical?

(iii) Is Dr B. G. T. Elmes still on leave?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

(i) One Ophthalmologist stationed at Lagos.

(ii) (a) Reverted to the Malayan establishment.

(b) Retired due to ill-health.

(c) Retired due to ill-health.

(d) Tendered resignation whilst on leave.

(e) Retired voluntarily.

(iii) No, Sir. He retired from the Service with effect from 21st of July, 1948.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

57. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

Will the Honourable the Director please confirm the incredible rumour now going on in certain high medical circles that Dr S. L. A. Manuwa's appointment to the Deputy Directorate, Western Provinces, had been made purely on political grounds and not on grounds of personal merit?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

It should scarcely be necessary to inform the Honourable Member that there is no foundation whatever for any such rumour.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

58. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

How soon will Government reinforce the already depleted staff at Sokoto Post Office?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

I understand that the staff at Sokoto has recently been augmented.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

59. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

How many Geologists and Senior Geologists are there in Nigeria, and why are some of them employed on a temporary basis? Why have some Continental Geologists now serving in the public service of Nigeria been refused expatriation allowance? Would the American Geologists being loaned to the Imperial Government for Colonial Development be entitled to Expatriation Allowance in Nigeria?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

There are ten Geologists and Senior Geologists in the Geological Survey of Nigeria, only one of whom is employed on temporary basis since, when engaged, he was over the normal age for consideration for permanent pensionable employment.

I am not sure what the term "Continental Geologists" means but all Geologists and Senior Geologists at present in the Public Service receive expatriation allowance.

Consideration has not been given to the terms that might be offered to American Geologists if they were lent for work in Nigeria, but I assume that an American Geologist employed by this Government would be entitled to receive expatriation allowance.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

62. To ask the Honourable the Director of Agriculture:—

(i) How many Botanists and Senior Botanists are there in Nigeria, and how many of them are Nigerians?

(ii) What efforts are being made to grant Departmental Scholarships to suitably qualified Nigerians to be trained as Botanists either locally or abroad?

(iii) What is the difference between an Agricultural Engineer and an Irrigation Officer? What are their respective qualifications?

(iv) How many Agricultural Development Officers are there in Nigeria and what are their qualifications? How many of them are Nigerians?

(v) How many Chemists are employed by the Department, and what are the qualifications and the experience of each of them? Give details?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture :

(i) My reply refers only to staff of the Agriculture Department. Of the total establishment of nine Senior Botanists and Botanists in this Department six are at present in Nigeria as follows:—

Senior Botanists ...	...	...	3
Botanists ...	...	...	3
			6
Total ...	...	...	6

None of them are Nigerians.

(ii) Arrangements already exist whereby suitably qualified Nigerians are sent to the United Kingdom on Government Scholarships to take Degree Courses in Botany. At present four Nigerians are undergoing courses at the following Colleges and Universities:—

Trinity College, Cambridge.

Edinburgh University.

Imperial College of Science and Technology.

Manchester University.

(iii) The difference in the relative duties of the posts of Agricultural Engineer and Irrigation Engineer are as follows. The Agricultural Engineer is required to undertake duties of a general nature pertaining to Agricultural Development necessitating a knowledge of Agricultural Mechanical Equipment, Agricultural Implements, Soil Conservation methods, and building construction. The duties of an Irrigation Engineer include the examination of various areas where irrigation might be initiated or expanded, and the simultaneous training of young men in field work such as Surveying. The preparation of final drawings and estimates of costs of proposed prospects are included in the Engineer's responsibilities.

The qualifications required for these posts are as follows:—

(a) *Agricultural Engineer*.—The possession of a University Degree or diploma in Engineering or admission as an Associate Member of the Institute of Civil or Mechanical Engineers. It is essential that the officer should have had not less than two years experience after acquiring the degree, diploma or associateship.

(b) *Irrigation Engineer*.—Candidates should have either obtained a regular University Degree in Civil Engineering recognised by the Institution of Civil Engineers, or, must have passed Sections A and B of the Examination of the Institute of Civil Engineers. Candidates should have had previous experience in irrigation work.

(iv) Twelve. The qualifications or experience of Agricultural Development Officers in the service range as follows:—

- (a) Experience in marketing of rubber, in banking, insurance, and export of tropical produce.
- (b) Experience as a Planter and in Labour Supervision at one of H.M. Naval Bases.
- (c) B.Sc. Horticulture, with Teachers' Diploma.
- (d) General Horticultural work and management of Botanical Gardens.
- (e) Management of several large Agricultural Estates in tropical Africa.
- (f) Agricultural Diploma of Wye College.
- (g) National Diploma Poultry Husbandry Certificate, Royal Agricultural College.
- (h) Experience of Agricultural administration in Former Italian Colonies.
- (i) B.Sc. Agriculture.
- (j) Three years Diploma Course at Wye Agricultural College, Kent.
- (k) Qualified Associate of the Lands Agents Society.
- (l) Diploma, Royal Agricultural College.

None are Nigerians.

(v) The following are the particulars of the four Agricultural Chemists employed on the staff of the Agriculture Department. One is on secondment to a post outside Nigeria.

Qualifications and Experience

- (a) B.Sc. 1st Class Hons. Chemistry, Graduate Prizeman, 1925, M.Sc. 1926. Agric. Chemist, Nigeria, 1927. Agric. Chemist, Gold Coast, 1931. Senior Specialist, Gold Coast, 1942. Agric. Chemist, Nigeria, 1947.
- (b) B.Sc. (Pure Science), Certificated Teacher. Agric. Chemist, Nigeria, 6.6.28.
- (c) B.Sc. (London) 1936, Ph.D. (London) 1938, A.I.C.T.A. (Trinidad) 1940, A.R.I.C. 1944. Agric. Chemist, Nigeria, 11.9.40.
- (d) B.Sc. 1938. Department of Chemistry, O.A.C. Guelph, Ont. Analyst, May, 1937 to September, 1937. Agric. Research Department, Canada, and employed by Dominion Sugar Co., Ontario—May, 1938 to November, 1942. Agric. Chemist, Nigeria from 1948.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

63. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

What are the reasons for refusing to appoint suitably qualified Government Civil Servants as Development Officers having regard to the fact that many such applicants have been rejected?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

There is no question of refusal to appoint suitably qualified candidates already in the Government Service as Development Officers. Up to the present five Government Officers have been considered suitable for appointment as Development Officers. One of them has already been appointed, and offers of appointment are being made to three others: the fifth has been promoted on trial to a pensionable Senior Service post in his own Department.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

64. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services :—

(i) How many Doctors, Nurses, and Leprosy Control Officers have been seconded from the Missions to Leprosy Control Scheme, and why are some of them resigning?

(ii) What are the qualifications of a Leprosy Control Officer, and why is he entitled to an initial salary of £450 per annum?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

(i) Medical Officers, 2; Nursing Sisters, 3; Leprosy Control Officers, 3; Two Nursing Sisters resigned on their marriage. One Leprosy Control Officer resigned while on leave owing to the sickness of his father.

(ii) No special academic qualifications are required but appointees are selected according to their potential capabilities in relation to the duties attached to the post which include secretarial and accounting duties, supervision of records, maintenance of disciplines, supervision of buildings, sanitation, agriculture and arboriculture, labour and crafts. Preference is given to candidates over 35 years of age with suitable practical experience, temperament and character, and it is not considered that men of the right type are likely to be forthcoming at a lower salary than that offered.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

66. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services :—

(i) How many Nigerians are holding the post of Accountant or Assistant Accountant in the Medical Department?

(ii) If he would give the figures for Expatriate Officers for comparison together with their respective qualifications.

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

(i) None.

(ii) There are four expatriate accountants in the Medical Department, one of whom is on temporary agreement. Their qualifications are as follows :—

1. Intermediate Examination, London Association of Certified Accountants 1937.
2. Membership of the Institute of Private Secretaries 1939. Eight years experience in Departmental Accounting under the Government of Uganda.

3. Intermediate examination of the Incorporated Association of Rating and Valuation Officers 1947.
4. Six years service with Bank of British West Africa and Lloyds Bank. Eight years commercial accounting experience. Five years accounting experience with B.O.A.C. and Imperial Airways.

Supplementary Question to No. 66 by the First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe).

Sir, (1) and (3). Does not the Honourable the Director of Medical Services regard the Intermediate Diploma as a suitable qualification for entry into the Senior Service?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

In this matter, Sir, I accept the advice of people better qualified than I am to judge the qualifications of Accountants.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

67. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

What is the distinction between a Veterinary Officer, Hides and Skins Inspectors, Laboratory Technicians and Livestock Superintendents, within the Veterinary Department? What are their respective qualifications? Give details.

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

A Veterinary Officer is qualified to deal with all aspects of the control and treatment of disease in domestic animals. He must be fully conversant with methods of livestock improvement and the preparation of by-products of animal origin.

A Veterinary Officer must hold a recognised qualification in Veterinary Science, *e.g.*, Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (M.R.C.V.S.) or Bachelor of Veterinary Science of a University (B.V.Sc.) or any other qualification approved for registration by the Government of the territory by which he is employed.

A Hides and Skins Inspector is qualified in the proper preparation of hides and skins for the manufacture of leather.

His qualification must include technical training in and wide experience of the processing of hides and skins, and he should hold the diploma of a recognised course of technical instruction, *e.g.*, the Diploma of the Leather sellers' College, London.

A Laboratory Technician is capable of carrying out the varied and highly skilled techniques associated with the diagnosis of abnormal conditions of the animal body. A full knowledge of the preparation of biological products and the breeding and care of laboratory animals is necessary.

A Laboratory Technician should have the Diploma in Laboratory Technology or have served a long apprenticeship in a laboratory of note.

A Livestock Superintendent is required to be capable of supervising the breeding and management of farm livestock and of supervising the administration of wide range of vaccines and drugs used in the prevention and control of epizootics in domestic animals. He is qualified for this post by holding the National Diploma in Agriculture or by having had considerable practical experience in the management of livestock.

Local training is given in the technique of the Administration of laboratory products and in the supervision of Immunisation Centres.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

68. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

- (i) How many Computers and Chief Computers are there in the Survey Department, and how many of them are Expatriate Officers?
- (ii) What are their qualifications and experience?
- (iii) How many Nigerians hold the post of Computers in the Department?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(i) Eighteen Junior Service Computers, all of whom are Nigerians, one Senior Service Chief Computer. The Chief Computer is an expatriate officer.

(ii) The entry qualification for the Junior Service Computers is Middle VI. This qualification is held in every case. Their computing experience is gained inside the department and ranges from twenty years downwards.

The Chief Computer possesses a First-class Honours B.Sc. degree (Astronomy) from London University: he has eleven years experience of computing in the Scientific Computing Service, London, in the London University Observatory, and in the Army.

(iii) See (i) above.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

69. To ask the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony:—

(i) Is the Honourable the Commissioner aware that the present unsightly appearance of the Glover Memorial Hall (Town Hall) reflects neither credit on Lagos the Capital of Nigeria nor on the Board of trustees responsible for its maintenance?

(ii) Will he be kindly disposed to give the public a detailed items of revenue and expenditure of the Hall for the past ten years?

(iii) Who is responsible for nominating the members of the Board and what are the criteria for eligibility to membership?

(iv) Is the principle of nomination not an anachronism in the year of the Lord 1949?

Answer—

The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony:

(i) The dilapidated condition of the Glover Memorial Hall is fully appreciated by the Board of Trustees, but at the last meeting of the Board it was unanimously decided that it would be uneconomic to undertake major structural repairs since the heavy expenditure

involved thereby would not be justified, in view of the active consideration now being given to the question of building a new hall more suited to modern requirements. It was, however, resolved that tenders should be invited for essential repairs to the roof and for the repainting and re-decoration of the hall.

(ii) The Honourable Member's request will be referred to the Board of Trustees which alone has power to authorise such action.

(iii) The Honourable Member is referred to Sections 3, 4, 18 and 19 of Chapter 61 of the Laws of Nigeria from which he will see that there are seven African Members of the Board of Trustees elected by their African predecessors on the Board. There are also four *ex-officio* members and three members nominated by His Excellency the Governor.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

70. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

It is understood that the Marine Launches plying between Lagos and Apapa are operated annually at a loss. If the answer is in the affirmative, will he give in detail the reasons for such a state of affairs?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

It is assumed that the Honourable Member refers to the Lagos/Apapa ferry. This ferry is operated at a loss. The question of increasing the fares to render the service self-supporting was considered in 1947, and after examination it was decided that an increase such as would be necessary to make the service self-supporting would place an undue burden on the poorer members of the public who constitute the majority of passengers.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

71. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How does Government derive its revenue from Aro Quarry?

(b) How much did Government realise from the industry ten years ago? Give the figures for 1948 for comparison?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) Until the beginning of the current financial year no debit was entered against Government departments for stone supplied to them by the Aro Quarry: the only revenue brought to account being that derived from occasional sales to the public of stone surplus to Government requirements.

From the 1st April, 1948, however, the Quarry has been operated on a quasi commercial basis, and charges have been raised against Government departments and private purchasers alike.

(b) The figures for 1938-39 and 1947-48, which should be interpreted in the light of the reply to Part (a) of the question, were as follows:—

	1947-48	1938-39
	£	£
Revenue	6,635	877
Expenditure	20,606	2,279

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

72. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(i) How long has the kerosene operated Lagos Light House been in use?

(ii) When will it be replaced by an electrically operated one?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(i) Since 1891: new mechanism continuing the use of kerosene was fitted in 1924.

(ii) The cost of conversion to an electrically operated light is estimated at £7,500 and it is not considered that this expenditure would be justified so long as the present arrangement continues to work satisfactorily.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

73. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(i) How many Senior Assessment Officers and Assessment Officers are there in the Inland Revenue Department?

(ii) Give reasons for such a disparity between the scale of salaries of Senior Assessment Officers and those of their Assistants?

(iii) What is the minimum requisite qualification for the post of Senior Assessment Officers and how many Expatriate Officers possess such qualifications?

(iv) In view of the fact that many an expatriate Senior Assessment Officers have to understudy their Nigerian Assistant Assessment Officers before taking over, what are the difficulties of the Department in promoting competent Nigerians to the post of Senior Assessment Officers?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(i) There are four Senior Assessment Officers (including one on temporary appointment) and five Assessment Officers.

(ii) Senior Assessment Officers and Assessment Officers are both in Scale B. The former owing to their greater responsibilities are, however, in the upper Segment of the Scale.

(iii) For direct appointment a Senior Assessment Officer should be a member of one of the senior Accountancy bodies, or have had a number of years' service in a senior capacity in an Inland Revenue Department elsewhere. Of the expatriate Senior Assessment Officers at present employed two possess professional qualifications and two have had experience in an Inland Revenue Department.

(iv) Senior Assessment Officers do not "understudy" Assistant Assessment Officers. The Honourable Member is well aware of the steps Government is taking to recruit Nigerians for the Senior Service. The difficulty in promoting Nigerians to the post of Senior Assessment Officers is that there appear to be none who possess the professional qualification. Special arrangements are, however, being made to assist Nigerians to acquire Accountancy qualification.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

75. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

Will the Honourable the Director please give a comprehensive review of the value of the extensive clinical therapy of Paludrine in the treatment of Malaria and Black Water Fever in Government Hospitals throughout Nigeria?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

It is regretted that it is not yet possible to give a comprehensive review as to the value of Paludrine as an anti-malarial drug, because it is still the subject of experimental observation. Mr P. G. Shute, a Malariologist sent out by the Medical Research Council, visited Nigeria in the winter of 1947 to investigate its use and has since been conducting experiments in the Malarial Laboratories of the Ministry of Health. When his final report is received I shall be glad to refer it to the Honourable Member. I might add that Paludrine has not been used, as far as is known, in the treatment of Black Water fever in this country.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

77. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

For a detailed account of the staff disposition in the Lagos Creek Hospital in 1948, the qualifications and experience of the Doctors posted there?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

January-November, 1948

SENIOR SPECIALIST

First Appointment—Medical Officer, 1926.

Appointed Specialist, 1938.

Qualifications:—M.B., CH.B. (1924) Edin.; F.R.C.S. (1938) Edin.

January-July, 1948

MEDICAL SPECIALIST

First Appointment—Medical Officer, 1930.

Appointed Specialist, 1946.

Qualifications:—M.A., M.B., CH.B. (1925) Aberdeen; D.T.M. & H. (1930) London.

General and Medical experience varied—Aberdeen and London hospitals for four years prior to service in Nigeria.

August-December, 1948

ACTING MEDICAL SPECIALIST

Qualifications:—B.Sc., M.D. (1931) Malta.
 First Appointment—Resident Surgeon St. Vincent, 1940.
 Medical Officer, Nigeria, 1946.
 C.O., House Physician, House Surgeon, Senior House Surgeon,
 Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, 1932-34.
 R.M.O. Birkenhead Municipal Hospital, 1934-35.
 Post Graduate Studies (Edin.), 1935-36.
 Assistant Medical Officer, St. Stephens (L.C.C.), 1937-39.

November-December, 1948

SPECIALIST

First Appointment—Nigeria—Medical Officer, 1938.
 Promoted Specialist, 1946.
 Qualifications:—M.R.C.S., England, L.R.C.P., London, 1934;
 M.B., B.CHIR., 1934; M.D., 1940; University Cambridge,
 F.R.C.S. (Edin.) 1937.
 Orthopaedic Surgical Specialist also had a certain number of
 orthopaedic cases under his care at the Creek Hospital.
 Qualifications:—M.B., CH.B., 1938 (Dublin); M.Ch., 1945
 (Dublin); F.R.C.S., 1945 (Edin.)

Present Establishment of Nursing Staff

One Senior Nursing Sister.
 Four Nursing Sisters.
 Five First Class Nurses: Male Four; Female One.
 Seven Second Class Nurses: Male Five; Female Two.
 Twelve Third Class Nurses: Male Seven; Female Five.
 One Dispenser.
 One Warden.
 One Assistant Warden.
 Eighteen Ward Servants.
 One Head Cook.
 Three Assistant Cooks.
 One Head Washerman.
 Five Assistant Washermen.

Labourers

One Headman.
 Three Labourers.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

78. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(i) How much did the Nigerian delegates to the African Conference in London cost the Nigerian tax-payers?

(ii) If he would give the average cost per delegate, and the length of stay in the United Kingdom?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(i) Approximately £7,156. Complete records have not yet been received from the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

(ii) The average cost per delegate was approximately £550 and the length of stay in the United Kingdom for the Conference was thirty days except in the case of those delegates who returned earlier by air.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

79. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government :—

How soon will the Five Cowrie Creek Bridges and the Bridge over the Macgregor Canal on the way to Ikoyi be replaced by modern ones in order to withstand the terrific volume of traffic that daily ply them?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

It is understood that Macgregor Canal Bridge at Obalende, which was built in 1930, is not in need of replacement, though traffic requirements may render its widening desirable. The bridges over Five Cowrie Creek and over the Macgregor Canal at Onikan will both require replacement in the not distant future, but their replacement will form a part of the general development of the areas served by the two bridges, and plans for that development are not yet sufficiently far advanced to permit of an indication being given of the probable date of their replacement.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

80. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government :—

(i) How many Electrical Engineers are there in the Electrical Department?

(ii) If he would give in detail the qualifications and experience of each of them and how many were recruited in 1948?

(iii) What were the conditions of recruitment of Cadet Engineers ten years ago, indicating briefly the conditions of recruitment in 1948?

(iv) Does this Government genuinely and sincerely believe in the principle of equal pay for equal work? If so, is the policy of the Electrical Department diametrically opposed to that of the Central Government?

(v) What are the duties of Cable Jointers and their qualifications and how many of them have been promoted Electrical Engineers and why?

(vi) What are the specific duties of Meter Superintendents and why are they entitled to Scale C 2 under Personal Emoluments?

(vii) What is the difference between Mechanical Engineers and Mechanical Maintenance Engineers, stating in detail the academic qualifications of those now in the Civil Service of Nigeria?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(i) Fifteen. One, however, is on leave prior to retirement.

(ii) See Schedule I attached. One was recruited in 1948.

(iii) Conditions of recruitment of Cadet Engineers were as laid down in Sessional Paper No. 10 of 1938 with salary in accordance with paragraph 13 of that Paper, namely, a probationary period of three years in the salary scale £200 × 20-400. The post of Cadet Engineer disappeared with the publication of Circular 67 of 1947 in which the policy was revised, and the intermediate grades were abolished.

(iv) The answer to the first part of the question is 'yes'. The answer to the second part of the question is 'No'.

(v) The duties of Cable Jointers are to supervise and instruct employees in the work of cable jointing, and to perform any piece of cable jointing beyond the capabilities of their subordinates. They also carry out the erection and installation of transformers, switch gear and feeder pillars. One such officer has been promoted to the post of Electrical Engineer as he proved himself capable of performing successfully all the duties of that post.

(vi) The duties of a Meter Superintendent are to take sole charge of the meter department of an electricity undertaking and to supervise and instruct employees in the work of installation, testing and repairs to meters, instruments and protective equipment. The specialized training and experience of such men justifies their grading in salary Scale C. 2.

(vii) Mechanical Engineers on the Permanent Establishment are required to have a sound general mechanical engineering training and those now being recruited are also required to be Graduates or Corporate Members of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. Mechanical Maintenance Engineers are required to have had a highly specialised training in a particular sphere of mechanical engineering such as the maintenance of steam turbines or steam boilers, but are not required to have any particular academic or technical qualification. Of the Mechanical Engineers one is an A.M.I.Mech.E., three have 1st Class B.O.T. Certificates and one has no academic qualification. The Mechanical Maintenance Engineers have no academic qualifications.

SCHEDULE I

NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT ELECTRICITY UNDERTAKINGS
Qualifications and experience of Electrical Engineers

1 Electrical Engineer—A.M.I.E.E.

1928-32—Faraday House Electrical Engineering Training College,
London.

1933-36—Student Engineer with the North Eastern Electric Supply
Company, England.

1936 —Appointed Electrical Engineer, P.W.D., Nigeria.

1942 —Promoted Electrical Engineer, Grade I.

1 Electrical Engineer—M.I.E.E., M.I.MECH.E.

1914-16—Stockport College and Technical School.

- 1915-17—Apprentice with Ferguson Pailin Limited, Manchester.
 1918-20—H.M. Forces.
 1920-24—Manchester College of Technology.
 1920-25—Apprentice with Mirrlees, Bickerton & Day Limited, Stockport.
 1925-29—Resident Engineer with Barbados Electric Supply Corporation, Barbados.
 1929-37—Chief Engineer, Trinidad Electric Co. Ltd., Trinidad.
 1937-39—Chief Electrical Engineer, West Indies Sugar Co., Jamaica.
 1939 —Appointed Electrical Engineer, P.W.D., Nigeria.
 1946 —Promoted Electrical Engineer, Grade I.
 1 Electrical Engineer—A.M.I.E.E.
 1930-34—Faraday House Electrical Engineering College, London.
 1934-35—Assistant Engineer, Aidas Electric Limited, London.
 1935-40—Foreman Electrician, Rhokana Corporation Limited, N. Rhodesia.
 1940-41—Assistant Electrical Engineer, Nehanga Consolidated Copper Mines, N. Rhodesia.
 1941-42—Assistant Electrical and Mechanical Engineer, Air Ministry Works Directorate, Newcastle-on-Tyne, England.
 1942 —Appointed Electrical Engineer, Grade II, P.W.D., Nigeria.
 1 Electrical Engineer—A.M.I.E.E.
 1928-35—Wandsworth Technical Institute, London.
 1928-33—Apprentice and Junior Technical Engineer, Westool Limited, London.
 1933-38—Junior Engineer, Sun Electrical Co. Ltd., London.
 1937-39—Wimbledon Technical College, London.
 1938-40—Technical Engineer, Veritys Limited, London.
 1940-42—Temporary Engineering Assistant, H.M. Ministry of Works, England.
 1942-43—Site Engineer in Charge, H.M. Ministry of Works, Chobham, England.
 1943 —Appointed Assistant Electrical Engineer, P.W.D., Nigeria.
 1946 —Promoted Electrical Engineer, Grade II.
 1 Electrical Engineer—A.M.I.E.E.
 1932-37—University College, Nottingham.
 1932-37—Apprentice, Blackburn Starling & Co. Ltd., Nottingham.
 1937-39—Electrician, Blackburn Starling & Co. Ltd., Nottingham.
 1939-46—Director, R. J. Kemp & Co. Ltd.
 1939-46—H.M. Forces.
 1946 —Appointed Electrical Engineer, Grade II.
 1 Electrical Engineer—B.Sc., A.M.I.E.E.
 1930-34—Howard University, Washington, U.S.A.

- 1935-36—Birmingham University, England.
- 1937-39—Nigerian Electricity Supply Corporation Ltd., Nigeria.
- 1939 —Appointed Engineer, Grade IV, P.W.D., Nigeria.
- 1940 —Appointed Cadet Electrical Engineer.
- 1944 —Promoted Assistant Electrical Engineer.
- 1947 —Became Electrical Engineer following the merger of the Assistant Electrical Engineer grade with the Electrical Engineer grade.
- 1 Electrical Engineer—A.M.I.E.E.
- 1932-33—Ipswich Technical School.
- 1932-33—Trainee, General Electric Company.
- 1933-37—Norwich Technical College.
- 1933-37—Trainee, Norwich Corporation Electricity Department.
- 1937-38—Shift Engineer, Power Station, Norwich Corporation Electricity Department.
- 1938-40—Sales and Development Engineer, Norwich Corporation Electricity Department.
- 1940-46—H.M. Forces.
- 1946-47—Sales and Development Engineer, Norwich Corporation Electricity Department.
- 1947 —Appointed Electrical Engineer, Grade II, Nigerian Government Electricity Undertakings, Nigeria.
- 1 Electrical Engineer—A.M.I.E.E.
- 1931-38—Hackney Technical Institute, London.
- 1935-38—Student Apprentice, Lancashire Dynamo and Crypto Company, Ltd., London.
- 1938-40—Technical Sales Engineer, Higgs Motors Ltd., London and Witton.
- 1940-46—H.M. Forces.
- 1947 —Appointed Electrical Engineer, Grade II, Nigerian Government Electricity Undertakings, Nigeria.
- 1 Electrical Engineer—Assoc.I.E.E.
- 1913-15—Rutherford College, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
- 1912-15—Apprentice, Newcastle-on-Tyne Electric Supply Co.
- 1915-18—Meter Repairer and Tester, Greenock Corporation Electricity Department.
- 1918-27—Chief Meter Tester, Greenock Corporation Electricity Department.
- 1927-30—Chief Assistant Meter Superintendent, Greenock Corporation Electricity Department.
- 1930 —Appointed Meter Superintendent, P.W.D., Nigeria.
- 1938 —Promoted Assistant Electrical Engineer.
- 1947 —Became Electrical Engineer under the merger of the Assistant Electrical Engineer grade with the Electrical Engineer grade.
- 1 Electrical Engineer—1st Class Board of Trade Certificate.
- 1915-16—H.M. Dockyard School, Devonport.
- 1919-20—Devonport Technical School.
- 1915-21—Apprentice, H.M. Dockyard, Devonport.
- 1921 —Journeyman, H.M. Dockyard, Devonport.
- 1921-29—Marine Engineer, Canadian Pacific Steamship Co.
- 1930 —Appointed Station Engineer, P.W.D., Nigeria.

- 1938 —Promoted Assistant Electrical Engineer.
 1947 —Became Electrical Engineer under the merger of the Assistant Electrical Engineer grade with Electrical Engineer grade.
- 1 Electrical Engineer—No academic qualification.
 1919-24—Apprentice, Ipswich Corporation Electricity Department.
 1924-28—Wireman, Ipswich Corporation Electricity Department.
 1928-29—Wireman, Truslove's Ltd., Ipswich.
 1929 —Appointed Wireman, P.W.D., Nigeria.
 1938 —Promoted Assistant Electrical Engineer.
 1947 —Became Electrical Engineer following the merger of the Assistant Electrical Engineer grade with the Electrical Engineer grade.
- 1 Electrical Engineer—No academic qualification.
 1910-15—Colliery work.
 1915-18—H.M. Forces.
 1919-20—Crumlin School of Mines, Monmouth.
 1920-28—Newport (Mon) Corporation Electricity Department.
 1928 —Appointed Cable Jointer, P.W.D., Nigeria.
 1931 —Transferred to Kano Native Administration.
 1935 —Returned to P.W.D. as Wireman.
 1938 —Promoted Assistant Electrical Engineer.
 1947 —Became Electrical Engineer following the merger of the Assistant Electrical Engineer grade.
- 1 Electrical Engineer—No academic qualification.
 1921-22—Regent St. Polytechnic College, London.
 1922-25—Apprentice, Lang & Squire, Acton, London.
 1925-27—Francis Pollard, London—Electrical distribution and wiring.
 1927-28—Charge Engineer, Trollop & Coles, London.
 1928-31—Charge Engineer, Bective Electrical, London.
 1931-33—Fords Ltd., Degenham—Construction and general maintenance.
 1933-40—County of London Electric Supply Co.—In charge of electrical installations.
 1940-41—Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners—Design and constructions—electrical distribution and installations.
 1941-42—Merz & McLennan, Survey—As with previous Employer.
 1942-44—Humphreys Ltd., London—Mechanical & Electrical Engineer.
 1944 —Southern Ignition Ltd., Croydon—Manager.
 1945 —H.M. Office of Works—Inspector.
 1945 —Appointed Assistant Mechanical Engineer, P.W.D., Nigeria.
 1947 —Appointed Electrical Engineer, Grade II.
- 1 Electrical Engineer—Grade I.E.E.
 1939-43—Faraday House Electrical Engineering College, London.
 1940-41—Student, Plenty & Son, Newbury.
 1942-43—College Apprentice, Metropolitan Vickers Electrical Co. Ltd., Manchester.
 1943-47—H.M. Forces.
 1947 —Draughtsman, English Electric Co. Ltd., Stafford.
 1947-48—A. Reyrolle & Co. Ltd., Hepburn-on-Tyne.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

81. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Will the Honourable the Chief Secretary please give the total comparative figures for Local Transport and Travelling Allowances throughout Nigeria between Expatriate Officers and Nigerian Civil Servants?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

The records of expenditure on Local Transport and Travelling Allowances do not differentiate between the various categories of officers who draw the allowances. I regret that it is not, therefore, possible to give comparative figures.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

82. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

The requisite academic qualifications of the following in the Commerce and Industries Department:—

- (i) Fisheries Development Officers
- (ii) Pottery Officers
- (iii) Fish Farmers
- (iv) Master Fishermen
- (v) Fisheries Officers
- (vi) Textile Officers
- (vii) Fibre Officers?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(i) *Fisheries Development Officers.*—A University degree preferably in Natural Science. A wide experience of all phases of the fishing industry, including processing, purchasing and marketing, is essential.

(ii) *Pottery Officer.*—None.

(iii) *Fish Farmer.*—None, but a University degree in Natural Science would be a useful qualification. He must have sound training in fisheries science and wide practical experience of fish farming.

(iv) *Master Fisherman.*—None.

(v) *Fisheries Officer.*—A University degree in Natural Science and a post-graduate specialised Fisheries Training Course in the United Kingdom.

(vi) *Textile Officer.*—None.

(vii) *Fibre Officer.*—None.

Persons appointed to (ii) (iv) (vi) and (vii) are not expected to possess academic qualifications, but must have approved technical training and wide experience in their trade.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

83. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Wherein lies the justification in the disparity in the scale of salaries between Labour Officers and Welfare Officers when both of them possess identical qualifications?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

The qualifications for Labour Officers and Welfare Officers are not the same but in any event the salary of a post is determined primarily by the responsibilities of the post and not by the qualifications required.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

86. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

(i) What is the ratio between the birth-rate and the death-rate for the year 1948 in Lagos, stating the figures for the past ten years for comparison?

(ii) Is birth-rate definitely on the increase? If the answer is in the negative, will the Honourable the Director please indicate what the reasons are, and how they can be combated?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

(i) The ratio between the birth rate and death rate in Lagos for 1948 was 2.74 to 1. Comparative figures for the past ten years are as follows:—

		<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>Ratio</i>
1939	..	30.98	15.6	1.98/1
1940	..	32.9	16.4	2.01/1
1941	..	31.9	15.9	2.01/1
1942	..	35.4	18.5	1.91/1
1943	..	39.2	21.9	1.79/1
1944	..	42.09	21.8	1.93/1
1945	..	45	23.3	1.93/1
1946	..	46	19	2.42/1
1947	..	48.5	21.8	2.22/1
1948	..	51	18.6	2.74/1

(ii) Yes, Sir.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

87. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

How many telegrams did the Posts and Telegraphs Department handle during the year 1948 and how many of them were delivered several weeks after the senders had reached their destination?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

The Posts and Telegraphs Department handled nearly 2,000,000 telegrams during 1948.

I am very much concerned regarding the complaints received from Honourable Members and others about late delivery of telegrams and every effort will be made to avoid such delays in the future.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

89. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

(i) Are there any fully equipped Venereal Diseases Hospitals in Nigeria?

(ii) What facilities are there in the large sea-port towns in Nigeria for the efficient treatment of Venereal Diseases?

(iii) Is Venereal Diseases on the decrease in Nigeria, indicating the figures for the last ten years?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

(i) No, Sir. At Lagos there is a Clinic and special beds for in-patient treatment at the General Hospital with a Medical Officer in charge of Venereal Diseases Work.

(ii) Facilities are available at the General Hospital, where adequate supplies of drugs for in-patient and out-patient treatment are held.

(iii) There has been some increase in attendances, but there is no definite evidence that there has been any change in the incidence of venereal diseases of recent years. The figures for the last ten years are:—

<i>Year</i>						<i>Total cases</i>
1938	...	...	...	...	...	37,085
1939	...	...	...	...	...	42,930
1940	...	...	...	...	...	43,639
1941	...	...	...	...	...	46,015
1942	...	...	...	...	...	41,993
1943	...	...	...	...	...	44,625
1944	...	...	...	...	...	43,461
1945	...	...	...	...	...	46,362
1946	...	...	...	...	...	47,731
1947	...	...	...	...	...	46,651

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

90. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(i) How much would it cost the Nigerian Railway to extend the present Railway terminus from Nguru to Maiduguri *via* Potiskum and Damaturu?

(ii) If that route will entail considerable difficulty, would the Railway Department not consider alternative routes either from Kano or Jos?

(iii) Is Government aware of the considerable hardship experienced by people in Bornu and Adamawa Provinces due to lack of regular transport, necessitating travellers with their merchandise walking for days between Yola, Maiduguri as far as Bauchi Province?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(i) Until such time as a survey has been made in this area it is only possible to give a very approximate figure of cost of Railway construction: a suitable route might be feasible through Damaturu to Maiduguri, a distance of some 270 miles, and a rough estimate

of the permanent way and works is £2,600,000: this is on the assumption that the terrain to be traversed is of a similar nature to the Kano/Nguru branch.

(ii) It is not thought that this route would entail any considerable difficulty but an alternative route from Jos would be most difficult, whilst the distance from Kano direct to Maiduguri would be some 120 miles further.

(iii) Transport difficulties certainly exist in the areas mentioned and improvements to the road system are being steadily advanced.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

91. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

(i) How many Pathologists are posted to the Northern and Western Provinces giving the dates of their appointment?

(ii) If he would give the corresponding figures for the Eastern Provinces?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

(i) and (ii) No pathologist is stationed outside Lagos with the exception of Kano where there has been a pathologist since mid-January, 1948.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

93. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(i) How many Electrical Engineers in the Electricity Department possessed the A.M.I.E.E. Diploma, stating their names, date of recruitment, their initial salaries on recruitment, and their present scale of salaries at 1st April, 1948?

(ii) How many of them have been up-graded in accordance with the recommendations of Sir Walter Harragin?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(i) There are eight Electrical Engineers in the Electricity Undertakings who are corporate Members (*i.e.*, either Associate Members or full Members) of the Institute of Electrical Engineers: Their names and the other details required are listed below. At April 1st, 1948, all eight officers were graded in Salary Scale A, (£450-1,000).

Name	Date of recruitment	Salary on recruitment	Grade on recruitment
P. K. Mackintosh	6.5.36	£ 475	Electrical Engineer
H. Batty	12.7.39	600	"
P. M. Beare ..	11.5.42	600	Electrical Engineer, Grade II
D. A. Buss ..	13.11.43	500	Assistant Electrical Engineer
J. G. Richardson	11.8.46	550	Electrical Engineer, Grade II
O. O. Coker ..	1.9.39	128	Engineer, Grade IV
A. E. Bailey ..	25.4.47	630	Electrical Engineer, Grade II
C. A. Millard ..	29.9.47	570 + expat. allce.	" " "

(ii) All the above officers are serving in the Salary grade adopted for Electrical Engineers as the result of Sir Walter Harragin's recommendation, and have converted to the new grade in accordance with the normal conversion rules.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

95. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(i) Since the adoption of the Report of the Nigerianisation Commission last year by this Honourable House, how many Expatriate Officers have been recruited into the Nigeria Civil Service in the various Departments of the Government to the exclusion of "suitably qualified Nigerians"?

(ii) Where, when, and how did Government look for "suitably qualified Nigerians" for the vacant posts and failed to find them?

(iii) If he would explain in some detail the official conception of the expression "suitably qualified Nigerians".

(iv) What are the criteria for suitability between Nigerians and Expatriate Officers, and do the expatriate Officers have any previous experience of 'local conditions'?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(i) None.

(ii) By advertisement, by examination of the qualifications and records of members of the Junior Service, and by consideration of independent applications.

(iii) The words "suitably qualified", as applied to a Nigerian or to anyone else, mean that the applicant possesses the qualifications that will enable him to discharge the duties and responsibilities of the post for which he is applying efficiently and faithfully. In this connection qualifications include not only academic attainments, but also experience, character and previous record.

(iv) The "criteria" of suitability for Nigerians and expatriate officers are the same. As regards the second part of this question the Honourable Member must be aware that the majority of newly appointed expatriate officers have not had previous experience of local conditions.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

98. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

How long has the Lagos Post Office Headquarters been under construction? How long would it take to complete?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

The Lagos Post Office Headquarters has been under construction since December, 1947, and it is hoped to complete the work this year.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

100. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

How many Expatriate Officers possessing identical qualifications with their Nigerian counterpart were offered "intermediate" scale of salaries before proceeding to the Senior Service grade in the following Departments:—

1. Labour.
2. Welfare.
3. Lagos Town Council (Medical Officer of Health, Town Engineer, Municipal Treasurer, and Town Clerk).
4. Medical (Laboratory, Pharmacy and Administrative).
5. Railway.
6. Colliery.
7. Public Works.
8. Forestry.
9. Agriculture.
10. Printing.
11. Posts and Telegraphs.
12. Marine.
13. Mines.
14. Prisons.
15. Police.
16. Survey.
17. Land.
18. Provincial Administration.
19. Public Relations.
20. Veterinary.

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

None. The Government does not support the policy of intermediate salary scales for Nigerians which was introduced in 1938, and the policy has now been abandoned. Any Nigerian now appointed to the Senior Service is appointed to the full salary of the post.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

108. To ask the Honourable the Director of Agriculture:—

How many Senior Service Nigerians are engaged in Extension work, advising or helping farmers to adopt modern agricultural methods?

How many non-Nigerians are doing the same thing?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture:

(a) Two.

(b) All Agricultural Officers and Agricultural Superintendents, when on duty in Nigeria,

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

110. To ask the Honourable the Director of Agriculture:—

Whether it is a fact that the Honourable the Director considers a Degree Course in Agriculture from a British, Canadian, or American Universities to be useless to Nigerians in his Department?

If the answer is in the affirmative, could the Honourable the Director be persuaded to stop further recruitment of British, Canadian or American graduates in Agriculture into his Department?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture :

No, Sir.

The answer to the second part of the question does not therefore arise.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

116. To ask the Honourable the Director of Agriculture:—

(a) How many Nigerians have obtained the Yaba Diploma in Agriculture from his Departmental School?

(b) How many of these have either resigned or transferred to other Department?

(c) Is the Honourable the Director not aware of the fact that it was the apparent lack of prospects for his Technical Staff that led to the resignations and transfers of these men?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture :

(a) Thirty-three.

(b) Six (4 resigned plus 2 transferred).

(c) No, Sir.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

118. To ask the Honourable the Director of Agriculture:—

How many Agricultural Assistants are there, and how many of them have been advanced to the grade of Assistant Agricultural Officers?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture :

The number of Agricultural Assistants varies from year to year but the number actually serving now is 269. Twenty-five Agricultural Assistants have been promoted to the grade of Assistant Agricultural Officer.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

121. To ask the Honourable the Director of Agriculture:—

(i) What grant does the Government of Nigeria make annually to the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad?

(ii) What are the conditions under which this grant was made?

(iii) If he would indicate how Nigeria has benefited from such a contribution during the last ten years?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture :

(i) £2,500.

(ii) The College was originally founded as the West Indian Agricultural College and was intended to cater for the needs of the West Indian Colonies. Subsequently its scope was widened to provide for post graduate training for officers selected for the Colonial Agricultural Service, and in recent years Nigerians have been awarded scholarships to the College for further training.

The funds of the College are derived partly from the United Kingdom Exchequer and partly from contributions made by Colonial Governments which derive benefits from the College. No condition attaches to the grant made by Nigeria.

(iii) The College provides a post-graduate training course in tropical agriculture for agricultural graduates, and all recruits to the Colonial Agricultural Service pass through it. It also provides refresher courses for officers of the Agriculture Department. The opportunity thus afforded for acquiring up to date knowledge of tropical agriculture is of great benefit to Agricultural Officers serving in Nigeria and therefore to Nigeria.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

124. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government :—

(i) Whether the Printing Department believes in the principle of equal work for equal pay?

(ii) What is meant by the following terms and expressions :—

Craftsmen, Proof Reader, Monotype Operators, and Technical Assistants? If he would give the qualifications, experience and length of service of each group of workers not excluding expatriate Officers?

(iii) Are there no competent and men of mature experience among Technical Assistants for promotion to the Junior Technical Staff, Grades II and III?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(i) If the expression " equal work for equal pay " is intended to imply that the same amount of work should be expected from those paid at the same rate of salary, the answer is certainly ' Yes '.

(ii) A *Craftsman* in the Printing Department is a skilled worker engaged on work subsidiary to the actual production of printing.

A *Proof-reader* is responsible for ensuring that a completed printing job corresponds exactly with the original copy.

A *Monotype Operator* describes the keyboard operator of a *Monotype*, a machine for producing type.

The term *Technical Assistant* in the Printing Department describes all those officers engaged on the various processes and operations involved in the technical work of printing whose degree of skill or technical knowledge varies widely but does not reach

that required of Junior Technical Staff. The length of service and other details of all members of the staff of the Printing Department are shown in the Staff List.

(iii) The policy of Government and of the Department is to encourage junior employees to achieve promotion to the higher grades and several Technical Assistants have already been promoted Junior Technical Staff Grades II and III.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

125. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Whether the Nigerian Railway is in entire agreement with the principles enunciated in the Report of the Nigerianization Commission?

If the answer is in the affirmative, how many Nigerians in the Department have been advanced to the Senior Service within the past fifteen months, and how many Departmental Scholarships have been and are being awarded by the Department and if he would indicate the reply in a Tabular form section by section of the Department?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(i) Yes.

(ii) (a) Mechanical Engineering Department	...	...	...	...	15
Accounts Department	...	...	...	...	2
Civil Engineering Department	...	...	...	...	2
Stores Department	...	...	...	...	1
Management	...	...	...	...	2
					<u>22</u>

Five others awaiting interview by the Central Public Service Board.

(ii) (b) Fourteen Training Courses with British Railways have been awarded as follows:—

Mechanical Engineering Department	...	...	...	...	6
Civil Engineering Department	...	...	...	...	3
Traffic Department	...	...	...	...	4
Management	...	...	...	...	1
					<u>14</u>

Two more have already been recommended by the Departmental Selection Board and others will be considered at the next meeting of the Board.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

127. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Whether Government is now in a position to make definite and categorical pronouncement on the request of the Oba of Benin for an extension of railway line to his territory?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

It is not the present intention of Government that the railway should be extended to Benin. As was explained during the last Budget Session of this House, our efforts must for the time being be directed towards re-equipping and repairing the existing line. The Honourable Member may be aware, however, that new roads which are being built under the Development Plan will bring a marked improvement in the system of communications which serve that area.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

130. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government :—

How many wives of Expatriate Officials are still employed in the Civil Service of Nigeria and why?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply to question No. 38.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

131. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government :—

(a) How many (i) African and (ii) non-African civil servants are in the Senior Service?

(b) What emoluments were paid (i) African and (ii) non-African civil servants in the Senior Service during the financial year 1948-49?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) (i) 237.

(ii) 2,746.

(b) I am afraid that it is not possible to give accurate figures in answer to this question without making enquiries about the salary of each individual officer in the Senior Service, since the accounting records do not provide for a subdivision of the emoluments of Africans and non-Africans.

Supplementary Question to No. 131 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

Sir, will efforts be made to furnish the information required in due course, since there are Establishment Officers in the Nigerian Secretariat?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

On which question, please?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

131 (b).

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Well, Sir, we have to face this difficulty about a question which would involve a very great deal of research, and it is very difficult to decide whether, for instance, it would be justifiable to put one or two Establishment Officers, maybe for several weeks, on an investigation of this kind, as I believe in this case might well be necessary. We also have to bear in mind the desirability, if possible, of making a reply to questions without undue delay. This question was received only a week or two ago, and it might not have been possible to reply to this question at all had we put the investigation in hand. I hope Honourable Members will agree, when they have seen the answers given on the order papers at this meeting of the Council, that a very genuine effort has been made on the part of all concerned in the Government service to answer the questions as fully and as quickly as possible. There are some cases in which, however, I think we are justified in saying that the amount of work involved would scarcely be justifiable, and in this case I am afraid that I would not be prepared to give an undertaking that the material required could be quickly provided. If the Honourable Member presses, I will investigate, after the meeting of this Council, whether the facts could be obtained later.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

I should be obliged, Sir, if the facts could be obtained, even if it takes six months or a year. I am not in any hurry.

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Well, Sir, we will now have to decide whether the effort involved to obtain the answer would be justified, and that I will do after this meeting of Council.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

132. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Since the acceptance by the Governor of the recommendations of the Nigerianisation Commission how many vacancies have been filled in the Senior Service?

(b) Of these, how many were (i) Africans and (ii) non-Africans?

(c) How many vacancies still exist?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) 210.

(b) (i) 65 Africans; (ii) 145 Non-Africans.

(c) 812.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

133. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Of the number of non-African appointees to the Senior Service during the financial year 1948-49 how many were formerly employed in India, Burma and Palestine?

(b) In what capacities are they employed in Nigeria?

(c) Was it impossible to secure the services of Nigerians for any of these posts?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) Of the non-African new appointments made during the financial year 1948-49 ten were formerly employed in India, one in Burma and twenty-five in Palestine.

(b) Ten in the Administration; nine in the Nigeria Police Force; eight in the Nigerian Railway; two in the Medical Department; one each in the Audit, Colliery, Inland Revenue, Labour, Medical, Survey, and Welfare Departments.

(c) The Honourable Member is well aware of the efforts which are being made by scholarships and training schemes and by promotion from the Junior Service to find Nigerian candidates for Senior posts. The Honourable Member is also aware that the number of qualified Nigerian is however still far short of the number of vacancies to be filled and that all kinds of urgent work is delayed by shortage of staff. In these circumstances this Government has welcomed the opportunity to obtain the services of experienced officers from other Services in the Commonwealth.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

136. To ask the Honourable the Financial Secretary :—

(a) What did the delegation to the London Conference cost this country?

(b) How was this figure arrived at?

Answer—

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

(a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to Question No. 78.

	£	s	d
(b) Passages	2,617	15	0
Allowances	3,642	2	0
Accommodation in the United Kingdom	837	16	11
Railway fares	56	12	11
Incidental Expenses	1	15	0
	<hr/>		
	£7,156	1	10

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

137. To ask the Honourable the Financial Secretary :—

What did each delegate to the London Conference receive as (i) travelling allowance, (ii) kit allowance, (iii) other allowances (if any)?

Answer—

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

It is regretted that it is not possible to give exact figures until complete records have been received from the Crown Agents. No kit allowance was paid. The Unofficial delegates received the

actual cost of transport and accommodation together with the standard allowance (£5 5s a day) payable to Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council.

Supplementary Question to No. 137 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

Sir, will the figures be obtained and made available in due course.

Answer—

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

They will.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

138. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) What are the facts connected with an incident during the "Woro" dance at Lagos at which a Magistrate was alleged to have joined in assaulting a Police Constable and behaving disorderly before a European Police Officer at a Police Station?

(b) If it is not proposed to institute legal proceedings against the offending person will assurance be given that this type will not be encouraged to seek for appointment in the Judicial Department?

(c) Will my Honourable friend agree that this type of civil servant is a disgrace not only to his profession but also to the public service?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

I assume that the Honourable Member refers to an incident which took place on the 20th of August last year when it was alleged that a Magistrate stopped and assaulted a Police Constable who was conducting two men whom he had arrested to the Police Station. The Magistrate contended that the Police Constable was drunk.

Investigation was made at once and the conclusion was reached that neither the allegation of assault nor the allegation of drunkenness could be substantiated and no legal proceedings were therefore instituted.

In the absence of proof of an offence against anyone concerned it would, I am sure, be most undesirable for me to make any further comment.

Supplementary Question to No. 138 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

Sir. 138 (a). Is Government aware that the non-commissioned officer concerned and other police constables who are eye witnesses corroborated the allegation of the assaulted non-commissioned officer?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

I am afraid, Sir, that I personally have no other information than that set out in the answer to the question. The Honourable Member will observe that it is stated in that answer that allegations were made but that after investigation was made it was decided that the allegations could not be substantiated to justify legal proceedings.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

139. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Is Government aware that there is complaint among legal practitioners in Lagos that certain Magistrates are in the habit of making derogatory and offensive remarks about the tribes of certain persons brought before them for trial or adjudication?

(b) Is this conduct not unbecoming of the dignity, and unworthy of the traditions, of the Bench?

(c) Will guarantee be given that this obnoxious practice will be stopped forthwith, if not already done?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) Yes, Sir. It is understood that a few complaints have been made, but none recently.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter is one for His Honour the Chief Justice and the Honourable Member may rest assured that all necessary steps will be taken.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

140. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) What are the facts in relation to the appointment and discharge of Mr E. E. Eyo as a Magistrate?

(b) What are the facts relating to the problems which confronted him regarding his accommodation?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) I understand that Mr Eyo accepted temporary employment as a Magistrate for a term of six months and that at the end of the six months he was not re-engaged.

(b) Mr Eyo applied for and was granted temporary occupation of the Magistrate's Quarters, Ebute Metta, on the clear understanding that he would be required to vacate these quarters upon the appointment of a permanent Magistrate for whom the quarters would be needed. In accordance with that arrangement he had to vacate the quarters shortly before the expiration of his term of office.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

144. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

What is the present position in respect of the arrangement with the United Africa Company Limited to receive fifty per cent of royalty in our minerals for ninety-nine years, from January 1st, 1900?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

As the Honourable Member knows the matter has recently been discussed in Finance Committee and I have no further statement to make at the moment.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

145. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Is it intended to provide any town in Nigeria with fire brigade service during 1949-50?

(b) If so, what towns?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) I know of no proposal to provide additional fire fighting services in the coming financial year but it is of course possible that some of the Native Authorities or other local authorities propose to instal new services or improve existing services.

(b) Does not arise.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

148. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) What is Government's relationship with the Island Club, Lagos?

(b) What are the aims and objects of this Club.

(c) Is Government satisfied that it is fulfilling its aims and objects?

(d) Is it a fact that some of the members are disposed to gambling within the precincts of the Club?

(e) Will guarantee be given that under no circumstances will gambling be tolerated in that Club?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) Government has no official relationship with the Island Club except that the premises occupied by the Club have been leased to the Club by the Government.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to Clause 2 of the Rules of the Club which reads:—

“To provide a common meeting ground under congenial surroundings, to provide residential facilities for members visiting Lagos, to make provision for a club house to contain a bar, smoking room, lounge, reading and writing rooms, recreation rooms, and bedrooms.”

(c) Government has no knowledge to the contrary; but it is a private club and as such its Officers and Members alone are in a position to judge if it is fulfilling its aims and objects.

(d) and (e) No such complaint has been made to the police; if a complaint or report is made to the Police they will of course make investigations and take whatever action is necessary under the law.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

149. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Is it a fact that most surveyors employed under the various Native Authorities in Nigeria practise as surveyors, even though they are prevented by law from so doing since they are not qualified and licensed?

(b) Will steps be taken to see that this deliberate violation of the law is checked at once in order to protect the Licensed Surveyors and Government Surveyors from unfair competition?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) I understand that some Native Authorities in Nigeria employ for the purpose of defining the boundaries of land and of making plans persons who are not qualified or licensed as surveyors. The Government is advised that some of such work may probably be in breach of the terms of section 8 of the Survey Ordinance (Cap. 90).

(b) The whole matter is now being examined, but the position is rendered most difficult by reason of the fact that projects of public benefit are frequently delayed as a result of the acute shortage of surveyors both in the Government service and in private practice.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

153. To ask the Honourable the Financial Secretary:—

What were the profits or losses declared by the following firms operating in Nigeria, during the period 1933 to 1948, year by year (profits should be indicated on a percentage basis)?

- (a) United Africa Company Limited,
- (b) Bank of British West Africa Limited,
- (c) Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial & Overseas),
- (d) Elder Dempster Lines Limited,
- (e) Compagnie Francaise de l'Afrique Occidentale (C.F.A.O.),
- (f) Societe Commerciale de l'Ouest Africain (S.C.O.A.),
- (g) Paterson, Zochonis & Company Limited,
- (h) John Holt & Company (Liverpool) Limited,
- (i) West African Drug Company Limited,
- (j) Lagos Building Society Limited,
- (k) K. Chellaram & Sons,
- (l) J. T. Chanrai & Company,
- (m) Bata Shoe Company Limited,
- (n) J. Allen & Company Limited,
- (o) Royal Assurance Exchange,
- (p) Holland West African Lines Limited,
- (q) French Lines Limited,
- (r) Barber West African Line Inc.,
- (s) G. B. Ollivant Limited,
- (t) British American Tobacco Company Limited,
- (u) West African Soap Company Limited,
- (v) Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria Limited,
- (w) Base Metals of Nigeria Limited,
- (x) Nigerian Printing & Publishing Company, Limited,
- (y) Zard & Company,
- (z) West African Pictures Company Limited.

Answer—

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

The only source from which the information requested by the Honourable Member could be extracted would be the declarations of profits and losses which firms operating in Nigeria are required to make to Commissioner of Income Tax under the Income Tax Ordinance No. 29 of 1943. Section 4 of that Ordinance prohibits the disclosure of information derived from such a source, and it is therefore impossible for the Government to furnish the statement required.

Public Companies, which comprise half of those enumerated by the Honourable Member, do, in certain cases, include a profit and loss statement in the return of assets and liabilities made to the Registrar of Companies under the Companies Ordinance, although they are under no statutory obligation to do so. These statements may be inspected at the office of the Registrar on payment of the prescribed fee.

Supplementary Question to No. 153 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

Is it not possible to obtain such information from the Registrar of Companies at Somerset House, London, in connection with public companies?

Answer—

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

I should like to have notice of that question, Sir.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

158. To ask the Honourable the Development Secretary :—

Does Government intend to construct quays or wharves at Onitsha and Asaba for the benefit of canoe and launch owners and passengers who are ferried across the River Niger, daily between those two places?

Answer—

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

159. To ask the Honourable the Director of Public Works :—

Is it within the plan of Government to erect a bridge across the River Niger between Onitsha and Asaba?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Public Works :

There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

Supplementary Question to No. 159 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

Sir, why is there no proposal under consideration at present?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Public Works :

Sir, the reason why it is not being considered at present is on account of the probable very heavy expenditure involved. A

bridge between Onitsha and Asaba is unlikely to cost much less than one million pounds.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

162. To ask the Honourable the Development Secretary:—

Is it within the realm of engineering possibility to construct canals from Lake Chad to the Atlantic Ocean, coursing through the arid areas of the country?

Answer—

The Hon. the Development Secretary:

I am afraid that I am unable to answer this question since an opinion whether such a project is within the realm of engineering possibility could only be given after an extensive and expensive survey.

I think that I should add that in my opinion it would be a serious mistake to lead anyone to suppose that such an undertaking is at present a practical possibility.

I hope that the Honourable Member will agree that it will be wiser to concentrate our attention on irrigation schemes which are financially and economically practicable rather than raise false hopes by referring to schemes which, at any rate in the foreseeable future, cannot possibly be put into effect.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

167. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Will an official explanation be made whether the following incidents are related, or are of any political significance in the contemporary development of the country?

- (1) The recent and widespread interpretations of Leo Frobenius's book, *The Voice of Africa*, particularly in its relations to the restoration of Ife antiquities.
- (2) The visit of a high-ranking official of the British Museum to Nigeria, in connection with Ife and other Nigerian antiquities.
- (3) The enactment of an Ordinance relating to Nigerian antiquities.
- (4) The appointment of a Supervisor of Antiquities in the civil service.
- (5) The plans for erection of a national museum at Ife.
- (6) The founding of the Egbe Omo Oduduwa and its first convention at Ife.
- (7) The extensive publicity in the British Press that the Egbe Omo Oduduwa is a Yoruba National Movement dedicated to the establishing of a Yoruba State.
- (8) The visit of the Oni of Ife to Great Britain.
- (9) The claim in the British Press that the Oni is "The spiritual head" of Yoruba land and that Ife is "The cradle of the Yoruba race."
- (10) The statement made in the House of Assembly of the Western Provinces by His Honour, the Chief Commissioner, last year in respect of Oduduwa.

- (11) The official permission granted to the Egbe Omo Oduduwa at Lagos and Ibadan to stage "Woro" dances, whilst permission was denied another group.
- (12) The allegation in the Africa Newsletter published by the Communist Party of Great Britain in London that, the Egbe Omo Oduduwa is a Nigerian separatist movement which receives official recognition.

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

The steps referred to in paragraphs (2) to (5) of the question are related to each other in that they arise from the policy of the Government to secure the preservation and public display of Nigerian antiquities. Government is aware of no connection between that policy and the incidents and statements referred to in the other paragraphs, the political significance of which appears to be a matter for individual judgment.

The visit of the Oni of Ife to Great Britain, referred to in paragraph (8), in so far as it was concerned with official matters, was undertaken partly in his capacity of a member of the Nigerian delegation to the African Conference and partly in his capacity of Director of the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company, Ltd.

The statement of His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces, referred to in paragraph (10), is presumably that in which His Honour observed:—

"The democratic principle is the principle on which the ideology of the Yoruba race is based. It is the ideology of all the children of Oduduwa. It is also the policy of this Government and it is well known to you."

These words clearly refer to the heritage of the Yoruba people as a whole and not to any particular organisation.

Regarding paragraph (11), if the Honourable Member will provide details the matter will be investigated. Regarding paragraph (12) the attitude of Government towards the Egbe Omo Oduduwa is the same as its attitude towards any organisation claiming to work for the benefit of Nigerians. Government welcomes the formation of such bodies and interefers with their activities only in the event of some infringement or threatened infringement of the law. It is not however in any way responsible for the policy of such movements or for the statements or actions of their members.

The statements referred to in paragraphs (1), (7) and (9) are, of course, outside the control of this Government and have not been officially inspired.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

168. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Will a statement be made departmentally in respect of the Senior service establishment of the civil service, as follows:—

- (a) Number of vacancies as on April 1, 1947.
- (b) Additional vacancies created in the 1948-49 estimates.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

177. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

What are the plans made or are contemplated for the Nigerianization of the West African Airways Corporation, so far as its activities in Nigeria are concerned?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to the Honourable Member's question No. 178 regarding the principles raised by questions affecting public Corporations. The Honourable Member's question has however been referred to the Corporation which has made the following comment:—

“ In the Engineering, Traffic and Accounts branches of the West African Airways Corporation the general organisation is such that in due course it will be possible, and indeed it is hoped, that suitable members of the Junior staff will become fitted for promotion to the Senior posts and so replace or supplement the present expatriate staff.

It must be realised that civil aviation commercial operation is a complex and specialised business requiring years of experience. As the Corporation is a **very new concern**, the Junior staff have, for the most part, very little practical experience, and many years may be required before they are competent to replace the expatriate staff who are at present seconded from the British Overseas Airways Corporation and have had long years of **experience with a very much bigger and more highly organised Corporation.**”

If the Honourable Member wishes to obtain further information about the Corporation's activities I suggest that he should study the annual report of the Corporation, which has been laid on the table of this Council during the present session.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

178. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) What is the total number of staff, including directors and managers of the Cameroons Development Corporation?

(b) Will details be given of their individual salaries and indication of those of (i) British, (ii) Cameroonian, (iii) Nigerian, and (iv) other origin?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

I refer the Honourable Member to the last annual report of the Cameroons Development Corporation which has been laid on the Table of this Council. A further annual report of the Corporation is now under preparation and will be laid on the Table as soon as it is published. I shall also be glad to arrange for documents

giving information about the activities of the Corporation which have been referred to the United Nations Trusteeship Council to be made available to Honourable Members.

2. At the same time I think that I should make some reference to a question of principle raised by the Honourable Member's questions. As Honourable Members know the Cameroons Development Corporation was established under the authority of an Ordinance to exercise certain powers and to perform stipulated functions. The purpose of setting up such a Corporation was to enable those functions to be carried out in accordance with the law by a body which would not be hampered by the restraints and controls which are necessarily imposed on Government Departments, and, that being so, it would not, I suggest, be right to deal with questions in this Council about the activities of the Corporation in the same way as we deal with questions about the activities of Government Departments. Honourable Members will know that the question of principle regarding Parliamentary questions about the activities of public corporations has been fully discussed in the United Kingdom Parliament and I shall make available the record of those discussions to Honourable Members for their information.

We are anxious to assist Honourable Members to take a close interest in the activities of the Corporation and to place at their disposal all necessary information to enable them to do so. At the same time we must not unduly interfere with the freedom of action which has been given to the Corporation under the law.

I suggest that as a first step Honourable Members should study the annual reports of the Corporation and the other documents which I shall make available to them. If they then wish to obtain information not contained in these reports and documents they will no doubt put down further questions or ask for a debate. If they do so they will no doubt bear in mind the considerations arising from the special statutory position of the Corporation to which I have invited attention.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

179. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) What is Government policy regarding the establishing of a newspaper in this country by a newspaper organization which is controlled by non-Nigerians?

(b) Does Government realize that the Gold Coast has raised very strong objections to this attempt to use finance capital in stultifying nationalism in the Colonial Empire?

(c) Is it a fact that the newspaper organization concerned was scurrilous in its policy towards the British Home Secretary, during the war, for which it was officially censured?

(d) What guarantee have the people of Nigeria and the Cameroons that this notorious newspaper organization will not contaminate public opinion with its alleged specious propaganda?

(e) Who are the owners of the newspaper organization concerned and why are they interested in coming to print and publish newspapers particularly in Nigeria and the Gold Coast?

(f) Who controls that organization?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) The establishment of newspapers in Nigeria is governed by the provisions of the Newspapers Ordinance and it is not the policy of the Government to discriminate against any newspaper which does not offend against the law.

(b) I do not know the position in the Gold Coast in this respect but I am unaware of any attempt on the part of any section of the Nigerian Press to "stultify nationalism".

(c) I have no details of the incident to which the Honourable Member refers but if I am to infer from his question that he disapproves of scurrilous attacks on men occupying public office may I say that such an expression of opinion, coming from anyone associated with the Nigerian Press, is particularly welcome.

(d) I am afraid there are dangers in a free Press which are obvious enough but the Government does not consider that those dangers justify Press censorship or the prohibition of any newspaper which conforms with the laws of the country.

(e) and (f) The Honourable Member can obtain such information regarding companies operating in Nigeria by application to the Administrator-General and payment of the prescribed fee.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

186. To ask the Honourable the Development Secretary:—

(a) What towns in Nigeria are at present provided with electricity either by the central or local government?

(b) What towns will be provided with electricity during 1949-50?

Answer—

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

(a) Lagos, Abeokuta, Ibadan, Warri, Zaria, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Jos, Vom, Maiduguri, Yola, Enugu, Calabar and Port Harcourt.

(b) Bukuru, Victoria and Sapele.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

188. To ask the Honourable the Commissioner of Labour:—

(a) In what industries is the minimum wage rule applied outside the civil service?

(b) Has the time not arrived when a minimum wage scale for all industries will be prepared for enforcement in the interest of the wage-earner?

Answer—

The Hon. the Commissioner of Labour :

(a) Minimum wages are at present fixed by law in the Tailoring, Printing, and Motor Industries in Lagos and the Colony, in the Rubber Industry in the Benin Province, and in the Mining Industry on the Plateau. Enquiries have been made by the Labour Advisory Board for Lagos and the Colony into the wages and conditions of employment of Stevedores and Dock Workers, Retail Trade Employees, Domestic Servants, and Workers in the Catering Trade, and the Board's recommendations are being considered by Government. The Board is at present engaged on an enquiry into the Building and Civil Engineering Trades in Lagos and Colony. A specially constituted Labour Advisory Board will soon commence enquiries into the Timber Industry of the Western Provinces.

(b) No, Sir.

There are at present such considerable divergencies in the standards, the ways, and the costs of living as between workers in different industries and in different parts of the country that the most practicable procedure would appear to be that provided by the Labour Code Ordinance whereby, after considering the recommendations of a Labour Advisory Board, the Governor in Council may make an order fixing a minimum wage for any occupation in Nigeria or any part of Nigeria if he is satisfied that the wages for the occupation are unreasonably low.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

189. To ask the Honourable the Commissioner of Labour :—

Is Government satisfied that the system of registration on a regional basis is working to the advantage of unemployed youths in the Protectorate and Trust Territory as compared to those in the Colony?

Answer—

The Hon. the Commissioner of Labour :

Yes, Sir. The system of registration, which is regional only in the sense that each employment exchange serves a particular area, is designed for the purpose of securing a fair distribution of suitable employment and the avoidance of preventable hardship. The system is kept constantly under review in order that any modifications needed in changing circumstances may be made.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

190. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government :—

(a) Whether a dispatch from the African News Agency published in a Lagos newspaper on January 21, 1949, about the Port Engineer retrenching a member of his staff, with seven days' notice, is true?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the worker concerned had been in the Marine Department "for the past six years"?

(c) If (a) and (b) are true has the officer concerned not flagrantly violated the provisions of the Labour Code Ordinance?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) Yes, Sir. The Department naturally regrets having to make reductions in staff but there can of course be no justification for retaining daily paid staff when the work to be done renders their retention unnecessary.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to section 31 (2) (b) of the Labour, Code Ordinance No. 54 of 1945, which provides for seven days notice when an employee is on a weekly or a daily rate of pay.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

194. To ask the Honourable the Attorney-General :—

(a) Is it a fact that members of the public have had occasion to report what tantamounts to unprofessional conduct on the part of certain legal practitioners?

(b) If so, what action is usually taken in order to protect the public and to maintain the reputation of the Bar?

(c) Will my Honourable and learned friend agree that leniency in enforcing legal ethics strictly might conduce to irregularities rather than have a chastening effect?

Answer—

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Normal practice is that the Attorney-General writes to the legal practitioner concerned enclosing a copy of the complaint made against him and invites him to give his comments on the matter.

In a great majority of cases consideration of the complaint and the reply thereto discloses that professional misconduct has not occurred and that the complaint was founded on a lack of knowledge of the true position.

Many complaints are allegations of overcharges or of failure to complete the work for which the legal practitioner has received his fee and these cases are usually settled amicably between client and the legal practitioner when the full facts have been disclosed.

In serious cases the Attorney-General will refer the matter to the Legal Practitioners Committee, established under the Legal Practitioners Ordinance, 1933, of which committee the Attorney-General is Chairman, and subsequent proceedings will follow the provisions of that Ordinance.

(c) Yes, Sir. I am in entire agreement with the Honourable Member.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

238. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) What (i) has been done, (ii) is being done, (iii) will be done, by the Government to harmonize desirable aboriginal political philosophy with the democratic way of life?

(b) Does Government still accept the principles of the "Indirect Rule" as enunciated by Sir Donald Cameron on July 13, 1934, excerpt of which reads as follows:—

"I endeavour in this Memorandum to expound the principles upon which the system of Indirect Administration is founded, the most important of those principles probably being that 'the allegiance of a people to a tribal head, freely given and without external cause, is the essence of true indirect rule'"

"The system of native administration generally adopted in the Protectorate of Nigeria is known as 'Indirect Administration,' and, based on several principles, is designed to adapt for the purposes of local government the tribal institutions which the native peoples have evolved for themselves, so that the latter may develop in a constitutional manner from their own past, guided and restrained by the traditions and sanctions which they have inherited, moulded or modified as they may be on the advice of British Officers, and by the general control of those officers. . . . I mean by the term 'tribal institution' the tribal authority which according to tradition and usage has in the past regulated the affairs of each unit of native society and which the people of today are willing to recognise and obey, if—I repeat the words again—if we can find it. . . ."

"In place of the alternative of governing directly through Administrative Officers and using the Chiefs merely as our mouth-pieces through whom we give our orders to the people, there is the other method of trying, while we endeavour to purge the native system of its abuses, to graft our higher civilisation upon the soundly rooted native stock, stock that had its foundations in the hearts and minds and thoughts of the people and therefore on which we can build more easily, moulding it and establishing it into lines consonant with modern ideas and higher standards, and yet all the time enlisting the real force of the spirit of the people, instead of killing all that out and trying to start afresh. Under this system the native authorities become not only part of the machinery of Government but also a living part of it, and the political energies and ability of the people are directed to the preservation and development of their own institutions. This is a task which will provide in ever increasing measure ample scope for those progressive Africans who genuinely desire to serve their own people"

(c) Are these being implemented, in practice?

(a) Is Government aware that many people are compelled by their churches to marry according to the Marriage Ordinance, instead of according to native law and custom?

(b) Whilst it is undesirable to interfere in the internal administration of the churches, is it not desirable, in the public interest, that they should modify their policy and allow their members freedom of choice?

(c) Does the Government realize that many people marry according to the Marriage Ordinance, without knowing what are the provisions of the law and without appreciating their implications and complications, to their disillusionment subsequently?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) I understand that certain churches decline to allow their members to remain in communion after contracting marriages by other than Christian rites, but I do not think that this can be regarded as compulsion.

(b) I suggest that this is a matter which must be left to the Churches and their congregations.

(c) I have no information to that effect.

Supplementary Question to No. 261 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

Sir, is my Honourable friend aware that in certain churches such members are excommunicated? If so, is that not an element of compulsion?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

I think the Honourable Member must agree that whether the action of excommunication is taken or not must be a matter for the church and the church alone.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

266. To ask the Honourable the Financial Secretary :—

(a) In what securities are the surplus funds of the Nigerian Railway invested?

(b) What is the period of maturity of each investment?

(c) What interest does each investment yield?

(d) What is the grand total of such investments as at December, 1948?

(e) What is the grand total of the interest earned from such securities?

Answer—

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

The answers to parts (a), (b) and (c) of the Honourable Member's question are furnished in the subjoined statement of investments as at 31st December, 1948.

<i>Securities in which surplus funds are invested</i>	<i>Date of Maturity</i>	<i>Rate of Interest</i>
Australia (Commonwealth of) Registered	1961-66	3½
do. do. do.	1965-69	3¼
do. do. do.	1952-56	3¾
do. do. do.	1961-64	4
British Guiana Inscribed	1962-72	3¼
Corporation of London	1965	3½
Derby Corporation Redeemable	1953-63	3½
Hertfordshire County Council Redeemable	1954-59	3½
do. do. do.	1958-63	3½
Ipswich Corporation Redeemable	1964	3½
National War Bonds	1954-56	2½
Newport (Mon) Corporation Redeemable	1960-70	3½
New Zealand Inscribed	1949	5
do.	1955-60	3½
Plymouth Corporation Redeemable	1960-70	3½
do. do.	1972-82	3½
Salford Corporation Redeemable	1954-64	3½
Savings Bonds	1955-65	3
do.	1960-70	3
South Africa (Union of) Inscribed	1953-73	3½
do. do.	1955-65	3½
Swansea Corporation Redeemable	1960-70	3½
Trinidad Inscribed	1965-70	3
West Riding County Redeemable	1957	3½
do. do.	1950-70	3½

The market value of the Investments listed above at the 31st December, 1948, was:—

(d) £992,853.

(e) Interest earned in the financial year 1947-48 amounted to £29,420.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

268. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Is there in operation control of the movement of foodstuffs in the country?

(b) Is it possible for the people of this country to engage in internal trade in foodstuff *ad libitum*, as in the pre-war days?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

The legislation empowering the issue of orders controlling the movement of foodstuffs remains but all the orders made thereunder have been revoked, as their continuance in force was considered unnecessary.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

283. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

What efforts are being made by the Government to translate the laws and important official decrees into the various language groups of the country?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

The revised edition of the Laws, which is now being printed, will consist of twelve volumes. To translate those twelve volumes into a great many different languages would of course be an enormous undertaking and the cost would be prohibitive. It seems to me that such a project, even if it could practically be undertaken, might well create new difficulties which would defeat its own purpose. It is inevitable that in translations of this kind difficulties and errors of translation would occur, resulting in misconstruction of the law, for which the sole authority would of course remain the English version.

While translation of all laws and regulations is therefore, I am afraid, out of the question, I think that there would be advantage in translating some of the most important laws into the principal Nigerian languages and I also think that there is a great deal to be said for preparing simple statements in Nigerian languages explaining to the people the purposes and provisions of important laws, reports and statements of policy. This proposal is being further examined.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

292. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

(a) Will a statement be made in respect of grants-in-aid made to secondary schools in (i) the Colony, (ii) the Western Provinces, (iii) the Northern Provinces, (iv) the Eastern Provinces, and (v) the Cameroons, during the financial year 1948-49?

(b) What secondary schools were benefited and what sums were made available to each of them?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education:

The information will be circulated to Honourable Members as soon as possible after the close of the Financial year.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

293. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

Of the scholarships awarded under Government auspices to the people of this country, from 1938-48, what was the tribal classification of the holders?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education:

Scholarships are and will continue to be awarded on merit, although in conformity with paragraph 19 (f) of the Nigerianization Commission Report, special attention will be paid to the Northern Provinces and to backward areas. To give a full reply to the Honourable Member's question would involve checking the papers

of all candidates awarded scholarships in the whole ten year period. This would involve a good deal of work and in any event I suggest that it would be wrong to give any encouragement to the suggestion which is sometimes made that scholarships should not be awarded on grounds of merit and suitability for further training but on a basis of tribal classification.

Supplementary Question to No. 293 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

Is it possible to furnish the information required in respect of the year 1948?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education :

I think, Sir, that the information could be obtained after a few weeks' research.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

299. To ask the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony :—

(a) What are the facts relating to the alleged summary dismissal of a labourer in the Lagos Town Council?

(b) Is it a fact that he had served that municipal body for about fourteen years?

(c) Was any wage paid to him in lieu of notice?

(d) Was he granted any gratuity?

Answer—

The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony :

If the Honourable Member will furnish the name and tally number of the labourer to whom his question relates, the facts of the case will be obtained.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

300. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government :—

(a) Are Home-to-Home-Delivery Postal men supposed to be furnished with uniforms?

(b) Was any sum voted for same in the Estimates?

(c) Is Government satisfied that such sums had been expended to the best interest of (i) the men concerned, and (ii) the tax-payers?

(d) Will steps be taken to see that all such postal officials are supplied with appropriate uniforms and accoutrements?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) Postmen are supplied with uniform as follows :—

Helmet—one every two years.

Rain Cape—one every two years.

Tunic and Trousers—two suits per year.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) To the best of my knowledge the reply is ' Yes '.

(d) See my reply (a) above.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

319. To ask the Honourable the Financial Secretary :—

(a) Is there any cogent reason why public funds are deposited in certain banks, exclusively?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

358. To ask the Honourable the Development Secretary:—

(a) What loans had been made, locally, under the Welfare and Development Scheme, or the Colonial Development Corporation, as at December, 1948?

(b) Will the names of the beneficiaries, the amount loaned them, the interest charged, the period of maturity and the purpose for which the loan was made, be made public?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Parts (a) and (b) Full details of all loans made by the Nigeria Local Development Board are published in the Annual Report of the Board which has been laid on the table of this House as Sessional Paper No. 6 of 1949.

So far as this Government is aware no loans have been made in Nigeria by the Colonial Development Corporation.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

365. To ask the Honourable the Attorney-General:—

(a) Are Jurors paid any allowances in order to defray out-of-pocket expenses in respect of transport?

(b) If not, will same be considered, not only in view of the hardship experienced by some Jurors, but because allowances for witnesses are provided for, according to Law?

Answer—

The Hon. the Attorney-General:

(a) No, Sir. There is no legal provision for the payment of out-of-pocket expenses to Jurors.

(b) The service given by Jurors, especially in criminal cases, is regarded as a duty owed by the citizen to the State but this duty should not cause actual hardship. It is proposed to consider the matter with the Chief Justice and the Honourable Member will be informed of the decision reached.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

366. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Who represents the interest of Nigeria, as an Unofficial Member of the West Africa Airways Corporation?

(b) What interest does the Honourable T. W. Tachie-Menson represent on the West Africa Airways Corporation, the Gold Coast or Nigeria?

(c) How many European ladies are employed by the West Africa Airways Corporation either as Account Clerks or Secretary-Typists?

(d) What efforts are being made to replace them with capable Nigerians?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

It is provided by section 8 of the West African Territories (Air Transport) Order in Council that the West African Airways Corporation shall consist of a Chairman and five members, three of whom shall not be members of the public service, to be nominated by the West African Air Transport Authority. One unofficial member is a representative of British Overseas Airways Corporation, with which Corporation it is necessary for West African Airways Corporation to maintain a close liaison, and the other two unofficial members are Mr G. Cotgreave and Mr Tachie-Menson. The Honourable Member will see that unofficial representation on the Corporation is not on a territorial basis.

As regards the other points raised in the question, I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to question No. 178.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

368. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Is it a fact that there is complaint of discrimination by Ibo-speaking members of the Printing Department particularly at Kaduna?

(b) What is the total number of the staff of the Printing Department at Kaduna?

(c) What is the proportion of Ibo-speaking employees to the rest?

(d) Is Government satisfied that they are being given a square deal, so far as promotions are concerned, other things being equal?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) I have heard no complaint of this kind.

(b) Seventy-five.

(c) 43 per cent.

(d) Yes, Sir.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

370. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Has Government considered the petition submitted by John Ajayi Oshodi humbly praying for restoration of his motor launch, "Wasinmi", which was confiscated as a result of his folly?

(b) In view of the fact that twenty years have now elapsed since the incident occurred and the petitioner is advancing in age and experiencing hardship, economically, will Government be disposed to reconsider its decision?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The motor launch "Wasinmi" was confiscated in 1928 because it had been used for smuggling. It was subsequently

employed by the Nigeria Police in patrol work and it was in use for this purpose until 1938 when it was condemned by a Board of Survey as unfit for further service and was destroyed by sinking. The petitioner has been informed accordingly.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

372. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

In the light of the representations made by the Nigerian Messengers Union, will Government not reconsider its stand so far as the demands for a revised salary scale, pensions, cycle allowance, quarters, overtime, tenure of office, etc. are concerned?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Government has given very careful consideration to the representations of the Nigerian Messengers' Union and members of that Union have had the fullest opportunities of presenting their case, both orally and in writing. With regard to conditions of service I shall forward to the Honourable Member a copy of a full reply made to the Union in December last. The question of salary scales for Messengers is still under consideration and Chief Commissioners and Heads of Departments are being consulted.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

376. To ask the Honourable the Development Secretary:—

(a) Is it proposed to have an extension of the railway in the Eastern Provinces:—

(b) If so, will it reach any point in Owerri Division?

(c) Is an extension of the railway line from Umuahia *via* Owerri to Onitsha and Enugu not possible?

Answer—

The Hon. the Development Secretary:

(a) and (b) No extensions to the railway system in the Eastern Provinces are at present contemplated.

(c) Such an extension may be possible but it is unlikely that it would be an economic undertaking. The heavy freight traffic between these places would probably be insufficient, while for light and passenger traffic a railway would have to face particularly severe competition from motor transport.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

384. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Will Government investigate the complaint of Muhamadu Yakasi Kano, a Hausa-born labourer, who prays to be relieved of his contract of service at the Spanish plantations in Fernando Po, on the grounds of misrepresentation and cruelty?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Yes, Sir, when and if any such complaint is made either to the British Vice-Consul, Fernando Po, or to my office,

Supplementary Question to No. 384 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

Sir, should such complaint be made by the person concerned or by the questioner?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Whichever the Honourable Member prefers, but if the complaint is made certainly it will be investigated.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

396. To ask the Honourable the Attorney-General:—

- (a) If crime is on the increase in Nigeria for the past five years?
- (b) To what would he attribute the cause or causes?
- (c) What efforts have been made by his Department to stem them?

Answer—

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

(a) Yes, Sir. The number of criminal cases of all kinds in 1944 was 33,667, while the corresponding figure for 1948 was 44,282, both these figures being exclusive of minor contraventions of law and of offences committed by juveniles. Cases of forgery have increased from 21 in 1944 to 60 in 1948, while there has been a fall in the number of cases of counterfeit coining. There has been a fall in the number of cases of burglary but a considerable increase in the number of cases of housebreaking particularly in the breaking of stores. There has been a steady fall in cases of vagrancy from 667 cases in 1947 to 176 cases in 1948, the fall being attributed to increased employment.

(b) It is recognised that an increase in crime follows a war and the increase of crime in Nigeria is proportionate and not greater than similar increases in other countries which were affected by war conditions.

(c) In criminal matters this Department works in close co-operation with the police and every effort is made to assist, by the prosecution of offenders and the availability of legal advice at any time.

The Third Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. G. I. Obaseki):

403. To ask the Honourable the Financial Secretary:—

(a) What is the Nigeria Actual Annual Revenue for the last five financial years?

(b) What is the Nigeria Actual Annual Expenditure for the same period?

(c) What is the Public Debt (if any) incurred during this period?

(d) What is or are the reason or reasons for this Public Debt?

(e) How soon is it expected that the Public Debt will be repaid?

Answer—

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

(a) The total annual revenue actually accrued to Nigeria during the last five financial years was as follows:—

	£
1943-44	10,913,200
1944-45	11,444,756
1945-46	13,200,428
1946-47	14,832,438
1947-48	18,404,132

(b) The total annual expenditure actually incurred by Nigeria during the last five financial years was as follows:—

	£
1943-44	9,976,537
1944-45	10,132,599
1945-46	10,692,775
1946-47	14,051,688
1947-48	17,185,940

(c) During the period in question the following additions have been made to the Public Debt:—

(i) <i>Funded Loans.</i>	£
Nigerian Government Loan, 1956-1961 ...	300,000
Nigerian Government Loan, 1966-1971 ...	1,250,000
(ii) <i>Unfunded Loans.</i>	
Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme No. D.259	100,000
Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme No. D.549	10,000

For details of these loans the Honourable Member is referred to Statement No. 13 in Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1948.

In addition to the foregoing a total of £1,349,750 has been advanced from Revenue pending the raising of authorised loans.

(d) Funds are provided through the Public Debt to meet the cost of the various services and works which are necessary for the progress and development of the Territory, and which can not appropriately be met from revenue after due provision has been made by way of reserves for inescapable future commitments and a possible contraction of revenue.

(e) The dates on which the various outstanding loans to the Nigerian Government are due for redemption are set out in Statement No. 13 in Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1948, to which the Honourable Member has already been referred.

A fuller statement regarding the Public Debt will be made during the Budget Meeting of the Council.

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. H. Buowari Brown):

411. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) If there are any substantial and satisfactory reasons why the Railway Department has refused to erect a Halt for convenience of residents in the African location of Aba Township whereas this privilege has been granted to smaller towns along the Eastern line?

(b) Is the present General Manager of our Railways aware of the fact that applications for this Halt have been persistently and reasonably made for more than ten years now but nothing has been done to meet the people's wishes?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) Yes, Sir. I understand that the site is barely a mile from the present station and that the erection of a Halt there would disturb the train working on a section of the line where difficulty is already experienced in moving the coal, palm kernels and palm oil offering. Moreover there would be no appreciable increase in revenue to offset the cost of erecting and maintaining a Halt.

(b) Yes, Sir. It has not however been possible to accede to such applications for the reasons given.

The Third Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. G. I. Obaseki):

418. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) What facilities exist for telecommunication and postal services at Issele Uku and surrounding towns and villages?

(b) If the answer is in the negative, how soon does the Government contemplate to provide for these services in view of the urgent demands of their inhabitants for such services?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) A Postal Agency exists at Issele Uku and there are two other Agencies within a seven-mile radius. The nearest telegraph office is at Ogwashi Uku a distance of twelve miles.

(b) Provision has been made for the building of a Post Office at Issele Uku and it is hoped that this will be completed within a year. Full postal facilities will then be available and it should be possible to instal a telephone call office. The question of a telegraph circuit will receive consideration also.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

437. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) What are the specific duties of His Excellency the Governor?

(b) Is the emolument attached to the post commensurate with the performance of the specific duties to which I have referred?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) The duties of His Excellency the Governor are set out in the Letters Patent, Royal Instructions and Orders in Council.

(b) I do not think that I should attempt to reply to this question which seems to me to be out of order under Standing Rules and Orders 10 (9) (e) in that it solicits an expression of opinion.

BILLS

*(Second and Third Readings)*THE EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN (AMENDMENT)
ORDINANCE, 1949**The Hon. the Commissioner of Labour :**

Your Excellency, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled:

“ An Ordinance to amend the Employment of Ex-Servicemen Ordinance, 1945.”

The Hon. the Resident, Abeokuta Province :

Your Excellency, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1 and 2.

Title.

Council resumed.

The Hon. the Commissioner of Labour :

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee without amendment. I beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The Hon. the Resident, Abeokuta Province :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE NIGERIAN GROUNDNUT MARKETING ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to move the second reading of a Bill entitled:—

“ An Ordinance to make provision for the Marketing and Export of Nigerian Groundnuts and certain other Oilseeds and for matters connected therewith.”

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1-12.

Clause 13.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, in order to remove anomalies caused by the section as first drafted, I propose that clause 13 be amended as follows;

As drafted

The Marketing Board is hereby exempted from all the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance, 1943, other than the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 29, sections 39, 44 and 46, sub-section (2) of section 48, and section 49 thereof.

Clause 13 as amended.

Clauses 14-22.

Clause 23.

Amendment proposed

The Marketing Board is hereby exempted from the provisions of sections 26 and 43 of the Income Tax Ordinance of 1943.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, in order to enable the Board to make loans to Government, I move that clause 23 be amended as follows :

That a sub-section be added to read :

“(2) (a) It shall be lawful for the Board to make and for the Government to receive loans out of monies standing to the credit of the Board upon such terms as may be agreed by and between the Board and the Government.

(b) An agreement for a loan made pursuant to the provisions of sub-section (a) shall be of no force or effect whatsoever until the terms thereof have been approved by the Legislative Council by resolution ”.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, will this Council substitute the words “ paragraph (a) ” for “ sub-section (a) ” and that the original section of the Bill as it stands be renumbered (1) in view of the following sub-section.

Clause 23 as amended.

Clauses 24-29.

Clause 30.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

I propose that paragraph (d) be deleted and the following substituted :

“(d) Six Nigerian members, of whom one shall be appointed by the Marketing Board from among its Nigerian members, two shall be appointed by the House of Chiefs, and three shall be appointed by the Unofficial Members of the Northern House of Assembly.”.

Clause 30 as amended.

Clauses 31-37.

Clause 38,

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I move that paragraph (c) of sub-section (2) be deleted and the following new paragraphs substituted therefor.

“(c) not less than two and not more than four shall be appointed from among their number by the Unofficial Members of the Northern House of Assembly; and

(d) not less than two and not more than four shall be appointed from among their number by the Unofficial Members of the House of Chiefs; and ”

and further that paragraph (d) of sub-section (2) be re-lettered (e).

Clause 38 as amended.

Clauses 39-51.

Clause 52.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I propose the deletion of the present clause as drafted and the substitution of a new clause as follows:

“ The Production Development Board is hereby exempted from the provisions of sections 26 and 43 of the Income Tax Ordinance of 1943.”.

Clause 52 as amended.

Clauses 53-56.

Clause 57.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I move that in sub-section (2) after the words ‘ House of Assembly ’ the words ‘ and on the table of the House of Chiefs ’ be inserted.

Clause 57 as amended.

Clauses 58-64.

Clause 65.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I move that the whole of this clause be deleted and the following substituted on the lines of clause 67 of the Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Ordinance, 1949 :

“(1) Where the Marketing Board ceases for any reason to exercise its functions under this Ordinance whether by reason of the repeal of the Ordinance or otherwise the funds of the Marketing Board shall be allocated for the benefit of the Northern, Eastern and Western Regions and of the Colony in such proportions as the Legislative Council having due regard to the volume of produce marketed in each Region may by resolution direct.

(2) Such funds as are thereby allocated for the benefit of the Colony shall be disposed of for the benefit of the Colony and in such manner as the Governor in Council may direct.

- (3) Such funds as are thereby allocated for the benefit of the Northern, Eastern or Western Regions shall be disposed of for the benefit of such Regions and in such manner as the House of Chiefs and the Northern, Eastern or Western Houses of Assembly may respectively by resolution direct.

Clause 65 as amended.

Clause 66.

Clause 67.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

I would like to know why clause 9 has not been amended, because I have here on my schedule of amendments clause 9 to be amended.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary:

It has not been proposed to amend the clause.

Title.

Council resumed.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary:

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee as amended. I beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The Hon. the Development Secretary:

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE NIGERIAN OIL PALM PRODUCE MARKETING ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Financial Secretary:

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled:—

“ An Ordinance to make provision for the marketing and export of Nigerian Oil Palm Produce and for matters connected therewith ”.

The Hon. the Development Secretary:

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1-8.

Clause 9.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary:

Clause 9, Sir. I move the deletion of the clause as drafted and the substitution therefor of the following:

“ At a meeting of the Marketing Board three members and the Chairman shall be a quorum.”

Clause 9 as amended.

Clauses 10-12.

Clause 13.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

I move that clause 13 should be deleted and the following substituted :

“ The Marketing Board is hereby exempted from the provisions of sections 26 and 43 of the Income Tax Ordinance of 1943.”

Clause 13 as amended.

Clauses 14-16.

Clause 17.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Clause 17, Sir. I move that the clause should be amended by the insertion in sub-section (b) after the word “ necessary ” of the words “ standards and ”.

Clause 17 as amended.

Clauses 18-22.

Clause 23.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

I move that a new sub-section (2) be added as follows :

“ (2) (a) It shall be lawful for the Board to make and for the Government to receive loans out of monies standing to the credit of the Board upon such terms as may be agreed by and between the Board and the Government.

(b) An agreement for a loan made pursuant to the provisions of sub-section (a) shall be of no force or effect whatsoever until the terms thereof have been approved by the Legislative Council by resolution.”

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

I move that the words “ paragraph (a) ” be substituted for the words “ sub-section (a) ” and that the original section of the Bill as it stands be renumbered (1) in view of the following sub-section.

Clause 23 as amended.

Clauses 24-50.

Clause 51.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

I move that after the word “ purchase ” in line 2 the words “ or lease ” should be inserted.

Clause 51 as amended.

Clauses 52 and 53.

Clause 54.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Clause 54, Sir. I propose the deletion of clause 54 and the substitution of the following words :

“ The Regional Production Development Boards are hereby exempted from the provisions of sections 26 and 43 of the Income Tax Ordinance of 1943 ”.

Clause 54 as amended.

Clauses 55-59.

Clause 60.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I move the deletion of the last five words of clause 60 (b) and the addition of the following proviso :

“ Provided that the Marketing Board may issue a general licence for the export of small quantities of produce, not exceeding four gallons each of palm oil or palm kernel oil, as accompanied or unaccompanied personal effects or by parcel post ”.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

There is a further technical amendment, Sir, by placing a colon after the words “ Marketing Board ”.

Clause 60 as amended.

Clause 61.

Clause 62.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Clause 62, Sir. I move that a proviso be added to read :

“ Provided that in giving any direction under this section the Marketing Board shall have regard to the interests of Nigerian industries ”.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, may we assume a colon?

Clause 62 as amended.

Clauses 63-66.

Clause 67.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Clause 67, Sir. I move that in sub-section (1) after the words “ Legislative Council ” be inserted the words “ having due regard to the volume of produce marketed in each Region ”. I also move that sub-section (3) as drafted be deleted and the following substituted :

“ (3) Such funds as are thereby allocated for the benefit of the Northern Region shall be disposed of for the benefit of such Region and in such manner as the Northern House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs may by resolution direct ”.

adding a further sub-section (4) as follows :

“(4) Such funds as are thereby allocated for the benefit of the Western or Eastern Regions shall be disposed of for the benefit of such Regions and in such manner as the Western or Eastern Houses of Assembly respectively may by resolution direct.”.

Clause 67 as amended.

Clause 68,

Clause 69.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

I move that clause 69, Sir, be amended by the deletion of the word “fourteen” in line four and the substitution of the word “twenty-one”

Clause 69 as amended.

Clause 70.

Title.

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. H. Buowari Brown):

What about the amendment amending section 3 (2)?

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

As I said yesterday, that amendment was not accepted by Government, nor was any amendment moved in this House.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

Your Excellency, this is a question I should like to know. How this Ordinance is going to affect our people making palm kernel oil locally for home consumption?

His Excellency:

I am afraid the Honourable Member is out of order at this stage in discussing the merits of the principles of the Bill. We are now in Committee. When we come to the third reading perhaps the Honourable Member will speak then.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

All right, Sir.

Title.

Council resumed.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee as amended. I beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed. I think, Sir, I would be in order in saying at this stage that on the point raised by the Honourable Member there is no intention at all that this Bill should have any adverse effect on the production locally for home consumption of palm kernel oil in small quantities.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE NIGERIAN COTTON MARKETING ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled :—

“ An Ordinance to make provision for the Marketing and Export of Nigerian Cotton and for matters connected therewith.”

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1-8.

Clause 9.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.) :

Sir, I beg to make an amendment here, Sir. Delete section 9 and substitute :

“ At a meeting of the Marketing Board two members of whom one shall be a Nigerian Unofficial and the Chairman shall be a quorum.”

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

I explained yesterday, Sir, why Government would not be prepared to accept this amendment. The reason is that if that is done it would enable the proceedings of the Board to be invalidated by the unofficial members abstaining from attending.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.) :

Why we are pressing for this matter, Sir, is because although we do know, that notices are usually sent out to members of such Boards, it might happen that at the last moment a Nigerian member might not be able to attend owing to indisposition; an official member, could easily be substituted in similar circumstances.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

I think I should make the point, Sir, that there is no suggestion of an unofficial member being substituted by an official member, as the Honourable Member suggested.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin) :

Your Excellency, I am in entire agreement with the last speaker on the amendment. The amendment should be clarified. After “ two members ” add “ one should be a Nigerian Unofficial ”, and I will press for a division on this, in case anything contrary to that intention does come from the official side. There should be no cause for suspicion about this at all, and it should be made clear according to the amendment here as moved by the member from the Eastern Provinces.

The Second Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.):

Sir, I think the request from the unofficial side for this amendment is in the interests of Government.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary:

I am not quite sure, Sir, whether it is realised by Honourable Members that what we are now dealing with is the quorum and not the number of members on the Board. There are, of course, a number of unofficial members on the Board. We are merely dealing with the quorum.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

It is not in order, Sir, to have an official majority on the quorum.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

If I may, Sir, I should like to say one word on this. I believe that there is still some doubt in the minds of Honourable Members. Indeed, there is doubt in mine, as I have not been responsible for the passage of the Bill, and I come to it without detailed knowledge of all its provisions. I should like to avoid any misunderstanding upon what, in fact, is a point of detail. The purpose in the mind of the Honourable Members from the East is, I gather, simply that a quorum should include at least one Nigerian. It seems to me that that purpose is unobjectionable, and I would suggest, Sir, that rather than proceed to a vote on this point—and it seems to me that the disagreement arises from a misunderstanding—perhaps Your Excellency would agree that the House should stand adjourned for ten minutes or a quarter of an hour for this matter to be privately discussed. I hope that we can avoid going to a vote when the matter is due to misunderstanding and not a difference of substance.

His Excellency:

The sitting of the House is suspended for ten minutes.

Council adjourned.

Council resumed.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary:

Clause 9, Sir, which has been discussed in the adjournment.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

Sir, may I be allowed to make the following amendment:

“ At a meeting of the Cotton Marketing Board three members and the chairman shall be a quorum ”.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary:

That, Sir, is acceptable to the Government.

Clause 9 as amended.

Clauses 10-12.

Clause 13.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Clause 13, Sir. I move its deletion and substitution by:

“ The Marketing Board is hereby exempted from the provisions of sections 26 and 43 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 1943 ”.

Clause 13 as amended.

Clauses 14-22.

Clause 23.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Clause 23, Sir. I move the addition of a new sub-section (2), with the renumbering of the present section as sub-section (1).

Sub-section (2):

“ (2) (a) It shall be lawful for the Board to make and for the Government to receive loans out of monies standing to the credit of the Board upon such terms as may be agreed by and between the Board and the Government.

(b) An agreement for a loan made pursuant to the provisions of sub-section (a) shall be of no force or effect whatsoever until the terms thereof have been approved by the Legislative Council by resolution.”

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

It should be paragraph (a) and not sub-section (a).

Clause 23 as amended.

Clauses 24-30.

Clause 31.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Clause 31, Sir. I move the deletion of paragraph (d) and its substitution by:

“ (d) Six Nigerian members, of whom one shall be appointed by the Cotton Marketing Board, two shall be appointed by the House of Chiefs, and three shall be appointed by the Unofficial Members of the House of Assembly.”

Clause 31 as amended.

Clause 32.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I move the deletion of paragraph (d) and its substitution by:

“ Six Nigerian unofficial members of whom one shall be appointed by the Cotton Marketing Board and one by the producers, and four by the Western House of Assembly.”

Clause 32 as amended.

Clauses 33-41.

Clause 42.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Clause 42 (1), Sir, I move the addition of a proviso:

“ Provided that in giving any direction under this sub-section the Marketing Board shall have regard to the interests of Nigerian industries.”

It will also mean a consequential amendment, Sir, from a full stop to a colon.

Clause 42 (2), Sir. I move that after the word "oil" should be inserted the words "or other product", with the addition of a proviso:

"Provided that the Marketing Board may issue a general licence for the export of small quantities of cotton seed oil, not exceeding four gallons, as accompanied or unaccompanied personal effects or by parcel post."

At the end of 42 (2), Sir, the full stop will also become a colon.

Clause 42 as amended.

Clauses 43-46.

Clause 47.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I move the deletion of this section and substitution by :

- "47. (1) Where the Marketing Board ceases for any reason to exercise its functions under this Ordinance by reason of the repeal of the Ordinance or otherwise the funds of the Marketing Board shall be allocated for the benefit of the Northern and Western Regions in such proportions as the Legislative Council having due regard to the volume of produce marketed in each Region may by resolution direct.
- (2) Such funds as are thereby allocated for the benefit of the Northern Region shall be disposed of for the benefit of such Region and in such manner as the Northern House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs may by resolution direct.
- (3) Such funds as are thereby allocated for the benefit of the Western Region shall be disposed of for the benefit of such Region and in such manner as the Western House of Assembly may by resolution direct."

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama) :

I propose an amendment to this amendment. If it is in order I propose an amendment which would bring this clause in line with the amendment in the previous two Marketing Board Bills. Your Excellency will perceive that in this amendment the Eastern Region has been studiously excluded. The reason for this is not known to me, because if it is that no cotton is grown in the Eastern Provinces, there is also the fact that no cocoa, as far as I gather, is grown in the North, and the Northern Provinces take benefit under the Cocoa Marketing Board funds. I think, Sir, that in order that everything should be on a par, the amendment to this Ordinance should be such as to give the same effect to the funds of this Board as to the funds of the other Boards. The amendment I have in mind is expanding the amendment made by the Honourable the Financial Secretary to clause 47 (1). It should then read:

“ 47. (1) Where the Marketing Board ceases for any reason to exercise its functions under this Ordinance by reason of the repeal of the Ordinance or otherwise the funds of the Marketing Board shall be allocated for the benefit of the Northern, Western and Eastern Regions in such proportions as the Legislative Council having due regard to the volume of produce marketed in each Region may by resolution direct.”

Clause 47 (3), Sir, should also be amended to read :

“ (3) Such funds as are thereby allocated for the benefit of the Western or Eastern Region shall be disposed of for the benefit of such Region and in such manner as the Western or Eastern House of Assembly may by resolution direct.”

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

The further amendment, Sir, is acceptable to Government.

Clause 47 as amended.

Clauses 48 and 49.

Title.

Council resumed.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee as amended. I beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

Sir, on a point of information, Sir. Yesterday, clause 26, I got it down that on 26 (j) there was to be an amendment.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

If I may speak, Sir, I referred to that matter yesterday and explained why an amendment was not acceptable to Government.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE LOCAL LOANS (REGISTERED STOCK AND SECURITIES)
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled :—

“ An Ordinance to amend the Local Loans (Registered Stock and Securities) Ordinance, 1946.”

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1-3.

Title.

Council resumed.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee without amendment. I beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

Your Excellency, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled :—

“ An Ordinance further to amend the Public Holidays Ordinance ”.

The Hon. the Senior Resident, Kano Province :

Sir, I beg to second.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

Sir, we in this country were very glad indeed for Government to introduce a Bill of this kind to be embodied in our Statute Book, but we cannot understand, Sir, the attitude of certain Missionary Bodies in this country. Whenever a public holiday is declared, which has no connection whatsoever with certain religious beliefs, then it is the practice—or was the practice in the past—for a certain section of those Missionary Bodies, Sir, to ignore the fact. So that if we have a public holiday, which is in our Statute Book quite clearly, they should be made to comply with the law of the land. I would like to bring it to the notice of the Government, Sir, that in future if any Missionary Body is found guilty of not doing so, it should be dealt with in the proper manner. Sir, I support the Bill.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

Your Excellency, I rise only to say that this Bill is welcome, and it is a sort of climax to a struggle of eight years to recognise the rights of Muslims to have certain public holidays. It is gratifying indeed that just as this country recognise the birthday of Jesus of Nazareth, we also recognise the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad (Id el Maulud).

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.) :

Your Excellency, I personally did not intend to oppose this Bill, but if it is going to be enforced in such a way that any Christian who does not take a holiday during the specified time, and you are going to take the law against him, well, I am prepared to oppose it, Sir.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama) :

Your Excellency, the whole idea of a public holiday is for Government offices to be closed. I don't think the idea is to interfere with private persons or religious denominations. I mean that just as a

Moslem would, if he wished, be entitled to carry on his trade on Easter Monday, I assume I would be entitled to carry on my practice on whatever day this holiday falls. I would not agree, Sir, that any sanctions should be imposed on people who do not recognise, in their private capacity, a public holiday, but I think the whole idea is to give the whole of the country one more day rest.

His Excellency:

Yes.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:

Sir, there is only one sanction I am aware of, that on a public holiday any labourer who wants a holiday must have it. If he works he is paid time and a half or twice, I forget which.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Clause 1.

Clause 2.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

Clause 2, Sir. May we delete the words "The birthday of the Prophet Muhammad (Id el Maulud)" and substitute therefor the words "Such day as the Governor may declare to be a public holiday in celebration of the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad (Id el Maulud)".

Clause 2 as amended.

Title.

Council resumed.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee with one amendment. Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The Hon. the Senior Resident, Kano Province:

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE MANILLA PROHIBITION ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Financial Secretary:

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled:—

"An Ordinance to prohibit the use of Manillas as Currency".

The Hon. the Resident, Ogoja Province:

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1-5.

Title.

Council resumed.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee without amendment. I move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The Hon. the Resident, Ogoja Province :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

**THE ROYAL WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE (NIGERIA REGIMENT)
COURTS-MARTIAL VALIDATION ORDINANCE, 1949****The Hon. the Attorney-General :**

Sir, with respect to the motion standing in my name, to move the second reading of a Bill for

“ An Ordinance relating to certain Courts-Martial convened between the 30th day of October, 1945, and the 11th day of July, 1946, both dates inclusive.”,

I do not propose to move the second reading. I have discovered, Sir, that there is genuine apprehension among certain members as to the effect of this Bill, and there is—and I agree with them here, Sir—a general lack of information upon which to base a motion of this kind. I ask leave of the Council to withdraw the Bill.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

Your Excellency, may I ask what would be the fate of the soldiers who have been so tried *ultra vires*, sentenced, and punished, because I believe that they are still deprived of the liberty of their persons.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

If I may answer the Honourable Member, Sir, I think there is some confusion here. I am unaware whether any court-martial has been held during this period. The Honourable Member has another motion about court-martial, but that was held under the Army Act. With regard to the Honourable the First Member's motion, I have here a record of the trial of that court-martial, in which, I may say, a Nigerian Advocate appeared in the case for the defence. Before his motion comes off I should be glad if he would come and see me. We could then discuss it together and he would see what the position is. I agree that a situation in which there is danger of any Nigerian soldier being tried incorrectly is a serious one, but it is too early now to consider this motion before we know where we are.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama) :

On this point, Sir, may I ask if the Honourable the Attorney-General would find out in the course of the next month or two, whether in fact courts-martial were held, and whether in fact any persons are still detained by reason of punishments inflicted as a result of those abortive courts-martial, and whether Government will order their release otherwise I would like to get their names, as in my view they would be entitled to writs of *habeas corpus* immediately.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Yes, Sir, it is proposed that we find out these facts and may make the details available, in all the fullness in which we get them, to Honourable Members concerned with this motion and with this Bill.

Bill by leave withdrawn.

THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARDS ORDINANCE, 1949**The Hon. the Development Secretary :**

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled :—

“ An Ordinance to provide for the establishment of Regional Development Boards for the purpose of fostering the economic development of Nigeria by making grants and advances out of such moneys as may be made available, and for purposes connected therewith.”.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1-3.

Clause 4.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Clause 4, Sir. I move that for the full stop at the end thereof should be substituted a colon, and immediately thereafter the following proviso should be inserted :

“ Provided that when any such Board consists of more than five members, the Unofficial Members of the Northern Regional Council or of the appropriate House of Assembly, as the case may be, shall be in the majority.”.

Clause 4 as amended.

Clause 5.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Clause 5, Sir. I beg to move that clause 5 (4)(a) be amended by the insertion of the words “ two consecutive ” immediately after the word “ from ”, and by the deletion of the words “ for a period longer than three consecutive months.”.

Clause 5 as amended.

Clause 6.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to move that immediately after clause 5 a new clause 6 be inserted, as follows :

“ 6. Where upon any special occasion a Board desires to obtain the advice of any person on any particular matter, the Board may co-opt such person to be a member for such meeting or meetings as may be required, and such person while so co-opted shall have all the rights and privileges of a member save that he shall not be entitled to vote on any question.”.

Sir, I also move that clause 6 be renumbered as clause 7.

Clause 6 as amended.

Clause 6 renumbered as clause 7.

Clause 7 renumbered as clause 8.

Clause 8 renumbered as clause 9.

Clause 9 renumbered as clause 10.

Clause 10 renumbered as clause 11.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

In clause 10, Sir, which has been renumbered as clause 11, I move that section 12 should be renumbered as section 13.

Clause 10 (renumbered 11) as amended.

Clause 11 renumbered as clause 12.

Clause 12 renumbered as clause 13.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

In clause 12 (c), Sir, which has been renumbered clause 13, I move that section 8 be renumbered as section 9.

Clause 12 (renumbered 13) as amended.

Clause 13 renumbered as clause 14.

Clause 14 renumbered as clause 15.

Clause 15 renumbered as clause 16.

Clause 16 renumbered as clause 17.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

In paragraph (a) of clause 16, Sir (which has now been renumbered clause 17), I move that section 13 be renumbered as section 14, and in the last line of paragraph (g), Sir, I move that the word " its " be inserted before the words " powers and duties ".

Clause 16 (renumbered 17) as amended.

Clause 17 renumbered as clause 18.

Clause 18 renumbered as clause 19.

Clause 19 renumbered as clause 20.

Clause 20 renumbered as clause 21.

Clause 21 renumbered as clause 22.

Clause 22 renumbered as clause 23.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

In clause 22, Sir, which has been renumbered clause 23, I move that section 21 should be renumbered (in both places where the reference occurs) as clause 22, and further, Sir, that the words " which approval may be given generally " should be inserted immediately after the word " authority " in the second line. I also move that for the full stop at the end of the clause should be substituted a colon, and the following proviso added :

" Provided that the approval of the appropriate authority under this section shall not be required in respect of any expenditure lawfully incurred pursuant to any rules lawfully made under section 13."

Clause 22 (renumbered 23) as amended.

Clause 23 renumbered as clause 24.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Clause 23, Sir, which has been renumbered clause 24, I move that sections 21, 22, 24, 22 and 21 may be renumbered as sections 22, 23 25, 23 and 22 respectively.

Clause 23 (renumbered 24) as amended.

Clause 24 renumbered as clause 25.

Clause 25 renumbered as clause 26.

Clause 26 renumbered as clause 27.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

In clause 26, Sir, which has been renumbered clause 27, I move that section 24 should be renumbered as section 25.

Clause 26 (renumbered 27) as amended.

Clause 27 renumbered as clause 28.

Clause 28 renumbered as clause 29.

Clause 29 renumbered as clause 30.

Clause 30 renumbered as clause 31.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

In clause 30, Sir, which has been renumbered as clause 31, I move that section 29 should be renumbered as section 30.

Clause 30 (renumbered 31) as amended.

Clause 31 renumbered as clause 32.

Clause 32 renumbered as clause 33.

Clause 33 renumbered as clause 34.

Clause 34 renumbered as clause 35.

Clause 35 renumbered as clause 36.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

I move, Sir, that in clause 35 (1) (b), which has been renumbered 36 (1) (b), section 33 should be renumbered section 34.

Clause 35 (renumbered 36) as amended.

Clause 36 renumbered as clause 37.

Clause 37 renumbered as clause 38.

Clause 38 renumbered as clause 39.

Clause 39 renumbered as clause 40.

Clause 40 renumbered as clause 41.

Clause 41 renumbered as clause 42.

Clause 42 renumbered as clause 43.

Clause 43 renumbered as clause 44.

Title.

Council resumed.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee with twenty-one amendments. I beg to move that the Bill as amended be now read a third time and passed.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES (EXTENSION) (AMENDMENT)
ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled:—

“ An Ordinance further to amend the Diplomatic Privileges (Extension) Ordinance, 1947.”.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Sir, I beg to second.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

Your Excellency, on a point of information. Since international law makes it an attribute of sovereignty to exercise diplomatic privileges and immunities, I am just wondering what is the position of Nigeria in exercising this attribute of sovereignty?

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

If I understand the Honourable Second Lagos Member aright he is concerned with the question of the exercise of sovereignty. All that this Bill is trying to do—this Bill—is to allow representatives of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth who come to Nigeria on a Committee or Conference, to receive from Nigeria the same privileges as foreign powers would receive if they went to the United Kingdom. We are merely giving to our own people what we give by international usage to members of foreign states. I don't know if I have made myself clear, but I think that is what the Honourable Member means.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1-4.

Title.

Council resumed.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I rise to report the Bill from Committee without amendment.

Sir, I rise to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I rise to ask permission of the House to defer the motion standing in my name in relation to the Income Tax Ordinance. One or two points have been raised, and it is essential that I should get information from Lagos, and I will seek permission of the House to raise this motion at a later date in this meeting.

Second reading of Bill was by leave of Council accordingly deferred.

THE WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' PENSION (PALESTINE EX-OFFICERS)
ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled :—

“ An Ordinance to make provision with respect to former contributors to the Palestine Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund who are appointed to the service of the Government.”

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1-2.

Clause 3.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Clause 3, Sir. I move that for the word “ appointed ” where it occurs in paragraph 3 (1) should be substituted the expression “ transferred from the service of the Palestine Government ”.

Clause 3 as amended.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

I do apologise, Sir, I should have referred to a further substitution in the tenth line, the substitution of the word “ transfer ” for the word “ appointment ”, and also in clause 3 (2) where the same word occurs.

Clause 3 as further amended.

Clause 4.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Clause 4, Sir. I move that for the full stop at the end thereof should be substituted a colon, and immediately thereafter should be added the following proviso :

“ Provided that where an accumulation of contributions under the Palestine Ordinance includes a lump sum payment under the provisions of section 12 of that Ordinance, the person by or on behalf of whom the payment of a lump sum contribution is made under the provisions of section 3 of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be a contributor as aforesaid in respect of the lump sum contribution made under the provisions of section 3 less a sum equal to four-ninths of the lump sum payment made under the provisions of section 12 of the Palestine Ordinance.”

Clause 4 as amended.

Title.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to move that the word " appointed " should be deleted and the word " transferred " should be substituted.

Title as amended.

Council resumed.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee as amended. I rise to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I beg to second.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama) :

Your Excellency, I rise on a point of order; no question was put on the amendment to the proviso itself.

Bill recommitted to Committee.

Clause 4.

His Excellency :

The question is that the proviso as read by the Honourable the Financial Secretary be amended in the terms of the motion.

Clause 4 as amended.

Council resumed.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to report again the Bill from Committee as amended. I beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE WATERWORKS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949**The Hon. the Director of Public Works :**

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled :—

“ An Ordinance further to amend the Waterworks Ordinance.”

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1-2.

Title.

Council resumed.

The Hon. the Director of Public Works :

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee without amendment. I beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE LABOUR CODE (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled :—

“ An Ordinance further to amend the Labour Code Ordinance, 1945.”

The Hon. the Commissioner of Labour :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1-3.

Title.

Council resumed.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I rise to report the Bill from Committee without amendment. I move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The Hon. the Commissioner of Labour :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Have I your permission, Sir, to make a suggestion about the business of the House?

I suggest, Sir, that we should not—as we have made rapid progress in dealing with official Bills—I suggest that we should not meet this afternoon. I also suggest, Sir, that we should proceed tomorrow with the consideration of private members' motions, and I should be most grateful if private members who have motions down would be kind enough to meet me after we adjourn this morning, so that we may discuss which should come first. I suggest that we resume tomorrow at 10 o'clock.

His Excellency :

Council will now adjourn until 10 tomorrow.

Council adjourned at 12.15 p.m.

January 1850

The Excursion:

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Debates in the Legislative Council of Nigeria

Thursday, 10th March, 1949

Pursuant to notice the Honourable Members of the Legislative Council met in the Hall of the Western House of Assembly, Ibadan, at 10 a.m. on Thursday, the 10th of March, 1949.

PRESENT

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- His Excellency the Governor,
Sir John S. Macpherson, K.C.M.G.
- The Chief Secretary to the Government,
The Honourable H. M. Foot, C.M.G., O.B.E.
- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,
His Honour T. C. Hoskyns-Abrahall, C.M.G.
- The Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces,
His Honour E. W. Thompstone, C.M.G., M.C.
- The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,
His Honour Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, C.M.G.
- The Attorney-General,
The Honourable G. L. Howe, K.C.
- The Financial Secretary,
The Honourable A. W. L. Savage, C.M.G.
- The Director of Medical Services,
Dr the Honourable G. B. Walker, C.B.E.
- The Development Secretary,
The Honourable C. J. Pleass.
- The Director of Education,
The Honourable R. A. McL. Davidson, C.M.G.
- The Director of Agriculture,
The Honourable A. G. Beattie.
- The Director of Public Works,
The Honourable R. W. Taylor.
- The Commissioner of Labour,
The Honourable A. H. Couzens.
- The Senior Resident, Kano Province,
The Honourable E. K. Featherstone, C.M.G.
- The Resident, Ogoja Province,
The Honourable P. M. Riley.
- The Resident, Abeokuta Province,
The Honourable J. H. Blair, E.D.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Member for the Colony,
The Rev. and Honourable T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.

- The First Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Obisesan, O.B.E.
- The Second Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.
- The First Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable I. Olorun-Nimbe.
- The Emir of Gwandu,
The Honourable Yahaya, C.B.E.
- The Emir of Katsina,
Alhaji the Honourable Usuman Nagogo, C.B.E.
- The Oni of Ife,
The Honourable Aderemi I, C.M.G.
- The Oba of Benin,
The Honourable Akenzua II, C.M.G.
- The Atta of Igbirra,
Alhaji the Honourable Ibrahimia.
- The Emir of Abuja,
The Honourable Sulemanu.
- The First Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Bello Kano.
- The First Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable C. D. Onyeama.
- The Second Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.
- The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable H. Buowari Brown.
- The Third Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Iro Katsina.
- The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable A. Ikoku.
- The Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Aliyu, Makaman Bida.
- The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.
- The Second Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe.
- The First Nominated Member,
The Honourable P. J. Rogers.
- The Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Yahaya Ilorin.
- The Third Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.
- The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable N. Essien.
- The Third Lagos Member,
The Honourable Adeleke Adedoyin.
- The Member for Calabar,
The Honourable E. E. E. Anwan.
- The Second Nominated Member,
Major the Honourable J. West, M.C.
- The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Soetan.

ABSENT

OFFICIAL MEMBER

The Acting Commissioner of the Colony,
The Honourable J. G. C. Allen.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBER

The Third Nominated Member,
The Honourable N. B. Edwards.

PRAYERS

His Excellency the Governor opened the proceedings of the Council with prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 9th day of March, 1949, having been printed and circulated to the Honourable Members, were taken as read and confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Your Excellency, I beg to lay on the table the following papers:—

Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1949—Report and Statement of Accounts of the West African Airways Corporation for 1946-47 and 1947-48.

Report of the Standing Committee on Finance of the Legislative Council of Nigeria in respect of the period July to December, 1948.

Certificate of Urgency and Formality in respect of the following Bills:—

“ An Ordinance to amend the Development Loan Ordinance, 1945 ”.

“ An Ordinance further to amend the Land Registration Ordinance, 1941 ”.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS

The Second Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) :

Your Excellency, I rise to give notice that I shall move the following motion at the present Session of the Council :

“ Be it resolved :

“ That, in view of the inability of the Northern
“ Provinces to compete on equal terms with the
“ other Regions of Nigeria in taking advantage of
“ scholarships recommended by the Nigerianization
“ Commission, this House now requests the Govern-
“ ment of Nigeria to set up a special scholarship
“ fund to be administered for the benefit of such
“ suitable Northern candidates as present them-
“ selves at any such time.”

law under which these loans were raised provided for annual contributions to Statutory Sinking Funds, and these have been voted year by year under Head 1, Public Debt Charges. Owing, however, to the low rate at which these annual contributions were fixed, and to the reduced earning capacity of investments in more recent years, the Statutory Sinking Funds would be inadequate to provide for redemption of the loans even at the latest date of redemption. For this reason, the Legislative Council approved in 1946, an annually recurrent contribution of £450,000 to the Supplementary Sinking Fund, this being the additional annual amount then estimated to be necessary to provide for the redemption of all loans then outstanding, at their latest date of maturity.

It is estimated that the Statutory Sinking Funds of the two loans to which I have particularly referred will amount at the end of 1949 to approximately £2,530,000 and £98,000 respectively. The total of the Supplementary Sinking Fund at that date will, upon the assumption that a further £450,000 is contributed during the financial year 1949-50, amount to about £3,056,000. So it follows that if both loans were to be fully redeemed at their earliest date of maturity within the next twelve months, and all the Statutory and Supplementary Sinking Fund moneys were to be used, there would be a shortfall of about £4,100,000 after taking into account the charges which will necessarily be incurred in redemption.

One of these loans bears interest at six per cent and the other at five per cent. These are rates substantially higher than those ruling today. The loans were raised in a period of what is called "dear money". Furthermore, a great part of the proceeds of the loans was used in the conversion of earlier loans. These facts are arguments in favour of redeeming these loans, that is to say paying them off, instead of converting them into new loans at the rates of interest ruling today. A further argument is the substantial increase in the Public Debt that is envisaged in the Development Plan. When the Plan was prepared, it was proposed that works costing £16,000,000 should be paid for out of the proceeds of a Development Loan. It is probable that, because of the rise in costs, those works would cost £20,000,000 at the present time. In addition, there are many large schemes outside the Ten-Year Plan of Development and Welfare which may have to be financed from loan funds.

In these circumstances, it is my advice—and I understood Honourable Members of the Standing Committee to agree with it—that the loan policy of this Government generally should be weighted in favour of redemption rather than conversion of loans, although each case should be decided in relation to the particular circumstances.

The six per cent loan of 1949-79 was issued in 1919 and two-thirds of it were used for the redemption of debentures issued in 1916 to

redeem Southern Nigeria Bonds of 1911, which, in turn, had been issued chiefly to redeem Bonds of 1908. The main part therefore, Sir, has run for forty years and it is proposed to redeem the whole of the six per cent loan.

The amount of the five per cent loan of 1950-60 as originally issued in 1930, was originally £4,791,373, but in 1933 £528,000 was bought in under statutory provisions, leaving a net figure of £4,263,373. At its earliest date of maturity, it will have run for a period of twenty years only. The bulk of it was used in expenditure on railways, bridges and highways, and marine, harbour, water supply and sewerage schemes. In these circumstances, it is proposed to convert £3,000,000 into a new loan with a term of twenty years, which it is hoped to arrange with the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board. I trust, Sir, that this Council will in due course approve the conclusion of arrangements between the Government and the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board in the sphere of public finance which are to the mutual advantage of the general taxpayer and of the cocoa producer whose interests the Board is charged to preserve.

These arrangements will leave a sum of about £1,100,000 still to be found, in order to redeem the balance of the five per cent loan. It is proper that this sum should be provided from the General Revenue Balance. It is therefore proposed that this sum should be paid from the General Revenue Balance into the Supplementary Sinking Fund so that it will be available for use as I have described on the earliest date of maturity of the loan.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Motion adopted.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Your Excellency, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name as follows:—

“ Be it resolved :

“ That this Council approves the proposal that improve-
“ ments to the collieries at Enugu now operated by
“ the Government of Nigeria shall be effected in
“ accordance with the ten-year plan proposed by the
“ Powell Duffryn Technical Services, Limited; and
“ recommends that the cost of these improvements,
“ now estimated at approximately £435,000, shall
“ be defrayed from the proceeds of a loan to be
“ raised hereafter; and approves the making
“ of advances to cover expenditure on this project
“ necessarily incurred prior to the raising of such
“ loan and the making of other advances to cover

“ such other expenditure as shall from time to time
“ be approved by this Council in anticipation of
“ the raising of such a loan ”.

The collieries at Enugu have now reached a stage at which a large amount of development work is necessary in order to assure future output. I do not speak here of possible developments in the use of other materials such as lignite, or in the treatment of the coal or lignite which is mined: that is another question. I am speaking here merely of the need for new and improved methods in the working of the present collieries and the extraction of coal from the areas now being worked.

As Honourable Members are aware, Sir, these matters and others were the subject of a thorough inquiry by Powell Duffryn Technical Services, Limited, and a summary of the Report which they submitted was circulated to Honourable Members in the form of a Memorandum for Finance Committee. The Report estimates the probable annual demand for coal in ten years' time at about 96,000 tons. To achieve the necessary output and, at the same time, to reduce the production costs of coal per ton, development work estimated to require a capital expenditure over the first ten years of £435,000 is required. This provides for the driving of the necessary shafts and haulage ways, the purchase of coal-face working machinery and haulage machinery and other equipment.

The Council will be asked to consider a formal resolution approving the details of expenditure under Appendix I in 1949-50, but the purpose of the present resolution is to obtain approval for the carrying out from loan funds of the development measures recommended by the consultants whom we employed. Those consultants are a very famous firm with almost unrivalled experience in such matters; their advice is given as the result of prolonged and careful investigation on the spot; and their conclusions and technical recommendations in this particular matter have the support of the Colliery Manager. I suggest, Sir, that in these circumstances, and having regard to the importance of the collieries in the economic life of this country we should at once give effect to the recommendations which have been submitted.

The importance of coal to our present economic organization cannot be over-emphasized, and I am sure that Honourable Members will wish the development programme pressed on with all speed. I therefore commend this Resolution to the Council.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Development Secretary:

Sir, I beg to second.

Motion adopted.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

Your Excellency, I rise to move the Resolution standing in my name, which reads as follows:—

“ Be it resolved :

“ That for purposes of records and history and with the
“ consent of this Council one complimentary copy
“ each of all books, periodicals, magazines and
“ gazettes printed and published in Nigeria shall be
“ placed in the Library of the University College,
“ Ibadan ”.

This Motion was resolved at the last meeting of the Legislative Council in August, 1948. To clear our minds, Sir, and to refresh the memory of all Honourable Members, I think that it would perhaps be best if I read my exposition of the Motion at that Meeting.

Your Excellency, it reads as follows:—

“ Sir, the establishment of a seat of learning and culture like the University College at Ibadan is history made, and is something that should arouse not only our keenest interest but also our pride and applause. I wish to deal, Sir, with only one aspect of the College, and that is; its library. A College Library is one of its landmarks, and it forms an important part in the life of the College, if I may say so. In any well ordered and regulated Library one at once experiences a sense of quietness, of peace and restfulness. There comes the unspoken urge to read and to think and, naturally, to acquire useful knowledge. We hope, Sir, that the Library of the University College, Ibadan, will not only serve its immediate owners, who are the students and the teaching staff, but will also be of great benefit to Nigeria as a whole. Nigeria is a young and growing country. She is making history here and there, and her aspirations in the realms of politics, of education and of general advancement are well known to the rest of the world. I would like to take this opportunity, Your Excellency, of sounding a warning note, and to appeal to all Nigerians to see to it that we make history which shall give to our coming generations and posterity a pride of place among the nations of the world and a heritage untarnished and unique. In the past we have made no records of any kind appertaining to our customs and culture and the like. Even now we are still far behind, and we are not very enterprising in this most necessary item in the programme of our march to progress. But I am happy to say, Sir, that a start is in evidence everywhere. There is a fever of unrest to identify ourselves not only with the Common-

wealth of the British Empire, but also with the world in general. We have budding authors, both in the vernacular and in the English language. We have men and women trained in practise medicine scientifically in all its forms. Our legal representatives are doing us the greatest service in their different spheres of work. The teaching profession is attracting, or will soon be drawing, men and women of the highest calibre to its fold. Everybody is beginning to realise that we need engineers of the highest grade, not only in academic qualifications but also in experience and skill. All these people, Your Excellency, are bound at some future date to wish to record their experiences in book form for the benefit primarily of Nigeria and secondly of the world. Already the Press of this country is bringing its influence to bear upon the minds and thoughts of the people, though, alas, I regret to say, Sir, that personal security and self-interest have at times blinded its sponsors, to the detriment of its readers. Nevertheless we hope, Sir, that in due course we shall learn, both by our mistakes and from our experience. It is well for us, therefore, Your Excellency, to see to it that records of such books and periodicals are placed and preserved somewhere for future reference and guidance for the generations to come. The Library of the University College, Ibadan, seems to me to be the most suitable place. As an institution of learning its Library will surely grow and will certainly house the records and books from and of other countries. I should feel happy to know that its Library will also have a place for books and magazines, etc., produced and published in Nigeria. I believe, Sir, that in other more advanced countries the Press always reserves copies of their newspapers and other periodicals in their own archives. Some people may say that the Press in Nigeria should do the same. That may be so, Sir, but I do not think that this should in any way prevent us from taking official action. For I also believe, and I am open to correction, Sir, that not only the Library of the British Museum, but also those of the Colleges and Universities of Britain, keep records and copies of such periodicals and publications. It is true that in Nigeria we have other libraries like those of Tom Jones and the late Doctor Carr, which might serve the same purpose. That may be so, Sir, but it would be in consonance with progress to start fresh or in tune with the library of our new College, and resolve, Sir, that for purposes of records and history, one copy each of all books and periodicals and gazettes printed and published in Nigeria, should be placed in the library of this University College. This should not normally involve the College in any fantastic expense. The expense should be the

minimum necessary. Authors and newspaper owners should count it a privilege to offer complimentary copies of their books and periodicals to the University College. Even if this motion had never been made, one would naturally suppose that this would be the case. Therefore, in the light of this resolution I appeal through you, Sir, to all Honourable Members of this Council, to the Nigerian public, to the Press and successful authors, and finally, but not least, to the Government Press. I look forward to a spate of response and enthusiasm which would demonstrate all too clearly how very much we appreciate and welcome the establishment of this much longed for institution in Nigeria. Sir, I beg to move”.

The motion was duly seconded by the Honourable the Third Member for the Eastern Provinces, who also suggested an amendment to the effect that the word “ complimentary ” which had not been in the original Motion be inserted between the words “ one ” and “ copy ”. The Honourable the Financial Secretary seconded the amendment to the Motion which I accepted so that the Motion reads as we have it now. I am happy to recall, Sir, that a warm and friendly debate then followed and the House showed favourable disposition to the Motion, but perhaps the most forceful comments were those of the Honourable the Director of Education. With your kind permission I would like to read his speech on that occasion for the benefit of Honourable Members.

“ Your Excellency, I rise merely to say that Government is in sympathy with the objects outlined by the Honourable the Mover of this Motion and with his exposition of library needs. I should add that the carrying out of the resolution will, as the Honourable the First Member for the Eastern Provinces suggested, require legislation. The Honourable Member who moved the Motion led the Council to suppose that he had in mind a “ copyright ” library or, in effect, a local Bodleian library. If that is so, Sir, certain legislation will be required; but may I suggest to my Honourable Friend that the first move should be with the University College and that since he is one of the two members elected by the Honourable Unofficial Members of this Council to serve on the Provisional Council of this College it will be open to him to raise the matter at the next meeting of that Council so that the views of the College authorities may be represented to Government.

I repeat, Sir, that the terms of the Motion are acceptable in principle to Government, though it will be clear to my Honourable Friend that the College Librarian will have to be consulted on such mundane matters as storage accommodation, and, that done, the question of legislation will have to be considered”.

In the matter touching the University College authorities, I may state that I did in fact apprise the Principal, Dr Mellanby, of my intention to bring such Motion before the Legislative Council. I quote my letter to him:—

Church of Scotland Mission Hospital, Itu,
12th July, 1948.

Dr K. Mellanby, O.B.E.,
Principal,
University College,
Ibadan.

Dear Dr Mellanby,

The following is a text of a Resolution which I propose to move at the next meeting of the Legislative Council, and I thought that I would let you know. I hope that you will not have any objection to my making the Motion.

“ Be it resolved :

“ That for purposes of records and history, and with the
“ consent of this Council, one copy each of all
“ books, periodicals, magazines, and gazettes,
“ printed and published in Nigeria shall be placed
“ in the Library of the University College,
“ Ibadan ”.

Unfortunately no reply came from the Principal before the meeting of the Council took place. But on the 23rd of August, 1948, two days after the debate on the Motion, I received an air mail letter from him. May I quote part of this letter, Sir?

“ As from 8 Park Street,
London, W.1.
20th August, 1948.

Dear Dr Ibiam,

I have only just received your letter. I think the resolution regarding periodicals is a most excellent one, and am very pleased that you are resolving it. We have purchased a “ microfilm ” apparatus, and if any documents seem likely to deteriorate we can make photographic copies which will be durable in a tropical climate ”.

At the meeting of the Provisional Council of the College on the 11th of November, 1948, the matter regarding this Motion was considered and the Council unanimously approved. Later on, on the 14th of January, 1949, I received another letter from the Principal of the University College, and he wrote as follows:—

“ University College,
Ibadan,
Nigeria.
30th December, 1948.

Dear Ibiam,

Our Librarian is now here and he very much welcomes your Legislative Council Motion about books, etc., coming to the University College Library. He feels that this is an essential step if the Library is to serve the country as it should. He has great ambitions for the Library, and I think you will enjoy discussing these matters with him when you next come to Ibadan.”

Since arriving in Ibadan I have been in touch with the College Librarian and I would like to read Mr Harris' comments for your information, Sir, and for the benefit of this Honourable Council.

“ The life and thought of any literate country is most fully reflected in its literature, in the books, pamphlets, journals and newspapers printed there. Most countries today realise this and have laws to ensure the collection and preservation of their printed works. Certain libraries are given by law the rights and duties of preserving one or more copies of every work published, and the onus is placed on printers and publishers of handing over the requisite number.

Advantages.—The advantages of this are several:—

1. Many books, and particularly pamphlets and newspapers which would otherwise be scattered and lost in the course of time are brought together in one or two places where they are available for the scholars and research workers of the future as well as the present.

2. Lists can be prepared giving information about all that is published. Such lists are particularly useful to booksellers and librarians in giving information as to price, name of publisher, where obtainable, etc.

3. The law of deposit can be linked with a law of copyright under which the rights of author and publisher are safeguarded and copying is prevented without proper authority.

Examples of procedure in other countries.

Britain.—The older University libraries in England, Scotland and Ireland have for centuries had the right to obtain free copies of all printed books. The British Museum Library has been given the same right.

United States of America.—The Library of Congress has by law to receive a copy of every work published in the United States of America, and copyright in that country is secured only by such deposit.

New Zealand.—Two copies of everything published have to be handed to the National Library. Lists of these are issued regularly and printed catalogue cards are prepared for the use of any library or person wishing to subscribe to such a service. Both lists and cards are used extensively. They are helpful both to those engaged in making books available—*i.e.*, booksellers and librarians—and to authors and publishers in making their publications more widely known.

Recommendation.—The amount of printing and publishing in Nigeria is already fairly considerable and is increasing rapidly. The time is ripe for action. It is recommended that it be made obligatory on printers to see that two copies of every printed book or pamphlet and every issue of a journal or newspaper be deposited with the Library of the University College, Ibadan. The University already has, in the Henry Carr and the Duke Collections, a very extensive collection of Nigerian and other West African printed material. It is the only substantial reference library in the country and is the natural choice for a library of deposit.

Duties of library of deposit.—If the recommendation is approved it is proposed that the University College Library undertake the following duties:—

- (a) Preservation of all material deposited.
- (b) Microfilming of all material such as newspapers which are liable of decay, so as to ensure that copies are preserved at least on film.
- (c) Making all such material available to readers whether members of the University or not.
- (d) Providing microfilm or photostat copies for other libraries where necessary.
- (e) Publishing regular lists of Nigerian publications.
- (f) Preparing standard catalogue entries and issuing them on printed cards for the use of libraries in Nigeria and elsewhere ”.

In the matter of legislation, Sir, I leave that in the hands of the Government and the Honourable the Attorney-General. But if it comes about that I am asked to put up a Private Member's Bill I shall not hesitate, Sir, to undertake the unwholesome job. In the meantime, Sir, I sincerely commend this Resolution to your kind indulgence, and to the continued interest and sympathy of Honourable Members:

Sir, I beg to move.

The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. A. Ikoku):

Sir, I beg to second.

The Hon. the Director of Education :

The Council has been reminded by the Honourable the Mover that at the last meeting held in August, 1948, consideration of the Motion now before the House was deferred for six months. That step was taken to enable the Honourable the Mover, as a member

of the Provisional Council of the University College, Ibadan, to raise the matter with the College authorities, and to enable Government to ascertain the wishes of the latter. In the intervening period the Principal has intimated to Government that the newly appointed Librarian considers that the arrangements on the lines set out in the Motion are greatly to be desired if the Library is to perform its proper function, a view which has been endorsed by the College authorities. In the circumstances, Sir, Government warmly welcomes the Motion and hopes that legislation to give effect to it will be introduced shortly. As to the nature of that legislation, Sir, I note from the Order Paper that a Bill is to be introduced by the Honourable the Second Lagos Member later today. In the event of its proving acceptable to the House it may be that a clause in that Bill will be found to cover the points listed in the Motion. Alternatively, Sir, it may be found necessary for the Government to arrange for the drafting of separate legislation.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

Your Excellency, I rise to speak in favour of the Motion, but I should like just one thing to be explained to me. I would like to know whether vernacular literature will be included—Yoruba, Hausa, Ibo, and other papers printed in Yoruba. I am very much pleased to see that Yoruba papers are being printed here in Ibadan, and I will be well pleased to hear from the Librarian that these are to be preserved in such a Library.

The Hon. the Director of Education:

Sir, I think that on the point raised by the Honourable the Member for the Colony, it is the intention of the Honourable the Mover of the Motion that its terms should cover vernacular literature of all sorts.

His Excellency:

If no other Honourable Member wishes to speak I shall put it to the vote.

Motion adopted.

The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. A. Ikoku):

Your Excellency, I rise to move the Resolution standing in my name, which reads as follows:—

“ Be it resolved:

“ That this House holds the view that the expenditure
 “ of public money on overseas scholarships derives
 “ its justification from the assumption that such
 “ scholars will in due course return to this country
 “ and help to enrich its life in various spheres, and
 “ recommends to the Government that steps be taken
 “ to ensure by contract or otherwise that these
 “ scholars return to Nigeria on the completion of
 “ their courses ”.

There are two parts, Sir, to this Motion. The first part reads:—

“ That this House holds the view that the expenditure of public money on overseas scholarships derives its justification from the assumption that such scholars will in due course return to this country and help to enrich its life in various spheres ”. I should be surprised, Sir, if anybody in this House contended that part of the Motion. The importance of human development can hardly be over-emphasized, and in all our development programmes I think we assume quite tacitly that the Garden of Eden we are trying to put up will be of very little use without Adam and Eve to tend it in the end. I should like to make it clear, Sir, that the Resolution does not imply that students should necessarily return to take up jobs in Government Service—much as every one of us would like to see Nigerianization of the Service speeded up. Nor indeed does the Resolution imply that students originally recommended by Voluntary Agencies shall return to them, or indeed to their former professions, much as one would like to see young men and young women fulfil their moral obligations. All that the Resolution seeks to effect is the actual return of scholars to this country with complete freedom of choice of profession, trade, and affiliation. The experience gained abroad is a great asset and can contribute to a large measure towards enriching the life of the country in every imaginable sphere—local government, trade, industry, profession, journalism, to take but a few instances. So far as the Resolution is concerned, Sir, I can see no distinction of importance between open and Departmental scholarships or indeed between scholarships and what are described in the Estimates as “ courses of instruction ”. The essential factor in my mind appears to be the expenditure of public money.

The second part of the Resolution reads as follows:—“ and recommends to the Government that steps be taken to ensure by contract or otherwise that these scholars return to Nigeria on the completion of their courses.” If the first part of the Resolution is granted, the second part really remains a question of ways and means, and I respectfully submit that the Law Officers are quite competent to deal with this. In this part of the Resolution I use the word “ contract ”, but I expect they will forgive me speaking as a layman. Agreement, bond or undertaking are niceties of distinction which belong to their Department of expert knowledge. We could even go to the extent of stipulating a refund of expenses or loans granted should the scholar fail to return to this country. Not indeed because we grudge the expense but because this requirement might act as a sufficient deterrent. There is an argument, Sir, which I don't take seriously, but I might as well quote it. It has been suggested, for the purpose of argument, that a scholar could fulfil his obligations by returning to this country on one boat and leaving the country on the next boat. This, of course, is highly improbable, but even so the Law Officers should be able to devise a formal undertaking requiring a number of years residence

here before a scholar can leave, subject always, of course, to a curtailment of such a requirement, or a total waiving aside of the requirement for reasons approved by competent authorities. Then it has also been argued that the passing of a Resolution such as this might have a psychological effect which would in the end defeat our purpose. I suppose that means that students would like to be left entirely and altogether free, and once you begin to remind them of coming back you incidentally remind them of staying away. Well, I appreciate the element of truth here, but surely this argument is off-set by the complete absence of stipulation as to vocation or affiliation on the student's return.

Your Excellency, I beg to move.

The Second Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa):

Sir, I beg to second.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

I rise to support the Resolution before the House, and in doing so I should just like to bring to the notice of this House what recently happened on the Gold Coast. Since 1930 the Gold Coast Government has been awarding scholarships tenable at the University of Edinburgh to students to study medicine. But in the history of that country, Sir, some three months ago two of such students were qualified and refused to return to the Gold Coast. I think, Sir, that if there had been the necessary legislation or safeguards in the past in that country, such a thing would not have happened. That is why I rise to support the Mover, and I congratulate the Honourable the Third Member for the Eastern Provinces for bringing this Motion to the House.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

Sir, I am very much in sympathy with this Motion. The idea, Sir, I suppose is not to tie any Nigerian who has been lucky enough to obtain a scholarship to study overseas. This is the time when we are all anxious to build a good Nigeria. We are trying to build up towards self-government. We are trying to conduct ourselves so that we may be respected outside Nigeria. We are doing everything we possibly can so as to identify ourselves with the outside world, and I think, Sir, that the Government is very genuinely interested in our efforts, and is doing its very best to help us towards this. Students are very anxious to go to other countries to study: they are very very anxious to be helped in every way possible. They like private people to help and recommend them and so on. But now that this country is in a position to afford funds to send the children of Nigeria, both boys and girls, to the United Kingdom and elsewhere to acquire knowledge, which it is hoped will be useful to us in Nigeria, I personally, Sir, deplore the attitude of some students who change and actually become disorientated in their

ideas, sometimes quite out of consonance with the ideas they had when they were here. All they want to do is to stay in a country where they can have all the amenities of life, and do and behave just as they like. In the meantime Nigeria marches on without leaders, without people to help her, without people to encourage her; and I say, Sir, that the best leader of a country is the man who belongs to that country and who has good influence. A Master of Arts who, back in Nigeria, became a tailor or a carpenter or did some other work which is outside his particular studies, is a useful man because we can co-opt him into our local government. That is the kind of man we want in our village committees as also in the provincial meetings where they can argue intelligently and give intelligent advice. I think, Sir, that it is the duty of the Government to do something in this respect. We are not trying to discourage our boys: that would not be right. We would like them to understand that we depend upon their word of honour. The Nigerian "yes", must mean "yes". When in the United Kingdom, or in Canada, or in the United States of America, we would like them to look back to Nigeria as their home because there is no place like home.

Sir, I heartily support this Motion.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

I wholeheartedly support this Motion, but at the same time I would like to sound a note of warning in that if the students are bound by contract or any agreement as you intend, it should not be one-way traffic. There have been occasions on which some students have been sent abroad by the Government (the Medical Department for that matter), and they came back fully qualified for Senior appointments—they did excellently well—and they obtained requisite diplomas. They returned to Nigeria to take up appointments in the Senior Service. Well, they came back quite all right but were only offered posts equivalent to that of a first class clerk! If it were in this way the Government would treat the students, I think that everybody should be allowed to find jobs anywhere. And so that in coming to any agreement or contract in this matter all these things should be looked into and the Government should also be bound.

I support the Motion.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

When this Motion was made in the Eastern House of Assembly, it was I who pointed out to the Mover that it would be sufficient evasion of the purpose of the motion as it stood then for a student to come back on one boat and leave on the next, because the Motion was then seeking that these people be induced to return to Nigeria; and I take it that return to Nigeria means setting your foot on Nigerian soil. But there are certain other difficulties in my mind about this Motion. I do not propose to express these difficulties,

because in the House of Assembly at Enugu, a member said that if we express too many legal difficulties, it might result in some students who had no knowledge that these possibilities existed becoming wiser and promptly refusing to come back at all. In that case, Sir, I think it would be better to let sleeping dogs lie and I support this motion; but in doing so, I say that it might be difficult to enforce the requirements of the motion. A cognate problem also exercised our minds during the session of the Nigerianisation Commission in Lagos and I believe, Sir, that legal opinion was taken at the time and it was felt that it would be a very difficult thing to do, but if there is any way of getting round the legal difficulties, I heartily support the Motion.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

I should like to go back first of all to a point mentioned by the Honourable the First Member for the Eastern Provinces regarding the work which we did together on the Nigerianisation Commission. The question now raised was very fully considered by the Commission, and there were many different views put forward by members of the Commission. It was, if I remember rightly, on a majority decision that the conclusion which I shall read was reached:

“ No person granted a scholarship should be subjected to any penalty if he or she does not take up or continue employment with the Government. Those assisted from Government funds to obtain higher qualifications in order to fit them for Government appointments should however be required to sign an undertaking in the form set out in Appendix IV. Native Administrations, other Local Government Authorities and Voluntary Agencies which release their employees to take up Government scholarships are of course free to require them to enter into undertakings to continue in their service when the period of the scholarship is completed, but it is hoped that they will follow the practice recommended for Government officers and that any such undertaking will not include financial penalties.”

I now turn to the form of undertaking which we recommended and which is at present in force, and I will read it, because it obviously has a bearing upon the point which we are discussing now:—

“ I agree, on completion of the training.....
to serve or to continue to serve the Government of
Nigeria.” (or it might be a Native Authority or a
Voluntary Agency) “ for a period of years ”—
five years I think we had in mind.”

The conclusion we reached after a very full discussion was that we should ask all people assisted by scholarships from public funds to sign in effect an "Honour Certificate" that they would offer their services to the Government. We came to the conclusion on the other hand that an attempt to impose financial penalties would be a mistake.

The Honourable Mover of this Motion has made it clear that he is not in any case suggesting that anyone should be bound or any attempt made to bind anyone to come back to serve the Government—he is only concerned with the question of returning to Nigeria, but nevertheless it is important to remember that, at the present moment, everyone who takes a Government Scholarship must sign the Honour Certificate which I have read, and I think that the question which we considered in the Commission regarding financial penalties is indeed very relevant to the Motion which has now been raised.

The Motion is one which we all obviously approach with sympathy, and the object expressed is one which we would like to secure—that is that Nigerians who are trained overseas should come back to Nigeria—so there is no dispute at all about the object. It is solely a matter of method, and I do suggest that the matter has not been sufficiently thought out. I was surprised that my Honourable Friend the First Member for the Eastern Provinces, for whose legal opinion I have the highest regard, when faced with this problem was not prepared to give us any suggestions as to how the problem could be solved. Indeed we may well discover that there are insuperable difficulties and I think it would be a pity if this Council came to a conclusion without having examined the difficulties. It would, I am sure, be extremely difficult to pursue a Nigerian who had decided to remain temporarily in the United Kingdom or the United States of America on a contract made in this country; that is one difficulty. It may be said that that difficulty may be overcome by obtaining a deposit or surety, but surely when we are dealing with Government scholars our main purpose is to help Nigerians who have not the funds or the backing or the rich parents to enable them to complete their education in Great Britain or elsewhere overseas. But if Government scholarships are to become dependent on the scholar being able to make a deposit before he goes, or to provide sureties from substantial people in Nigeria, then it may be, I suggest, that the purpose of the scholarship schemes may be to some extent defeated.

My own view is that it is quite wrong to attempt to pursue a Government scholar by imposing financial penalties, though I should raise no objection if the lawyers can suggest to us any way of dealing with the matter without financial penalties. Let us consider a practical example. Let us imagine for instance that a Nigerian has been sent to study medicine in England and that on the completion of his training he is

offered a post, possibly in an English hospital or in an English university, and that he wishes to remain in England possibly for only a few years in order to take up that appointment. If Government has to say to him, "No, you have signed an undertaking; you have signed a bond, you must return, and if not financial sanctions will be imposed on you"—he may return, but I am not sure that you will get the best service out of a man who has been required to return by such means and in such circumstances. I myself believe that we would be ill-advised to proceed to pass this motion without giving a good deal of further thought to it, but I realise that many people have different views on the matter and if it comes to a vote I think that every member of this House, whether he be an official or unofficial should vote freely as he thinks best.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Your Excellency, there is one thing I would like to say—and I wish to make it very clear—and that is, Sir, that we are lawyers and not operators of a sausage machine and that we cannot give legal opinions on matters which require great study. I find myself in complete sympathy with this Motion. I feel, Sir, that we need every skilled and every qualified person that we can attract to Nigeria, and more especially do we need our own people. I recognise, too, Sir, that the person who goes home from funds supplied, from whatever source, from his own country, has a primary duty to that country to return there and offer his services there. I think, Sir, that the bulk—I hope the bulk—of Nigerians who come home, recognise this, and I hope that I am right when I say we want them to return. It is difficult to get any method of compulsory return which would not raise the difficulty which my Honourable Friend the Chief Secretary has brought forward. If we have sureties here—if we compel a student to return against his will—it merely means that those who were originally unable to pay the cost will be faced with payment on the bond and that in those students who will have to return against their will, we shall have unwilling servants and unwilling helpers. I say, Sir, that I have the greatest sympathy with the Motion. I think that we ought to study it and see how we can get round it, but I am not prepared to give a legal opinion now. I do not know how my friend the First Lagos Member, feels about this but I think that he will find himself in the same boat. We require time, and I think that it should be explored further. But I am in sympathy with the motion.

The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. J. Soetan) :

In rising to support this Motion I am afraid I am facing the same difficulty which the Honourable the Attorney-General has expressed. It is difficult to provide a sanction by which a student who has completed his course in the United Kingdom must be compelled to come back to Nigeria to serve. It is indeed a matter of honour for everyone who accer

of the Government or other agency to be trained outside Nigeria to return to help Nigeria, but I think the best that can be done in the circumstances at present would be to get such student to sign an undertaking that he will return. I do not think that legal sanction can be imposed. That is why it is essential that anyone who is to be granted a scholarship should be carefully examined as to his character. I support the Motion, but I am afraid that it would be difficult to provide a legal sanction to accomplish what we want. Every student, therefore, I think should be left on his honour or be required to sign an Honour Certificate.

I support the Motion.

The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. Essien):

I appreciate the motive which urges the Government to bring up this Motion. But, Sir, the thing that is uppermost in my mind—that is education—means the existence and freedom of being. Education means freedom of thought—education means freedom of choice. Education means no restriction that goes to check that freedom. Education means no slavery. Therefore, Sir, I feel that it is the duty of the Government to educate our people, our youth, and to educate them we want them to be useful, irrespective of their habitation. We want them to be men and women who will feel that my country is not where I was born, but where I live, and who will be proud of the feeling that they are citizens of the world.

Your Excellency, when we were out in 1947 I was one of those who happened to meet men and women, Nigerians and other Africans whose lives are very very useful in Britain, and Britishers treat them as themselves. Thereby, Sir, I formed the conclusion that the moment one is educated, wherever he may be, provided his life is useful, that usefulness of his reflects his homeland. I feel, Sir, that if there be a legislation to tie our students or our scholars down to Nigeria, wherever they may be, and if they refuse to return, shall we frame them up? If we do, a person convinced against his will is of the same opinion still. They may return but refuse to be useful, whereas if they remain in the country of their choice they will be more useful and that usefulness reflects honour on their homeland.

Your Excellency, that is my humble contribution to the Motion. In appreciating the Motion, Sir, I feel that we are not quite ready to tie down our scholars. We want them all to be useful wherever they are. We cannot as a matter of fact be self-centred. Nigeria that is our home—the world generally is our

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The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

Your Excellency, I am in complete sympathy with the Honourable Mover of this Motion, but as a member of the Nigerianization Commission I must say quite frankly that we were confronted with this difficulty, and the only solution open to us was as stated by the Honourable the Chief Secretary. There is no need for me to add to what the other speakers had expressed, in so far as the principles of the Motion is concerned, but one wonders whether the Honourable Mover would be disposed to defer this Motion or would be able to find a *modus operandi* for bringing it into operation? However, I wish to assure him that I am in complete sympathy with the Motion.

The Hon. the Director of Education:

I had not intended to intervene in this debate, but there is one point which I think has not been fully ventilated; that is, the numbers involved. The latter part of the Motion might imply that there were a considerable number of people who proceed overseas on Government scholarships and remain overseas. I have had in the last few years, a considerable amount to do with these Government scholarships, and I know of no case in which the public funds of Nigeria have been expended on a man or woman and in which that man or woman has not returned to the territory. There is one case which has come to my notice of an individual who benefited under a studentship in England which was paid for under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, and who, on the completion of that course, elected to study law in the United Kingdom; but that gentleman was not financed by Nigeria.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary:

As my Honourable Friend the Chief Secretary has indicated that this is left to a free vote of the House and as I am of Irish extraction and wish to take every opportunity to vote against Government, I regret very much that there is no Government view which I can oppose, but I do indeed support the Motion—the intention of the Motion—and I would suggest that it should be amended to read:

“ Be it resolved:—

“ That this House holds the view that the expenditure of public money on overseas scholarships derives its justification from the assumption that such scholars will in due course return to the country and help to enrich its life in various spheres and recommends to the Government that an enquiry should be initiated as to whether it would be practicable to ensure by contract or otherwise that these scholars return to Nigeria on the completion of their courses.”

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

I second that amendment,

The Second Nominated Member (Major the Hon. J. West, M.C.):

Sir, I should like to rise to support the amendment.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

Would the mover of the amendment please read it again for us to get it down properly.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary:

“ Be it resolved:—

“ That this House holds the view that the expenditure of public money on overseas scholarships derives its justification from the assumption that such scholars will in due course return to the country and help to enrich its life in various spheres and recommends to the Government that an enquiry should be initiated as to whether it would be practicable to ensure by contract or otherwise that these scholars return to Nigeria on the completion of their courses.”

The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. A. Ikoku):

I wish to thank all Honourable Members who spoke in support of the Motion. The Honourable the Third Lagos Member gave an instance of what he called two-way traffic and suggested this should be provided for in any form of agreement or undertaking, by which he meant to say that if a Government Department sent any scholars abroad the scholars should be bound to come back, and that the Department would be bound to receive them. I respectfully submit that that is entirely outside the scope of the Resolution.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces gave the impression that the Resolution has since its passing through the Eastern House been amended in any form. I beg to differ. This is the exact text of the Resolution as passed through the House.

The Honourable the Chief Secretary will very generously excuse me if I do not take up all the points he made, but I think I can answer briefly in his own words because he quite accepted in anticipation my reply that most of what he said did not at all concern the motion. The main point of the motion was the question of coming back to Nigeria and to that extent the motion is entirely outside the province of the recommendations of the Nigerianization Commission, which recommendations in substance deal with returning to Government service or to the service of a particular Native Authority or that of a Voluntary Agency. I must confess that I went through those parts of the printed report very carefully and my language was deliberately cautious. I agree with the Honourable the Chief Secretary that an attempt to impose financial penalty is undesirable and as a matter of fact it is not in my Motion but I merely referred to it as a possible idea that might cross the minds of experts if and when the Motion passes the House. The Honourable the Chief Secretary did say that it would be difficult to pursue a Nigerian who had decided to stay in the United Kingdom.

I listened very carefully in the hope that the Honourable the Attorney-General might share that view or express an opinion, but I have got to take his silence for consent, with me, namely that it would not be difficult at all.

The Honourable the Chief Secretary gave an instance of a Medical Student who might want to remain in the United Kingdom for a year or two on completion of his course, and then proceeded to the question of unwilling service if we brought such a student back home. May I respectfully submit that the question of unwilling service does not actually arise because the motion does not envisage pressing such a man into Government service. May I repeat that all that the motion seeks is that the young man returns to his country and that there can be no question of unwilling service with so few Medical Students to twenty-five million people. I submit that anybody who imagines that to serve Nigeria in any capacity whatsoever with the whole field open to him—anyone who imagines that is unwilling service should have been honest enough not to accept the scholarship.

The Honourable the Attorney-General expressed sympathy with the Motion and that gave me a tremendous relief because my eye was fixed on him all along, but he did proceed to say that any method of compulsory return would be difficult. With Your Excellency's permission may I recommend that a Select Committee be appointed to look into the matter. My Friend the Fourth Member for the Western Provinces does not think that legal sanction can be imposed and he recommends that the candidates should be thoroughly examined as to character. Well, I think the Honourable the Director of Education, and with apologies the Honourable the Chief Secretary, who is the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, will bear me out that both in the Regional and in the Central Committees every possible precaution is taken as to the examination of the character of the candidates that come forward. What actually happens in fact is that when a young man comes into contact with Western civilisation he tends to be disillusioned for the first year or two. The Missionary Societies have often been astonished at the change that has come over their "best" candidates.

My Friend the Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces holds the view that it is our bounden duty to educate our youth, no matter where they choose to live. My answer is very simple—that I have been brought up in the belief that every privilege carries with it a corresponding responsibility.

My Friend the Honourable the Second Member for Lagos expressed sympathy and advised that I might defer this Motion or discover a *modus operandi* for bringing it into operation. I have already suggested, Your Excellency, that if you approve, a Select Committee might look into the question of a *modus operandi*.

The Honourable the Director of Education deputised for the Statistics Department, and his view is that the number so far is very small—in fact almost nil. That may be true, but the vote on scholarships is increasing and we know from outside Government circles that these young men do get severely tempted not to return, we know that, but the temptation is there and prevention might in this case be better than cure.

Finally, Sir, may I express myself in agreement with the amendment proposed by the Honourable the Financial Secretary requesting Your Excellency, if it meets with your approval, to appoint a Select Committee to look into the matter along the lines of that amendment.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

On a point of order, Sir.

If the Mover of the Motion is anxious that the matter should be referred to a Select Committee, I think the correct procedure would be to vote on the amendment. I think we should first of all take the amendment as it stands and then, of course, we shall take the original Motion again.

The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. A. Ikoku) :

I agree.

His Excellency :

I shall put it to the House. I put the amendment to the House. The Motion is amended in the terms of the amended Motion. I take it that the Honourable Mover would like to move freely an amendment to add the words, " put to a Select Committee ", and that the Motion as amended should be put to the Council.

The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. A. Ikoku) :

I accept the Motion as amended.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

If the Honourable, my Friend the Honourable Member, wishes this to go through a Select Committee, he should now move that the Motion as amended be further amended by adding thereto..... " and that the question be now referred to a Select Committee of this Council."

The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. A. Ikoku) :

I should like to take the Motion as amended and drop the point of referring it to a Select Committee.

Motion adopted as amended.

BILLS
(First Readings)

THE DEVELOPMENT LOAN (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

I rise to move the first reading of the Bill standing in my name which reads as follows :—

“ An Ordinance to amend the Development Loan Ordinance, 1945.”

Honourable Members will have seen that in the Papers laid today were included two Certificates of Formality and Urgency in respect of this and the Second Bill standing in my name. Sir, this is a purely formal Bill and it could not have been introduced before this House because it depended upon the passing of the Regional Development Board Bill which was passed yesterday.

In effect it ensures that the Development Loan moneys will accrue to the Regional Board as the Bill presented yesterday has provided. I am assured that the money part of this Bill adequately fulfils that purpose.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

THE LAND REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I rise to move the first reading of the Bill standing in my name which reads as follows :—

“ An Ordinance further to amend the Land Registration Ordinance, 1924.”

This Bill is also covered by the Certificate laid on the Table, and it results from the regionalisation of the Land Registry. The idea is that an Assistant Registrar will be posted to Regions and this will be a great convenience to the public in general. The scheme could not be put into effect, Sir, until the Ordinance has been amended to provide for the appointment and duties of this Assistant Registrar.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Sir, I rise to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

THE PERIODICALS AND PUBLICATIONS ORDINANCE, 1949

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

Your Excellency, I rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled:—

“An Ordinance to provide for the registration and making known of the names and proprietors of periodicals and for the preservation of copies of books printed in Nigeria and for the registration thereof.”

Before discussing the principal merits of this Bill I would like to assure this Honourable House that, although I am actively connected with the newspaper industry and the profession of journalism, yet in the language expressed by the Honourable the Financial Secretary, in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme regarding officials from Palestine, I wish to make it quite clear that this Bill is not presented motivated by self-interest, but because I feel that the time has come in the history of journalism in this country when our press legislation should be liberalised and made more progressive so as to bring it in line with what obtains in the civilised world.

In accordance with section 53 of the Nigeria (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1946, this Bill was laid on the table of the Eastern House of Assembly, the Western House of Assembly, the Northern House of Assembly, and the House of Chiefs.

The Eastern House of Assembly passed the following resolution in respect of this Bill:

“Be it resolved that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Bill for ‘An Ordinance to provide for the registration and making known of the names and proprietors of periodicals and for the preservation of copies of Books printed in Nigeria and for the registration thereof,’ is acceptable in principle, but that as the Bill seeks to effect a drastic change in the existing laws the House refrains from going into the Committee stage and advises consultation between the Mover and the Attorney-General with a view to reaching some compromise before the Bill reaches Legislative Council.”

In obedience to the above Resolution of the Eastern House of Assembly, I conferred with the Honourable the Attorney-General. I agreed that I was prepared, if the Bill passes its second reading, to commit same to a Select Committee for consideration. I expressed my willingness to amend the Bill by the insertion of a clause on the lines of section 3 of the Printing Presses Regulation Ordinance, 1933, but omitting therefrom the punishment by imprisonment. But I made it clear that I was not prepared to accept amendment to insert clauses requiring the giving of bonds and securities as contained in the existing law. I was informed by the Learned and Honourable Member that decision on this last point was a matter for Government to whom he would refer the substance of our conversation.

As stated in the Objects and Reasons, this Bill is designed to repeal and replace the Newspaper Ordinance, 1917, and the Printing Presses Regulation Ordinance, 1933. It seeks to introduce a system of registration for newspapers and books printed and published in Nigeria, which shall contain all the measures which impose upon printers and publishers legal duties without seriously impinging on the freedom of the press.

The Bill makes it obligatory for a proprietor of a newspaper to make an annual return, showing the title of the newspaper, the names of all the proprietors of such newspaper with their respective occupation, places of business and/or residence, and total circulation of such newspaper. It provides also for the disclosure of the names of the printer and editor of each newspaper, and for registration and delivery of any book printed and published in Nigeria to an authority to be appointed by the Governor in Council.

Two important innovations are incorporated in this Bill: the disclosure of the circulation of a newspaper, and the disclosure of the identity of editor of each newspaper published. The reason for this, Sir, is to safeguard the interests of advertisers, who usually rely on circulation claims not substantiated by an audit bureau of circulation, and also to protect the industry from unscrupulous publishers. It has become necessary to disclose the name of an editor of any newspaper published, in view of certain technicalities involved in the law of criminal libel. In case of alleged seditious libel on the Gold Coast, the West African Court of Appeal ruled that failure of the Crown to connect the accused person with the alleged crime, by direct evidence, was fatal to the prosecution. The provision of this clause in the Bill is therefore seen to be justified.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:

The Honourable Member is about seven years too late.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

Twelve years!

Clause 11 of the Bill is identical with section 12 of the Newspaper Ordinance, which is based on the Newspapers, Printers and Reading Rooms Repeal Act, 1869 (32 & 33 Vic. c. 24). This provides for imprint to be inserted on every newspaper and book printed and published. According to an authority (*Cf. Ignaz Rothenberg, The Newspaper*, page 256, published in 1946):

“ The purpose of the imprint is obvious: the authorities are to be enabled, if illegal acts are committed by newspapers, to proceed against the responsible person. The nature of the press makes it difficult to identify the authors who are often regarded as the real perpetrators. Therefore, other persons are mentioned who are potentially responsible. The requirements of justice are met thereby. Further, police and courts are relieved of the onus of looking for

culprits. They can be found in the imprint, which thus confesses in advance that 'we, printers, publishers, editors and other persons mentioned in the imprint, do not deny that we have take upon us the responsibility.' "

Clauses 17-22 of the Bill relate to the delivery of free copies of books printed and published in Nigeria, and they are modelled after section 15 of the Copyright (Imperial) Act, 1911 (1 & 2 Geo. V, c. 46). Under this Act, every book published in the United Kingdom shall be delivered free of charge to the Trustees of the British Museum, and to the following libraries:—

1. The Bodleian Library, Oxford.
2. The University Library, Cambridge.
3. The Library of Trinity College, Dublin.
4. The National Library of Wales.
5. The National Library of Scotland (by virtue of the National Library of Scotland Act, 1925).

These clauses also take into consideration the Motion of the Honourable the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces, which was adopted this morning by this Honourable House, stipulating that a copy of every book printed and published in Nigeria shall be deposited in the Library of the University College, Ibadan. Clause 18 of the Bill makes it obligatory to deposit two extra copies of such book to be disposed of as the Governor sees fit.

With reference to the insertion of section 3 of the Printing Presses Regulation Ordinance, 1933, as suggested by the Learned Attorney-General, I propose at the Committee stage of the Bill, if it passes the second reading, to incorporate same by appropriate amendments.

The point of disagreement on this Bill is the question of bonds and recognisances for securing fines. At this stage, I desire, with Your Excellency's permission, to make a brief excursion into the dusty corridors of modern European history, in order to project the setting of this legal safeguard to enable Honourable Members of this House to grasp intelligently the purport of my submission that it be totally repealed.

The Congress of Vienna in 1815, typified the age of Count Metternich in Austria. Students of this aspect of European history identify this era with an age of reaction in Europe.

It should be remembered that there was fermentation of democratic ideas which was generated by the philosophical expositions of Voltaire, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean Jacques Rousseau, Thomas Paine, etc. The American and French Revolutions of 1776 and 1789, respectively, made the common peoples of Europe to be wide awake and to grapple tenaciously with the doctrine enunciated by the Declaration of Rights of Man and the Citizen, in France. The need for suppressing such ideas laid the foundation for the introduction of this specious attempt to gag the press.

By an Act of Parliament passed in 1819, Great Britain, which was a member of this Concert of Europe, enacted that newspaper proprietors must thenceforth deposit a sum of £300 (which was increased to £400 subsequently), as security for the payment of any fines which might be inflicted by a court of law for any seditious or blasphemous libel appearing in the paper, under a penalty of fine of £20.

In the language of a competent student of this phase of the history of journalism (*Cf.* L. M. Salmon, *The Newspaper and Authority*, page 188; Oxford University Press, 1923),

“ Every editor was assumed to be a criminally disposed person and naturally inclined to blasphemy and sedition. Every person possessing a printing press or types for printing, was ordered to give notice to the Clerk of the Peace. Every person selling type was ordered to give an account of all persons to whom they were sold..... The Printer was treated as an enemy of the State and compelled to become an informer.”

The Government of the United Kingdom at that time justified this measure, in unconvincing terms, and the usual grounds to justify its continuance were as follows:

- “ 1. The caution was regarded as a kind of guarantee for the good conduct of a newspaper, for people who have money are, as a rule, more conservative than those who have nothing to lose. They will, therefore, so the authorities assume, show a strong sense of responsibility and will do so, moreover, in order not to forfeit the caution. The official version used to be that caution was designed to guarantee the political and financial stability of the newspaper.
- “ 2. The establishment of small newspapers without working capital managing to live from day to day was made impossible by the obligatory caution. This was much desired by the authorities, for those papers in particular caused trouble to the governments. Their writers were bold, because they were free to disregard everything including their own person. If they were fined, they did not pay since they had nothing and for the purpose of serving prison sentences a so-called ‘ responsible ’ person was appointed. In the case of suspension, the same person established under another name another newspaper which continued on the lines of the previous journal. The caution removed these possibilities, and had thus the effect of a high tax which rendered more difficult, if it did not prevent, the existence of journals without financial backing.

- “ 3. Cautions relieve the authorities from the burden of collecting fines, for they are taken as deposits. There is no institution of this kind in any other trade.
- “ 4. It is a special feature of the caution that it can be forfeited at the order of the court, if the contents of a paper have led to a prosecution ending in a sentence. In this case the newspaper cannot appear any longer, unless the caution is deposited once again. It is indeed the easiest way to get rid of a paper which has become inconvenient.”

I have been quoting from a book which chronicles the taxes on human knowledge in early nineteenth century England.

According to Lecky (*Cf. England in the Eighteenth Century*, Vol. I, page 372) this was a period of persecution of the English press and great figures of English literary history had to be punished for their agitation for reform, namely: Defoe, Steele, Binckes, Tutchin, Cobbett, Sacheverell, etc. Perhaps the most famous of these journalist-agitators were John Wilkes and a writer who wrote under the pen-name of “Junius.” These reformers criticised severely the blatant attempt to curb the liberty of the press.

It is significant that whilst France continued this specious law, England was obliged to abandon it in 1869, and the 1819 Act was repealed after fifty years of infringement of the liberty of the press by officialdom. Twelve years later, France, once more, set the example when in its Press Law of 1881, Article V, it was stipulated that “every newspaper or periodical may be published without deposit of a caution.” This, by the way, was an emulation of the Belgian Constitution of 1831, Article XVIII of which provided that “no bond must be required of authors, editors or printers.”

In 1881, England abolished all forms of shackles on the liberty of the press by the enactment of the Newspaper Libel and Registration Act (44 & 45 Vict. c. 60), which modified the 1869 Act by re-introducing a milder system of newspaper registration, which is foreshadowed in the Bill before this Honourable House. This Act is usually regarded as a milestone in the struggle for press freedom, in that it imposed upon printers or newspaper proprietors legal duties or restrictions over and above those which they have to observe as ordinary citizens, without the authorities seriously impinging on the freedom of the press.

To-day, in the comity of nations, only eight sovereign States, under the aegis of International Law retain this obsolete anachronism in their statute books, to wit, Hungary, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Egypt, French Morocco, Japan and Brazil. The question arises, Sir, how have these movements of thought affected press legislation in Nigeria?

In the Laws of Nigeria, published in 1903 and 1908, bond requirement was stipulated after the fashion of the notorious English Act of 1819. In 1917, the present Newspaper Ordinance, which is slated for repeal in this Bill, incorporated this bond requirement with a penalty of £50 for infringement of same. As a result of agitation on the part of the articulate section of the Nigerian press, Mr Justice S. B. Rhodes, then a Member of this Honourable House, moved a Resolution which the Legal Department accepted, and an amendment was made to the law, in 1940, giving newspaper proprietors the option of depositing £250 in the Treasury instead of obtaining two bondsmen. And that is the position of our newspaper legislation, to-day.

Your Excellency, I agree with the view that "Liberty of the press involves the right to issue newspapers without permission of an authority". (Cf. Rothenberg, *op. cit.*, page 265). Hence it is my considered opinion that, other things being equal, Sections 3-9 of the Newspaper Ordinance, requiring recognisances and bonds for securing files, are overdue for repeal, for the following reasons:—

Firstly, it is a reactionary measure, usually introduced in times when liberty of the press is restricted. This is contrary to the ideals of the United Nations, for which the flower of Nigerian manhood sacrificed their lives and limbs. Besides, Great Britain has played a positive rôle in connection with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the various conventions on the Freedom of Information and Communications.

Secondly, bonds or recognisances are not incorporated either in the Laws of Sierra Leone, or the Laws of the Gold Coast, or the Laws of England. These countries enjoy with Nigeria the benefits of *pax Britannica*. Comparison may be said to be odious, but I see no reason why what is poison for Sierra Leone and the Gold Coast, whose press laws are based on the Newspaper Libel and Registration Act of 1881, *i.e.*, the *raison d'être* of this Bill, should be meat for Nigeria.

Thirdly, from all accounts, coupled with information at my disposal, Sections 3-9 of the Newspaper Ordinance, 1917, constitute a dead letter in our statute book, so far as inability of newspaper proprietors to pay fines inflicted on them is concerned. I make bold to say, Sir, and I am open to correction by the learned Attorney-General, that there has not been one single instance in the whole history of newspaper legislation in Nigeria, where it had become necessary to invoke these objectionable sections.

Fourthly, in any democratic community, due process of law is usually the instrument for trial and punishment of those who infringe the law. There is no reason why any newspaper proprietor who fails to pay fines inflicted on him for libel should not be distressed, according to the law, instead of manacled the press by bond and recognisances which have been demonstrated to be punitive and inconsistent with the cherished traditions of the freedom of the press.

Thus, it is obvious, Sir, that there is no substantial reason to continue to have in our statute book this obsolete, anachronistic, old-fashioned, reactionary and punitive provision. Surely in a democratic community or a community which professes democracy as a way of life, he who pays taxation has a right to write and to speak out his mind, whether as a proprietor or publisher or author within the ambit of the law.

In the light of these explanatory remarks, I appeal to the Government of this country to reconsider its stand on this moot issue of bond requirement and be graciously disposed to waive its application in twentieth century Nigeria.

Your Excellency, I have clarified the objects and reasons of this Bill, and I have explained the background which necessitated the incorporation of bond requirement in our law, and demonstrated the reactionary and obsolete nature of this aspect of our newspaper law. I commend this Bill to the favourable consideration of this House.

The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. Nyong Essien):

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

(Second Reading)

THE INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Financial Secretary:

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled:—

“An Ordinance further to amend the Income Tax Ordinance, 1943.”

Sir, it might help Honourable Members if I give a word of explanation. This Bill was down for a second reading yesterday and with the permission of the House it was deferred until today. I do propose, Sir, after Honourable Members have spoken, that the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee. There are two reasons for that. One is that income tax legislation is very very complicated, and I would be able to give a fuller explanation in Select Committee than here. And the second is that my Friend the Commissioner of Inland Revenue would be available to attend a Select Committee if Honourable Members so wish.

The Hon. the Development Secretary:

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

I move, Sir, that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee, and I hope that it will be possible for the Select Committee to meet after the House rises this morning.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

It is desirable for the Select Committee to meet today. Might not we meet in full Council this afternoon? It will be necessary for Your Excellency to give a decision on the Select Committee now.

His Excellency :

The question is that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. The ayes have it.

The Members will be—Chairman, the Honourable the Financial Secretary, and all Honourable Unofficial Members who can attend. Will there be a quorum?

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

I believe I shall have a quorum, Sir. May I just say that I do not anticipate that it will take longer than half an hour.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

We do not then meet this afternoon except in Select Committee.

His Excellency :

Council now adjourns until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Council adjourned at 12.20 p.m.

General reference to the text.

General reference to the text.

The following:

The first the first paragraph of the Constitution.

The second the second paragraph of the Constitution.

The third the third paragraph of the Constitution.

The fourth the fourth paragraph of the Constitution.

The fifth the fifth paragraph of the Constitution.

The sixth the sixth paragraph of the Constitution.

The seventh the seventh paragraph of the Constitution.

The eighth the eighth paragraph of the Constitution.

The ninth the ninth paragraph of the Constitution.

The tenth the tenth paragraph of the Constitution.

The eleventh the eleventh paragraph of the Constitution.

The twelfth the twelfth paragraph of the Constitution.

The thirteenth the thirteenth paragraph of the Constitution.

The fourteenth the fourteenth paragraph of the Constitution.

Debates in the Legislative Council of Nigeria

Friday, 11th March, 1949

Pursuant to notice the Honourable Members of the Legislative Council met in the Hall of the Western House of Assembly, Ibadan, at 10 a.m. on Friday, the 11th of March, 1949.

PRESENT

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- His Excellency the Governor,
Sir John S. Macpherson, K.C.M.G.
- The Chief Secretary to the Government,
The Honourable H. M. Foot, C.M.G., O.B.E.
- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,
His Honour T. C. Hoskyns-Abrahall, C.M.G.
- The Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces,
His Honour E. W. Thompstone, C.M.G., M.C.
- The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,
His Honour Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, C.M.G.
- The Attorney-General,
The Honourable G. L. Howe, K.C.
- The Financial Secretary,
The Honourable A. W. L. Savage, C.M.G.
- The Director of Medical Services,
Dr the Honourable G. B. Walker, C.B.E.
- The Development Secretary,
The Honourable C. J. Pleass.
- The Director of Education,
The Honourable R. A. McL. Davidson, C.M.G.
- The Director of Agriculture,
The Honourable A. G. Beattie.
- The Director of Public Works,
The Honourable R. W. Taylor.
- The Commissioner of Labour,
The Honourable A. H. Couzens.
- The Senior Resident, Kano Province,
The Honourable E. K. Featherstone, C.M.G.
- The Resident, Ogoja Province,
The Honourable P. M. Riley.
- The Resident, Abeokuta Province,
The Honourable J. H. Blair, E.D.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Member for the Colony,
The Rev. and Honourable T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.
- The First Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Obisesan, O.B.E.
- The Second Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.
- The First Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable I. Olorun-Nimbe.
- The Emir of Gwandu,
The Honourable Yahaya, C.B.E.
- The Emir of Katsina,
Alhaji the Honourable Usuman Nagogo, C.B.E.
- The Oni of Ife,
The Honourable Aderemi I, C.M.G.
- The Oba of Benin,
The Honourable Akenzua II, C.M.G.
- The Atta of Igbirra,
Alhaji the Honourable Ibrahimia.
- The Emir of Abuja,
The Honourable Sulemanu.
- The First Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Bello Kano.
- The First Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable C. D. Onyeama.
- The Second Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.
- The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable H. Buowari Brown.
- The Third Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Iro Katsina.
- The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable A. Ikoku.
- The Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Aliyu, Makaman Bida.
- The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.
- The Second Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe.
- The First Nominated Member,
The Honourable P. J. Rogers.
- The Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Yahaya Ilorin.
- The Third Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.
- The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable N. Essien.
- The Third Lagos Member,
The Honourable Adeleke Adedoyin.

The Member for Calabar,
The Honourable E. E. E. Anwan.
The Second Nominated Member,
Major the Honourable J. West, M.C.
The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Soetan.

ABSENT

OFFICIAL MEMBER

The Acting Commissioner of the Colony,
The Honourable J. G. C. Allen.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBER

The Third Nominated Member,
The Honourable N. B. Edwards.

PRAYERS

His Excellency the Governor opened the proceedings of the Council with prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10th day of March, 1949, having been printed and circulated to the Honourable Members, were taken as read and confirmed.

QUESTIONS

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

43. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(i) How many Station Waggon Cars are there in Nigeria? Give the figures for the Colony of Lagos and the Department where such waggon cars are commonly in use?

(ii) Are Officials in receipt of basic allowance entitled to use these Cars? If so, why? If the answer is in the negative will the Honourable the Chief Secretary inform the Nigerian public why the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony and his Deputy, the Honourable the Director of Medical Services and other Officials of the Public Works Department frequently use these cars and still draw the basic allowances to which I have referred?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

I am not quite clear what information the Honourable Member wishes to obtain but—

(i) on the assumption that he refers to vehicles maintained by the Government I can tell him that thirty station wagons or cars are maintained in Nigeria by the Public Works Department. Figures for the Colony of Lagos are:—

Secretariat	...	...	...	...	3
Commissioner of Colony	...	...	...	...	1
P.W.D. Headquarters	...	...	...	...	2
Pool (at Ijora)	...	...	...	...	2
Ijora Workshops	...	...	...	...	6
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	14

The vehicles at Ijora Workshops are unserviceable and are awaiting a Board of Survey.

- (ii) Officers in receipt of basic allowance do not normally use these vehicles though certain officials have made use of them on occasions when their own cars have been undergoing repair, when they have been returning from leave or proceeding on leave, or in the case of Inspectors of Works (Mechanical) when they have been carrying out routine mechanical tests.

The Honourable the Director of Medical Services and the Honourable the Director of Public Works have used a station wagon for touring when it was necessary for them to travel with bedding, kitchen equipment and domestic staff which could not be transported in their own cars. There is no station wagon attached to the office of the Commissioner of the Colony. A Humber car is provided for the use of the officers of the Colony Administration, senior officers from the Protectorate, Members of the Legislative Council and other distinguished visitors to Lagos.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

48. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

(a) Why are overseas Medical Scholarships not sponsored by the Medical Department, notwithstanding the existence of the Medical College at Ibadan, which can at its best, only accommodate about twenty-five students annually?

(b) How many Nigerian Doctors are legally qualified and duly registered to practice Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics in Nigeria? Give the figures for non-Nigerians for comparison?

(c) How many Doctors does Nigeria need today to cope adequately with her Medical and Health problems?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

While it is well recognised that the number of doctors in Nigeria is insufficient to meet the needs of the country the Honourable Member will no doubt agree that the policy should be to make the maximum use of training facilities in Nigeria before overseas scholarships are awarded. In the past medical training has been available at the Yaba Medical School and although that School was capable of taking fifteen medical students a year the number entering the school never exceeded ten a year and the average over the whole period of the School's existence was about eight. It is too early as yet to say whether the demand for medical training at the Ibadan University College will exceed the number of places available. If it does the Government will certainly consider granting medical scholarships overseas. Up to the present the policy has been to award overseas medical scholarships mainly to doctors who wish to secure specialist qualifications which cannot be obtained in Nigeria.

(b) Medical Practitioners registered in Nigeria comprise 106 Nigerians, five Non-Nigerians (African) and 225 other Non-Nigerians.

(c) The figure would certainly be many times the number of doctors who are available at present but as the Honourable Member well knows there is a great difference between the number which it is desirable to have and the number which Nigeria could afford to pay.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

50. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Why have Nigerian Students qualified in Radiology been denied employment in the Nigerian Medical Service? Is Government aware that one such qualified candidate became so disgusted after three years study that he is now studying Law?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

No Nigerian who is a qualified Radiographer has applied. Some ex-servicemen with elementary practical knowledge of radiography have applied, but were unsuitable for appointment as Radiographers.

I am unaware of any case of the kind referred to in the second part of the question.

Supplementary Question to No. 50 by the First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

Supplementary Question to the second part of the answer, Sir. Will the Honourable the Chief Secretary please make the necessary enquiry from the Colonial Office?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Yes, Sir, if the Honourable Member will give me further particulars to enable me to do so.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

I will, Sir.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

54. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

If Ibadan University College is affiliated to London University, and London Matriculation is the surest passport to Matriculate in the University of London in Britain, why are Nigerian Students who normally hold the London Matriculation Certificates compelled to take the Ibadan University College Entrance Examination? Will the Honourable the Director fully explain this anomaly?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education:

The University College, Ibadan, is not affiliated to the University of London but stands in a special relationship to the latter. The nature of the relationship is discussed in detail in Chapter IX of the Report of the Commission on Higher Education in the Colonies (Cmd. 6647). Its virtue lies not in the provision of machinery whereby the syllabus may be suitably adapted to local needs but in

the fact that by reason of the participation which is envisaged of the teachers in the framing of the syllabus and the conduct of the examination, teaching and examination can be related to that original research in which they should take their rise.

The College authorities do not favour the extension of the existing "external" system which would reinforce the disastrous emphasis on examination results evident in some of the local attitudes to higher education. The adoption of the "external" system would tend to divorce teaching and research, by separating the syllabus and examination from the research work of the teachers. It would cost expenditure of time and energy by the staff on the study of subjects merely in order to teach them and would tend to divert them from research in those "local" subjects in which they will normally have the best opportunity to make a contribution to the advancement of knowledge.

The Honourable Member is reminded that minimum statutory qualifications do not constitute any claim of entry to universities or colleges. Only a small proportion of students qualified for matriculation in fact proceed to a University. The normal entrant to a University has substantially higher qualifications than those prescribed as the statutory minimum. Each college in the University of London, for example, settles its own standard of admission and this practice has been adopted at the University College, Ibadan. The normal method of testing qualifications is by an entrance examination, a term which does not imply a written examination only; interviews (or *viva voce* examination) form an important part of entrance tests and the scrutiny of school records is also valuable.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

65. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(i) What is the difference between a Superintendent of Prisons and an Assistant Superintendent?

(ii) What are their qualifications and experience before recruitment into the Service?

(iii) How many Nigerians now hold any of these posts?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(i) The difference is in the greater degree of responsibility attached to the higher post. In normal circumstances a Superintendent is placed in charge of a convict prison, and is assisted by an Assistant Superintendent.

(ii) The qualifications required for appointment to the post of Assistant Superintendent are as stated in paragraph 14 of N.S.S. Pamphlet No. 15. Vacancies in the establishment of Superintendents are normally filled by promotion from the establishment of Assistant Superintendents.

(iii) None. A recommendation for the promotion of one Nigerian to the rank of Assistant Superintendent is at present under consideration, and there are two Nigerian cadets in training.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

85. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(i) How many Civil Servants have taken advantage of the Harragin recommendation by voluntarily retiring before the age of fifty-five?

(ii) Give the comparative figures between expatriate and non-expatriate officers for comparison?

(iii) How many have been retired by Government under the said recommendation, and how many is Government contemplating retiring in 1949?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(i) 146.

(ii) Fifty-eight expatriate: eighty-eight non-expatriate.

(iii) The Government has called upon sixty-six officers to retire. It is not possible to state how many may be asked to retire in 1949.

Supplementary Question to No. 85 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

Is the Honourable the Chief Secretary in a position to tell me how many of these officers are expatriates and non-expatriates.

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

I assume the Honourable Member refers to Question 85 (3). I have not the figures with me, but I could certainly obtain them and inform the Honourable Member.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

88. To ask the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony:—

(i) When will the Lagos Town Council embark on the Roads and Drains project for which this Honourable House granted the third of five loans of £6,800 each last year?

(ii) When will the Lagos Public be informed, where these Roads and Drains are, and how much have been expended during 1948?

(iii) How many Engineers were recruited for the work, their scale of salaries and on what Roads and Drains have they been working since recruitment.

(iv) If he would give a list of the Roads and Drains to be completed under the scheme in the various Wards comprising the Municipal Area of Lagos.

Answer—

The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony:

(i) The programme was begun on April 1st, 1945.

(ii) The public has been informed through the meetings of the Town Council. From January 1st to 31st December, 1948, £3,965 was expended.

(iii) No Engineers have been recruited specifically for this work.

(iv) The list in question is of considerable length and the Honourable Member is referred to the Council's Minutes of which, as a Councillor, he has a copy.

Supplementary Question to No. 88 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

In view of the absence of the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony, I am wondering what would be the proceeding, as I have a supplementary question on 88 (4)?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

If the Honourable Member wishes to ask a supplementary question on this matter I shall endeavour to answer.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

Will such copy of the Council's meetings, if not confidential, be available to those of us who are not Councillors?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

I will have to leave that question. I do not know whether it is within the powers of the Council to publish its minutes, and certainly I think it would be a matter for the Council to decide whether its minutes should be circulated. But if the Honourable Member will put down a question on the matter, I will endeavour to answer it.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

94. To ask the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony:—

(i) How much did the Lagos Town Council obtain on loan from the Central Government for the purchase of land for the new Lagos Cemeteries, when, and at what rate of interest?

(ii) If he would explain in detail the justification for charging 12s 6d per burial of dead persons instead of the previous amount of 5s.

(iii) If the new rate at 12s 6d per burial was primarily intended for the acquisition of the New Cemetery, wherein lies the justification of charging 12s 6d per burial of dead persons in the older Cemeteries in Lagos Municipality?

(iv) Is the Commissioner aware that the Epetedo and Oke-Suna Cemeteries were specifically acquired by those who normally use these Cemeteries? Why should they pay 12s 6d per burial?

Answer—

The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony :

(i) The Lagos Town Council obtained £9,000 in 1941 at 3 per cent interest repayable by equal half-yearly instalments over 15 years.

(ii) The loan was granted on condition that the cemeteries became self-supporting. To enable this to be done it was necessary for the fees to be raised to 12s 6d.

(iii) The older cemeteries on Lagos Island are full and not in use for burials at 12s 6d. For burials on the mainland 12s 6d is not charged. The question does not therefore arise.

(iv) They do not pay 12s 6d. These cemeteries are full and closed for all except burials in vaults in private ownership.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

101. To ask the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony:—

How much per annum does the Lagos Town Council re-imburse the Central Government for Medical Services rendered to the Staff of the Department?

Answer—

The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony:

£500.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

103. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many acres of land are there in the Yaba Estate and how many of them have been given out since 1924?

(b) How many Aliens hold land in the Estate and what is the percentage of the total held by them?

(c) Is it true that Nigerians find it increasingly difficult to obtain a permit of occupancy in the Yaba Estate?

(d) What is the total amount of land in acres covered by the Obalende Settlement?

(e) Is there any rule prohibiting an individual holding more than one plot?

(f) If the answer is in the affirmative, will he fully explain why some members of the Staff of the Land Department have more than one plot in the Settlement to which I have referred?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) The area of Yaba Estate is 738 acres divided approximately as follows:—

(1) Area leased or sold	274 acres
(2) Area occupied by Cemetery, Market, Police Barracks, Park, Hospital, Technical Institute, Trade Centre, etc.	337 "
(3) Canal area and swamp	34 "
(4) Occupied by Army	68 "
(5) Area shortly to be developed	25 "
	738 acres

(b) Fifteen non-Africans hold approximately twenty acres of land within the estate which represents 2.7 per cent of the area of the estate. In addition approximately thirty-two acres are held by Missions representing 4.3 per cent of the total area.

(c) Yes, as there are no plots at present available for leasing and the number of plots that will become available in the future when they have been laid out and provided with services is comparatively small.

(d) Approximately twenty acres laid out into 215 plots.

(e) No, though not more than one plot is first leased to any one individual.

(f) In view of the answer to (e) this question does not strictly arise but since the Land Department has been mentioned the facts are that two members of the Land Department hold one plot each.

Supplementary Question to No. 103 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

103 (b), Sir. Is the Honourable the Chief Secretary in a position to state whether the land held is on a freehold or a leasehold basis?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

I should hesitate to give an answer without checking from my records, but I shall indeed answer the question if the Honourable Member wishes.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

105. To ask the Honourable the Director of Agriculture:—

(i) Has the Agricultural Department any definite policy within the Administrative machinery of the Government of Nigeria?

(ii) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Honourable the Director please compare and contrast in outline the policy of the Department since 1944 with the policy obtaining in the Department before the Nigerianization Commission published its report?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture :

(i) Yes, Sir. This Government's agricultural policy was set out in Sessional Paper No. 16 of 1946, to which the Honourable Member is referred.

(ii) There has been no change in the main aims of agricultural policy since the publication of the Sessional Paper. With regard to the Nigerianisation Commission's report the approved recommendations of the Commission will of course be carried out in the Department of Agriculture as in other Departments of Government.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

109. Is the Honourable the Director of Agriculture aware of the fact that three members of the Staff of the Gold Coast Department of Agriculture who were sent to take Refresher Courses in the School of Agriculture at Ibadan in 1946-47 have now been promoted to Senior Service whilst their Nigerian contemporaries who obtained Yaba Diploma in Agriculture are yet in the Junior Service as Assistant Agricultural Officers, Grade III, on a salary of £170 per annum?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture :

It is a fact that three members of the staff of the Gold Coast Department of Agriculture who took refresher courses in the School of Agriculture at Ibadan in 1946-47 are now members of the Gold Coast Senior Service. These men at the time they took the refresher courses referred to had considerable agricultural experience and their ages varied from 34 to 44 years. Those Nigerians referred to are comparatively young men who, apart from their training at Yaba, have not more than three years service as Assistant Agricultural Officers.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

112. Is the Honourable the Director of Agriculture aware of the fact that the Chief Conservator of Forests has publicly declared that his men who qualified in the recently opened School at Ibadan and who are now in Oxford for a year's Refresher Course would be appointed Assistant Conservator of Forests on their return?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture :

The Chief Conservator has expressed his hope that the men mentioned will become suitably qualified for the post of Assistant Conservator of Forests. He explains that the course which they are attending is not a Refresher Course but a special and advanced officer's training course.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

114. Is the Honourable the Director of Agriculture aware of the fact that until there are many Nigerian Agricultural Officers, and some Nigerians holding executive posts in the Department, the Department cannot hope to be as useful to the country as at present?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture :

I am not quite sure that I understand the question but I can assure the Honourable Member that the Department of Agriculture is anxious to see an increasing number of Nigerians obtain the qualifications and experience to equip them for Senior and executive posts in the Department.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

115. To ask the Honourable the Director of Agriculture:—

Whether it is true that some Agricultural Stations are being closed down due to shortage of Staff? If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Director not consider the increasing use of experienced local materials, having regard to the fact that during the forty years of the Departmental existence it is most unlikely that suitable men could not be found after twenty-six years of Departmental training?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture :

Work on one Agricultural station has been temporarily suspended owing to shortage of staff. The claims of Junior staff for promotion to the Senior Service are kept constantly under review, and current claims for such promotion will be considered by the Selection Board. The Honourable Member will of course appreciate that nearly all the vacant Senior Service posts require academic qualifications which are not normally possessed by Junior Service Officers.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

126. To ask the Honourable the Director of Public Works:—

(a) How soon will the Honourable the Director accede to the urgent request of the people of Uzeba for the construction of a much needed road between Uzeba and Ipele and so connect the main road between Owo and Benin-City?

(b) Is the Honourable the Director aware that the people have started to clear the site—a distance of some seventeen miles—in anticipation of a more favourable encouragement from the Government?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Public Works :

(a) I have not heard any proposal to construct a road between Uzeba and Ipele. The Honourable Member will appreciate that a road from Uzeba to Ipele would come within the category of a feeder road, the order of priority of construction of which is a matter for the Provincial and Regional Development Committees and not for the Director of Public Works. A new feeder road is, however, to be built a few miles further south to connect Sabongida with Ifon, but staff is not at the moment available for the necessary bridging of the Osse River.

(b) No, Sir.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

129. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

Who is responsible for the sanitation of the City of Lagos? Is the Director of Medical Services satisfied with the present insanitary conditions of the Capital?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

(i) The Lagos Town Council.

(ii) No, but the conditions are progressively improving and any existing imperfections are due to the fact that the facilities provided for the disposal of refuse are misused by a large section of the inhabitants of Lagos.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

134. To ask the Honourable the Financial Secretary:—

Will the total allowances paid to each Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council between April, 1948 and March, 1949, be stated?

Answer—

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

I suggest to the Honourable Member that it is preferable not to deal with such matters on the basis of payments to individuals. The average total allowances drawn by unofficial members from the 1st of April, 1948 to the end of February, 1949 (figures for March, 1949, are of course not yet obtainable) was just over £207. This figure does not include allowances paid in respect of the Nigerian delegation to the African Conference in London about which a reply is being made to a separate question.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

141. To ask His Honour, the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total area of land acquired by Government at Nsukka township?

(b) Are these supposed to be Crown Lands?

(c) When were the acquisitions made?

- (d) Who were the land-owners or grantors?
 (e) What compensations were paid?
 (f) What was the authority under which the acquisitions were made?
 (g) Who were the beneficiaries?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

- (a) 386.072 acres.
 (b) They are Crown Lands by virtue of section 2 of Chapter 84 of the Laws of Nigeria.
 (c) There is one acquisition only. The land was occupied by Government in 1920 and Government was formally put in possession of it for so long as it should be used for the purpose of administering the Government by an agreement dated the 6th of April, 1927 and registered as No. 28, page 154, volume 117 in the Lands Registry at Lagos.
 (d) Chiefs Atugueke of Ozala and Enejelu Odumodo of Nsukka for and on behalf of themselves and their people.
 (e) No record of compensation can be traced.
 (f) By free negotiation between the Governor and the land-owners. *See* (c) above.
 (g) In view of the answer to (e) the question does not arise.

Supplementary Question to No. 141 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

141, Sir, (b) and (c). In view of the fact that the Public Lands Acquisition Ordinance was enacted in 1916, is there any reason why this land was not acquired under this Ordinance?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

Sir, I am afraid I am not able to give the Honourable Member the information right away, but I will give it to him later.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

142. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

- (a) Is it a fact that one Grantley Adams, an M.P. from Barbados who served on the British Delegation to the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations at Paris, last September, was given mandate to speak for and on behalf of the people of Nigeria and the Cameroons by the Nigerian Delegation to the London Conference?
 (b) If so, will the nature of the mandate be clarified?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

No, Sir. The Honourable Grantley Adams to whom reference is made in the question is leader of the majority party in the Barbados House of Assembly. He has not served on any delegation to the Trusteeship Council but the Honourable Member probably has in mind a speech which he made in Paris when he was a full member of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Third Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organisation. He then

spoke as a member of the United Kingdom Delegation and there was no question of his being given a mandate to speak on behalf of any individual territory. It has, as far as I know, never been suggested that he was given a mandate by the Nigerian delegation to the London Conference to speak on behalf of Nigeria. He met a number of members of the various delegations to the African Conference in London, freely exchanged views with them and made reference in his speech to their views but no formal mandate was requested or given or claimed.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

146. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

What is the policy of Government regarding attendance of civil servants at meetings organised by political parties to take place during office hours?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

The Honourable Member will appreciate that it is difficult to lay down a general policy covering all departments. It is imperative that public services should be maintained at the highest possible level, and if general leave were given it might well result in serious dislocation of essential Government work. In the past members wishing to attend such meetings have been advised to apply to the Head of their Departments who have powers to grant casual leave if the exigencies of the service permit.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

151. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) On a regional basis what towns had post offices with complete facilities in 1948-49?

(b) How many such post offices will be established during 1949-50 and where will they be located?

(c) What towns in Nigeria are provided with house-to-house delivery system in 1948-49?

(d) What towns will be provided with house-to-house delivery system during 1949-50?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) The following are the details requested:—

Colony	Eastern	Northern	Western
Apapa	Aba	Barakin Ladi	Abeokuta
Agege	*Abak	Baro	Imo Branch Office
Badagry	Abakaliki	Bauchi	*Ado Ekiti
Ebute Metta	Afikpo	Bida	Abiraka
Ejinrin	Ahoada	Birnin Kebbi	Agbor
Epe	*Arochuku	Bukuru	Agenebode
Lagos—	Awka	Damaturu	Akure
Catholic Mission	Bamenda	Duchin Wai	Asaba
St. Branch Office.	Bansara	Funtua	Benin City
Lafaji B.O.	Bende	*Gboko	Bukuru
Broad St. B.O.	Bonny	*Gombe	Ede

Colony	Eastern	Northern	Western
Yaba	Brass	Gudi	Forcados
	Buea	Gusau	Ibadan
	Calabar	Ibi	Ibadan Branch Office
	Degema	*Idah	Mapo Hill B.O.
	Eket	Ilorin	Ife
	Enugu	Jos	*Ifo
	Ikom	Jebba	Ijebu Ode
	Ikot Ekpene	*Kabba	Ilaro
	Imo River	Kaduna	Ilesha
	Itu	Kaduna Junction	Koko
	Kumba	Kafanchan	Ogbomoso
	Mamfe	Kano	Ogwashu Uku
	*Nembe	Katsina	Okitipupa
	*Nsukka	Kaura Namoda	Ondo
	Nwaniba	Kontagora	Oshogbo
	Obubra	Lau	Otta
	Ogidi	Lokoja	Owo
	Ogoja	Maidobi	Oyo
	Oguta	Maiduguri	Sapele
	Okigwi	Makurdi	*Shagamu
	Onitsha	Mallam Maduri	Ubiaja
	Opobo	Minna	Warri
	Orlu	Nguru	
	Oron	Numan	
	Owerri	Offa	
	Port Harcourt	Oturkpo	
	Tiko	Potiskum	
	Umuahia	Sokoto	
	Uyo	Yelwa	
	Uzuakoli	Yola	
	Victoria	Zaria	
		Zungeru	
		*Zuru	

* No telegraph facilities, but the extension of the telegraph service to Ado Ekiti, Ifo and Abak is in hand.

(b) It is hoped to establish nine such post offices during 1949-50 as follows:—

Colony	Eastern	Northern	Western
—	Nbawsi	Okene	Auchi
	Udi		Ifon
			Ikare
			Isele Uku
			Kwale
			Ughelli

Provision for these has been included in 1948-49 Public Works Estimates and Appendix T, but their opening will be dependent upon the completion of the buildings.

(c) The following towns are provided with house-to-house delivery systems:—

Colony	Eastern	Northern	Western
Apapa	Aba	Jos	Abeokuta
Ebute Metta	Calabar	Kaduna North	Akure
Lagos	Enugu	Kaduna Junction	Benin City
Yaba	Onitsha	Kano	Ibadan
	Port Harcourt	Makurdi	Ilorin
		Minna	Ijebu Ode
		Zaria	Ilesha
			Ondo
			Oshogbo
			Sapele
			Warri

(d) Lokoja and Maiduguri in the Northern Region.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

152. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Will full information be given in respect of the Ife, Ore, Amahor, Sapoba, Ologbo and Sapele timber concessions said to be operated by Messrs United Africa Company Limited?

(b) Will assurance be given that these concessions will be exploited to the best interests of the land-owners and other beneficiaries and that they would not militate against the system of land tenure which obtains in those areas?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) The Ife Timber Concessions operated by United Africa Company Limited are covered by licences 6/1940, 7/1940, 8/1940, 9/1940 and 6/1941 for Areas Ife 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 respectively.

The Ore Concessions are presumably those in Ondo Province. These are covered by licences 3/1938, 3/1941, 4/1938 and 1/1941 for Areas O.A. 1, 3, 4 and 5 respectively.

The Amahor Concessions are presumably those in Ishan Division. These are covered by licences 2/1940, 5/1940, 8/1938, 11/1938, 7/1937 and 3/1942 for Areas B20, B21, B24A, B24B, B25 and B28 respectively.

All the above licences are registered in the Lands Office at Lagos where copies are held.

The Sapoba and Ologbo Concessions are presumably all those in Benin Division. These are Areas BC1, BC10, BC11/1, BC21/3, BC24/1, BC28, BC29, BC32/1, BC32/4, BC24, BC16, BC20/2, BC21/1, BC21/2, BC30 and BC32/2. The terms of these Concessions have been revised to restrict considerably the rights granted to the firm, under the old Licences, in the interests of a sustained yield of timber and revenue in perpetuity, and in accordance with the principles of forest management. A new agreement to this end has been signed by the Benin Native Authority and the United Africa Company Limited to cover all the areas named above. It will in due course be registered. This new agreement, without crippling the work of the firm, introduces new safeguards for the Native Authority by limiting the area which may be cut, by enforcing intensive felling in declared annual coupes, so that regeneration of the forest may be carried out, and by enforcing the payment by the firm to the Native Authority of at least an agreed minimum revenue to the acre, with a guarantee for the payment of substantial damages by the firm in the case of abandonment of work before the termination of the agreement.

There are no concessions at Sapele but the United Africa Company Limited have a sawmill and a plywood mill there.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Ondo Concessions, which are already permanent forest in Reserves, will shortly be brought under restrictions similar to those now in force in the Benin Division; the Ife and Ishan Concessions, except Ife 6, are in unreserved land which will eventually be required for farming and the interests of the farmers are fully protected. All forest revenue in Ife is paid to the Native Authority and arrangements are now being made for all forest revenue to be paid to the Native Authorities in Ishan also. The work of the firm in question is probably the most efficient timber exploitation in Nigeria at the present time. There is no evidence that the concessions can militate in any way against the system of land tenure which obtains in the areas.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

155. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many passengers and motor vehicles were ferried by the Marine Department across the River Niger, between Onitsha and Asaba, from 1938 to 1948, year by year?

(b) What revenue was derived therefrom, year by year?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a)

Year	No. of Passengers ferried	No. of Cars ferried
1938 ..	3,433	1,790
1939 ..	3,165	1,577
1940 ..	3,056	720
1941 ..	4,117	892
1942 ..	6,849	1,185
1943 ..	8,260	1,043
1944 ..	10,311	1,141
1945 ..	12,301	1,088
1946 ..	42,943	1,077
1947 ..	49,412	1,132
1948 ..	119,686	1,354

(b)

Year	Revenue		
	£	s	d
1938 ..	1,047	13	11
1939 ..	932	3	5
1940 ..	678	17	9
1941 ..	461	17	6
1942 ..	474	2	5
1943 ..	441	0	0
1944 ..	650	0	0
1945 ..	543	16	5
1946 ..	1,174	2	11
1947 ..	2,033	16	0
1948 ..	3,750	1	8

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

157. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Is Government in position to know how many persons were ferried across the River Niger, by private canoes and motor launches between Onitsha and Asaba, during 1948?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

No, Sir. It is regretted that the information is not available.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

161. To ask the Honourable the Development Secretary:—

What are Government's plans (if any) for the irrigation of vast areas of arid lands in Northern Nigeria and in other parts of the country?

Answer—

The Hon. the Development Secretary:

The following suggestions have been made for investigation:—

- (i) *Maiduguri.*—A major scheme designed to irrigate a large area by means of three canal systems, one on each bank of the Yedseram and one on the right bank of the Ngadda, and entailing the construction of a very large reservoir, impounding the water of both catchments.
- (ii) *Benue Valley.*—A multi-purpose scheme to give flood control, hydro-electric power and improved navigation. Barrages would probably be required (a) a short distance downstream of the junction of the Benue and Niger; (b) at Makurdi; (c) at Yola; and dams and reservoirs on its tributaries the Gongola, the Taraba, the Hawal and the Katsina Ala.
- (iii) *Niger Province.*—Numerous small irrigation schemes on minor rivers particularly in the Mokwa area, and later, if detailed surveys are satisfactory, on the Kaduna river.
- (iv) *Kano Province.*—Irrigation by canal from a barrage on the Hadeija river.
- (v) *Sokoto Province.*—Small schemes on tributaries, but no major irrigation scheme possible.

In each case surveys and detailed information regarding the flood levels in the rivers usually over a number of years would be necessary before working plans could be made. This information is at present lacking, so is the staff to obtain it. A start, however, has been made, and in the last few months engineers of the Public Works Department have been gauging flows in the following rivers:—

Niger Province:

- (a) Bakogi River. Gauge site near the Railway Bridge.
- (b) Kaduna River at Zungeru.

Bornu Province:

(a) Ngadda River. Gauge site at Maiduguri.

(b) Yedseram River. Gauge site at Bama.

Bauchi Province:

Gongola River. Gauge site at Dindima.

Adamawa Province:

Benue River. Gauge sites at (a) Yola. (b) Lau.

Kabba Province:

Flood gauge at Lokoja.

Benue Province:

Benue River. Gauge site at Makurdi.

Kano Province:

(a) Challowa River. Gauge site near Railway Bridge or No. 3 Intake Waterworks, where a gauge already exists.

(b) Wudil River. Gauge site near Wudil Bridge.

(c) Hadeija River. At Hadeija.

Onitsha Province:

River Niger. Near gauge site at Onitsha.

Sokoto Province:

(a) Sokoto River. At Argungu.

(b) Ka River. Near Fokku.

Although some returns have been received it is too early yet to supply information on the results of this gauging.

Supplementary Question to No. 161 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

161, Sir. In view of the fact that Dikwa in Bornu Province is regarded as an exceptionally arid area, will it be possible that their claims will be given consideration in due course?

Answer—

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Certainly.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

165. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government :—

(a) Is cinematograph recognised as a subject for the purpose of awarding a Government scholarship for studies abroad?

(b) Is there any official objection to cinematograph being studied abroad by any person with a means of his own?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) This subject is not at present recognised as suitable for the award of an open scholarship. The policy of Government is to train African cine-technicians at a school organised by the Colonial Film Unit that was opened last August in the Gold Coast. Three members of the Public Relations Department are at present in training there.

(b) No, Sir, but present indications are that the only openings for work of this kind in Nigeria for some time to come will be in the Public Relations Department and will be filled by members of the Department who have been initially at the Colonial Film Unit School.

Supplementary Question to No. 165 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

Is the Honourable the Chief Secretary aware that an application to proceed to the United States for study of cinematography was rejected by the Nigerian Secretariat in spite of the fact that the student concerned had been admitted into an institution of learning devoted to the technique of cinematography?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

I am not so aware, Sir, but, as the Honourable Member knows, the award, or the recommendation for the award of scholarships is now in the hands of the Public Services Board. It would not therefore be a matter for the Nigerian Secretariat to decide but for the Public Services Board. If he is referring to a case in the past, then I would only suggest that the case might be raised again for consideration by the Public Services Board.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

I am afraid there is a misunderstanding. I referred to 165 (b). It is a case of a private student and not necessarily an applicant for scholarship?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

I see. I am not quite sure why a private student should need approval from the Nigerian Secretariat.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

I think he wanted permission from the Exchange Control to enable him to have currency?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

I am unaware, Sir, I am afraid, of the facts of that case.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

I shall bring it to your notice, Sir.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

171. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Is it a fact that shipping companies in Nigeria and Great Britain have made it difficult for Nigerian ex-servicemen who had seen active service in the Merchant Navy, during the war, to be employed as Wireless Operators, (a) because they were not born in the United Kingdom, and (b) because they had no Radio Telephony Certificates from the Postmaster-General, London?

(b) Is it a fact that, during the war such was not the case and the Nigerians were allowed to serve in such capacity and that they served efficiently?

(c) Is it a fact that Europeans were included in the category mentioned in (b) above, and that it is alleged that the waiver still holds good for the former and not for Nigerian merchant men?

(d) Will effort be made to discover what could be done in order to allow Nigerian ex-servicemen to serve in the Merchant and Royal Navy, on the basis of their proficiency certificates or testimonials obtained during the war?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) and (b) Wireless operators serving in British mercantile ships are employed by the Marconi Company and not by the owners of the ships. Board of Trade Regulations, which require certain ships to carry wireless operators, lay down that those operators must have either the 1st or 2nd Class Certificate issued by the Postmaster General, London. During the war, when it was not possible to obtain the necessary number of fully qualified wireless operators, I understand that the Postmaster General issued a certificate of somewhat lower standard and the holders were given restricted responsibilities and were employed mainly on watch duties. After the war this relaxation was stopped and wireless operators are now required to have the full qualifications.

(c) As far as I am aware the full qualifications are now the prerequisite for everybody.

(d) In view of the previous replies the Honourable Member will appreciate that only those holding the 1st or 2nd Class Certificates can be employed by the Marconi Company, and that the Royal Navy will not lower the high standard that it requires.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

175. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many Nigerians held the rank of Regimental Sergeant Majors (i) during the World War II, and (ii) during the year ended 1948?

(b) Ditto for Sergeant-Majors?

(c) Ditto for Sergeants?

(d) Ditto for Corporals?

(e) Ditto for Lance-Corporals?

(f) Was it impossible to recruit officers from these Nigerian non-commissioned officers?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

DURING WORLD WAR II

(a) Regimental Sergeant-Majors	47
(b) Sergeant-Majors	450
(c) Sergeants	2,531
(d) Corporals	3,771

I regret that similar information for 1948 is not available.

(e) Lance-Corporal is not a rank but an appointment granted by Commanding Officers and no record exists of the number of such appointments made from time to time.

(f) I am informed that the pre-war Royal West African Frontier Force did not afford the technical and educational background necessary for the training of an officer. During the war one of the main difficulties was that the great majority of Nigerians who volunteered had not the necessary educational qualifications for promotion to commissioned rank. Since the war the whole position has come under review and as a result of the decision that King's Commissions may be granted to Africans it is hoped that more potential officers will enlist.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

181. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

(a) In the last ten years, how many "strikes" had taken place at (i) King's College, Lagos, (ii) Government College, Ibadan, (iii) Government College, Umuahia, (iv) Queen's College, Lagos, (v) Kaduna College?

(b) What are the facts about these "strikes"?

(c) What action was taken in order to adjust matters?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education:

(a) It is assumed that by the term "strike", the Honourable Member wishes to imply a major breach of school discipline on the part of a significant proportion of the pupils concerned. No such incident has occurred at Government College, Ibadan, Government College, Umuahia, Queen's College, Lagos, or Kaduna College, during the past decade. At King's College, Lagos, two such incidents have occurred during that period. One in March, 1944, and the other in December, 1948.

(b) and (c) The facts concerning the first of these incidents and the action taken thereon formed the subject of an official statement which was published in the Press on the 21st of June, 1944. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to that statement.

As regards the second incident, the facts are that several senior boys who had for some time indicated their unwillingness to be amenable to school discipline, decided to stage a lawless demonstration. Suitable disciplinary action was taken to restore order and twenty-seven boys who had conducted themselves in a disorderly manner in the Acting Principal's Office, prevented the Acting Principal from carrying out his duties and resorted to violence in the boarding house, were expelled from the School.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

184. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

How many students from the Eastern Provinces were admitted into Queen's College, Lagos, from 1938 to 1948, year by year, (i) as scholarship students, and (ii) as paying students?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education :

Admission to Queen's College is not determined on a Regional basis and available records do not indicate the tribal origin of the students concerned. It is thus not possible to make a full reply to this question in the manner desired. Moreover the term "students from the Eastern Provinces" may be construed as meaning students born in the Eastern Provinces or as students resident in the Eastern Provinces at the time of admission. The former category would include some students not resident in the Eastern Region at the time of admission and the latter would include certain students who, though born in non-Eastern Regions, were resident in the Eastern Region at the time of admission.

The College records were disorganised during the war years and it is regretted that the full figures required by the Honourable Member could not be obtained without a great deal of research. I have, however, obtained from the Principal the following figures for the last three years in respect of students who were admitted direct from the Eastern Provinces:—

<i>Year</i>		<i>Scholarship Students</i>	<i>Paying Students</i>
1946	... ..	3	5
1947	... ..	3	4
1948	... ..	1	10

The foregoing figures do not include students whose fees were remitted subsequent to their admission to the College.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

197. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

- (a) What are the relevant facts leading to the voluntary abdication of the Alake of Abeokuta?
- (b) Did the British Government advise such a course of action?
- (c) What is the nature of the advice?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

(a) The relevant facts are contained in two statements by the Alake which appeared in the Press on the 28th of July and the 31st of December, 1948.

(b) and (c) The matter was discussed with the Alake on a number of occasions but his abdication was the result of a decision taken by himself.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

244. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

- (a) Will a brief history of the Glover Memorial Hall, at Lagos, be narrated?

(b) Who are the present Board of Trustees and how were they elected?

(c) What is the function of the Board of Trustees?

(d) Are members of the Board of Trustees paid any (i) salaries, (ii) perquisites, (iii) allowances?

(e) What is the nature of such remuneration or honorarium?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) According to the records available, the land on which the Glover Memorial Hall now stands was given free by Government to the people of Lagos specifically for the building of a Memorial Hall. The funds required for construction of the hall were subscribed by various officials and members of the public, with the assistance of interest-free loans from Government.

(b) The Commissioner of the Colony (Chairman).

The Director of Public Works.

The Financial Secretary.

F. G. Frost, Esq., President, Lagos Chamber of Commerce.

The Commissioner of Lands.

The Town Clerk, Lagos.

R. J. Parkhouse, Esq., British Council Representative.

Appointed under the provisions of section 4 of Chapter 61, Laws of Nigeria.

Alhaji Jibril Martin.

Dr A. Omololu.

Dr K. A. Abayomi.

J. T. Nelson-Cole, Esq.

T. K. E. Phillips, M.B.E.

Dr Akinola Maja.

T. A. Doherty, Esq.,

Elected under the provisions of section 19 of Chapter 61, Laws of Nigeria.

(c) The functions of the Board are shown in sections 21 to 28 inclusive of Chapter 61, Laws of Nigeria.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Supplementary Question to No. 244 by the First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

244. (a) It would appear, Sir, that this answer is not, strictly speaking, correct. I cannot understand, Sir, why the Government would give the land of Lagos to the people of Lagos, to whom it belongs. I am speaking from memory now, Sir, and I am well aware that the Glover Hall was Customs House before in Lagos?

Answer—

His Excellency :

I hope the Honourable Member will direct himself to asking a supplementary question.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

Well, Sir, I want to know. I am afraid this answer is wrong.

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

I am not quite sure that that is a question, Sir, but my information is as stated in the answer.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

245. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government :—

(a) What are the revenue and expenditure of the Glover Memorial Hall, from 1938 to 1948, year by year?

(b) Who is Auditor of the accounts of the Board of Trustees of the Glover Memorial Hall?

(c) Are statements of accounts published for the information of the public?

(d) If so, in what manner and at what intervals?

(e) If not, is this not desirable in order to allay any suspicion on the part of the public?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a)	Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.					
		£	s	d	£	s	d			
	1938	...	...	...	568	13	1	554	11	4
	1939	...	...	...	1,127	8	9	504	5	9
	1940	...	...	...	1,074	11	2	686	11	9
	1941	...	...	...	1,016	5	7	485	7	10
	1942	...	...	...	1,139	14	11	586	11	4
	1943	...	...	...	1,225	0	8	589	12	9
	1944	...	...	...	1,180	8	1	2,012	4	8
	1945	...	...	...	1,310	18	9	557	3	11
	1946	...	...	...	1,254	5	6	688	9	6
	1947	...	...	...	1,578	13	8	540	11	10
	1948	...	...	...	1,754	5	6	958	18	2

(b) The accounts are prepared by Messrs Cassleton Elliott and Company and examined by the Director of Audit.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Honourable Member's suggestion will be referred to the Board for consideration.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

246. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Is the Glover Memorial Hall, Lagos, being run at a profit or at a loss?

(b) If the former, what has been done with the surplus money?

(c) Has the time not arrived when the building should be completely renovated and repainted in fairness to the payments made by its customers?

(d) Will the attention of the Board of Trustees be called to the unsightly appearance of the Glover Memorial Hall?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) At a profit.

(b) The following table shows the manner in which the Board's funds are invested:—

	£	s	d
3½ per cent War Loan	2,575	1	0
3 per cent War Loan 1955-59	200	0	0
3½ per cent Kenya Stock 1957-67	198	0	0
3½ per cent Southern Rhodesian Stock 1961-66	500	0	0
3 per cent Savings Bonds 1960-70	2,100	0	0
Nigerian Savings Certificates	500	0	0
Cash at Bank at 31.12.48	509	0	4
Cash at Post Office Savings Bank	2,000	0	0

(c) and (d) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to Question 69 (i).

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

247. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Is the Glover Memorial empowered to discriminate against those who use it for public assemblies?

(b) Is Government aware that certain political organisations have been denied the use of the Hall for public assemblies?

(c) If so, is Government in position to explain the reason for such action?

(d) If a *prima facie* case had been made out to justify such denial, will restrictions of such nature be defined and limited over a short period, so as to avoid the impression of a particular organisation being victimised?

(e) Are organizations which stage meetings, etc. in the Hall responsible for any action either of the public or of the Police,

within the precincts of the Hall, after such meetings had been closed and the congregation had dispersed?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) The Board has the right to use the powers granted under section 28 of Chapter 61 Laws of Nigeria to protect its property from damage.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. This is not a matter for the Government but for the Board. I am however informed by the Board as follows :

As a result of recurrent damage caused to the Hall and its fittings by persons attending public meetings held under the auspices of certain political parties, the Board on the 23rd November, 1948, unanimously framed the following Order which was published in the Press :—

The Board of Trustees of the Glover Hall and Queen's Garden wishes it to be known that application for the use of the Hall and Gardens may be refused to any organisation, societies, etc., whose meetings have led to or in the opinion of the Trustees are likely to lead to disorder or possible damage to the property of the Trustees. The attention of the Public is invited to the Rules, a copy of which is displayed in the Hall and which govern the hire of the Hall.

Under the terms of this Order permission to use the Hall has been refused to certain organisations.

(d) This is for the Board to decide but I understand that the Board will be prepared to reconsider its decision when it is fully satisfied that such action will not result in further damage to the Hall and its fittings.

(e) I am afraid that I cannot answer this question which appears to be a matter for legal advice.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

265. To ask the Honourable the Financial Secretary :—

(a) In what securities are the surplus funds of the central government (as distinct from the Nigerian Railway and the Native Authorities) invested?

(b) What is the period of maturity of each investment?

(c) What interest does each investment yield?

(d) What is the grand total of such investments as at December, 1948?

(e) What is the grand total of the interest earned from such securities?

Answer—

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

The answers to parts (a), (b) and (c) of the Honourable Member's question are furnished in the subjoined statement as at 31st December, 1948:—

<i>Securities in which surplus funds are invested</i>	<i>Period of Maturity</i>	<i>Rate of Interest</i>
		%
Ayr County Council Redeemable Stock	1956	3
Birkenhead Corporation Redeemable Stock	1957	3
Birmingham Corporation Redeemable Stock	1957-62	3½
Blackburn Corporation Redeemable Stock	1962	3½
Blackpool Corporation Redeemable Stock	1960	3
Bradford Corporation Redeemable Stock	1966-68	3
Bristol Corporation Redeemable Stock	1967-72	2½
Cardiff Corporation Redeemable Stock	1956-58	3
Ceylon Inscribed Stock	1959	3½
Chesterfield Corporation Redeemable Stock	1960	3
Commonwealth of Australia Registered Stock	1965-67	3
Commonwealth of Australia Registered Stock	1955-58	3
Commonwealth of Australia Registered Stock	1958-60	3
Commonwealth of Australia Registered Stock	1963-65	3
Commonwealth of Australia Registered Stock	1965-69	3½
Commonwealth of Australia Registered Stock	1961-66	3½
Commonwealth of Australia Registered Stock	1955-70	4
Consolidated Loan	1957 or after	4
Cyprus Inscribed Stock	1956-66	4
Dewsbury Corporation Redeemable Stock	1958-63	3
Essex County Corporation Redeemable Stock	1957-62	3½
Federated Malay States Inscribed Stock	1960-70	3
Funding Loan	1956-61	2½
Gold Coast Inscribed Stock	1954-59	3
Gold Coast Inscribed Stock	1960-70	4½
Grenada Inscribed Stock	1959-64	3
Hertfordshire County Council Redeemable Stock	1958-63	3½
Huddersfield Corporation Redeemable Stock	1958-63	3½
Hull Corporation Redeemable Stock	1958-63	3½
Hull Corporation Redeemable Stock	1960-70	3½
Ipswich Corporation Redeemable Stock	1964	3½
Kenya Government Inscribed Stock	1961-71	4½
Kirkcaldy Corporation Redeemable Stock	1960	3½
Lanarkshire County Council Redeemable Stock	1955-60	3
Leeds Corporation Redeemable Stock	1957-60	3½
Corporation of London Stock	1959-64	3½
London County Consolidated Stock	1962-67	3
Luton Corporation Redeemable Stock	1958	3
Manchester Corporation Redeemable Stock	1958	3
Mauritius Inscribed Stock	1957-62	3½
National Defence Loan	1954-58	3
New Zealand Inscribed Stock	1952-55	3
New Zealand Inscribed Stock	1962-65	3½
New Zealand Inscribed Stock	1960-64	3½
Nigeria Inscribed Stock	1955	3
Nigeria Inscribed Stock	1963	4
Palestine Guaranteed Stock	1962-67	3
Salford Corporation Redeemable Stock	1954-64	3½
Savings Bonds	1955-65	3
Savings Bonds	1960-70	3
Savings Bonds	1965-75	3
Sheffield Corporation Redeemable Debenture Stock	1963	3½
Sierra Leone Inscribed Stock	1958-63	3½
Southern Rhodesia Inscribed Stock	1958-68	4½
Stoke-on-Trent Corporation Redeemable Stock	1955-65	3½
Trinidad Inscribed Stock	1965-70	3
War Loan	1955-59	3
Western Australia Inscribed Stock	1942-62	4
West Riding County Redeemable Stock	1957	3½

(d) The market value of the investments listed above at the 31st December, 1948, was £3,993,672 16s 10d.

(e) Interest earned in the financial year 1947-48 amounted to £132,692 0s 10d.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

282. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) Is it true that there is agitation at Ile Ife for the abdication of the Oni of Ife?

(b) If so, what will be the stand of Government on this issue?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

312. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

Will electricity be supplied to Onitsha in 1950, according to plan?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:

All materials for the Onitsha hydro-electric scheme are on order, and some items are now being delivered, but despite all efforts the Electrical Engineer-in-Chief has so far been unable to secure a delivery date earlier than three years for the large-diameter water piping required for this project. Other sources of supply for this piping are, however, being explored and it is hoped that it may yet be possible to obtain earlier delivery.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

313. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

When is it proposed to improve the water supply at Onitsha, in view of the fact that pipe-borne water is not regularly available?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:

Steps have already been taken to improve the Onitsha water supply and an extension to the scheme will be undertaken as soon as materials become available. These materials are on order.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

314. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) In view of the importance of Onitsha in Nigerian commerce, is it proposed to erect an aerodrome there?

(b) How soon will operations begin?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

It is not at present proposed to construct an aerodrome at Onitsha. The capital cost for construction and the recurrent costs for maintenance of such an aerodrome would be considerable. There is a frequent air service to Enugu in Onitsha Province. In view of these circumstances it is considered that the expenditure necessary to construct and maintain an aerodrome at Onitsha would not at present be justified.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

317. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Whether Government is aware that new post offices established in Nigeria are not as a rule supplied with boxes?

(b) Why are these not supplied?

(c) Will effort be made to make contacts in Canada or the United States of America or elsewhere for sufficient supply of this necessity of modern business?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) Yes, Sir. This is due to delay in obtaining adequate supplies. A limited number of new boxes (640) is now available and they are being distributed to centres where the needs are most pressing.

(b) Due to delay in supply by the makers. 1,400 boxes on indent are expected to arrive this year and provision has been made for a further 1,000 boxes in the 1949-50 Estimates.

(c) No, Sir, since purchase in a non-sterling area will considerably increase costs, and it is doubtful if supplies could now be obtained any more quickly.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

318. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Since Canada and the United States of America are said to have established hegemony in the manufacture of telegraph and telephone equipment, what efforts have been made by the Director of Posts and Telegraphs to import same from these sources?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

There is no evidence that Canada and the United States of America can produce telegraph and telephone equipment superior in quality to that produced in the United Kingdom and much of the equipment produced in these two countries would be unsuitable for use in Nigeria without considerable modification. Enquiries have however been made as to the possibility of obtaining from these sources certain material for which United Kingdom manufacturers cannot quote a delivery period of less than twelve months.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

324. To ask the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony :—

(a) Whether Government is in position to say that the publication in a Lagos daily newspaper purporting to be gist of an alleged memorandum from Port Harcourt, wherein Ibos were accused of seeking to dominate the Yorubas is a statement of fact or false rumour?

(b) If not, why was this serious allegation not investigated, since it can be calculated to incite the Yorubas against the Ibos?

Answer—

The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony :

(a) and (b) If the Honourable Member will provide particulars which would enable the article to be identified replies will be given.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

326. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :—

(a) Why did the Awujale of Ijebu Ode deny right of peaceful assembly to the people of Ijebu Ode through an emergency order?

(b) Was such order decreed with the privity of the Resident?

(c) Is this not a violation of a basic human right?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

(a) No emergency order was made by the Awujale. Section 35 of the Police Ordinance is, however, being enforced in Ijebu-Ode Town.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Supplementary Question to No. 326 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

Why was section 35 of the Police Ordinance enforced?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

A meeting was to have been held at Ijebu Ode. It came to the knowledge of the authorities that there was likely to be a disturbance at that meeting. As a result of that the police called on those persons who were responsible for the organisation of the meeting and informed them that it would be necessary for them to get a permit to hold this meeting. The organisers of the meeting flatly refused to apply for a permit. The police therefore under the action to which they are entitled under section 35 of the Police Ordinance, banned the meeting and the meeting was not held.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

328. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government :—

(a) Do the Prison Authorities practise any kind of discrimination of a social, economic or racial nature?

(b) Are privileges enjoyed by African prisoners different from those of non-Africans, particularly with respect to recreational facilities, reading, smoking, uniform, food, quarters, bed, pillow, wearing of shoes, steward service?

(c) If so, why?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) Prison Regulation 15 (d) at present lays down that European and indigenous prisoners shall be accommodated separately and Regulations 21 and 24 prescribe different diet scales and clothing for European prisoners. These regulations were originally based on grounds of health but amendments designed to eliminate any form of racial discrimination in the treatment of prisoners have been under consideration for some time and will shortly be made. Meanwhile steps have been taken by executive order to ensure that accommodation equivalent to that normally allowed to European prisoners is afforded to persons of all races who have enjoyed a certain standard of living.

(b) With the exceptions noted in (a) there is no difference in the privileges enjoyed by African and non-African prisoners.

(c) Does not arise.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

357. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Has Great Britain endorsed the findings of the United Nations Committee on Freedom of Information?

(b) In what manner?

(c) Will this be applicable to Nigeria?

(d) Will a copy of any document material to the above be made available?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) and (b) The proposed Convention on the Gathering and International Transmission of News, the Institution of an International Right of Correction and the Freedom of Information which were drafted by the United Nations Conference on Freedom of Information were submitted by the seventh session of the Economic and Social Council to the third session of the General Assembly in Paris last year. The General Assembly postponed discussion until the second half of the Session which is due to commence on the 7th of April, 1949. Although the United Kingdom is unable to endorse these Conventions until they have been ratified by the General Assembly it should be noted that the United Kingdom not only voted in favour of all three Conventions during the Conference but itself presented the draft for the proposed Convention on Freedom of Information. In the Economic and Social Council the United Kingdom supported the motion that the three Conventions should be submitted to the Third Session of the General Assembly.

(c) All three draft Conventions contain a Colonial Application Clause and once the final texts have been accepted by the General

Assembly His Majesty's Government will ask the Nigerian Government together with all other Colonial Governments whether they wish to accede.

(d) If the Honourable Member so desires copies of the three proposed Conventions will be made available. I should make it clear, however, that they are still in draft form and that amendments are likely to be made to them by the General Assembly.

Supplementary Question to No. 357 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

I should be obliged if copies of the proposed Conventions would be made available to me under the circumstances explained.

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

That will be done, Sir.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

361. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government :—

(a) Is it intended to re-open the Marine Technical Institute, this year?

(b) Is temporary accommodation now available?

(c) Has the Marine Department succeeded in securing the services of Instructors?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) Yes, Sir, as soon as the necessary instructing staff can be obtained.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In spite of repeated efforts it has, I am afraid, so far proved impossible to recruit a qualified instructor.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

371. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education :—

Whether the time has not arrived when the Awka Government School was raised, at least, to Lower Middle IV?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education :

No, Sir. Awka Government School is a primary institution which will be handed over in due course to the Local Education Authority when established. It is not proposed to encourage accretions of the type suggested in the question.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

378. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government :—

What is the cumulative result of the activities of the Shell D'Arcy Syndicate in Owerri Province?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Extensive geological and geophysical reconnaissance has been carried out with the object of finding areas under which drilling operations might disclose oil bearing strata. Conditions have proved very difficult, however, and no targets have yet been found for drilling operations. It is emphasized that the present operations are directed solely to the object of discovering whether oil is present in quantities and quality capable of economic development, and if so where.

Supplementary Question to No. 378 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

May I take the answer to imply that oil is not present at all or that oil is present in quantity and quality capable of economic development.

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Sir, as from my own personal knowledge (of course I could not add to what is given in the reply) but the understanding is that oil has not been found.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. and Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

390. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How much had already been spent in the construction of Lagos-Ikorodu Road?

(b) When will the road be completed and open to the public?

(c) Was compensation paid to or demanded by owners of land acquired for construction of the road?

(d) If the reply to (c) *supra* is in the affirmative, how much had been paid out?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) £67,000 at 31st January, 1949.

(b) It is anticipated that the road will be finished by the end of 1950.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Compensation, in settlement of claims received so far, amounting to £5,240 for buildings, £3,275 for land and £334 for trees and crops has been paid. A further sum of £3,935 is being paid for land.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. and Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

392. To ask the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony the cause or causes of the delay in giving effect to the long promised branches of Court in Ikeja District:—

(a) When may the people expect to have the branch Courts started?

(b) If he would give the number and name of the places in which the Courts are going to be opened?

(c) How are the Courts going to be constituted?

(d) If he would state the jurisdiction and powers and the relationship of such Courts to the Magistrate Court in the district?

Answer—

The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony :

(a) The warrants have already been prepared and it is hoped to open the Courts on the 1st April, 1949.

(b) It is proposed to open five branch Courts at Agege, Alimosho, Mushin, Ojokoro and Oregun respectively.

(c) Each court will consist of a bench of five judges of whom one will be the President. The personnel of the bench will change monthly until all persons comprising the panel of the court have sat. All members of the Village Group Councils which form the federation over which the court has jurisdiction will compose the panel of the court.

(d) The Agege Federal Court will have jurisdiction within the area covered by the Agege Federation, the Alimosho Court within the area covered by the Alimosho Federation, and so forth.

The powers of these courts will be Grade D (Limited). Their relationship to the Magistrate's Court will be the same as that of the existing Ikeja Native Court, which is explained in detail in the Native Courts (Colony) Ordinance No. 40 of 1937.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

397. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many nursing mothers are there in His Majesty's Prisons with their babies throughout Nigeria?

(b) Would he not consider the establishment of creche for babies whose mothers are convicted under the charge of Welfare nurses until the mothers served out their terms of imprisonment?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) Twenty-two.

(b) I appreciate the concern which the Honourable Member feels for these mothers and their children and I shall consider his suggestion further with the Prison Authorities. I gather however, that the mothers would not wish to part with their children and that the majority of convicted mothers serve short sentences so that the special scheme which he has in mind would be by no means easy to arrange.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

398. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many Members of Parliament visited Nigeria officially in the year under review?

(b) If he would state the costs of their expenses chargeable to Nigerian Revenue?

(c) If there were any professional visitors to Nigeria sponsored by Parliament for specific purposes during the same year?

(d) If so, what are the rates of their engagements per day, week or month, chargeable to Nigerian Revenue?

(e) If he would state the purpose of such visits?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) Nine Members of Parliament visited Nigeria during 1948. These were the Secretary of State for the Colonies (the Right Honourable A. Creech Jones, M.P.), the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Lt.-Col. D. R. Rees-Williams, M.P.) and seven members of the House of Commons Sub-Committee on Estimates.

(b) The cost of these visits was borne by the Government of the United Kingdom.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Secretary of State visited Nigeria, after presiding at a meeting of the West African Council, in order to participate in the inaugural ceremony of the University College of Ibadan. Mr Rees-Williams, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, visited Nigeria to gain first hand knowledge of local conditions. The Select Committee on Estimates visited Nigeria by leave of the House of Commons to obtain first hand information about the progress of Colonial Development and Welfare schemes.

The Third Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. G. I. Obaseki) :

402. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Whether it is a fact that there are still some Surveyors in the Survey Department who have not yet been converted to Scale D of the Harragin Report, the Scale meant for Surveyors, as from 1st January, 1946?

(i) If the answer is in the affirmative, what is or are the reason or reasons for their non-conversion?

(b) Whether among the Surveyors now on Scale G, there are those who perform identical duties with those on Scale D of the said Harragin Report?

(c) Whether any of the Surveyors now on Scale G have obtained the Surveyor's Licence, which is the recognised professional attainment required of any Land Surveyor in Nigeria?

(i) If the reply is in the affirmative, to ask whether the Director of Surveys will consider the conversion of the Surveyors so affected to Scale D with retrospective effect from the 1st January, 1946?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) Certain Surveyors are not Yaba graduates and are not therefore entitled to convert to the D scale, which, in accordance with paragraph 2 (i) of the Chief Secretary's Circular No. 9 of 1947, was intended for Yaba graduates.

(i) Notwithstanding the above, Government decided to allow Surveyors who had not qualified in the Higher College to convert to the Higher College D Scale on fulfilling certain alternative conditions. Five Surveyors have not yet fulfilled these conditions.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, one.

(d) The present situation is recognised as calling for review, and is under active consideration.

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. H. Buowari Brown) :

406. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government :—

(a) What are the reasons why industrialisation of Nigeria is so very slow compared with such Colonies as the Belgian Congo and other Foreign African Territories or Colonies?

(b) Is the slowness due to want of capital and what is the Nigerian Government doing to attract Capitalists (British or Foreign) to accelerate establishment of Industries such as exist largely in the Belgian Congo and other places in Africa?

(c) Is not the establishment of such Industries likely to assist us solve more rapidly and effectually our dangerous problem of unemployment as these big establishments must necessarily train and employ thousands of promising youths who have become and will continue to become a great burden on the Country?

(d) Is it true and correct to say that the principal or one of main causes that contribute to the absence or scarcity of big Industrial establishments in Nigeria is the people's objection or opposition to the Lands Acquisition policy of Government and Commercial Houses in Nigeria?

(e) If the answer to (d) is in the affirmative, what will and should Government do to remedy the situation without further delay?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) The Belgian Congo is particularly fortunate in regard to industry owing to its comparative wealth of minerals and other raw materials but I do not think that it could be maintained that progress made in Nigeria in encouraging the establishment of industries compares unfavourably with progress in other West African territories.

(b) and (c) Lack of capital is certainly one of the main reasons for slow progress in this respect (other important reasons are the limited local supplies of mineral wealth and raw materials and lack of sufficient managerial experience and technical skill) but this

Government has always made it clear that it will welcome investment of capital in Nigeria provided that the new enterprises to be financed can be shown to be in the public interest. Capital for industrial development can be provided to a limited extent by the Government, and by raising Government loans and, we hope, by such organisations as the Colonial Development Corporation, but it is quite clear that without attracting investment by private enterprise we shall never be able to achieve the full development of the country in the interest of its inhabitants. In my view there is no reason whatsoever, provided safeguards and controls are established in the public interest, why such investment should bring anything but good to the people of Nigeria, particularly in providing a more balanced economy and giving opportunities for additional employment.

(d) and (e) I do not think that it can be said that difficulty in obtaining sites is the principal reason why more new industries have not been established, nor do I think that there need be any great difficulty in finding suitable sites. The Government is prepared to give what assistance it can in this respect for new industries which are clearly in the public interest but it is also determined, as the Honourable Member well knows, to ensure that the rights of the people in their land are not prejudiced.

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. H. Buowari Brown):

412. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) If, as reported in the Press, complaints have reached the Department of Commerce and Industries about the business morality and integrity of Nigerian Traders (most probably African Traders) and boycott of our trade is threatened, etc., what measures are being adopted by Government to avert such a terrible disaster to the Country particularly at this stage of our political and economic progress, etc.?

(b) If the advice or proposal regarding appointment of a Board to advise and assist the Directors of our Commerce and Industries is acceptable to Government, will steps be taken forthwith to set up the Board so as to save the situation ere it be too late?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) and (b) It is true that complaints have reached the Department of Commerce and Industries about the commercial practices of some Nigerian traders and the Director has, through the Press and Business Associations, taken steps to emphasize the importance of maintaining a high standard of commercial integrity. Other measures to this end are under active consideration by the Department but the Honourable Member will appreciate that this is not a problem which can be solved by Government action alone: it must be mainly for the commercial community itself to put things right.

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. H. Buowari Brown):

413. To ask the Honourable the Director of Public Works:—

(a) Will Government endeavour to effect some better arrangements to accelerate macadamisation and tarring of our main and principal feeder-roads, etc., considering the enormous number of road accidents that occurred during the last two years due, it is held, mostly to the deplorable condition of many of our roads and bridges?

(b) Is it true that the regretful accident which has compelled Mr Justice S. B. Rhodes to be laid up in hospital was due to excessive dust on the road along which he was travelling? If so will something be done to improve that and other similarly dusty roads?

(c) If the Public Works Department finds it too difficult or impossible to cope with the work, should not capable African Contractors be engaged to assist under P.W.D. supervision and guidance where necessary?

(d) Is it not expedient that meantime some Dust-Contractors be employed on the roads especially during the dry season as money spent on road construction and improvement can only be regarded by the tax-payers as " money very well spent " ?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Public Works :

(a) Last year approximately 100 miles of road were provided with a bitumen surface. This is three times the quantity done during the previous year and it is expected that the pace will be accelerated next year. The cost of such work averages £900 per mile and maintenance costs are raised by some £60 per mile per annum. If therefore Trunk Roads only were treated the capital cost would exceed £5,000,000 and the additional annual maintenance costs would amount to about £400,000. It is not economically practicable at present to embark on such expenditure or to commit the country to such a large increase in annual charges. The present policy is to provide a bituminous seal when ordinary maintenance costs approach £80 per mile per annum which, as a rule, is when traffic intensity reaches 100 vehicles per day.

There is no evidence that road accidents are due to lack of bituminous surfaces.

(b) I have no information as to the cause of the accident in question.

(c) There is no great difficulty over bituminous surfacing work except that of financial expediency. So far as is known there are no African contractors experienced in such work or who possess the necessary plant such as bitumen boilers, road rollers, gritters, road scrapers, etc.

(d) Some cheaper method than the provision of a bitumen surface for dealing with the dust and corrugation nuisance has been under consideration for some time and a recent visit of a Member of the Road Research Institute at Hammonds worth had that object in view. But there is no known method as satisfactory as bitumen treatment nor is the cost of other methods appreciably less.

Supplementary Question to No. 413 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

Is it not true that bitumen exists in Nigeria? If so, is same available in large quantities as to justify its exploitation for development purposes.

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Public Works :

Bitumen is understood to exist in small degree in certain southern areas of Nigeria, but such information as I have got is that it is not economically workable at present. I imagine that something may happen from the Shell D'Arcy Explorations. If they do find oil then a secondary process of oil distillation is the production of bitumen.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

The same question, Sir, (b). Will the Honourable the Director of Public Works agree that excessive dust generated by fast moving vehicles on a public highway which is a dirt road not treated with bitumen surface, is capable of creating a sort of smoke screen to endanger the lives of those who travel in such vehicles.

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Public Works :

Sir, I agree with the Honourable Member, but vehicles should not move fast in such circumstances.

The Third Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. G. I. Obaseki):

415. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

In view of the absences on tour of the Medical Officer, Benin City, if the Director will favourably consider the posting of an Assistant Medical Officer to Benin City to assist the Medical Officer generally, and to attend to cases of serious illness or accident when the Medical Officer is away from Benin City?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

Yes, Sir, as soon as the staff position improves.

The Third Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. G. I. Obaseki):

417. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

In view of recent cases of Arson in Benin City, will Government consider the provision of Police Fire Brigade and equipment for Benin City?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

The Police give all possible assistance in the event of fire but it is regretted that it is not possible to consider the provision of a fully equipped Fire Brigade for Benin at present owing to the low pressure of the water supply there.

Supplementary Question to No. 417 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

Is it not possible to erect storage tanks which are capable of storing up quantities of water as is done in other countries where like conditions exist.

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

That may be so, Sir, and that could be investigated.

The Emir of Gwandu (The Hon. Yahaya, C.B.E.):

421. To ask the Honourable the Director of Public Works:—

In view of the repeated request for the construction of bridges at Jega and Kasanu in Gwandu Division would Government undertake to fulfil its promise with regard to this vital trunk road?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Public Works :

Investigations have recently been carried out at Kasanu and plans for a bridge are in course of preparation. It is not proposed to undertake the construction of a bridge at Jaga in the immediate future, as the ferry in use in the wet season and the crossing constructed each dry season are for the moment adequate for the amount of traffic this road carries.

The First Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Bello Kano):

424. To ask the Commissioner of Labour:—

(a) Will it be possible to send out Trade Testers to each province once or twice a year so that employees who think they are not reasonably paid would be tested?

(b) If not, will Government sanction the use of local Trade Testers?

Answer—

The Hon. the Commissioner of Labour :

(a) No, Sir. The present establishment of Trade Testers is four, but actually only two are as yet available. The volume of work is very great and arises largely from the arrangements rendered necessary by recent decisions on the grading of staff, both on the permanent establishment and the unestablished staff.

(b) Each Government department can subject its own staff to a test known as the "departmental equivalent". This test is conducted by officers of the department itself and is recognised for the purposes of regrading.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

436. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

For the academic qualifications of the following Officials in the Customs and Excise Department:

- (i) The Comptroller of Customs and Excise.
- (ii) The Deputy Comptroller of Customs and Excise.
- (iii) The Assistant Comptroller of Customs and Excise.
- (iv) The Chief Inspectors of Customs and Excise.
- (v) The Principal Collector of Customs and Excise.
- (vi) The Inspectors and Instructors of Customs and Excise.

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Academic qualifications are not required for Customs and Excise work; extensive practical experience of such work is the qualification attached to these posts.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

447. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(i) How many candidates have taken Accelerated Promotion Test in the Posts and Telegraphs Department in the last ten years, giving the names of the successful candidates during 1937-47 and the posts to which they have been accelerated?

(ii) How many candidates took the test in 1948, and how many of them were successful, indicating the posts to which the successful candidates have been advanced?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(i) and (ii) There are no specific Accelerated Promotion Tests. It is assumed that the Honourable Member is referring to the Departmental Test, the passing of which is a prerequisite to promotion from Grade III to Grade II, whether accelerated or in the normal course. In order to qualify for accelerated promotion an officer must not only pass the standard departmental test but must be certified by his Head of Department to have shown special ability and industry.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

458. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

For a declaration of Government's policy with regard to the retention of Pensioners in the Civil Service of Nigeria and the Native Administrations and Town Councils, to the exclusion of deserving Officers eagerly awaiting promotion?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Government's policy is that pensioners should be retained or re-engaged only when there is no other serving officer available for the satisfactory performance of the duty in question, and when no qualified candidate can be obtained by recruitment.

MOTIONS

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Sir, with your permission and the permission of the Council, I suggest that the order of the two motions down for today should be reversed.

His Excellency:

If that is agreeable to Honourable Members, we will reverse the order and take first the motion standing in the name of the Honourable the Financial Secretary.

Order of Motions reversed.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary:

Your Excellency, I rise to move the resolution standing in my name, which reads as follows:

“Whereas it was provided under section 2 of the 1948-49

“Appropriation Ordinance, 1948, that the Accountant-

“General might on the warrant of the Governor pay out

“of the revenue and other funds of Nigeria during the

“year ending on the 31st day of March, 1949, the

“several sums set forth opposite Heads 47, 48 and 49 in

“the First Schedule to the said Ordinance in respect of

“Regional services and works within the Northern,

“Western and Eastern Regions respectively;

“And whereas financial provision supplementary to that set

“forth opposite the said several Heads has from time to

“time been approved by the Legislative Council in

“respect of the said Regional services and works;

“An whereas the said provision includes provision for expen-

“diture on Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes

“which is reimbursable by His Majesty's Government

“in the United Kingdom;

“And whereas it is desirable that any amounts so provided

“which shall not have been utilised before the said 31st

“day of March, 1949, other than amounts provided in

“respect of such Colonial Development and Welfare

“Schemes, shall be available for expenditure upon

“Regional services and works thereafter:

“Now be it resolved:

“That all such sums appropriated for Regional services

“and works under the 1948-49 Appropriation

“Ordinance, 1948, and all such further sums

“approved by the Legislative Council for expendi-

“ture upon Regional services and works in the year

“ending on the 31st day of March, 1949, as have

“not at the end of the said month of March been

“utilised (save and except sums appropriated or

“approved for expenditure under Colonial Develop-

“ment and Welfare Schemes the cost of which is

“reimbursable by His Majesty's Government in the

“United Kingdom) shall be appropriated and

“transferred, in respect of the Northern Region to

“an Account to be called ‘The Northern Regional

“General Revenue Balance Account’, in respect

“ of the Western Region to an Account to be called
“ ‘ The Western Regional General Revenue Balance
“ Account ’ and in respect of the Eastern Region
“ to an Account to be called ‘ The Eastern Regional
“ General Revenue Balance Account ’ :

“ And be it further resolved :

“ That, for purposes of accounting, the amounts from
“ time to time standing to the credit of each such
“ Account or any part of such amounts may, by
“ resolution of this Council, be transferred to
“ General Revenue in order to supplement the
“ annual vote for Regional services and works in
“ the Region to which such Account relates.”

Sir, the broad outlines of the financial policy under the constitution now in force in this country were laid down in the enclosure to the Constitutional Despatch of 1944 and were subsequently included in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1945, and it was there stated that there would continue to be a single surplus and reserve for Nigeria and that Regions would have no separate surplus or reserve. In the present phase of the Constitution, all revenues constitute a single Nigerian fund, and it follows that any surplus achieved on a year's working in Nigeria is Nigerian, and that the reserves built up from accumulated surpluses must fall to Nigeria as a whole. The formulating of the broad outlines of the despatch was done, as Honourable Members are aware, in a Report by Mr Phillipson, as he then was, made after detailed inquiry into all the many problems, and, as that Report points out, if the revenues of Nigeria are allocated according to approved principles, logic and equity require that any surplus or deficit upon the year's working must be allocated on similar principles. If it were not so, there could be no financial responsibility in the Regions. If a Regional Council were not to be given some say in the disposal of the funds accumulated as the result of the actual outcome of a year, it could have no incentive to be prudent in authorising expenditure. If any such surplus were merely disposed of into the general revenue balance of Nigeria, there would be, Sir, a great temptation for a Regional Council to say—“ Let us see to it that the whole of our Regional revenue allocation is spent within the financial year on services and works in our Region. If we do not spend it the Financial Secretary will take it and we shall lose the balance.” This is particularly so, Sir, at the present time, when, for reasons which are known to us all, we are unable to carry out many of our plans. If staff for which provision has been made in Regional estimates cannot be recruited, or if works for which provision has been made in Regional Estimates cannot be carried out because there is no staff, or because materials are slow in arriving, the projects with which they are concerned can be carried forward to the next year if the money saved can also be

carried forward. But if the money saved cannot be carried forward then there will be the temptation to spend the money within the financial year upon projects selected, not because of their necessity or desirability, not because of the priority of their claims upon the public funds, but simply because the money could be spent upon them: The need for some system of Regional surpluses is plain, and this was recognised when the Phillipson Report was presented, as it was proposed that once the Nigerian surplus was determined and the Regional allocation accepted, the amounts should be placed in subsidiary accounts for further consideration. It was also provided, Sir, that if there was an overall deficit, the consequential regional deficits should also be carried to subsidiary accounts for further consideration. In the current year I have but little doubt we shall have an overall deficit. So that if we follow the principles of the present formula, each Region might open the year 1949-50 with a debit balance, which, I have no doubt, would cause some alarm and despondency. I take leave to doubt, Sir, whether in principle such action would be justified, as a Regional Council might well suggest that if they had had but little say in the increase of the central expenditure which caused the deficit, they should not be penalised. Unfortunately, as Honourable Members are well aware, the problem of revenue allocation has been much more difficult than was anticipated, although it was never thought to be easy. Your Excellency has referred in your address to this, as one of the most difficult problems we have to face. As is recorded in Your Excellency's address, this is to be formally examined by the Financial Secretary, with, I hope, the help, if it can be secured, of an expert on Federal systems of finance. In these circumstances the Finance Committee has agreed, in effect, that the best immediate solution would be to provide that any amounts by which actual expenditure in each Region falls short of the amounts actually voted for Regional services and works in 1948-49, including supplementary provision approved by the Standing Committee on Finance from time to time, that those balances should be made available to the Regions. It may be asked, Sir, how shall these Regional general revenue balances be used? It is not proposed that monies thus set aside for the Regions should be special funds reserved for special purposes. It is intended, Sir, that they should be a general supplement of the resources of the Regions and available for Regional services and works generally. It will, of course, Sir, be necessary to see that new projects are not undertaken which can be financed for one year out of surplus funds but which would require annual recurrent expenditure thereafter which might be beyond the limits of any allocation of revenue reasonably foreseeable for that Region. It is clear, Sir, that it is here where the difficulty of answering the question chiefly lies, but this is a matter, in my opinion, which must be left to Regional Councils, and I am sure they will prove equal to the task. It is therefore proposed that if, during 1949-50, a Region desires to expend money against

the amount standing to its credit in the Regional general balance account, the Regional Council will approve of application being made to Your Excellency for provision supplementary to that made in the Regional revenue allocation for 1949-50. Upon Your Excellency's approving this application, the Standing Committee on Finance of the Regional Council will be able to approve the additional expenditure on individual projects for which the surplus funds are required. That is to say, Sir, that the decisions as to the manner in which the monies are to be spent will be matters for the Regional Councils themselves to decide and will not be subject to review in this Council. The establishment of Regional general revenue balances is another step on the road to increased Regional responsibility in financial matters. I trust, Sir, that the revision of the system of revenue allocation which is to be undertaken will show more clearly the road ahead. But the resolution before the Council is a step which can properly be taken now, and I trust, therefore, Sir, that will be welcome to all Honourable Members. Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

His Excellency :

If no Honourable Member wishes to speak I will put the question. Will those in favour say "Aye", those against "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

Motion adopted.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Sir, I rise to move the resolution standing in my name, which reads as follows:—

" Be it resolved :

" That a Select Committee of this House be set up to
" make recommendations to His Excellency the
" Governor regarding the steps to be taken for a
" review of the present constitution of Nigeria, with
" special reference to the methods to be adopted for
" ascertaining the views of all sections of the
" population on the issues involved."

Let me first of all emphasize the limitations of this discussion today and the limitations of the resolution which I am moving and the limitations of the functions of the Select Committee which we propose to set up.

We are not here today to try to find the answers to the constitutional questions which confront us—it would be obviously out of order to do so. Nor is the proposed Select Committee to concern itself with the answers to those questions. It is proposed that it should be set up with one simple purpose—to make

recommendations to Your Excellency on the steps to be taken in the constitutional review. We are concerned for the moment, and so will the proposed Select Committee be concerned, not with the question of what constitutional changes should be recommended but merely with the question of how those recommendations should be prepared.

What in effect I am suggesting is merely this—that we should sit down together in Select Committee while we are here at Ibadan in order to advise Your Excellency on ways and means by which the constitutional review should proceed. I hope and believe that all Honourable Members will agree that it is wise and necessary to do so and that they will also agree that the test of those ways and means should be that set out in the motion—the test whether all sections of the population are given full opportunity to express their views on all the great issues involved.

We are in fact concerned today not with objects but with methods and I do not think that it is necessary to go into lengthy argument to justify the proposal to establish a Select Committee for the limited purpose which I have described.

Before the Council decides whether our proposal should be accepted I should however like to make brief reference to three matters which are very much in my mind and I believe in the minds of most of us at this time.

First let me say this: The task of working out constitutional reform for Nigeria is as complicated and difficult as any which has ever confronted any country. We have in Nigeria so many different peoples with different history and tradition and religion and outlook. We have the problems arising from the great distances which separate one area from another. We have the widely varying systems of local administration. We have so many different standards of education and ways of life. Let no one imagine that the problem of deciding on the best course of constitutional advance for a country such as this can be easily solved. It certainly cannot be solved by snap decisions and rhetorical resolutions and attractive catch phrases. We can only reach a sound solution by hard and honest thinking.

Let me try to emphasize what I mean by stating some of the principal questions which we have to answer. I shall certainly not try to answer these questions now—it would clearly be out of order to do so—and I do not pretend that the main questions which come to my mind are the only ones which we have to answer. I should however like to mention some of those questions to illustrate the point which I am making—that our task is to find answers to a whole series of complex questions each one of which demands the most careful examination.

What are the main questions which at once come to our minds? Let me endeavour to state a few of them.

Do we wish to see a fully centralised system with all legislative and executive power concentrated at the centre or do we wish to develop a federal system under which each different region of the country would exercise a measure of internal autonomy?

If we favour a federal system should we retain the existing regions or should we accept the existing regions with some modification of existing regional boundaries or should we form regions on some new basis such as the many linguistic groups which exist in Nigeria?

Should the regional legislatures be granted legislative and financial powers instead of being purely advisory as at present?

What changes should be made in the composition of the regional Legislative Houses and of the Legislative Council? Should the number of officials in each be reduced and the number of unofficials increased? Should the system of nominated members be retained?

Should there be a Council in each region to consider the policy to be followed in that region and to direct all executive action within the region and if so what should the composition and powers of those regional Councils be? Moreover, should the unofficial members of the regional Legislative Houses have the right to select from their own number members to sit on the regional Councils? If so, should each of the unofficial members who sit on the regional Councils be granted responsibilities in respect of the activities of a Department or group of Departments?

What should be the method of election to regional Houses? Should the existing system of selection through the Native Authorities be retained? Or should some new system of selection or election be worked out specifically for the regional Houses? If so, should election be by the direct system (each member being selected or elected by a single constituency) or by the indirect system of electoral colleges, and what should be the electoral qualification? Should each region be permitted to adopt a different electoral system?

What functions and powers should be reserved to the Central Legislative Council and Executive Council in order to achieve the overriding object of maintaining and strengthening the unity of Nigeria?

What should be the system of election to the Legislative Council? Should its unofficial members continue to be chosen by regional Houses or should some method of direct election to the Legislative Council be considered?

Should any towns be given the right of direct representation in Legislative Council (as Lagos and Calabar are now represented) or should they be represented in regional Houses?

What should be the powers and functions of the Central Executive Council? Should unofficial members of the Legislative Council have the right to select from their own number members to sit on the Central Council? If so, should each of the unofficial members who sit on the Central Council be granted responsibilities in respect of the activities of a Department or group of Departments?

What should be the future of the Colony in relation to any new legislative system? Should the Colony and the Western Provinces be treated as one unit for legislative and administrative purposes or should the rural part be added to the Western region? Or should the Colony be formed into a separate region?

Is some special constitutional arrangement necessary in regard to the Cameroons in view of the fact that it is a Trusteeship Territory?

Should all the changes decided upon be introduced at one time or should some be introduced progressively?

Should the system to be introduced in all these matters necessarily be the same in each region or should each region be given freedom to decide on certain modifications to suit its own peculiar circumstances and needs?

Your Excellency and the Council will note that I have made no attempt at all to answer any of those vital questions. It would be quite wrong to do so at this stage but the Council will, I believe, agree with me that it is useful for each one of us to think what the main questions are, not to hide them away but to bring them out into the fresh air of public discussion.

There have already been some views expressed about the kind of body which should make recommendations to Your Excellency on constitutional reform. We shall of course have to consider that matter as one of our chief tasks if the Select Committee which I have proposed is set up. But I should like to mention one reservation. We must certainly try to form the best body or bodies for this purpose which can be devised but it would be wrong in my view to imagine that everything will depend on the composition of whatever body is established. We must not put our faith in one body alone to the exclusion of other opinion. The solution to be found will and should depend not solely on some specially formed body but on the views and opinions of the people, expressed in many different ways. There is some inclination to believe that all that is necessary is to send a committee like Moses into the mountain and that all the people need to do is to watch and pray—pray that the committee will in due course return from the clouds with the perfect constitution to last for ever written on tablets of stone. No one can hand over his responsibility in this matter to others. Every Nigerian has a stake in his own country and it is for him by means of village meetings and Divisional meetings and Provincial meetings

throughout the country and through the organisations of which he is a member to make his views known. Your Excellency has insisted that there should be the fullest opportunity for public consultation at every level. The Regional Houses in separate resolutions have already made it clear that they are of the same opinion. It is not only the Government and Government officials and members of the Legislative Council and the Regional Houses and the Native Authorities and leaders of public opinion who have a responsibility in this matter. Every one in Nigeria has a responsibility. It is for us, on our part, to see that the people are consulted and it is for the people to see that their views are made known.

Finally may I say one word about our approach to the work of the proposed Select Committee. We well know that owing to the composition and history of the country we have many animosities and diverse interests in Nigeria. As Your Excellency has said, we have unfortunately had a good deal of evidence during the past year of how much harm those animosities can do. In the past there have no doubt been faults on all sides. On the part of the Government there have certainly been faults. On the other side, on the part of the public, there has, I believe, been one fault more than any other. There has, I believe, been a failure of Nigerians to co-operate with other Nigerians whether it be politically or commercially. As Your Excellency has emphasized to us a great nation cannot be built on the basis of individuals envious of others each seeking selfish and sectional interests. It must be based on free and constructive association to achieve common aims.

When Your Excellency made the announcement about constitutional advance last August that was the first step in a new era. We are to take the second step now. I claim, like Your Excellency, to be an optimist. I wonder if it is unduly optimistic to hope, as I do, that all of us concerned will enter on this new era with a new spirit? On the side of the Government we have had ample evidence of Your Excellency's readiness, indeed determination, to take the people into Your Excellency's confidence and give them great new opportunities and responsibilities. On the part of the people I hope that there can also be a new spirit of readiness to work one with another and to forget past antagonisms in the great task of building a sound constitution which can win and retain the widest possible public support.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

Your Excellency, this motion before us—I humbly and respectfully suggest should not be rushed through. In commending the motion to us, Sir, the Honourable the Chief Secretary carried some of us beyond our depths by his eloquence and well thought out way of bringing the recommendation before us. I could see that every word of his was being got down, and I am therefore suggesting,

with the permission of Your Excellency, that this motion should be deferred until such time as the stenographers have finished their production of his speech and a copy of it has been circulated to every one of us to digest, before we come back to consider this motion.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

This is a matter on which I should be glad to meet the wishes of the Council. I could arrange for a transcription of what I have said to be distributed, and we could take the matter again, even tomorrow morning, when the Honourable the Financial Secretary has moved the reading of the Appropriation Bill.

His Excellency :

Has the motion been seconded?

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Yes.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

Sir, I rise to associate my view with the sentiments just expressed by the Honourable the Member for the Colony, but I would suggest that, in view of the fact that it might take time to prepare the transcription—it is possible that the Honourable Members might receive same either to-night or tomorrow morning—I would suggest that the debate on this motion be deferred till next week, or any other appropriate date—but not tomorrow, Sir.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama) :

Your Excellency, If I understand the motion rightly, it appears to be whether we agree to a Select Committee or not. That is all it is at present. As for the method, ways and means of going into the question of the future, that would be thrashed out in Select Committee. To my mind, Sir, the question is whether we should have a Select Committee, and where and when the Select Committee should meet. The Select Committee meeting may be postponed as long as possible. But the simple question is, whether there is to be a Select Committee or not.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin) :

Your Excellency, I am in entire agreement with the First Member for the Eastern Provinces. I see no reason why the debate of this Motion should be deferred for a week. Surely it is a very clear matter, and its papers were circulated to members several days before we assembled here at all. I do not agree that it should be deferred. What the Honourable the Chief Secretary has told us this morning in this connection has given us a skeleton of what should be decided when the Constitution is to be considered. He spoke not on this motion, and as such I agree that what he said should be circulated around all members for them to digest, as the

Honourable Member for the Colony Division has said, but not with a view to delaying the wise suggestion in this motion which states that a Select Committee of the House should be appointed. It is only on this suggestion that I am speaking now—that is whether this motion is to be delayed or not. I also should like to speak on the motion in due course.

His Excellency :

If I understand the Honourable Member, he does not wish the speech he has just made on this amendment to prevent him speaking on the original motion.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin) :

Exactly so, Sir.

The Second Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) :

Your Excellency, there seems to be some misunderstanding about this motion. I think the Honourable the Chief Secretary, in moving the motion, made his suggestions only so that the Council may have some idea of the difficulties which, when the Select Committee is appointed, will face. I can see no reason why, Sir, the debate on this motion should not go on. As I said the Honourable the Chief Secretary made those suggestions, probably to give the Honourable Members who may be on the Select Committee a hint, and probably to give them an idea on what lines they may think, and, Your Excellency, as far as I can see I agree with the First Member for the Eastern Provinces. The motion here is only whether a Select Committee should be appointed. That is what I understand it to mean.

The Second Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. T. A. Oduola, O.B.E.) :

Your Excellency, this motion as I see it is very simple. I think the question is whether a Select Committee of the House should be set up to advise as to how to review—the existing constitution. I see no reason why we should defer this motion till another day. I agree with the view expressed by the First Member for the Eastern Provinces and the Second Member for the Northern Provinces.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Sir, I have no comments, but I may possibly be able to help. It is absolutely clear, as Honourable Members have pointed out, that there is only one simple question before this House at the moment, that is, should a Select Committee be established or not. If I have confused the House I apologise, but I wanted to take the opportunity to put to the House some of the constitutional questions which confront us, and I hoped that it would be helpful to Honourable Members if I made some suggestions as to what the main questions are. But the matter now to be decided is an extremely simple one of whether the Select Committee should be established or not. If

the Council wishes to defer consideration of that question, Sir, until tomorrow or early next week, that can be done, but I should have thought that discussion on all the points which have to be considered might well be pursued in the Select Committee which I have proposed.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

Your Excellency, perhaps there is some doubt in the minds of the Council and of the public as to whether or not the Select Committee would be set up to review the Constitution. I don't think that that is to be the case, Sir. The Select Committee would only make recommendations. Personally I think we should get on with the matter now. The Constitutional review is not going to be a matter to be decided upon in a day or two. I think that it is something that the country will have to sit down and think about for a considerable time, and decide upon something that is acceptable to most people.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

I welcome the opportunity of saying, again, Sir, that the purpose of this Select Committee is not to review the Constitution, it is to decide how the Constitution should be reviewed.

I do not know whether the Honourable the Senior Unofficial Member made a formal motion for deferment.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

I rise to make the motion for deferment, Sir, until we have a copy each of the address or speech of the Honourable the Chief Secretary on the motion.

The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. Nyong Essien):

Sir, I would like to second.

His Excellency :

The original question was in the terms of the motion. An amendment has been made and seconded that consideration of this motion should be deferred until Honourable Members have in their hands a copy of the speech which the Honourable the Chief Secretary made this morning. Whether that will take place tomorrow or next week we need not determine now. I will put to the House the amendment. That is, those who say "Aye" are voting for the amendment, that is, that consideration of the motion be deferred. Those who vote against the amendment will be saying that they do not want it to be deferred. I shall then put the substantive motion to the House. The question is in the terms of the amendment of the Honourable Member for the Colony.

The "Noes" have it.

I will now put to the House the original motion.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Members may wish to speak, Sir.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

Your Excellency, I think, on a point of order, it is in order for me to speak on the motion now.

His Excellency :

Yes.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

I rise to support this motion, for the simple reason that this is really a good step in the right direction. I can remember Your Excellency's speech at the beginning of this meeting. You said this, Sir, if I may be permitted to read :

“ With regard to Lagos you will remember that I referred when I spoke to you last in this Council to my anxiety to see municipal legislation revised to provide for a Council in Lagos with an elected majority, and with wider powers and a wider franchise. I am glad that the existing Council and other bodies interested in municipal affairs in Lagos have given thought to this matter and I have been most interested to study their recommendations. On the difficult question of the voting qualifications some further investigation will be necessary but I can say now that I gladly accept the main recommendation that the majority, if not all, of the Councillors should be elected and that they in turn should elect a Mayor. A Bill to include these provisions is being drafted and will, I trust, be brought to this Council within the year.”

What I would like to bring out from that, Sir, is that a Select Committee of the Lagos Town Council made some recommendations which, we are glad to say, were acceptable to Your Excellency. But I am not saying that everything there was acceptable to Your Excellency. In the same way I feel that a Select Committee of this House will be of immense usefulness in finding ways and means of getting together the type of people that would formulate a sort of constitution which later on would be published to the general public for their criticism. I do not agree with any suggestion of setting up a body which would just be fact finding, as they have in the Gold Coast now. I do not agree also that in drafting the Constitution we have to go to everybody, to every Tom, Dick and Harry, to all mercantile houses, to all Government offices or Provincial Administration Offices or schools, or religious houses for that matter. That is not done. It is not everybody that is interested in the Constitution. It is only a few people that should draft the Constitution, and then anybody who is interested would criticize it. I would go further, to say this, Sir, that it was some time last year at Kaduna that I brought up a motion to this Council—then your predecessor, Mr Beresford Stooke, now Governor of Sierra Leone,

said that the motion should be deferred until Your Excellency arrived. The motion came up again last August and I was again silenced. I took advice to withdraw it, in view of the promise made by Your Excellency that the Richards Constitution, under which we are working at present, would be reviewed at no distant date, and we are really very happy that that promise is being implemented. The position, as it is now, has been clarified as far as this motion is concerned. It is simply to get the Select Committee of this House to find out the ways and means of getting the right types of people that should come together and think about the new constitution for Nigeria. If that is so, I think, as I have said before, this is a very wise move, and I support it wholeheartedly, and I would add that the people of Lagos will definitely support this move. I support the motion.

The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. A. Soetan):

Your Excellency, I rise to support this motion. There is no doubt that there has been some misunderstanding as to the purpose of this motion in the minds of the public. Some part of the public must have felt that the purpose of the motion is, as it were, to suggest directly to His Excellency what and what and what should be reviewed in the Constitution, just to review the Constitution and place it before His Excellency. That, I understand, is not the purpose of this motion, which is simply for a Select Committee of this Honourable House to come together, as it is definitely put, to consider what steps should be recommended to His Excellency for the review of the present constitution of Nigeria. Now, Sir, some of the members of this House, belong to different parties. They would be enabled to ascertain the views of their parties and would be helpful in the Select Committee. If there should be a constituent assembly, they also will be able to attend it, and find out what proposals are being made for the review of the constitution, and they as Members of the Select Committee thereby glean from the opinion of all the different bodies in the assembly. When we all come together we can exchange views in Select Committee and then be able to place before His Excellency the steps that we recommend should be taken in reviewing the Constitution. Not that the Select Committee itself should review the Constitution. I heartily support the motion.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

If no other Honourable Member wishes to address this House, as apparently no Member does, I have nothing further to say except that I wish to repeat yet again that it is of the utmost importance that it should be understood, not only here but elsewhere, that what we are suggesting is simply that we should sit down together here at Ibadan to advise His Excellency before we disperse on what steps should be taken for the review of the Constitution. It would not be for the Select Committee—it would be quite outside the function

of that Committee—to do more. It will be concerned solely with the procedure for the review of the constitution. I think that is clear. The work of the Select Committee will be extremely important. I hope that we shall have several meetings and that is one reason why I am glad that the House has decided that we should proceed. It will allow us more time to meet and give the subject the fullest consideration.

Motion adopted.

His Excellency :

I think it might be convenient if I made an announcement about the composition of the Select Committee now. I propose that it should consist of all Honourable Unofficial Members, Their Honours the Chief Commissioners, the Honourable Attorney-General, the Honourable the Financial Secretary and the Honourable the Chief Secretary as Chairman.

BILLS

(Second and Third Readings)

THE DEVELOPMENT LOAN (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled :—

“ An Ordinance to amend the Development Loan Ordinance, 1945 ”.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Sir, I rise to second.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1 and 2.

Title.

Council resumed.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I rise to report the Bill from Committee without amendment.

Sir, I move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Sir, I rise to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE LAND REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled :—

“ An Ordinance further to amend the Land Registration Ordinance, 1924 ”.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1 and 2.

Title.

Council resumed.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I rise to report the Bill from Committee without amendment.

Sir, I move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

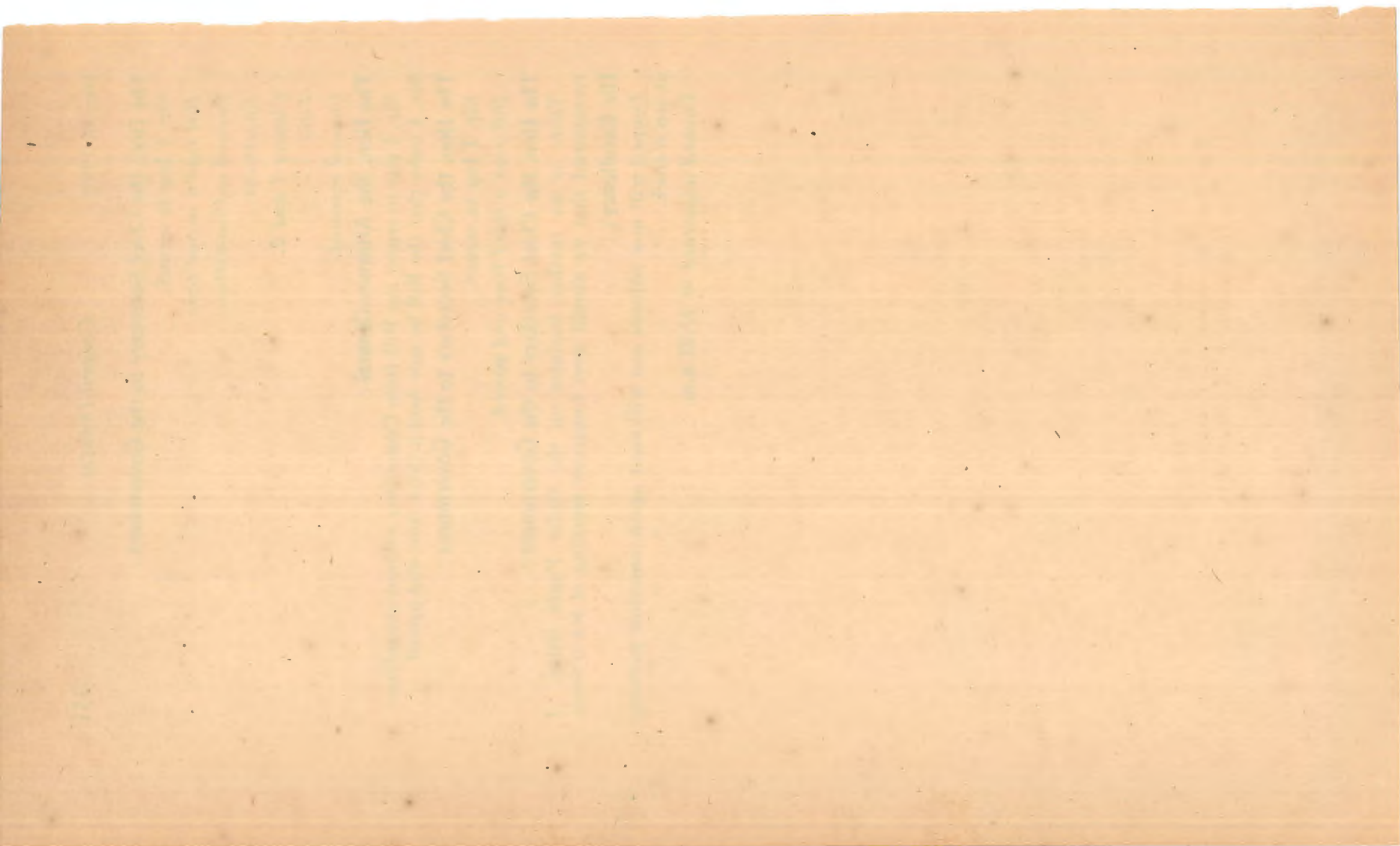
The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

There is no further business on the Order Paper today. I recommend that we should meet tomorrow morning at ten o'clock.

His Excellency :

Council will now adjourn and will meet again tomorrow morning at ten o'clock.

Council adjourned at 11.25 a.m.



Debates in the Legislative Council of Nigeria

Saturday, 12th March, 1949

Pursuant to notice the Honourable Members of the Legislative Council met in the Hall of the Western House of Assembly, Ibadan, at 10 a.m. on Saturday, the 12th of March, 1949.

PRESENT

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- His Excellency the Governor,
Sir John S. Macpherson, K.C.M.G.
- The Chief Secretary to the Government,
The Honourable H. M. Foot, C.M.G., O.B.E.
- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,
His Honour T. C. Hoskyns-Abrahall, C.M.G.
- The Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces,
His Honour E. W. Thompstone, C.M.G., M.C.
- The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,
His Honour Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, C.M.G.
- The Attorney-General,
The Honourable G. L. Howe, K.C.
- The Financial Secretary,
The Honourable A. W. L. Savage, C.M.G.
- The Director of Medical Services,
Dr the Honourable G. B. Walker, C.B.E.
- The Development Secretary,
The Honourable C. J. Pleass.
- The Director of Education,
The Honourable R. A. McL. Davidson, C.M.G.
- The Director of Agriculture,
The Honourable A. G. Beattie.
- The Director of Public Works,
The Honourable R. W. Taylor.
- The Commissioner of Labour,
The Honourable A. H. Couzens.
- The Senior Resident, Kano Province,
The Honourable E. K. Featherstone, C.M.G.
- The Resident, Ogoja Province,
The Honourable P. M. Riley.
- The Resident, Abeokuta Province,
The Honourable J. H. Blair, E.D.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Member for the Colony,
The Rev. and Honourable T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.
- The First Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Obisesan, O.B.E.
- The Second Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.
- The First Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable I. Olorun-Nimbe.
- The Emir of Gwandu,
The Honourable Yahaya, C.B.E.
- The Emir of Katsina,
Alhaji the Honourable Usuman Nagogo, C.B.E.
- The Oni of Ife,
The Honourable Aderemi I, C.M.G.
- The Oba of Benin,
The Honourable Akenzua II, C.M.G.
- The Atta of Igbirra,
Alhaji the Honourable Ibrahimia.
- The Emir of Abuja,
The Honourable Sulemanu.
- The First Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Bello Kano.
- The First Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable C. D. Onyeama.
- The Second Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.
- The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable H. Buowari Brown.
- The Third Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Iro Katsina.
- The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable A. Ikoku.
- The Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Aliyu, Makaman Bida.
- The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.
- The First Nominated Member,
The Honourable P. J. Rogers.
- The Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces
The Honourable Yahaya Ilorin.
- The Third Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.
- The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable N. Essien.
- The Third Lagos Member,
The Honourable Adeleke Adedoyin.
- The Member for Calabar,
The Honourable E. E. E. Anwan.

- The Second Nominated Member,
Major the Honourable J. West, M.C.
The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Soetan.

ABSENT

OFFICIAL MEMBER

- The Acting Commissioner of the Colony,
The Honourable J. G. C. Allen.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Second Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe.
The Third Nominated Member,
The Honourable N. B. Edwards.

PRAYERS

His Excellency the Governor opened the proceedings of the Council with prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 11th day of March, 1949, having been printed and circulated to the Honourable Members, were taken as read and confirmed.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

Sir, I rise to give notice that I shall put a few Supplementary Questions before the House at a later date.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

One point of order, Sir, in relation to the notice given by the Honourable the First Lagos Member. I think it will be necessary for notice of the actual questions to be given. The Honourable Member will no doubt wish to give notice to the Council of what these questions are. There are two ways of submitting questions. Either the questions have to be submitted ten days before the meeting of the Council, or they must be stated by giving notice at a meeting of this Council.

His Excellency:

I understand that they are not Supplementary Questions but additional questions.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Yes, Sir.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

All right.

The Second Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. T. A. Odotola, O.B.E.):

I rise to give notice that at a later stage of the present meeting of this Council I shall move the following Motion:—

“Whereas the system of Indirect Rule on the lines of the principles enunciated in his Political Memorandum was introduced into the Protectorate of Nigeria by the late Lord Lugard.

And whereas as a result the system of Native Administration, was established in the Protectorate of Nigeria.

And whereas this said system of Native Administration, in the words of the late Sir Donald Cameron in his memorandum of 1934, was designed to adapt for the purposes of local administration the tribal institutions which the native peoples have evolved for themselves, so that the latter may develop in a constitutional manner from their own past, guided and restrained by the traditions and sanctions which they have inherited, moulded or modified as they may be on the advice of British Officers.

And whereas the term tribal institution was in the said memorandum by the late Sir Donald Cameron defined as the tribal authority which according to tradition and usage has in the past regulated the affairs of each unit of native society and which the people of today are willing to recognise and obey.

And whereas it has not been established that the system of Native Administration is administered in the Northern and Western Regions of Nigeria contrary to the principles enunciated in the foregoing, or has ceased to be guided and advised by British Officers.

And whereas criticisms of this system published recently in the local press are destructive, designed and calculated to undermine the authority of traditional rulers in the Northern and Western Regions of Nigeria and also to incite the indigenous peoples of these areas against such constituted authorities.

And whereas certain questions asked at this and previous meetings of this Honourable Council are also designed and calculated to undermine the authority of the traditional rulers in the Northern and Western Regions of Nigeria and to incite the indigenous peoples of these areas against such constituted authorities.

And whereas in most cases these questions, although inside Standing Rules and Orders of this Council, are malicious and vindictive and are therefore an abuse of the rights and privileges of membership of this Honourable Council.

And whereas in the Governor's speech to the Legislative Council at the opening of the present session, His Excellency expressed the view that "we can achieve unity at the centre through strength in the Regions" and that "our watchword should be "Unity through strength"."

And whereas in the said speech His Excellency also said that it would be a serious mistake for all regions in this country to advance in exactly the same way in the widely varying circumstances of different parts of this country.

And whereas it is the considered view of this Honourable House that unity is a desideratum to the progress of this country towards self-government but that this unity cannot be achieved in the absence of mutual respect, tolerance and goodwill between the different races of this country.

Now be it resolved by this Honourable Council that, having due regard to the widely varying circumstances in different parts of these Regions, steps be taken at the earliest possible date to provide by legislation or some other suitable means for the progressive and effective democratisation of local administrations in the Northern and Western Regions, on such lines as may be acceptable to the peoples of the Regions concerned.

And be it further resolved that steps be taken at the earliest possible date to introduce for consideration of this Honourable House a suitable legislation making it a criminal offence to publish any article designed and calculated to undermine the authority of a recognised traditional ruler in the proper execution of his official duties and/or to incite the indigenous peoples of his area against such constituted authority.

And be it still further resolved that steps be taken at the earliest possible moment to prevent by legislation or some other suitable means, interference by detribalised professional politicians, alien organisations or body in the internal affairs of local administration units set up on democratic basis, or in any reform or re-organisation which the indigenous peoples of such units may deem desirable for the effective administration of the units, as such interference is invariably motivated by a spirit of destruction and confusion rather than that of construction."

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

I rise to give notice of a Motion which I shall move at a later stage of this meeting.

" Be it resolved :

" That the Land Law of this country should be urgently
" amended in such a way that non-Nigerians shall
" have no freehold estate in land anywhere in
" Nigeria."

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

Further, Sir, I rise to give notice of the following Question:—

" To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Whether it is true that one European Civil Servant in the Chief Secretary's Office minuted in a public file to an African Civil Servant in the same office as follows:—

" Then p.a. file, you ass."?

- (b) What is the name of the European Civil Servant?
 (c) What action has the Chief Secretary taken in the matter?
 (d) If nothing has been done, will the Government consider the advisability and urgent desirability of removing such an officer from the service of the Nigerian Government?

MOTIONS

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I rise to move the Resolution standing in my name, which reads as follows:—

RESOLUTION

MADE UNDER

THE EXCISE ORDINANCE, 1941

(No. 64 of 1941)

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 13 of the Excise Ordinance, 1941, it is hereby resolved by the Legislative Council as follows:—

1. This Resolution may be cited as the Excise Tariff (Cigarettes) Resolution, 1949.

2. In lieu of the duties of excise heretofore leviable on cigarettes there shall be raised, levied, collected and paid for the service of Nigeria excise duty on all cigarettes manufactured in Nigeria as follows:—

- (a) Where the published wholesale price at which the cigarettes are sold ex factory, exclusive of duties of excise, does not exceed one pound, seven shillings and sixpence the thousand, a duty of one pound three shillings the thousand; or
- (b) Where the published wholesale price at which the cigarettes are sold ex factory, exclusive of duties of excise, exceeds one pound, seven shillings and sixpence the thousand, a duty of two pounds four shillings and sixpence the thousand;

PROVIDED THAT where the weight of one thousand cigarettes exceeds three pounds, then in every such case duty shall be charged as if every three pounds by weight of such cigarettes contained one thousand cigarettes.

3. Part A of the First Schedule to the Excise Ordinance, 1941, is amended accordingly.

This Resolution, Sir, has nothing at all to do with the Budget. If the Resolution is passed, it will not affect Government revenue: it will not affect the price of cigarettes to the consumer: it merely raises the datum of charge from £1 2s 6d to £1 7s 6d. Honourable Member may be aware that in this country excise duty is imposed in relation to a selling price, and if the selling price is less than £1 7s 6d the duty is £1 3s 0d per thousand. If the selling price is more than £1 7s 6d the duty will be £2 4s 6d. The whole point of this, Sir, is that the last order made was made in 1943 since when costs have increased considerably, and therefore if the wholesale price was raised because the costs have increased, the cheaper

cigarettes would have come into a higher category, would have attracted a higher excise duty, and the price of cigarettes would have to be increased. All that this Resolution does is to alter the datum of charge, it does not alter the price or the duty on the cigarettes.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Resolution adopted.

BILLS

(First Reading)

THE 1949-50 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Your Excellency, I beg to move the first reading of a Bill entitled:—

“ An Ordinance to appropriate the sum of thirty-six million, fifty-six thousand, nine hundred and seventy pounds to the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and fifty.”

In the budget speeches of the last two years I have endeavoured to explain to Honourable Members the mechanics and the arithmetic of the budget, the structure of the Nigerian budget, the financial and economic background of Nigeria and the requirements of the future. I propose on this occasion to summarize the principal factors laying particular stress on the economic and industrial field.

I make no apology for again summarizing the financial and economic policy of this Government because although Honourable Members of this Council are aware of its purpose and of its implications, the press and the public are not always so well-informed. I can well appreciate the view that it is better to judge by results than by intention and although financial and economic policy must always be long term I hope to be able to show something of what has been achieved since Honourable Members first met at the budget session of March, 1947.

It is accepted by all, Sir, that Nigeria must look forward, and attempt, in spite of all the difficulties, to weigh the prospects of the future and having done so make provision so that our successors in office will not be able to look back and criticize the foundations of financial and economic policy adopted by this Council.

It is for this reason, Sir, that I have emphasized that financial policy must be related to a term of years and not to an arbitrary period of twelve months. I am sure that it is obvious to everyone that as in our homes we do not (or perhaps should not) accept a liability this year which it is unlikely we shall be able to meet next

year or thereafter, it is no less important to display the same prudence in respect of the country's budget. It is essential also that adequate reserve funds including Loan Sinking Funds, Renewals Funds, and a Revenue Equalization Fund, must be established. A weakness of the past has been that the contributions to Loan Sinking Funds have been inadequate, thereby giving unreasonable relief to past taxpayers. Our policy is to endeavour to determine that the taxpayers of each generation make a fair contribution to the annual charges arising from loan expenditure.

The provision of Renewals and Replacements Funds has the same purpose to take a contribution from each generation of taxpayers and to even out the burden of renewals and replacements. It is particularly important in a period of rising prices that the relevant liabilities and funds should be recosted and adequate provision made now rather than leave a heavy and undue liability on future taxpayers.

I am sure, Sir, that there can be no doubt in anyone's mind as to the necessity of creating adequate reserves. The past history of Nigeria before the war reflected a series of surpluses and deficits which were almost uncontrollable. I do not claim that the Reserve Funds which we are establishing will cure all future ills, but I am confident that they will help to prevent a repetition of the past violent fluctuations of income and employment.

I have pointed out, Sir, that the corollary of this policy in relation to the Government budget is the acceptance by Honourable Members and by public opinion of the proposition that taxation should be increased when the national income is at a high level, and should be moderated if and when trade is bad. The principles and practice to which I have referred are applicable not only to the budgets of Government but are worthy of adoption by individuals, by Native Administrations and by Regional Councils. In fact by everyone. It has given me great satisfaction to see that the Regional Houses and this Council have adopted a similar policy in the legislation relating to the primary produce boards. It is necessary to convince agriculturists who after all are the backbone of this country that it is prudent to look to the future and to accept a reasonable income now so as to ensure as far as possible the maintenance of a fair income in the future. Your Excellency has made reference to this question, and I would only emphasize that the lower the return to the producer now (but it must of course be adequate in relation to costs of production), the sounder the agricultural industry will be in the years ahead.

The basic purpose of our economic policy naturally is to improve the well-being of the people of Nigeria, but even this, Sir, is questioned by a small section of the population, who wish to believe that the main object of British policy is the exploitation of Nigeria for the benefit of foreigners and strangers. I would have ignored

this criticism except that the technique is employed of the bigger the lie, the better chance (if it is constantly repeated) of the falsehood being believed. It has been borne, Sir, of a sense of patriotism which appears to believe that it is possible for a country to be self-sufficient and that it is desirable for her production to be utilized solely within her borders. There is not one country in the world, and I include the most highly developed countries, which exists without importing goods, commodities, or materials from foreign countries. Nor is it possible, without depressing the standard of living, to import goods unless you have goods to export. And if Africa, and in particular Nigeria, is going to improve her standard of living her surplus production must be increased in order to create the wealth necessary to buy the capital goods, the consumer goods and materials, which cannot be produced in the country. It is, Sir, a cold economic fact that unless you sell you cannot buy. Of course foreign countries are becoming more dependent on the production and output of Africa, and it is a good thing that it is so because if we did not have those customers, the future of Nigeria would indeed be bleak and depressing, and the social services which we possess would have to be restricted.

If the critics would only pause and think for a moment before they speak or write, it must be obvious to them that if the cocoa, the groundnuts and the palm products of Nigeria were left within Nigeria, the income of the greater part of the population of this country would be reduced.

This does not mean, Sir, that we should ignore production for internal consumption. That also is of the highest importance and I shall refer to that aspect later, but I do urge the acceptance of the proposition that the interests of the United Kingdom and of Africa are to a large extent inter-dependent and not conflicting as has been suggested. The healthy economic development of the one is dependent upon the development of the other. By joint endeavour and by solid, sane co-operation they can help each other to improve their economies and thus to promote the well-being and happiness of the people.

As I said to Honourable Members last year, I believe that health services and education are the essential foundations of economic development, but while those services raise the standard of living they also create a demand for higher standards. I would only say at this stage that it could be a fault to spend overmuch on health and education if at the same time there had not been the economic development essential to provide the increased wealth necessary to maintain the hospitals and schools.

Generally speaking, improved communications by land, sea and air are essential to economic development, and in the short lifetime of this Council much progress has been made. In this field, the most striking development in Nigeria of recent years has been in the air.

Towns previously only accessible after days of arduous travel can now be reached from some of the most distant parts in a few hours. In last year I believe West African Airways carried something of the order of 1,000,000 letters at probably the cheapest air letter rate in the world. I understand also, Sir, that the operations programme in Nigeria next year alone will cover over 1,000,000 miles.

I do not claim that all of the services pay their way, nor can we expect them to do so for some time as many of the areas served by plane do not yet attract sufficient customers. It is clear that air transport in Nigeria must be developed in relation to the provision of cheaper fares, and to the demands for the carriage of goods, and I hope to see this development in the not far distant future.

The demand for more and better roads is ever increasing, and the measure of our progress is reflected in the ever increasing provision for the maintenance of roads, although I recognize that a substantial part is the result of increased costs. It is recognized by Government that the internal trade of Nigeria depends to a considerable extent on the development of the road systems and I do not feel it is necessary for me to demonstrate the implementation of that policy.

As regards sea transport, much leeway has had to be made up both in maintenance and construction, but in the last two years there has been an advance in the number of craft, and in the services afforded to the public. In the south, the marine services of Government play a very important part in general economic development. The new dredger the *Oyo* was delivered in August, the new collier *Enugu* and the bar tug *Atlas* came in February.

I know, Sir, that it is most exasperating to everyone that the development of tele-communications has been so slow, and it is therefore with some satisfaction that I can report that the prospects of obtaining the equipment and establishing some of the services are more favourable than hitherto appeared possible. I propose to leave details of that for examination in Select Committee.

The development of rural and urban water supplies stands high in the priorities of economic development, and represents £8 million in actual and potential expenditure under the Development Plan. Up to the 31st December last 660 wells had been sunk in the Northern Provinces; about 300 wells and tanks had been completed in the Eastern Provinces and over 400 wells and tanks in the Western Provinces. As regards urban water supplies, I am informed that work is in progress, or, plans have been prepared for Minna, Ilorin, Onitsha, Warri and in Lagos.

Next to water is electrical power, and although the Ten-Year Plan provides for new schemes, the supply position of men and equipment continues to be difficult, but again I propose to examine that in Select Committee,

Agricultural production is the predominant feature of Nigeria's economy, and the establishment of produce marketing boards in West Africa has in my opinion been the most important economic advance of the century. Their purpose is to secure the most favourable arrangements for the purchase, grading, export and marketing of Nigeria's primary products and to assist in their development by all possible means *for the benefit and prosperity of people in Nigeria*. Although in passing I would sound a note of warning to persons who believe that the transfer of this sphere of the production of Nigeria from private enterprise to public direction will remove *all* future difficulties in respect of the income of producers, there can be no doubt that the future of agriculturists in Nigeria is more assured now than it was ten years ago. It is essential, as Your Excellency indicated in your opening speech, that we should not be carried away by the present artificial prices, and I too hope that the warning contained in the reduction in the selling price of cocoa, namely, from an average price of £195 a ton in 1947-48 to an average price of probably less than £120 a ton in 1948-49, will be taken to heart by every Advisory Committee and Board. I repeat it is better to enjoy a fair economic price now in relation to costs of production and so minimize violent fluctuations of income in the future.

As Honourable Members are aware, the policy of retaining part of the proceeds of sale when prices are high has been adopted in order to cushion the inevitable downward trend of prices, but of no less importance is the intention to utilize some of the reserves so created for development for the benefit of the different agricultural communities. The Regional Boards and Advisory Committees have a grand opportunity to take part in direct economic development.

I was pleased to see, Sir, a tribute paid recently to the work of the Veterinary Department for the very useful and vital part which they have played in the development of the hides and skins industry, which is of considerable economic importance in the North, and a statement I saw which pleased me particularly was that from one particular area the standard of flaying, drying and stretching is of the highest in the world. I believe that the policy and work of the Veterinary Department is recognized and valued throughout the country, and I do regret the increasing number of resignations and the difficulties of recruitment which we are experiencing.

These aspects of economic development which I have mentioned are to a considerable extent the prerequisites to increased and improved production and output which are the means by which the wealth of the country can be increased. For a number of reasons we have not been able to achieve their development as rapidly as we anticipated, but I am satisfied that there are indications of possibilities of acceleration which however are being prejudiced generally to a considerable extent by the difficulty in the recruitment of qualified and experienced staff for Nigeria.

I propose next, Sir, to deal with the industrial development of the products of Nigeria under three heads:—

(Firstly) Capital

(Secondly) Labour

(Thirdly) General.

Let us divide the problem of "capital" into two parts, domestic capital and external capital.

For my present purposes I propose to deal with that part of domestic monetary capital which is represented by the surplus funds of the taxpayers of Nigeria. The General Reserve Balance may be described as the capital of the taxpayer as are also the various Reserve Funds and Renewals Funds. Similar funds in the hands of Native Authorities are also capital.

There are of course not inconsiderable funds in the hands of private individuals but the question which is so frequently asked is, "why must we invest Nigerian capital overseas and develop other countries, and not Nigeria?" In another country, Sir, in which I served I was asked why should our money be utilized to develop Nigeria. That happened in Fiji the Government holding some Nigerian Government stock. Let me say at once that there are very good reasons why we should and indeed do invest some part of Nigerian capital in Nigeria but there are equally sound reasons why we should not now invest all our capital within the country.

At the 31st March last the General Revenue Balance of Government amounted to roughly £9 million of which roughly £4 million was invested overseas. Approximately £2,500,000 was invested in short term and long term advances in Nigeria, and the balance of £2,500,000 was held in cash partly in Nigeria and partly overseas which balance may be described as our working capital. It may be asked, "why invest even the £4 million overseas?", and the answer is that in the absence of a securities market in Nigeria which allows an investment to be sold promptly if money is required and in order that investment risks should be spread as widely as possible and in order that we should hold a large percentage of gilt-edged securities it is prudent policy not to invest all our General Revenue Balance within Nigeria at the present time.

There are considerable balances in the various Reserve Funds of Government and it is the policy of Government that some part should be invested within Nigeria but in this case it would be useless to invest a large part in long term loans locally because from time to time money will be required for the purposes the funds were created.

There are, Sir, very considerable sums in the hands of the different Marketing Boards and of necessity (unless their money is to lie idle) the Boards doubtless will decide to buy overseas investments subject to the money they invest in internal development and also to any gilt-edged loans they can make within Nigeria. I refer as Honourable Members are aware to the fact I have been negotiating on behalf of Government with the Cocoa Marketing Board for a loan of the order of £3 million. But for the same reasons I give in relation to the General Revenue Balance of Government and our Reserve Funds, it would not be prudent in my opinion for those Boards to invest all of their funds in Nigeria.

As regards the cash balances of Native Authorities many do indeed make advances for different purposes to their people which of course is investment in Nigeria and under the regionalized Nigeria Local Development Board Ordinance which was recently passed there is provision for Native Authorities to lend short-term and long-term to the Regional Boards but I do hope that Native Authorities will not lend all their surplus balances to the Board as in my opinion for the reasons I have given in relation to Government surplus funds it would not be prudent policy.

There is another source, Sir, which I hope in due course will provide funds for local development. I refer to funds of the Currency Board. As Honourable Members are I hope aware every West African pound note issued by the Board has to be covered by one pound of sterling and the sterling pounds are invested in sterling securities from which incidentally we obtain a very substantial income. I have in mind that a small part of the sterling should be invested in Nigeria by way of a loan to Government and so domesticated some of that capital.

There has been a suggestion that we should endeavour to invest our surplus balances to better advantage as the interest rates on our market investments overseas are alleged to be low. It is true that our average earnings are just over three per cent which in fact is slightly above the present market rate for high class securities. It will be recognized that if we were able to earn more on our investments, we should also have to pay more on the money which we borrow. I am satisfied that we cannot obtain at present, either in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, a better return on our market investments having regard to the need for security and realizability in investments.

I have not attempted to cover all the aspects of the problem but I hope that I have demonstrated adequately that the policy of Government in relation to the investment of our domestic capital is sound.

But the amount of domestic capital in Nigeria for long term investment is very limited, and if we are to develop this country it must be the policy of this Government to encourage capital investment from overseas. I do realize that there is a feeling that foreign

capital is exploiting the wealth of Nigeria to the detriment of Nigerians. There is no doubt, Sir, that the shareholders of a great part of the capital employed in Nigeria are living overseas and that therefore there must be an export of dividends which if utilized in this country would benefit Nigeria. But the truth is that we have not got the money ourselves, and we must therefore borrow it from overseas and it is only reasonable that the people who provide the funds should get a fair return on their investment. I say a fair return because with present day competition and modern legislation regarding land and labour conditions and taxation, there are not now the possibilities of unrestricted profit which may have been present in the past. I spend a great deal of time, Sir, as I know also does my colleague the Honourable Development Secretary, in discussing with visiting business men possible industrial projects, but I can assure Honourable Members that they are not falling over themselves to bring capital to Nigeria. I regret I am not able to give this Council figures of capital expended in this country and lost. But I understand it is quite considerable.

In some other countries requiring development, external capital is translated into domestic capital that is money is brought from outside to inside the country by the immigration of settlers but it is Government's policy here, as Your Excellency said that settlement of foreigners and strangers should be precluded. So if we want external capital, as we do, let us encourage it as far as possible and not attempt to impose conditions which will tend to drive it away from Nigeria to other parts of Africa. I do not know of one country which in normal times has imposed a restrictive capital policy and yet attracted external capital.

I am hoping that the Colonial Development Corporation recently established in Nigeria will do much in the years ahead to develop this country. The Corporation as Honourable Members know has very considerable capital behind it. It would come within the category of foreign companies, but it is sponsored by the British Government and its declared policy is to operate for the benefit of the peoples of the Colonial Empire.

During the last twelve months, the Standing Committee on Finance approved in principle the investment of part of the general revenue balance of Government in major industrial schemes, and I am in negotiation with certain companies at the present time to achieve that object. I believe too, Sir, that some Honourable Members are aware of the growing tendency of companies to offer shares in new flotations in Nigeria to be taken up locally and to search for Nigerian directors. Unfortunately too often the Nigerian investor is looking for higher and quicker returns than can be obtained at the present time.

I pass, Sir, to the question of labour in relation to economic development. This I divide into imported labour and local labour. By "imported labour", I refer to administrative and managerial skill, professional competence and experience, not available or

possessed by sufficient numbers of Nigerians. There are, Sir, a few Nigerians who consider that the import of such labour is unnecessary and indeed it is only a few weeks ago that a leading trade unionist told me that the solution of all my budget difficulties was the export of all European staff including, I gathered, the Financial Secretary. The pressing need of Nigeria at the present time is not only for experienced professional and technical staff to do highly skilled work, but also to train Nigerians. In spite of the higher emoluments offered to expatriate staff under the Harragin Report, we are failing to attract sufficient numbers from overseas and indeed with better terms and conditions of life offering elsewhere in many parts of the world, we are losing many qualified and experienced serving officers whose local knowledge also is of considerable value to this country.

Much progress has been made in the training of Nigerians both in Government service and in industry and commerce, but I wish to speak particularly of the technical field. Our policy in relation to technical education is clear and there has been in the last few years an acceleration of facilities as may be seen in the various training institutions. It is recognized, however, that there is a real need for a greater quantity and of more varied types of secondary education, and of extended training within industry. The University College will of course train graduate teachers but many more secondary school teachers than the College can provide will be needed for some time to come. Unless therefore secondary teacher training on a considerable scale is undertaken during the next decade in relation to economic development rather than academic development we shall lack essential trained persons for commerce and industry in the years ahead. Your Excellency mentioned that whereas ten years ago the Education budget amounted to just over £250,000, in the coming year the estimates (Nigerian and Regional) provide for expenditure both recurrent and from loan funds to over £3 million. I do hope, Sir, it will be found possible within that amount to provide the recurrent expenditure necessary for technical training colleges of the type to which I have referred. Capital expenditure will probably amount to a further one million pounds and this will have to be found either from the General Revenue Balance or from loan funds although I hope, Sir, some part may be obtainable by way of grants-in-aid.

As regards "local labour" generally, the future of Nigeria to a large extent is in their hands. I do not propose, Sir, to repeat the speech which I made some weeks ago to the Trade Union Congress, but I do wish that everyone who has or will make the opportunity to speak to the members of Trade Unions will emphasize the importance of increased output in relation to the economic development of Nigeria. It cannot, Sir, be over-emphasized.

It would be opportune at this stage for me to make public that at the last meeting of the Finance Committee it was agreed that funds should be made available to cover the cost of preliminary investigations into a self-supporting workers' housing scheme for industrial employees of Government in urban areas throughout the country. These preliminary investigations will take a great deal of time, but I hope that as rentals will depend on costs there will be no violent fluctuations in the price of materials or of labour in the coming year. I hope it will be possible to appoint a small committee after this meeting of Legislative Council to determine the method and organization of the preliminary investigations.

I must make it quite clear, however, Sir, that the final decision regarding these proposals must await the report following the preliminary investigations of land costs, potential revenue and of the general financing of such a scheme.

There are a few general points, Sir, I wish to make about industrial development. Nigeria depended in the past mainly on her export trade and on primary production. As I have said earlier, exports are essential to the well-being of Nigeria and in fact it will be recognized that the economic progress made in this country in the last forty years has to a major extent been due to the development of her external trade. But it is Government policy to place greater emphasis than hitherto on production for local consumption as well as to accelerate the establishment of small secondary industries throughout the country. Nigeria as I have said is an agricultural country, and will be primarily dependent on her produce for many years to come, but it is essential that in addition to increasing the quantity and quality of agricultural production we should develop manufacturing activity wherever possible.

It will interest Honourable Members to know, Sir, that up to the present time the Nigeria Local Development Board, before being regionalised, has approved advances in respect of pioneer oil mills, clarified butter fat schemes, textile development, development of foodstuffs and agriculture, pottery, sawmills and cabinet making, shoemaking, tailoring, laundries, brush making, motor repair workshops, as well as for roadmaking and town planning, amounting in all to a sum of about £500,000. I hope that the Regionalized Local Development Boards now established will accelerate the rate of establishment of secondary industries and that by next year at least £1 million will have been invested in this way.

It is opportune, Sir, at this stage for me to refer to a proposal to establish a Trade Commissioner's office in London. I shall discuss the matter in more detail in Select Committee but it is desirable that I should make public the purpose of the proposal. Its primary purpose is the development of secondary industries by finding markets and directing supplies for the benefit of the Nigerian producer. It would also enable Nigerian importers to be linked

with overseas manufacturers and export merchants. It will provide an information bureau and publicity office for Nigeria in London. From a purely Government point of view it should assist in expediting supplies against Government indents.

I believe that the proposal will have the warm support of all Honourable Members.

In passing I would mention that it appears probable that the Board of Trade of the United Kingdom will in the near future establish an office or offices in Nigeria which again should be of the greatest assistance to the Nigerian importer and exporter.

One final word, Sir, about economic development. I have endeavoured to summarize the main lines of economic policy in which I have emphasized the development of the Nigerian economy by Nigerians. There can be no doubt that Government and the people of this country have a more decisive voice in the economic control of Nigeria than say ten years ago but further progress along the road of improved standards of living for the people requires continued co-operative effort on the part of Nigerians *and* others. I appeal, Sir, to all foreign firms now established in Nigeria to seek to establish secondary industries on an increasing scale with participation of Nigerian and Government capital. As regards training in commerce and industry much has been achieved and if there are opportunities for accelerated progress in this direction which require financing, Government is willing to consider giving such assistance. I repeat, Sir, the future development of this country depends to a large extent on the willing co-operation of both Nigerians and Europeans and it is particularly important at this stage that the good will of both is not prejudiced by either race.

I wish to refer, Sir, next to the Development Plan. It is estimated that by the 31st March nearly £8,500,000 will have been spent either from Nigerian revenue or from grants-in-aid from the United Kingdom or from advances pending the raising of loans. It sounds and it is a lot of money but in fact £8,500,000 represents a little less than 7s per head of the population or roughly an average of £23 per square mile. The complaint of Honourable Members may well be that in their square mile they see no evidence of development. I do not intend, Sir, to read out columns of figures but here are a few of the headings of Expenditure which will indicate the progress that has definitely been made.

Expenditure on Marine Development leads with £1,290,000. Road Development is just over £1,100,000. Water supplies roughly £750,000. Medical and Health services £750,000. Research Schemes £400,000. Education (both General and Technical) £1 million. I am now speaking of expenditure under the Development Plan.

It was stated, Sir, at the time the Development Plan was adopted that there would be periodical reviews and as Honourable Members are aware many modifications small and large have been made from time to time.

Now it is quite clear that the original plan estimated at £55 million in ten years would cost very much more if the original schemes were adopted because since 1945 when the Plan was drawn up, the cost of materials and of local and imported labour have advanced considerably. It is therefore essential that the Plan the whole plan should be recosted. Of the original estimate of £55 million roughly £23 million is to be provided by the British taxpayer, £14 million by the Nigerian taxpayer from recurrent revenue and the balance of £18 by way of loan, the annual charges of which will also be borne by the Nigerian taxpayer.

It is difficult, Sir, to hazard a guess at a revised estimate of cost at present day prices but I do not anticipate that it will be less than £75 million. Now the question is: who is to meet the additional cost of £20 million? and if the answer is, as I fear, the Nigerian taxpayer, then we have to consider whether he can afford to do so and if he cannot, which is my opinion, then we may have to limit the programme or extend the period of the Plan and rearrange priorities.

It is proposed therefore, Sir, during the next twelve months (for it is a major operation which cannot be completed within a few weeks) to recost and possibly revise the priorities. I hope it will be found possible to bring forward the more directly productive schemes. It is clear, Sir, that this operation should not and cannot in fact be maintained without regional advice. I understand that the original Plan was prepared through a pyramid of Provincial Development Committees to Area Development Committees up to the Central Development Board.

Since the original Ten-Year Development Plan was prepared there have been a number of developments both constitutional and executive. We have regionalization in many forms—Regional Houses, regionalized Local Development Boards and regionalized Production Development Boards. It appears to me that the review of the Development Plan to which I have referred should be linked to a full co-ordination of development effort in the Regions and that the determination of priorities in the Development Plan as reviewed should be subject to the consideration of regional bodies.

With that background I turn to the budget and I first want to invite the attention of Council to the proposed recurrent expenditure of Government next year in relation to the last decade, that is ten years. I exclude special and extraordinary expenditure and grant-aided expenditure under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act.

I have grouped the expenditure of the different Departments under a number of headings. Social Services cover Health Services, Education and the Labour Department. Ten years ago we were spending roughly £700,000 on Social Services. Five years ago this had increased to nearly £1,200,000. In the coming year the draft estimate approaches £4,000,000, that is five and a half times what we were spending ten years ago. In respect of economic development (and under economic development I have grouped Agriculture,

Forestry, Veterinary, Geological Survey, Mines, Public Works, Lands and Aviation) ten years ago we were spending £860,000 on economic development. Five years later it was increased to £1,300,000 compared with £3,340,000 proposed next year, or four times what we were spending ten years ago. Our quasi-commercial departments, that is Electricity, Marine, Posts and Telegraphs, have increased from roughly £750,000 to just over £1,000,000 five years ago, compared with over £3,000,000 next year, that is four times what we were spending ten years ago. Defence, law and order, which covers the Judicial and Legal Departments, the Police, Prisons and Military and Defence increased from £764,000 to £1,000,000 five years ago, and now to £2,275,000 next year, that is three times what we were spending ten years ago. The cost of general administration which covers the Provincial Administration, the various Secretariats, Subventions, Statistics, Public Relations Office, Printing and Miscellaneous heads, has risen from about £1,000,000 five and ten years ago, because they were roughly about the same during the war, to over £3,000,000 next year, that is three times what they were. Standing charges—which cover the Public Debt charges, pensions and gratuities—ten years ago amounted to roughly £2,000,000 and the same five years ago, will next year amount to £2,700,000. The other group—Accounting and Revenue—the Accountant-General's office, Audit, Customs and Inland Revenue—will be roughly three times next year what it was ten years ago. On the other hand the recurrent revenue of Government excluding export duties is roughly three and a half—only three and a half—times next year what it was ten years ago, although the currency available in the country and in circulation is four and a half times what it was ten years ago. The point there, Sir, is that there may be an indication that the taxpayer can afford to pay even more tax.

It will be realized, Sir, of course that the value of money has depreciated in the last ten years, that salaries and wages have increased as has also the cost of materials, so that the real and effective development in public services cannot be measured by the simple arithmetic of the increased provision for expenditure.

On the other hand there can be no doubt that the public services have developed substantially during the last ten years but what is more important is that the pressure for more services is accelerating at a far greater rate than hitherto.

It is my considered opinion, Sir, that we must not allow expenditure to continue at the present rate of increase otherwise our successors in the years ahead will not only have legitimate reasons to doubt the wisdom of our policy but will be faced with the unenviable task of carrying out a policy of retrenchment and reduction of public services,

be varying opinions about this, either that I am too conservative or that I am taking too great a risk but doubtless Honourable Members will express their own opinions later.

The second main head of recurrent revenue is Head 2—Direct Taxes. Before I deal with the figures I would like to refute the repeated statements in some parts of the Press that Government takes direct taxes from the people of the different provinces and spends the money elsewhere. Taxation under the Direct Taxation Ordinance outside of Lagos accrues generally speaking to the area in which it is collected. It is true that there is a small "capitation" fee credited to the Region in which it is collected but I understand in fact the Regional Houses re-allocate to the Native Authorities the total amount of the "capitation" fees by way of special grants so that 100 per cent of the direct tax benefits the areas in which it is collected.

The share of direct taxation available to Central Government (using that phrase rather loosely) is related to the Income Tax Ordinance and is limited as regards individuals to Africans in Lagos and the Colony and to non-Africans within Nigeria.

The total return from individuals under the Income Tax Ordinance is very small, being only £500,000, and I am assured we cannot expect any great increase in the coming year. On the other hand tax from companies is a very substantial amount and in the current year we hope to collect £2,400,000. It should be recognized that the company tax to be collected this year relates generally to the profits of last year 1947-48. To determine an estimate of company tax revenue for next year 1949-50 therefore it is necessary to ascertain the profits which are being made during the current year. Now this, Sir, is quite difficult, but, from information received by me and by the Commissioner of Income Tax, it appeared at the time the budget was prepared that we should have to face a decrease this year and reluctantly I adopted a round figure of £2,000,000, which is the figure in the Estimates. It is fortunate, in relation to the further expenditure disclosed since the estimates were printed, that I can indicate a probable very considerable increase in the returns from company tax, not all of which, however, is recurrent. I shall give further information on this in Select Committee but meantime I wish to deal with the Budget as printed.

I have therefore in the last few weeks considered how best we could raise the additional £900,000 in relation to recurrent expenditure. It is of course essential to avoid any taxation which would tend to increase the cost of the basic necessities of life and after lengthy consideration and discussion I have reached the conclusion that we should attempt to raise roughly half the amount from customs and excise and the other half from income tax,

Last year, Sir, as I have said a very thorough survey of the Customs Tariff was undertaken but deliberately because of increases under other items I refrained from undertaking a general review of taxation in relation to tobacco and cigarettes. It is from that source only in my opinion that the market will stand a fairly substantial increase and that such increase will not cause decreasing returns or have an undue economic effect on the community.

From to-day therefore, Sir, under an Order-in-Council which has to be confirmed, modified or rejected by this Council, the following additional duties have been imposed.

The duty on unmanufactured tobacco has been increased from 4s 3d per pound to 5s 6d per pound. I may say in extenuation that the new figure is lower than the rate adopted during the war when it was 5s 7½d.

The rate of duty on imported cigarettes has been increased from £3 per 1,000 to £3 10s per 1,000 that is there is an increase of 10s a thousand on cigarettes in respect of cigarettes weighing less than forty-eight ounces per 1,000 and in respect of cigarettes over that weight the new duty will be 30s per pound weight instead of 26s as at present.

I understand, Sir, that the market price of the most popular imported cigarettes will advance from four for 5d to three for 4d and that the trade will bear the balance of the increased duty.

Manufactured tobacco and snuff has been increased from 15s a lb to 16s 6d a lb.

As regards the locally produced factory made cigarettes, I explained in speaking to an earlier resolution the dividing line of a datum " wholesale price " used in determining excise tax which was raised to 330 pence per 1,000 that is £1 7s 6d per thousand. An increased excise duty in respect of that lower category has been imposed to-day, bringing the rate up from 276 pence per 1,000 to 300 pence per 1,000 that is an increase of 24 pence per thousand. But I am glad to say that I am satisfied that no increase in price to the consumer will result as the whole increase will be shared among the trade.

I would only add at this stage that the present drawback of 3d per lb on unmanufactured tobacco used in the production of factory made cigarettes will be increased to 1s 6d per lb, so as to maintain the effective rate of import duty on tobacco which can be said also to bear excise tax.

I now pass, Sir, to Income Tax. The arguments which I advanced last year in relation to the individuals rate of income tax are in my opinion as cogent to-day as they were then and no increase in the income tax rate in respect of individuals is intended—I should say is intended at present.

It is therefore to company income tax that I have turned to obtain the balance of £400,000 and this could be achieved by raising the rate from 7s 6d in the £ to 9s in the £. So far as companies incorporated in the United Kingdom are concerned it will mean that under the Double Taxation Agreement the British Exchequer will receive 1s 6d in the £ less than hitherto. As far as companies incorporated in Nigeria are concerned, the companies will have to bear the increase of 1s 6d. But I should point out that Nigerian residents who are shareholders in the local companies will not have to bear the rate of 9s in respect of distributed profits as an adjustment is made in respect of tax paid at company rates to the appropriate rate of tax payable by the individual.

As regards the shortfall of £900,000 as between extraordinary revenue that is export duties and special expenditure Honourable Members will recall that Council has agreed in principle that while it is proper that the primary producer should be the first to benefit from high prices of his products by the immediate payment of a fair price in relation to his costs and a deferred payment for his ultimate benefit it is equally appropriate that a percentage should accrue to the community at large in the form of taxation. In other words it has been accepted that the present high prices for Nigerian produce should not only be directed to the present and future benefit of the industries concerned but should also provide funds for the expansion of the public services. Obviously, Sir, it would be unwise for this temporary and fluctuating revenue to be directed to recurrent expenditure and therefore it is earmarked for non-recurrent special and extraordinary items. It will be recalled, Sir, that last year a datum of ten per cent to eleven per cent of port price in relation to the main primary products was adopted. Since 1948 there have been quite substantial increases in contract prices in some of the products which would justify a higher export duty. On the other hand there has been a violent reduction in the free market in Cocoa prices. It has been suggested to me that the Boards would prefer that the export duty should be linked to the anticipated proceeds of sale so that if the market price or contract price fluctuates then the export duty would be modified.

However, I look upon this all as a matter of arithmetic and percentages but in case any Honourable Member should consider that this is merely a device of the Financial Secretary to "ring the changes" I propose to explain the new duties which have been imposed to-day in detail.

The producer price of cocoa in March last was £65 a ton and a duty of £6 10s was imposed. In fact the estimated average price to the producer was £118 per ton and with a datum of ten to eleven per cent of producer price the export duty should have been about £12 a ton. But the sale price of cocoa fell from £195 to round about £100 a ton. Now it is quite impossible to estimate accurately free market prices ahead but as it appears unlikely that the selling price

of cocoa next year will exceed £100 a ton I propose to fix the duty at £6 a ton that is six per cent of the estimated selling price. It may be suggested that the duty should be lower because the Cocoa Marketing Board has fixed a producer price of £100 a ton for the next two years. I am not of course, Sir, criticizing the Board's decision but because they have fixed the price ahead which turns out to be at a high level in relation to their selling price it would not be fair in my opinion for the export duty to be further reduced or to be removed. If we did so the other produce boards would have legitimate grounds for complaint.

The contract price of palm kernels has increased from £40 to £50 a ton and the return to the producer has also increased by £10 a ton so that on last year's formula and also in relation to the sale price an increase in export duty from £2 to £3 a ton is justified and it has been imposed to-day. The new rate of duty represents six per cent of contract price.

The selling price of plam oil increased from £70 to £75 a ton and the port price I believe my figures are correct—increased from £30 to £51 a ton. The duty has been increased from £3 a ton to £4 10s a ton which again is six per cent of selling price and in fact less than ten per cent of port price.

Although we are aware of the new contract price for groundnuts, an increase from £45 to £55 a ton, the new prices to producers have not yet been declared and therefore the port prices are not available. I have followed the proposals in relation to the other products and adopted six per cent of the contract price of £55 a ton which has increased the export duty from £2 10s to £3 6s a ton. An export duty on benniseed has been introduced at the same rate and on sheanuts at £2 a ton related to the same percentage of estimated proceeds.

Export duties of £7 10s a ton and £9 a ton on the expressed oil of palm kernels and groundnuts respectively have been imposed in relation to the duties on the primary product used in the process.

Also a nominal export duty of 10s a ton has been imposed on groundnut cake and palm kernel cake.

Hides and skins, Sir, the export duties on hides and skins have been reduced slightly in relation to market reports. The duty on cattle hides has been reduced from £19 to £18 a ton, on goatskins from £55 to £50 a ton and on sheepskins from £33 to £30 a ton.

The effect of the modifications in the export duties which I have just summarized (assuming of course that the exports do not decrease in volume) will be sufficient to cover the shortfall in extraordinary revenue.

I do not propose to detain this Council very much longer. If I would attempt to anticipate the criticism of this Budget I consider it is likely that I shall be asked whether it is my intention at every Budget meeting to increase taxation and at the same time issue

awful warnings about increased expenditure. I would answer, Sir, it is my firm intention to persuade Honourable Members to impose taxation at the highest rates the market and the economy of Nigeria will stand, but I would add that except for comparatively small amounts and unless there are substantial advances in primary product prices, the rates of taxation appear to me to have reached an equitable level, but I must emphasize that I am not speaking of the Direct Taxation Ordinance. I have insufficient knowledge to express a firm opinion but I hope Native Authorities will not be able to look back in a future depression and regret the missed opportunities of creating sound reserves. As regards expenditure and particularly recurrent expenditure I hope to be able to persuade Honourable Members that stabilization is essential and I shall point the way in Select Committee to do so in the present budget.

I would close, Sir, by saying that the future wealth, peace and tranquillity of Nigeria depend as much on financial and economic policy and progress as on constitutional advance and I trust that this will be fully recognized in the deliberations of this Council.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I rise to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

His Excellency :

That concludes the business on the Order Paper for to-day and Council will now adjourn and will meet again at 10 o'clock on Monday morning.

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned at 11.45 a.m.

Debates in the Legislative Council of Nigeria

Monday, 14th March, 1949

Pursuant to notice the Honourable Members of the Legislative Council met in the Hall of the Western House of Assembly, Ibadan, at 10 a.m. on Monday, the 14th of March, 1949.

PRESENT

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- His Excellency the Governor,
Sir John S. Macpherson, K.C.M.G.
- The Chief Secretary to the Government,
The Honourable H. M. Foot, C.M.G., O.B.E.
- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,
His Honour T. C. Hoskyns-Abrahall, C.M.G.
- The Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces,
His Honour E. W. Thompstone, C.M.G., M.C.
- The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,
His Honour Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, C.M.G.
- The Attorney-General,
The Honourable G. L. Howe, K.C.
- The Financial Secretary,
The Honourable A. W. L. Savage, C.M.G.
- The Director of Medical Services,
Dr the Honourable G. B. Walker, C.B.E.
- The Development Secretary,
The Honourable C. J. Pleass.
- The Director of Education,
The Honourable R. A. McL. Davidson, C.M.G.
- The Director of Agriculture,
The Honourable A. G. Beattie.
- The Director of Public Works,
The Honourable R. W. Taylor.
- The Commissioner of Labour,
The Honourable A. H. Couzens.
- The Acting Commissioner of the Colony,
The Honourable J. G. C. Allen.
- The Senior Resident, Kano Province,
The Honourable E. K. Featherstone, C.M.G.
- The Resident, Ogoja Province,
The Honourable P. M. Riley.
- The Resident, Abeokuta Province,
The Honourable J. H. Blair, E.D.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Member for the Colony,
The Rev. and Honourable T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.
- The First Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Obisesan, O.B.E.
- The First Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable I. Olerun-Nimbe.
- The Emir of Gwandu,
The Honourable Yahaya, C.B.E.
- The Emir of Katsina,
Alhaji the Honourable Usuman Nagogo, C.B.E.
- The Oni of Ife,
The Honourable Aderemi I, C.M.G.
- The Oba of Benin,
The Honourable Akenzua II, C.M.G.
- The Atta of Igbirra,
Alhaji the Honourable Ibrahim.
- The Emir of Abuja,
The Honourable Sulemanu.
- The First Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Bello Kano.
- The First Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable C. D. Onyeama.
- The Second Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.
- The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable H. Buowari Brown.
- The Third Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Iro Katsina.
- The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable A. Ikoku.
- The Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Aliyu, Makaman Bida.
- The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.
- The Second Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe.
- The Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Yahaya Ilorin.
- The Third Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.
- The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable N. Essien.
- The Third Lagos Member,
The Honourable Adeleke Adedoyin.
- The Member for Calabar,
The Honourable E. E. E. Anwan.
- The Second Nominated Member,
Major the Honourable J. West, M.C.
- The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Soetan.

ABSENT

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

The Second Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.

The First Nominated Member,
The Honourable P. J. Rogers.

The Third Nominated Member,
The Honourable N. B. Edwards.

PRAYERS

His Excellency the Governor opened the proceedings of the Council with prayers.

OATH

The Honourable J. G. C. Allen, Acting Commissioner of the Colony, took the oath as a Member of the Council.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 12th day of March, 1949, having been printed and circulated to the Honourable Members, were taken as read and confirmed.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

Sir, I rise to give notice of the following additional questions which I intend to ask during the present session of the Council.

(1) To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

How soon shall the Medical Students at Ibadan be able to take the Second Professional M.B., B.S., Degree Examination of the University of London in Nigeria?

(2) To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

How did Government come to the possession of the land on which the Glover Memorial Hall was built, before "freely giving it to the people of Lagos"?

(3) To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

How did Government come to the possession of Aro Quarry in Abeokuta Province?

(4) To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Could the details of the certain rights and privileges of Members of the Legislative Council be given?

(5) To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

What are the "special relationship" now existing between the University of London and the Ibadan University College and for how long?

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

Sir, I rise to give notice of the following question:—

To ask the Commissioner of the Colony:—

(a) Whether it is true that the Oba and people of Imota in the Colony Area have been protesting strongly and unceasingly against the administrative arrangement whereby they are incorporated in the Ikosi Native Authority of the Epe District?

(b) Whether it is true that they have petitioned several times and asked for their incorporation in the Ijebu-Remo Native Authority or in the alternative in the Ikorodu Native Authority?

(c) If (a) and (b) above be answered in the affirmative, what step is the Government taking in this long-standing matter?

The Third Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. G. I. Obaseki):

Sir, I rise to give notice that I shall ask the following questions during the present session of Council.

To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

1. (a) Whether it is a fact that the crew of the Sapele Ferry (Marine) work forty-eight hours a week, and, if so, what Overtime fees are paid to them?

(b) Is it true that applications for bookings of the Ferry Service must now be made in advance to the District Officer, Sapele, instead of to the Marine Clerk there as was formerly the practice?

(c) Whether Government is aware that this new arrangement is causing a lot of inconvenience to travellers owing to the limited time the District Officer, Sapele, is able to spare for this service, and more particularly as the ferry works from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily?

(d) In view of (c) above, how soon will Government revert to the former arrangement so that applications for bookings could be made to the Marine Clerk, Sapele?

2. (a) Is Government aware that a great majority of people in the Provinces, who must comply with the legal procedure relating to the administration of Estates, are generally put to great inconveniences and hardships, in various forms, by having to travel to Lagos with the main object of making personal visits to the office of Administrator-General and Curator of Intestate Estates?

(b) Will Government establish branch offices at all Provincial Headquarters throughout Nigeria of the Administrator-General's Department in view of the hardships experienced by peoples from the Provinces in Lagos?

BILLS

(Second Reading)

THE 1949-50 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Financial Secretary:

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled:—

“ An Ordinance to appropriate the sum of Thirty-six Million, Fifty-six thousand, Nine hundred and seventy pounds to the service of the year ending on the Thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and fifty ”.

The Hon. the Development Secretary:

Sir, I beg to second.

His Excellency :

I call upon the Honourable the Senior Unofficial Member.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

May it please Your Excellency, I rise in duty bound as Senior Unofficial Member of this august House to open the dress debate of the Budget Session of this Assembly. My first concern, Sir, is to congratulate you, on your outspoken speech to us last Tuesday—a masterpiece indeed. A speech driven to our hearts by your forceful gesture and by the sudden change of your visage from white to red, when you, from that throne, gave us the strongest word that ever came from that throne—“ Lie ”. Sir, I know that that word was forced out of your precious lips and I have been hoping and praying that the message of your speech will have a salutary effect on the whole of Nigeria henceforth.

Then, Sir, I have to thank the Government, through Your Excellency, for allowing some of us to go to England to represent Nigeria at that historic Conference. Although this is not the time—but I don't think I shall have time enough to give a resumé of what happened there.

His Excellency :

I might call the Honourable Member out of order if he did.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

But I must confess to the fact that we were all very pleased indeed for the opportunity given us and in particular for meeting Members of Legislative Councils from other parts of Africa. And I hope that from now on we shall exchange Hansards with other Legislative Councils in different parts of Africa. It is very important indeed, because we were able to compare notes with those men that we met and we found that we had certain things in common. And then again on the other hand, we were very pleased—our attention was very much arrested—by a certain installation in the Conference Room—that is—the stenographers. They sat there comfortably in their chairs without bending their necks as our people are doing now and just typing. They did this every meeting and I have brought details of the thing which I am passing through the Commissioner of the Colony to you. Very interesting, Your Excellency, and the members who were attracted to that machine were told that it could be done even out here in Africa, and I really hope that our Government would consider it and send for some of the gadgets. They could come out, and if it is going to cost such a lot kindly allow our stenographers when they go home to have a course of study and introduce it to us here. It is in the end very cheap and I was surprised when even the Honourable the Chief Secretary told me that even he had never seen it before—and highly commended it. Your Excellency, since many years that was the first time that I

visited England. Indeed I went in 1912 as a missionary, but I could only see through missionary's eyes, but this time as a Government guest I saw a good many things, very fine, but at the same time I was surprised to see, really quite surprised and horrified, to see the damage done to England by the war—the two wars. I shall never forget that Coventry Cathedral, reduced to ruins and ashes, and other parts of the churches in different parts of England and particularly those buildings round Saint Paul's Cathedral. The surprise to me was that instead of complaining the English people were not down-hearted—not even tired. Particularly to see every one of them moving about and in spite of hardship I have not heard a word of regret or remorse from any one of them, not even a curse or a swear on the Government. It pleased me very much indeed and I had to remark from one of the pulpits I occupied when in England that I wished we could have such a spirit here.

Your Excellency, we are very thankful for the leadership of our Chief Secretary. I can assure Your Excellency that I never knew his worth until we went to England and we saw how highly connected he was, even among Members of Parliament. He has got a brother who is much esteemed by the Secretary of State himself in Council, and apart from that Your Excellency we found out, by accident, I think, that he was specially selected to come out to Nigeria from Jamaica, and that the Jamaica people are very sorry even up to now and that they wish him to come back and are expecting him as their next Governor, but I don't know if we are going to allow him to go there. However, I have said this to let other people know that we have got a man of intrinsic worth and when he spoke during the Conference we were all very proud of him. He was head and shoulders over all of us from different parts of Africa when he spoke, and we were glad that it was Nigeria that was proud indeed of this Conference.

Your Excellency, I now must say something about our great Financial Secretary, but before commenting on his accounts I should like to congratulate him for acting as Chief Secretary when the "cat" was away. However, he was very successful indeed, so successful that nobody could realise that the "cat" was really away until he returned. It is always a treat to us whenever he presents his Budget paper—and this time—well—I was wondering all the time what duties he was going to impose. I am very glad that he did not impose duty on liquor this time and motor cars and other things, nor about the Income Tax. We are very glad that he left those alone. I could see that his victim really was the innocent cigarette. Well, as he told us and told everybody, it is only a few pence and I do not think that smokers would mind that. Indeed that point led me to think of Excise Duty on home-made cigars that are being made here, as is well known. I went to England with a box of home-made cigars that cost me 3s 9d for fifty and I see that some English people are smoking them when I

got to England, and as I was smoking a cigar they thought I was very rich indeed to be smoking a cigar. Well I told them that they were made in my country. They said, "Where do you come from?" They asked me if I came from the West Indies and I said "Nigeria", and I was proud of it. When we went to Hertfordshire I forgot my pouch and I wanted a cigar after lunch—and so I called for a cigar. I thought it was going to cost me a trifle and after lighting it and smoking, then I asked for the cost—3s 6d. Just almost what I paid for fifty here. Well, 3s 6d I had to pay. I brought the end back to Lagos with me and told my people "That is what I paid 3s 6d for". Some people told me that this was the cheapest cigar—for 3s 6d. In London you get them for £1 and more. It is a luxury highly prized—I could see that in England. Well if that is so and our people are making it here, it would be a great increase to our revenue if those people are found out and are allowed to pay a bit of excise duty on it. I recommend that very highly and I do hope it will be taken up. I am told that in Apapa we shall be having beer brewed and that we shall be having about 2,200 gallons a day. I should like to know whether there will be excise duty on that beer because if we impose excise duty of only 3d per gallon, it will relieve the country of a good deal of increase in Income Tax and other taxation. So I should like to draw the attention of Government to that.

Your Excellency, in Select Committee I am going to make a suggestion, because I see that we always have a certain amount put down for the Governor to use as table or entertainment allowance. Well, the figure has been the same since I became a member of this Council. At the time that they were giving that, I was well assured that people did not realize, they did not know, that Nigeria would be a place where nobilities and other highly placed people from all parts of the world would visit almost every week, and I am positive, although I do not know the accounts, that it is a great drain on that allowance given to Your Excellency. I am not going to suggest that there should be an increment given to you, on that account, but what I propose to suggest is this, and I hope my Honourable Friends and colleagues will join me in doing so, that instead of them being your guests at dinner each time they come to Council, we should be considered as the guests of Nigeria through you in this respect. That is open a different head for the entertainment of us whenever we meet together during session. Let it be so for members of the Council and I propose the same thing for Chief Commissioners during the time of the Assemblies and the House of Chiefs. I know they must entertain them. There should be a separate allowance. The money comes from the same fund but I hope it will be considered and it will be a great relief. That of course would not prevent Your Excellency from inviting us occasionally as private friends to come and dine with you. But it is the burden that I want to relieve.

Now, Your Excellency, the Financial Secretary brought an important matter before us, and that is how to balance the budget. We were thinking of it, I think he said something about retrenching or reducing salaries in due course. Well, I am going to suggest that there is one particular heading to which I invited attention to last year at Kaduna, where the office is really redundant and that is the office of the Supreme—I don't know the name which is given him, but I mean the man that is above the Income Tax Officers in Lagos and Accra, and for the Gold Coast and Sierra Leone. We told Your Excellency, that well, we don't see our way to money being paid to a man who is only supervising the work of people on the spot, and I am yet to be convinced that that official has greater powers in raising one million or one million three hundred thousand pounds Income Tax in Nigeria than the man on the spot. I believe there is something to that effect. Well, if the salary could be off our accounts we could get money for other people. The Financial Secretary told us a good deal, trying to convince us about giving increments to some people for higher salaries. I believe he was talking about the Electrical Department at Ijora. I don't know what will be the end of it, but I think the money should go to those who are really serving us here on the spot in Nigeria. I commend that to the consideration of Your Excellency and the Government. We were told last year that that official was going to reside in Ibadan, and that has not materialized up to now.

Then, Your Excellency, another point that I should like to touch on is about the scholarships that you are giving to our young people. We are very pleased indeed that the number is rising from time to time. Well, we thank Government for doing that, but at the same time when you send those young people to England, it is to raise their aspirations, and with a view so that they work very hard to come back with laurels, and a good many of them are returning, with them, and we are glad for the benefit to our country, but the disappointment is that when they get the laurels or bring back the golden fleece, when they come back, the disappointment is that you keep them low in the office. When you train them for a high office you won't allow them to go there. Well, there was a case cited last year in Kaduna and we were told that it was the gentleman who wanted it like that. But we were not in a position to contradict the statement at the time, but I have since had knowledge to the contrary that that gentleman is not pleased with the treatment he has received and the office in which he is placed. On the contrary, since his junior friend in the same office returned from England (he went on his own, I understand, not under scholarship) he had a better posting than himself and is now in the Attorney-General's office as a Crown Counsel, while this man is still being kept, perhaps as a third class clerk, getting paltry amounts for his work. We should like that to be put straight. When you send those children—our boys and girls—to England, and you say you are training them for high posts, place them on the posts when they come back. That is my contention, Sir.

Then again, on the other hand, when we are coming to this Council, so many letters were received—several letters—from people who wanted me to put before this meeting petitions, but I don't feel I should do that right away, in this wise. What they want is more money, more pay, and all that I should like to suggest to this Council or to the Government through Your Excellency is that the time has come for a Board to be formed to consider the question of increments in salaries and the demand for more money. I believe it is the Harragin matter that brought all this trouble on us. Before that I don't think people were worrying much, but now they are not satisfied. They want this and that and what can we do. They are demanding more pay and unless it is done there are heart-breaks now and again. Well Government must do something to do away with this oft repeated requests from the workers.

Sir, we are thankful for what the Police have introduced in Lagos (I hope they extend it to Ibadan and other places)—I mean that 666 business. And they 'phone for them and so on. I am very glad. I thought it was a new invention of the Commissioner of Police of Lagos, but I found out in England that it was there too. It is 999 or something there and here it is 666. They are doing very good work by so doing. But then we were promised that the Police would soon have new uniforms; since last year we were told that they had arrived, but I have not seen any Police in new uniforms. We should like to know what has become of them, or if not, what has become of the money.

Then, Sir, there is the Prison. Well, I am a Prison Visitor to the Prison, and my experience there was that the warders impressed me very much indeed, because I could see that they go about these prisons, now here, now there, in the streets, and indeed I see they do harder work than the Police, because they have not got uniforms and they are as good as prisoners themselves. While the prisoners are working they have to stand with the sun sometimes beating on them. Well, they work all the day, and then when I went to the Prison itself some warders were even in the cells looking after prisoners to see that they are working or in the lock-up. Very hard work indeed. I would not like to be a warder. Well, I think some consideration should be made for them. They are demanding that their position should be considered as good as that of the Police. If they don't want to go further than that I recommend it, Your Excellency, to the Government for consideration.

Then our Post Office, Your Excellency. The same complaint as last year's and, indeed, we do not see any improvement. What I want to ask for this time is that you should kindly see to it that there should be somebody to go and teach the operators, courtesy. Very bad—we are annoyed many times when we pick up a phone. "Wait a minute", "Hold on", and all this. Without any courtesy whatever. I overheard it, I was grieved when I overheard it myself, that that very important Clerk of the Council, before the meeting—one of the operators calling him "Liar" over the

phone. He was talking to me. I don't know why he did not report it. I was very much grieved at it. Well, it is very important to us, Your Excellency, it is time that something should be done now, so that our operators in the Post Office should improve. And now I want to talk about the Savings Bank. Well, we are not satisfied. I have a few pence there, and one day I sent my book there to know what interest was going to come to me. It was there for about two weeks and returned to me without the interest on it, so that I cannot square up my accounts. It is very important, I do not say because I am a member of the Legislative Council they should be attentive to me, but what about the public? I know that a good many people are left longer than that.

Then, Your Excellency, as to the Public Relations Office. We were very doubtful, it will be remembered, I was one of those who were doubtful in the early stages, about the introduction of that Office to Nigeria. We thought it should not be introduced at all. But I should like it to stay now, because we realise the good work that that office is doing, and particularly the gentleman here amongst us. What he did for the Legislative Council last year—how he broadcast—and is doing so this year, and he enables people to know what is being done. I congratulate him for deputizing for the substantive holder of that post. I won't say more in his presence because he is here and I don't want him to get spoilt.

Your Excellency, there is another point—it is over half an hour—just one point more, Your Excellency, and that is about textiles. Well, I was very much pleased indeed to see how the Development Department dealt with the subject of textiles, and great credit to the chairmanship of the Honourable Development Secretary. I don't know, but I begin to be afraid that within a few more years people will not like to buy cloth from England, because our people are doing so well here, that there is no need to send to England to buy, unless those high things that you people put on. We are thankful to Government for introducing textile business to us, and we hope you will encourage the people more. The great thing is getting local people interested. When I went to Oyo I was glad to see one or two having looms in their own houses, working there and producing excellent cloth. Well, I don't know if there is anything like that here in Ibadan, but I believe it will soon be taken up in the North and all over the country. Your Excellency, as I have said, where the Budget Estimates before us are concerned I have nothing but praise for the Financial Secretary, for the hard work he has done, and it is because we are limited to this time that is why I have to sit down now, and say that, Your Excellency, I have great pleasure in supporting the Appropriation Bill.

The Oba of Benin (The Hon. Akenzua II, C.M.G.):

Your Excellency, I am convinced after reading your printed address and hearing your speech and those of the Chief Secretary and the Financial Secretary, that the financial and general administrative policy of the Government is very sound. In the

circumstances I have no strong comment to make just now. However, I wish to refer to the proposed constitutional reforms of Nigeria. Although we know that the political consciousness which is sweeping through the country at the present moment is a sign of progress, yet much emphasis must be laid now and always on the need to progress along the right lines. In many places in this country the indigenous form of government, though not quite identical, is similar to that of England in many respects, and the majority of the people, like our great leaders, are great lovers and respectors and preservers of tradition, custom and everything they hold dear. In this aspect I may say that when it was observed that the people of this country wished to become great men, Government provided them with strong natural wings, which under the present constitution of Nigeria would enable them to fly, in order to get at the desirable freedom which led Lagos to be what they still are. That Britain will grant this country its independence some day is a fact, but this question need not be made an international affair. The Anglo-Nigerian relation need not be unduly strained over the question, the matter should be a domestic one between Britain and Nigeria, and the two countries should be able to settle the question satisfactorily without outside influence. I do not see any need at all to argue about it or back-bite or crucify anyone in the attempt to secure this independence. It seems to me misplaced patriotism or enthusiasm or selfish leadership to do this, and I dare say that this attitude will never do this country any good. As the cartoonist has illustrated the other day in some Nigerian newspapers by the pictures of two giants he called "Political Rivals"—probably representing a large number of young political aspirants—fighting and stabbing each other on the top of a human figure he called "Poor Nigeria" lying fallen and trampled on the ground, one may infer that some leaders intend to kill not only themselves but Nigeria also. The impression that has been created that certain personalities are keeping or are being used to keep down the progress of this country is a wrong and a malicious one, and unless one wilfully refused to admit it, one can see that all people, the servants, the natural rulers and other leaders are working towards the same goal, although perhaps in different ways. This is the time for real constructive work, and those who know or are willing to take direction must not hesitate to go forward. Therefore let us put our anxieties and difficulties to one side and move forward together at the same time for the common good. I must now conclude by saying that I am sure that many people like the kind of freedom which the fairies had many years ago. The facts about that freedom are these. The fairies felt that their national leaders could not be good, or were responsible for the magic which seemed to hold them down, and so they killed them. After killing their natural leaders the fairies sang and danced because they felt they now had freedom. But till this day they do not realise that they and their natural leaders were both under the spell of a good magic. Your Excellency, I support the Appropriation Bill.

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. H. Bowari Brown):

Your Excellency, for many good reasons I had decided to refrain from making a speech. But after reading very carefully Your Excellency's printed address and listening seriously to the very memorable speech you delivered on the opening day of this session, I was moved to change my mind and so I am speaking. As Honourable Members of this House are aware, I have got quite used, Your Excellency, to the malicious, envious and virulent attacks by a section of the Nigerian press each time I have cause to speak in this House or in the House of Assembly, simply because I hold certain views which no one has yet convinced me are wrong or persuaded me to change. I have never been opposed, Your Excellency, to the idea of self-government for Nigeria. How could I take such a stand, a dangerous one at that, while the whole country is clamouring for self-government, and even a section of the British press and members of the British House of Commons are very strongly supporting and justifying our demands for self-government? Sir, what I said, and I still maintain, is this. I do not favour immediate self-government while Nigerians appear to be unable and unwilling to face our common problems and demand our rights with a united front. Your Excellency has suggested that our watchword at this time should be unity through strength. Are we united to-day for the common good and progress of Nigeria as a whole? I do not think that is the case, Your Excellency. We are advised by a section of our people that we should have self-government even now, get rid of the British Government and carry on even by making mistakes, which will eventually be corrected by experience. But, Sir, I beg to ask the following questions: (1) Have we leaders who will divest their minds of all tribal and clannish hatred, malice, animosity and self-seeking as well as create rules to correct our countless mistakes with true spirit of patience, long suffering and tolerance? (2) Have we leaders who will put a full stop to the dangerous practice of using the press and their satellites to malign, denounce, condemn and even intimidate those whose views and opinions do not tally with the declared policy of their political parties?

If these questions could be answered in the affirmative by those aspiring to leadership of the self-governing state of Nigeria, I would gladly welcome the change even to-day, and that is immediate self-government. As my time, Your Excellency, is limited to only half an hour, I should say a few words on the Appropriation Bill before I take my seat, but before doing so I should ask Your Excellency's permission to pay deserving tribute to our new Chief Commissioner—the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces. When we lost Sir Bernard Carr we thought our ship was going astray—there would be no possibility of saving the situation unless we could get a man who would be equally interested in the affairs of the Eastern Provinces as Sir Bernard Carr was. That we have

got, and we thank the Government that our hopes have not been disappointed and we have to-day in the Eastern Provinces as Chief Commissioner, Commander Pyke-Nott, who has already won the affection of the people. We hope that he will remain with us so that all Deputy Heads of Departments working under him at Enugu and the Administrative Officers in the Eastern Provinces will follow his example in the performance of their duties.

Now, Sir, I take first the Posts and Telegraphs who deserve very reasonable and justifiably adverse criticism from all parts of the country. All Honourable Members of this House, the general public of Nigeria and even visitors from overseas, have had nothing good to say about this essential department of Government. Our telegrams are delivered to us days late, telephone calls are answered—as the Honourable Member for the Colony has said—with remarks which are not very pleasant, and as a whole we are not receiving adequate return for the amount of money voted year after year for the discharge of the duties of this department. I am asking very seriously, Your Excellency, that steps should be taken to investigate the working of this department throughout Nigeria. We are not satisfied and we feel at times that our money—the huge amount of money voted for that department plus the excessive increase of staff—is all being wasted for nothing, Sir. The next department I will touch on in the short time at my disposal is the Marine Department, which is more or less connected with my Province—the Rivers Province. Your Excellency, this department, I am sorry to say, has not been able to implement a promise made to my people under the old constitution which was in regard to the supply of two vessels for the Port Harcourt, Degema, Brass services. Each time the question is raised I am told that indents have been sent but it is not possible to get engines, or one thing or the other. But, Sir, bigger vessels have been indented for and obtained since then. How is it that these two vessels have got to remain on the waiting list for ever? The Marine Department has decidedly refused to be of service to us in the Rivers Province. Recently we had the new dredger *Oyo* out, and I had the privilege of meeting the Director of Marine and I requested that instead of dumping the sand—the refuse taken up by the dredger—in the Atlantic Ocean, steps should be taken to use it in reclaiming portions of land at Port Harcourt and Bonny, where reclamation work is urgently needed for expansion of the towns in these areas. But I was told that that was a very difficult job for the Marine Department to undertake. That pipes had to be laid and that the vessel had to lie a good distance from land and all the rest of it. Many excuses were given, and so all the refuse is carried all the way from Port Harcourt and Bonny to the Atlantic Ocean and dumped. I say that is a little unfriendly to us in the Rivers Province. And about education to-day, Sir, I think Government should not forget the pioneering services of the people of the Rivers Province under the Oil Rivers Protectorate, the

Niger Coast Protectorate, Southern Nigeria and now Nigeria. I think when a man has got a new coat he should not there and then decide to cast away the old coat that had saved him in time of cold and storm, into the backyard and forget all about it. It may even be preserved just for remembrance, that at one time or other this old coat had saved him from dying of cold. We ask that Government should turn some attention to the Rivers Province in remembrance of their past services. I have many other comments to make with regard to the Marine Department, but I shall wait until I am privileged to meet the Director in Select Committee.

The next department, Your Excellency, is the Medical. That is another big problem in Nigeria. This Department has been very adversely criticised by the general public and that very justifiably, Sir. Every individual employed in that department practices medicine. I am saying so fully aware of the responsibilities it carries, from the Director himself to the gateman, all are medical practitioners, and women, children and paupers have got to pay something down before they can get any attention in our hospitals. Your Excellency, that is a very serious matter, Sir. I have a case in point and I have brought the card which I will show to the Director of Medical Services when we get into Select Committee. A little boy of eight years of age, the son of a very poor father and mother, had an abdominal accident in which he was injured by an alligator, the intestines gushing out. The parents and their friends managed somehow to have the boy wrapped up in some cloth, and he was conveyed to the Port Harcourt hospital. There, to the utter shame of everybody who was in sympathy with his parents, they were told to get out. Unless they paid three guineas no attention would be paid to this boy. "Three guineas! we cannot afford it. Will you be good enough to accept a guinea which is all I can afford?". "Well, get out, if you will not pay three guineas take your boy away, he can go and die". This little boy was taken out, and the father had to rush about and incur a debt to raise two guineas to make up the three guineas to be paid for the admission of this boy into the hospital. When the three guineas were received, counted and pocketed, then and not until then, was the boy admitted into hospital. He was treated there for a fortnight during which time the hospital gave him no food, and that is another practice which prevails in Nigeria. We have to vote very large sums for hospital diets for our in-patients, but many have no food. Their people have got to carry food to them and sometimes the food may not be suitable for the case, and that in a way, I think, causes a lot of trouble. Medical members here will support me in the view that if you take the wrong diet to a sick person you are doing him more injury than good, so that the money we vote for diets, we do not know where it goes to. You will see in the morning and the afternoon relatives and friends carrying on their heads food for the patients. We ask that the money voted for hospital diets be properly used to provide diets for African patients who are attend-

ing hospital for treatment. I believe as a whole our people are entitled to free medical treatment. The money is Nigeria's money which is voted for the preservation of their health, and I see no reason why they should be charged extra fees for attending hospital. Some of the hospitals, I am sorry to say, Your Excellency, are not as good as the private establishments of private practitioners. I know private practitioners who treat poor people without charging them fees, but in our hospitals if you do not pay a fee actually to the doctor, you will have to pay it to someone at the hospital, from the gateman onwards, and you keep on till you don't know where it will end. I say with all the emphasis at my command, Your Excellency, that those bad practices must stop and I am sure many Honourable Members here will support my statements.

Now the Railway, Sir, has, I think, become a disgrace, Your Excellency. Something should definitely be done to improve the conditions under which our people travel. I said some time ago it was dangerous to the health of our people that 200 should travel in a compartment provided for 114. This time coming from Port Harcourt to Ibadan there were as many as 200 or 300 in a compartment, one sitting on top of the other, with no chance whatever of getting out to attend to the call of nature. Fancy, Your Excellency, a woman, perhaps a sick woman, sitting on a spot, enclosed here and there by other passengers, all the way from Port Harcourt to Kaduna Junction. I am appealing to Honourable Members of this House that we do all we can in Select Committee to improve the situation and persuade our worthy Financial Secretary to take special cognisance of this fact, that the Railway Department is in need of thorough overhauling. We in the East have been getting the worst of the coaches. When they are no more required in Lagos they are sent to the East, and sometimes we travel 100 miles without getting a drop of water to drink and there may be no way of getting any. We are often treated to a feast of cockroaches and bed bugs, etc. If the coaches are no good for Lagos they should be no good for the East either. The same thing applies to the engines, Sir. All the unwanted engines are sent to the East, so that journeys that would ordinarily take four hours take eight. I am asking not only that those improvements should be made, but that the Railway Department should, I think, be a little more careful with regard to the treatment of African employees of that department. We would like to avoid strikes in Nigeria because I am convinced that when we come to look, Sir, in many cases strikes are occasioned by the inefficiency of the people at the top. The men naturally want more money and less work, and when they make their demands it is for the man at the top to be tolerant, to be sympathetic, and to go about things so as to induce the workers to realise that they make a mistake when they make such demands. They must be told that the money that is being lost when strikes are on is not coming from England—it is Nigeria's money which comes from our own taxes and so on, so as to persuade them to be less inclined to cause

strikes. There were no passenger trains for three days because there was a strike—a go-slow strike I think they call it. We were to leave at 7.10, but we did not leave, Sir, until 11.30, because the workers would not do enough. I tried to find out what was the grievance and I came to the conclusion that even though they should not have behaved as they did to the inconvenience of the public, they were justified in certain demands which they were making, and I believe it was not until their demands were satisfied to some extent that we were given the chance of getting an engine to take us to Enugu at snail speed, stopping where it should not stop and so on, so that we took ten hours from Port Harcourt to Enugu. I am sure that nobody would like to travel under such circumstances and I am asking that the Railway Department should be looked into closely. I have much to say in praise of the Administrative Department. Our Administrative Officers continue to work very hard in the Eastern Provinces, where we still have a shortage of officers, but in this respect, Your Excellency, I would like to know whether it is not time yet for Africans who have been advanced to the Senior Service to be posted to the Administrative Department, whether as cadets or Assistant District Officers. Whether it is not time for us to begin to try that experiment. We have been told that we must make mistakes, then why not start to make mistakes in this direction, and have some of our capable Nigerians from our secretariats and other departments promoted Administrative Officers in the junior grade, and train them up to fill the posts which are now vacant? Prisons, Sir. I support the remarks of our worthy and experienced Senior Unofficial Member of the House.

I took up the case some time ago and I have not yet received all the answers to the questions I put in respect of the position of staff in the Prisons Department. These men, I think, do very hard work. Most of the prisons, as Your Excellency is aware, have got to keep lunatics, because we have not asylums for all the lunatics in Nigeria, and the warders have got to take the risk of sleeping with those people and being by them day and night and so on. I am asking, Sir, that the senior posts in the Prisons Department should be brought up to the level of those in the Police Department, as that alone will satisfy those who have reasonable cause to complain about their posts.

Now Public Works—my time is nearly gone. I think this hall is one of the quickest works that has been attributed to the Public Works Department—perhaps they did it by contractors—I don't know—but if the speed at which this work was done could be credited to the Public Works Department, well there is a change in that department coming. We have a lot of works hanging on in the Eastern Provinces—our Eastern House of Assembly which was commenced about a year ago is still not completed, and there are other buildings. They tell us of materials, men, engineers and one thing or the other. The Public Works Department wants a little bit of shaking up, Sir. The work of foreshores, I think, is only

being done in Lagos, never outside Lagos foreshores and port. Some time ago, Sir, when the Director of Marine came to Bonny and I asked him about the piers there and the foreshore business, he said, "Well, that is the P.W.D.'s business", and when I come to the P.W.D. they refer me to the Marine Department or somebody else. Well, in the meantime these foreshores are washing away and the piers are all falling to pieces. If Your Excellency were to visit Bonny to-day, there is no landing stage to set foot on, it has all gone. It is a pity that Government should turn its back on Bonny in this way. There is no reason why after all said and done, Your Excellency should not visit Bonny one day, and if Your Excellency should be pleased to honour Bonny with a visit, where is Your Excellency to land if there is no pier. Are we going to carry you on our heads? And if Your Excellency came by air there would be no landing place either. I think, Sir, some of the materials—I may be going too far—but some of the materials the Public Works complain are in short supply could be manufactured locally. We are asking for autonomy and industrialization of the country, and this is one of the ways in which we can start. We have materials enough to carry on the P.W.D. to-day. We don't have to depend on imports as before. Then why should the work go so slow. They tell me that they are collecting materials for three years to build a bridge. How long this collection of materials will continue and when the actual work of the bridge will commence, heaven only knows. Sir, a very important roadway is awaiting construction, the Ahoada-Yenagoa Road, which goes on to Brass, but up to now nothing has been done. Sir, I am asking that the Public Works Department should give priority to that work if possible. Now to that which I think we clamour most for in addition to self-government namely—education. With regard to that department, Sir, I still maintain as I have always done that we require more and more technical and vocational education in Nigeria. We should not be satisfied only with academic qualifications. We have the University of Ibadan, but if that University is only going to turn out M.A.'s and B.A.'s, and is not going to give us engineers and agricultural experts and geologists and the likes, well it is not much use to Nigeria. We want practical men, experts to enable us to utilize our own raw materials to the best advantage. We have raw materials—mineral, agricultural, forest and so on. And if the men we are sending overseas on scholarships on which we are spending so much money, when they come back as scientists and bachelors of science, etc., etc. undertake some research work and see to what can be done with our local materials, it would be very helpful to Nigeria. No use a man telling me he is an M.Sc. or a B.Sc. if he can manufacture or invent nothing, and all that he has got are letters after his name. He is not of much use to Nigeria, Sir. Now our elementary schools, I am sorry to say, are not comparable at all to the elementary schools of thirty or forty years ago in Nigeria. The curriculum of our elementary schools has been expunged of English-history,

Then we have the wireless telegraph installation at Brass. It is just a wireless telegraph installation in name, that is all. The people there were very much thankful to Government when the installation was given, but I am sorry to say that it is not working properly. When I made enquiries I was told that steps were being taken to indent for new machines. I am asking that this application should be given priority. With regard to electricity itself I think the electric supply for Aba township is long overdue and I do not agree with the many excuses that have been given for the delay, Sir. It is also necessary to take into consideration the electricity supply for Umuahia, the new headquarters for the Owerri Province. These places should be given priority in electricity at least, and not thrown aside because they are outside Lagos. Everything in Lagos is speeded up, but when it comes to the Provinces we have got to wait and cry and shout and complain until we are given a little and told to wait again for another year or so. I am asking that these matters be seriously considered. I am also asking, Sir, that the Development Secretary should endeavour to initiate and encourage schemes whereby we can manufacture locally and more economically from our raw materials such things as cotton goods, cotton fabrics, paper, cement, paint, nails, etc., for which we have to send indents abroad and wait indefinitely for supplies. Whatever we can manage to do here we should do without delay. Your Excellency, I think that I should not take advantage of the support that has been given me by my colleagues. I must come to a close by congratulating the very able Financial Secretary—master of finance. He alone, under existing circumstances, could have manipulated the budget so as to make it into the condition in which it has been presented to us. From the outset Honourable Members of this House have had very great confidence in the ability of our Financial Secretary. When he came to Nigeria it was said that he was lent to us for a period. We rose up like one man and demanded that he should be appointed to the substantive post, and he has done his work very, very well. We have no cause whatsoever to complain, but we hope that he will have the necessary health and strength to carry on this job. To rack one's brain to produce these figures—we must bow to him, that is all. And as regards our Chief Secretary. It is no use saying anything. We have got the right man in the right place. Wherever he goes he is a credit to Nigeria. We are proud to have him and, as I say, we have a trio of very capable men to lead us in our forward march to whatever is before Nigeria—Your Excellency, the Chief Secretary and the Financial Secretary. Your Excellency, I have very great pleasure in supporting the Appropriation Bill and I hope that the Financial Secretary will see to it that next year our budget is completely balanced with a surplus.

The First Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. A. Obisesan, O.B.E.):

Your Excellency, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill moved in a very able and telling Speech by the Honourable the Financial Secretary on Saturday the 12th instant. Mr Savage proved once more to the House that he is a man whose knowledge of Finance is superb. I heartily congratulate him.

Sir, I feel it is my duty to call the attention of Your Excellency to that part of the Honourable Financial Secretary's Speech bearing on priority consideration being given to the Rural and Urban Water Supply. Medical Authorities have never failed at any time to tell us that the more we have good water to drink, the less disease we have. If there is any place in my Constituency where there is dire need of water supply, it is in the rural area; in the Western House of Assembly, I called attention to this and it is only fitting and proper to supplement what I said; people living in towns and cities, think less, as a rule, of those living in the farm villages, they being regarded as of secondary consideration. I would call Your Excellency's Government's attention to the places in Ibadan district where at certain times of the year, they have no water at all and have to travel to a distance of fifteen to twenty miles to get it, and where they are lucky to have it, the colour is like that of petrol, thus from sanitary point of view, not good for drinking.

Sir, I will now deal with the increased production of Palm Produce. In the Western Provinces, there are thousands of palm trees whose fruits are not collected at all simply because the climbers cannot reach their height; for centuries, the climbing rope invented by the African remains the same without any improvement, but experience shows now that this has got to be improved on modern lines. When last I was in the United Kingdom and saw what is generally known as Lift or Elevator, the thought at once came to me whether it would not be a good thing to appeal to our Agricultural Department to make a move to contact the men whose genius has invented the Lift with a view to assist to invent a mechanical climbing rope which would take the climber to the top of every high palm tree; surely this can be done if the Department will take it up seriously. May I mention in passing, Your Excellency, that there are Firms of Engineers in the United Kingdom who are willing to assist the people of this country in things of this kind if they could only be approached and our real needs made known to them. I put this request to Your Excellency's Government, because I believe and am convinced that with mechanical device of this kind, the quantity of oil palm produce could be increased threefold.

Now Your Excellency, to Cocoa; I have a strong faith in the Price Stabilisation of cocoa and other produce of Nigeria. I know of no one among the farmers who desires to return to the old system whereby he sells his produce today for 50s and tomorrow

and (ii) because there appears to be the tendency that, since there is the money, we find it difficult to get out of the idea of spending even all, at all costs. It is rather a heart-freezing matter that our total Annual Expenditure taken from our total Annual Revenue, instead of leaving some appreciable saving for anything of importance like a Stabilisation Fund for possible difficult times ahead, we have to face deficit. One might not entertain the least qualm if, with these ever-increasing items of expenditure, corresponding sources of revenue are being devised. We do not need to wait until there is another world-wide slump in trade before we decide to exercise the discretion necessary for the curtailment of our expenditure. After all, the idea of Economy is just as important to the individual as it is to the State, and I would humbly ask that some degree of urgency be exercised in making the necessary adjustments in the Expenditure columns of our Budget.

It may, however, be argued that no item of Expenditure is inserted or made without the approval of this Council through its Finance Committee. To this, I submit, it is the Government that prepares or drafts the Estimates, and with their knowledge of both the Nigerian Revenue available and the internal workings of all Departments, the Government is specifically responsible to cut down the "departmental coats" according to fitting measurements. After all, Unofficial Members have always had only a few days or weeks to scrutinise the voluminous publication known as "The Estimates of Nigeria" with an endless string of Notes and Memoranda, which took very good brains several months to prepare. Given the time necessary enough for a minute, close and thorough scrutiny, I feel sure the Government will not find the approval given by Unofficial Members quite as easy as it is at present, and I submit again that we must now regulate our Expenditure so that the time may not come, and come quickly, when the necessity for a Commission of Enquiry into the Departmental Expenditure of most of our Government Departments will arise.

I wish to say a word on the much discussed subject known in these days as the Development Plan. I have, not infrequently, found myself in the awkward position of receiving a barrage of questions from honest enquirers as to when Benin Province can benefit from the Funds of the Colonial Development and Welfare Vote, or, to put it the other way—what practical works in the nature of Water Supply, Roads and Bridges, Electricity, Agricultural and Veterinary Undertakings, and Technical Education, have been executed within the last three or four years when the Development Plan first saw the light of day, for the benefit of the peoples in Benin Province? My replies of shortage of materials and lack of suitably qualified staff to do the various jobs proposed, sound much too stale and stereotyped to impress my enquirers for obvious reasons, and I wish to say that the time is now due for some concrete action, with men and materials available, to be taken in order to show that the Development Plan does not begin and end entirely on the paper on which it was first proposed.

The Honourable the Financial Secretary has been frank enough to inform this Council of the possible increase by some £20 million on the original cost of £55 million of our Development Plan, *i.e.*, an added cost of £5 million a year, due chiefly to the delay in putting the various work in hand because suitably qualified men and materials are not available. This, I fear, is a very costly delay indeed, which must be avoided, otherwise this country will be faced in another four years with a total additional charge nearly equal to the original vote, as the price for delay. Could not, I ask, a decision be taken in this Honourable Council that all Development Works in the nature of Roads, Buildings, etc., be given out on Contract?

It is a matter of much regret that the Posts and Telegraphs Department has persistently allowed itself to be so much in the news for unsatisfactory services rendered for some time. Complaints about the late delivery of letters and telegrams seem not to move those who direct the affairs of this important Department of our Public Service. Patrons pay comparatively higher regulated charges for telegrams in order to ensure the quickest means of delivery instead of the cheap means for correspondence by ordinary post. And yet our Posts and Telegraphs Department is unable to appreciate the need for urgency in the handling of all such private telegrams. We now live in days when locomotive and motor transports have become definitely faster than the telegraph line, and the extremely lame excuse of the use of aeroplanes for the conveyance of delayed telegrams from places of origin to their destinations is nothing short of gross inefficiency, to my mind, on the part of those concerned. I should stress that the Government must not allow this Department to go on in this way and the sooner a sense of obligation and responsibility is adopted by its entire staff, from their Director right down to the least of his Messengers, the better it will be for Nigeria and its peoples.

I should not like to believe, Sir, that Government is indifferent to the appeals for the tarring of the Ibadan-Ilesha-Benin and the Benin-Sapele-Warri Roads. It makes us feel that we are merely invited to this Council to air our views and leave them at that. Both in this Council and in the meetings of the Western House of Assembly I had previously called attention to the very unsatisfactory condition of these roads. I am sure that a trip on these roads by any hard hearted official would convince him of the necessity for serious action, more especially in these days when vehicle licences have been increased. It may be said, however, Sir, that at the moment the staff of the Public Works Department are busy on these roads or some portions of them, but I think it is equally true to say that hardly has any real improvement taken place. I wish therefore to submit for serious consideration, Sir, that in future such urgent work as road-tarring and construction be done by Contract.

page 271 there is yet another provision for some £430,000. Of these sums totalling nearly £3,000,000, not a penny is to be spent on electricity in Benin City—the forgotten area. I submit, Your Excellency, that this is disheartening enough.

We feel it is something near shame that with the long connection of Benin City with the United Kingdom over half a century ago, we cannot yet boast of this very useful social amenity, because the hackneyed excuse of shortage of materials and lack of suitably qualified staff can still be applied in our case. I therefore appeal to Your Excellency to help us.

There is a feeling in Benin and Warri Provinces that the distribution of Scholarships, tenable at Ibadan and the United Kingdom, has not been as fair as it looks on paper. I am sure there are qualified sons and daughters of these two Provinces, within and outside the Government and Native Administrations Offices and Departments, who would acquit themselves creditably if awarded such scholarships. Again, I must repeat that the notion that Government makes a pet child of certain areas be very quickly erased from the minds of the peoples of these two Provinces. If, in fact, the immediate goal is Internal Self-Rule, and the ultimate goal is Self-Government, for Nigeria, it becomes absolutely necessary that all the areas within its three Regions must be given equal or evenly distributed opportunities, as much as possible, for advancement in the training of Nigerians generally and in the matter of the Nigerianisation of the Public Service.

Your Excellency, I beg to support the Appropriation Bill.

His Excellency :

If no other Honourable Members wishes to speak this morning the debate will be resumed tomorrow. I am grateful to the Honourable Members who have co-operated by speaking this morning and I hope that tomorrow we may make even greater progress. Before we adjourn this morning there is one matter to which I wish to make reference. I am glad to see that the Honourable the Acting Commissioner of the Colony has safely recovered from his illness and is with us this morning. Had he been here the other day when I announced the membership of the Select Committee with regard to the methods of constitutional review, I would, of course, have added his name to the Select Committee, and I do so now.

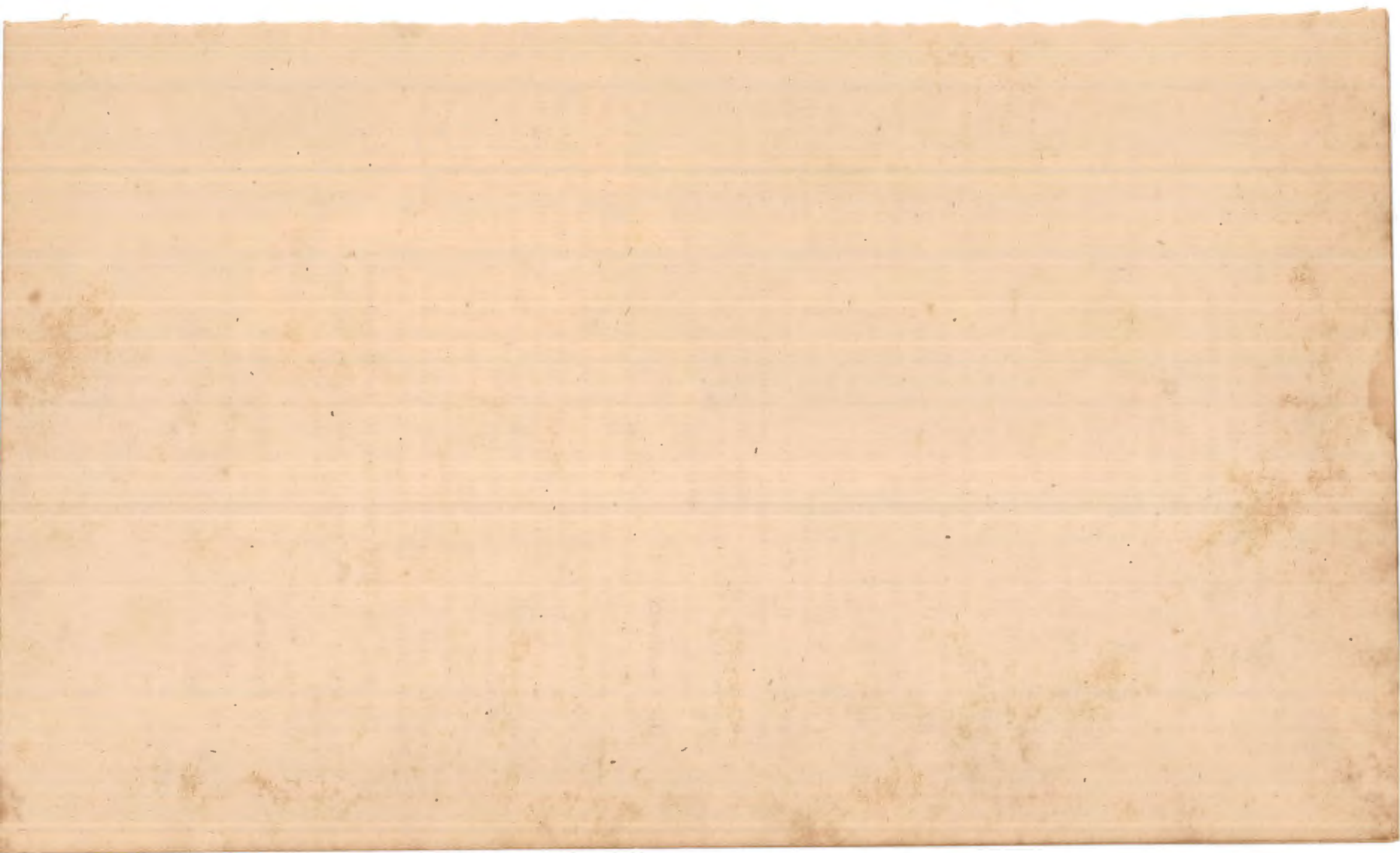
The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

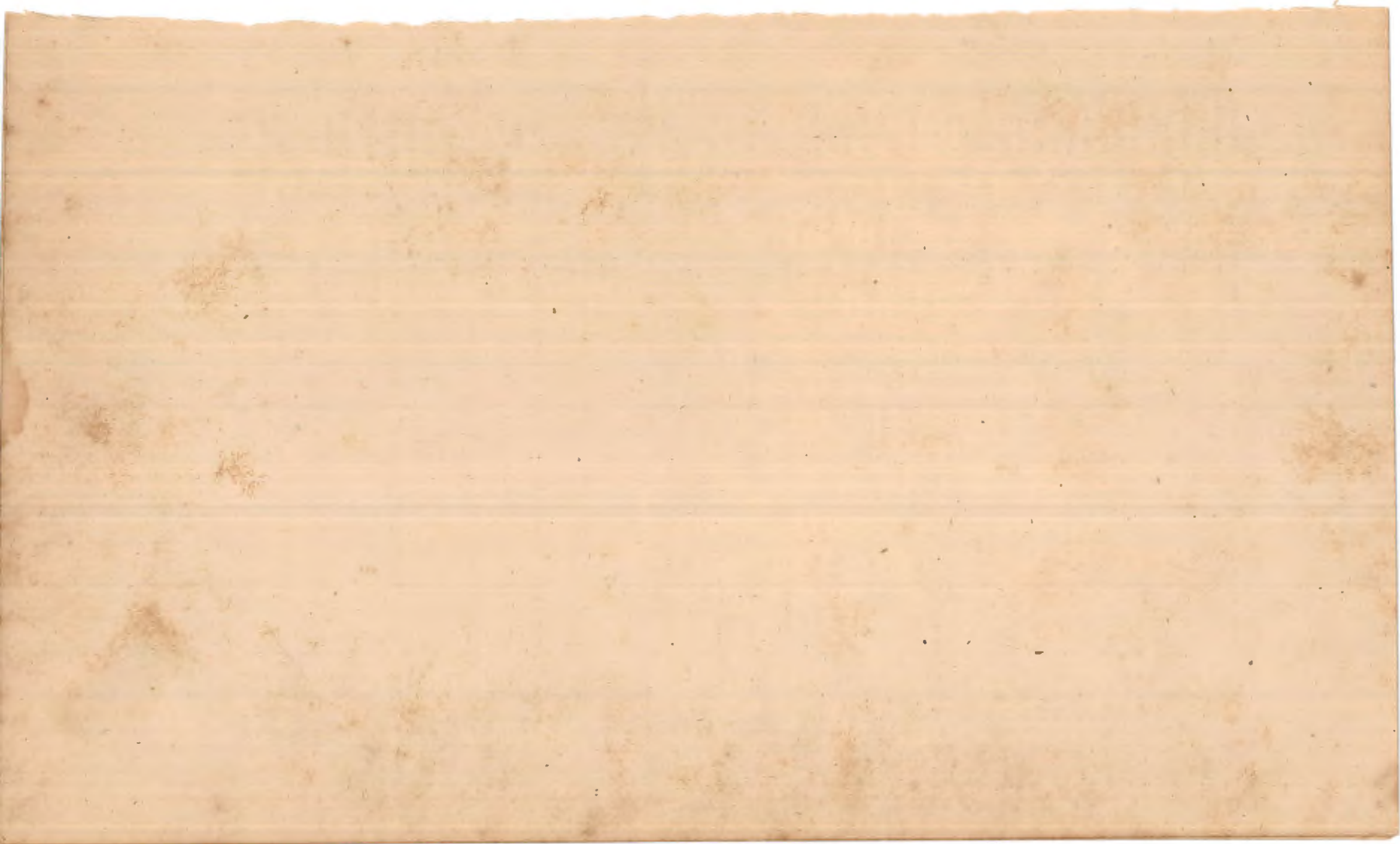
Perhaps I may be permitted to remind Honourable Members that Select Committee is to meet this afternoon at 5 o'clock in the Catering Rest House.

His Excellency :

We shall meet again tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

Council adjourned at 12.15 p.m.





INDEX

	<i>Page</i>
ADEDOYIN, ADELEKE	
The Nigeria Cotton Marketing Ordinance, 1949	223
Motion—(Return of Scholarship holders to Nigeria on completion of course of training)	256-262
Motion—(Select Committee on Constitutional Review of Nigeria)	325-326 328-329
Notice of Motion	337
Notice of Questions	337-338 361
AKENZUA II, OBA OF BENIN	
The 1949-50 Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading) ..	368-369
General Administrative Policy	368
Constitutional Reforms	369
ATTORNEY-GENERAL	
The Royal West African Frontier Force (Nigeria Regiment) Courts-Martial Validation (1st Reading)	30
The Diplomatic Privileges (Extension) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	34-35
The Widows' and Orphans' Pension (Palestine Ex-Officers) Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	41
The Minerals (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	42
The Labour Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	42 43
Answer to Question No. 194	200
Answer to Question No. 365	210
Answer to Question No. 396	213
The Nigeria Groundnut Marketing Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	217
The Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	220 221
The Nigeria Cotton Marketing Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	225
The Public Holidays (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	229
The R.W.A.F.F. (Nigeria Regiment) Courts-Martial Validation Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	230 231
The Diplomatic Privileges (Extension) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	234
The Widows' and Orphans' Pension (Palestine Ex-Officers) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	235 236
The Labour Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	237
Motion—(Return of Scholarship holders to Nigeria on completion of course of training)	259 264
The Development Loan (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	265
The Land Registration (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	265
The Periodicals and Publications Ordinance (1st Reading)	267
Motion—(Select Committee on Constitutional Review of Nigeria)	325
The Development Loan (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	330
The Land Registration (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	330 331
AZIKIWE, DR NNAMDI	
Petitions	131 132-133
Question No. 6	135
Question No. 10	136
Question No. 13	136-137
Question No. 14	138
Question No. 17	139
Question No. 131	184
Supplementary Question to No. 131	184-185
Question No. 132	185
Question No. 133	185-186
Question Nos. 136, 137	186
Supplementary Question to No. 137	187
Question No. 138	187
Supplementary Question to No. 138	187
Question Nos. 139, 140, 144	188

	<i>Page</i>
Question Nos. 145, 148	189
Question No. 149	189-190
Question No. 153	190
Supplementary Question to No. 153	191
Question Nos. 158, 159	191
Supplementary to Question No. 159	191
Question No. 162	192
Question No. 167	192-193
Question No. 168	193-194
Question Nos. 169, 170, 172	195
Question Nos. 177, 178	196
Question No. 179	197-198
Question Nos. 186, 188	198
Question Nos. 189, 190	199
Question No. 194	200
Question No. 238	201
Question No. 252	202-203
Question Nos. 253, 256	203
Question No. 261	203-204
Supplementary to Question No. 261	204
Question No. 266	204
Question No. 268	205
Question Nos. 283, 292, 293	206
Question Nos. 299, 300	207
Question No. 319	207-208
Question Nos. 320, 321, 325	208
Question No. 356	209
Question Nos. 358, 365, 366	210
Question Nos. 368, 370	211
Question Nos. 372, 376, 384	212
Supplementary to Question No. 384	213
The Public Holidays (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	228
The R.W.A.F.F. (Nigeria Regiment) Courts-Martial Validation Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	230
The Diplomatic Privileges (Extension) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	234
Motion—(Return of Scholarship holders to Nigeria on completion of course of training)	261
The Periodicals and Publications Ordinance (1st Reading)	266-267 267-268
Supplementary to Question No. 85	281
Supplementary to Question No. 88	282
Supplementary to Question No. 103	284
Question No. 134	286
Question No. 141	286-287
Supplementary to Question No. 141	287
Question No. 142	287
Question Nos. 146, 151	288
Question No. 152	290
Question No. 155	291
Question Nos. 157, 161	292
Supplementary to Question No. 161	293
Question No. 165	293
Supplementary to Question No. 165	294
Question No. 171	294-295
Question No. 175	295
Question Nos. 181, 184	296
Question No. 197	297
Question No. 244	297-298
Question No. 245	299
Question No. 246	300
Question No. 247	300-301
Question No. 265	301
Question Nos. 282, 312, 313, 314	303
Question Nos. 317, 318	304
Question Nos. 324, 326	305
Supplementary to Question No. 326	305
Question No. 328	305-306
Question No. 357	306

	<i>Page</i>
Supplementary to Question No. 357	307
Question Nos. 361, 371, 378	307
Supplementary to Question No. 378	308
Supplementary to Question No. 413	314
Supplementary to Question No. 417	315
Motion—(Select Committee on Constitutional Review of Nigeria)	325
BALEWA, ABUBAKAR TAFAWA	
Notice of Motion (Setting up of Special Scholarship Fund for the Northern Provinces)	241
Motion—(Return of Scholarship holders to Nigeria on completion of course of training)	255
Motion—(Select Committee on Constitutional Review of Nigeria)	326
BROWN, H. BUOWARI	
Question No. 20	140
Question No. 27	143
Question No. 411	214-215
The Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Ordinance 1949 (2nd Reading)	222
Question No. 406	311
Question No. 412	312
Question No. 413	312-313
The 1949-50 Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	370-378
Constitutional Reforms	370
New Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces	370-371
Posts and Telegraphs	371
Marine Department	371-372
Medical Department	372-373
Railway Department	373-374
Provincial Administration	374
Prisons Department	374
Public Works Department	374-375
Education Department	375-376
Visit to Belgian Congo	376
Colonial Development Scheme	377-378
Financial Secretary and the Budget	378
CHIEF COMMISSIONER, EASTERN PROVINCES	
Oath	3
Answer to Question No. 37	150
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 37	151
Answer to Question No. 141	287
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 141	287
Answers to Question Nos. 312, 313	303
Answer to Question No. 314	304
CHIEF COMMISSIONER, NORTHERN PROVINCES	
The Public Holidays (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (First Reading)	28-29
Answer to Question No. 26	142-143
The Public Holidays (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	228-229
CHIEF COMMISSIONER, WESTERN PROVINCES	
Answer to Question No. 5	135
Answer to Question No. 6	135-136
Answer to Question No. 12	136
Answer to Question No. 17	139
Answer to Question No. 197	297
Answer to Question No. 282	303
Answer to Question No. 326	305
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 326	305
CHIEF SECRETARY	
Papers Laid	3 4 5 and 241
Questions	17
The R.W.A.F.F. (Nigeria Regiment) Courts-Martial Validation Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	31
The Diplomatic Privileges (Extension) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	34
The Waterworks (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	42
Programme of Business for the Session	43 237

	<i>Page</i>
Answer to Question No. 3	134
Answer to Question No. 13	137-138
Answer to Question No. 14	138
Answer to Question No. 16	139
Answer to Question No. 22	140-141
Answer to Question No. 23	141
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 23	141
Answer to Question No. 24	142
Answer to Question No. 27	143
Answer to Question No. 30	146-147
Answer to Question No. 33	147-148
Answer to Question No. 35	149
Answer to Question No. 38	151-152
Answer to Question No. 39	152-153
Answer to Question No. 41	153
Answer to Question No. 44	154-155
Answer to Question No. 45	155
Answer to Question No. 51	157
Answer to Question No. 53	158-159
Answers to Question Nos. 58, 59	160
Answer to Question No. 63	163
Answer to Question No. 67	164-165
Answer to Question No. 68	165
Answer to Question No. 70	166
Answer to Question No. 71	166-167
Answer to Question No. 72	167
Answer to Question No. 73	167-168
Answers to Question Nos. 78, 79	170
Answer to Question No. 80	170-174
Answers to Question Nos. 81, 82	175
Answers to Question Nos. 83, 87	176
Answer to Question No. 90	177-178
Answer to Question No. 93	178-179
Answers to Question Nos. 95, 98	179
Answer to Question No. 100	180
Answer to Question No. 124	182-183
Answer to Question No. 125	183
Answers to Question Nos. 127, 130, 131	184
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 131	185
Answer to Question No. 132	185
Answer to Question No. 133	186
Answer to Question No. 138	187
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 138	187
Answers to Question Nos. 139, 140, 144	188
Answers to Question Nos. 145, 148	189
Answer to Question No. 149	190
Answer to Question No. 167	193
Answer to Question No. 168	194
Answers to Question Nos. 169, 170, 172	195
Answer to Question No. 177	196
Answer to Question No. 178	196-7
Answer to Question No. 179	198
Answer to Question No. 190	200
Answer to Question No. 238	202
Answers to Question Nos. 252, 253, 256	203
Answer to Question No. 261	204
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 261	204
Answer to Question No. 266	204
Answer to Question No. 268	205
Answer to Question No. 283	206
Answer to Question No. 300	207
Answer to Question No. 321	208
Answers to Question Nos. 325, 356	209
Answer to Question No. 358	210
Answers to Question Nos. 366, 368	211
Answer to Question No. 370	211-212
Answers to Question Nos. 372, 384	212
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 384	213

	<i>Page</i>
Answer to Question No. 411	214
Answers to Question Nos. 418, 437	215
The Nigeria Cotton Marketing Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	224
The Diplomatic Privileges (Extension) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	234
The Waterworks (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	236-237
Motion—(Return of Scholarship holders to Nigeria on completion of course of training)	257-259 261 264
The Development Loan (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	265
The Land Registration (Amendment) Ordinance (1st Reading)	265
The Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	273
Answer to Question No. 43	277-278
Answer to Question No. 50	279
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 50	279
Answer to Question No. 65	280
Answer to Question No. 85	281
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 85	281
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 88	282
Answer to Question No. 103	283
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 103	284
Answer to Question No. 142	287-288
Answer to Question No. 146	288
Answer to Question No. 151	288-289
Answer to Question No. 152	290-291
Answer to Question No. 155	291
Answer to Question No. 157	292
Answer to Question No. 165	293-294
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 165	294
Answer to Question No. 171	295
Answer to Question No. 175	295-296
Answer to Question No. 244	298
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 244	299
Answer to Question No. 245	299-300
Answer to Question No. 246	300
Answer to Question No. 247	301
Answers to Question Nos. 317, 318	304
Answer to Question No. 328	306
Answer to Question No. 357	306-307
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 357	307
Answer to Question No. 361	307
Answer to Question No. 378	308
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 378	308
Answer to Question No. 390	308
Answer to Question No. 397	309
Answer to Question No. 398	310
Answer to Question No. 402	311
Answer to Question No. 406	311-312
Answer to Question No. 412	312
Answer to Question No. 417	314
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 417	315
Answers to Question Nos. 436, 447, 458	316
Motions—reversal of order of	316
Motion—(Select Committee on Constitutional Review of Nigeria)	320-324 325
	326-327 328 329-330 and 386
The Development Loan (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	330
The Land Registration (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	331
Reply to Notice of Questions	335

COMMISSIONER OF THE COLONY

Answer to Question No. 69	165-166
Answer to Question No. 299	207
Answer to Question No. 88	281
Answer to Question No. 94	282
Answer to Question No. 101	283
Answer to Question No. 324	305
Answer to Question No. 392	309
Oath	361

COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR

Oath	3
Employment of Ex-Servicemen (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	17
The Labour Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	42
Answers to Question Nos. 188 and 189	199
The Employment of Ex-Servicemen (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	216
The Labour Code Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	237
Answer to Question No. 424	315

DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

The Nigeria Groundnut Marketing Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	21
The Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	24
The Nigeria Cotton Marketing Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	28
The Local Loans (Registered Stock and Securities) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	28
The Regional Development Boards Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	31-34
The Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	40
Answer to Question No. 4	134
Answer to Question No. 20	140
Answer to Question No. 158	191
Answer to Question No. 162	192
Answer to Question No. 186	198
Answer to Question No. 376	212
The Nigeria Groundnut Marketing Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	216 219
The Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	219 222
The Nigeria Cotton Marketing Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	223 227
The Local Loans (Registered Stock and Securities) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	227 228
The Regional Development Boards Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	231-233
Motion—(Investigation into the Economics of the Cocoa Industry)	243
Motion—(Transfer of the General Revenue Balance to the Supplementary Sinking Fund)	245
Motion—(Improvements to the Collieries at Enugu)	246
The Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	272
Answer to Question No. 161	292-293
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 161	293
Motion—(Allocation of General Revenue Balances)	320
The Excise Tariff (Cigarettes) Resolution, 1949	339
The 1949-50 Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	358
The 1949-50 Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	362

DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE

Answer to Question No. 62	161-162
Answer to Question No. 108	180
Answers to Question Nos. 110, 116, 118	181
Answer to Question No. 121	182
Answers to Question Nos. 105, 109	284
Answers to Question Nos. 112, 114, 115	285

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Answer to Question No. 10	136
Answer to Question No. 28	145-146
Answer to Question No. 32	147
Answer to Question No. 36	149-150
Answer to Question No. 292	206
Answer to Question No. 293	206-207
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 293	207
Motion—(Deposit of complimentary copy of books, periodicals, etc., published locally in the Ibadan University College)	252 253
Motion—(Return of Scholarship holders to Nigeria on completion of course of training)	261
Answer to Question No. 54	279-280
Answer to Question No. 181	296
Answer to Question No. 184	297
Answer to Question No. 371	307

DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES

Answer to Question No. 2	133
Answer to Question No. 19	139-140
Answer to Question No. 34	148
Answer to Question No. 40	153
Answer to Question No. 49	156-157
Answer to Question No. 52	157-158
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 52	158
Answer to Question No. 56	159
Answer to Question No. 57	160
Answer to Question No. 64	163
Answer to Question No. 66	163-164
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 66	164
Answer to Question No. 75	168
Answer to Question No. 77	168-169
Answer to Question No. 86	176
Answer to Question No. 89	177
Answer to Question No. 91	178
Answer to Question No. 320	208
Answer to Question No. 48	278-279
Answer to Question No. 129	286
Answer to Question No. 415	314

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Waterworks (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	41
Answer to Question No. 159	191
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 159	191-192
The Waterworks (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	236
Answer to Question No. 126	286
Answer to Question No. 413	313
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 413	314
Answer to Question No. 421	315

ESSIEN, N.

Motion—(Return of Scholarship holders to Nigeria on completion of course of training)	260
The Periodicals and Publications Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	272
Motion—(Select Committee on Constitutional Review of Nigeria)	327

FINANCIAL SECRETARY :

The Nigeria Groundnut Marketing Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	17-20
The Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	21-24
The Nigeria Cotton Marketing Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	24-28
The Local Loans (Registered Stock and Securities) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	28
The Manilla Prohibition Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	29-30
The Regional Development Boards Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	34
The Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	35-39
The Widows' and Orphans' Pension (Palestine Ex-Officers) Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	40-41
Answer to Question No. 136	186
Answer to Question No. 137	186-7
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 137	187
Answer to Question No. 153	191
Answer to Supplementary Question No. 153	191
Answer to Question No. 266	204-5
Answer to Question No. 319	208
Answer to Question No. 403	214
The Nigeria Groundnut Marketing Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	216-219
The Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	219-222
The Nigeria Cotton Marketing Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	223 224
	225-226 227
The Local Loans (Registered Stock and Securities) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	227 228
The Manilla Prohibition Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	229 230
The Regional Development Boards Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	231 233
The Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	234





NIGERIA

Legislative Council Debates

THIRD SESSION

*8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th,
18th, 23rd, 30th and 31st March, 1949*

VOLUME II

15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 23rd, 30th and 31st March, 1949

1-466



Debates in the Legislative Council of Nigeria

Tuesday, 15th March, 1949

Pursuant to notice the Honourable Members of the Legislative Council met in the Hall of the Western House of Assembly, Ibadan, at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, the 15th of March, 1949.

PRESENT

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- His Excellency the Governor,
Sir John S. Macpherson, K.C.M.G.
- The Chief Secretary to the Government,
The Honourable H. M. Foot, C.M.G., O.B.E.
- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,
His Honour T. C. Hoskyns-Abrahall, C.M.G.
- The Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces,
His Honour E. W. Thompstone, C.M.G., M.O.
- The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,
His Honour Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, C.M.G.
- The Attorney-General,
The Honourable G. L. Howe, K.C.
- The Financial Secretary,
The Honourable A. W. L. Savage, C.M.G.
- The Director of Medical Services,
Dr the Honourable G. B. Walker, C.B.E.
- The Development Secretary,
The Honourable C. J. Pleass.
- The Director of Education,
The Honourable R. A. McL. Davidson, C.M.G.
- The Director of Agriculture,
The Honourable A. G. Beattie.
- The Director of Public Works,
The Honourable R. W. Taylor.
- The Commissioner of Labour,
The Honourable A. H. Couzens.
- The Acting Commissioner of the Colony,
The Honourable J. G. C. Allen.
- The Senior Resident, Kano Province,
The Honourable E. K. Featherstone, C.M.G.
- The Resident, Ogoja Province,
The Honourable P. M. Riley.
- The Resident, Abeokuta Province,
The Honourable J. H. Blair, E.D.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Member for the Colony,
The Rev. and Honourable T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.
- The First Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Obisesan, O.B.E.
- The Second Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.
- The First Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable I. Olerun-Nimbe.
- The Emir of Gwandu,
The Honourable Yahaya, C.B.E.
- The Emir of Katsina,
Alhaji the Honourable Usuman Nagogo, C.B.E.
- The Oni of Ife,
The Honourable Aderemi I, C.M.G.
- The Oba of Benin,
The Honourable Akenzua II, C.M.G.
- The Atta of Igbirra,
Alhaji the Honourable Ibrahim.
- The Emir of Abuja,
The Honourable Sulemanu.
- The First Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Bello Kano.
- The First Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable C. D. Onyeama.
- The Second Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.
- The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable H. Buowari Brown.
- The Third Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Iro Katsina.
- The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable A. Ikoku.
- The Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Aliyu, Makaman Bida.
- The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.
- The Second Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe.
- The First Nominated Member,
The Honourable P. J. Rogers.
- The Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Yahaya Ilorin.
- The Third Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.
- The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable N. Essien.
- The Third Lagos Member,
The Honourable Adeleke Adedoyin.

The Member for Calabar,
The Honourable E. E. Anwan.
The Second Nominated Member,
Major the Honourable J. West, M.C.
The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Soetan.

ABSENT

UNOFFICIAL MEMBER

The Third Nominated Member,
The Honourable N. B. Edwards.

PRAYERS

His Excellency the Governor opened the proceedings of the Council with prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14th of March, 1949, having been printed and circulated to the Honourable Members, were taken as read and confirmed.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

Sir, may it please Your Excellency, I rise to give notice of the following Motion:—

“ Be it resolved:

- “ 1. That the speech of His Excellency, the Governor
“ and President of the Legislative Council of
“ Nigeria delivered to this Honourable House on
“ Tuesday the 8th of March, 1949, be translated
“ into all written vernacular languages in Nigeria
“ for the information and education of the illiterate
“ mass by free and wide distribution.
- “ 2. That the salient paragraph in the Budget Address
“ of the Honourable the Financial Secretary about
“ the source of financial administration of Nigeria
“ should also be translated into vernacular
“ languages of Nigeria and distributed freely and
“ widely among the illiterate mass for their
“ edification ”.

The First Nominated Member (The Hon. P. J. Rogers):

Sir, I beg to second.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

Sir, I rise to give notice of the following questions:—

To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

1. Is it a fact that for messengers to qualify for scale K3 by long service they must have put in twenty-five years service?
2. Is this not an inordinately long time to serve for a commencing salary of £6 a month and maximum salary, after a further term of four years, of £7 a month?

3. What are the particular qualifications required and referred to in paragraph 1 of the Chief Secretary's Circular No. 90/1947 (M.P. 27799) to entitle messengers to this "special" grade of K3?

4. In view of the low salary grade of messengers will Government consider providing them with quarters, or giving them allowances in lieu thereof?

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

Sir, I rise to give notice of the following questions:—

To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

1. (a) How much (approximately) does the Cashier of the Electricity Department, Lagos, handle every month?

(b) What is the Grade and Salary of the Cashier?

2. (a) Is there any special type of dress prescribed to be worn by Barristers and Solicitors when practising before Magistrates in Nigeria?

(b) If the answer to (a) above be in the negative, could lawyers appear before Magistrates in decent African dress?

(c) If the answer to (b) above be in the affirmative, will all Magistrates be so informed by circular?

BILLS

(Second Reading)

THE 1949-50 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1949

The First Nominated Member (The Hon. P. J. Rogers):

Your Excellency, two years ago at the first Budget Session of this Council, the Honourable the Financial Secretary told us with a sinister gleam in his eye that there were only two certain things in this life. The first was death, the second was taxation.

Well, we must assume he is correct about the former, and alas experience has taught us that he is undoubtedly correct about taxation. I myself find this so distasteful a subject that I do not even like to think about it, let alone stand on my feet and talk about it. But I would, however, like to refer very briefly to the Budget speech.

There are people I understand who say that our Financial Secretary is both stony hearted and over-cautious. Your Excellency, I entirely disagree, he is merely stony hearted; but to be a successful Financial Secretary one must be stony hearted. As for over-caution, I do not agree, for I entirely support Government's financial policy which I consider to be sound and far sighted.

It is I think unfortunate that it has been necessary to increase the tax on local Companies right up to the United Kingdom level, but the relief passed in this Council recently for the first few years of small new companies should ensure there is sufficient encouragement in this direction.

May I now turn to another aspect of our national life?

There is one word today that is of desperate importance, one word that stands above all others in this country—Development, and by Development I mean Economic Development, for on it depends the health, the education, the multitude of social and other services so urgently desired and so necessary in Nigeria. For like it as little as we may, the cold, hard fact remains that if we cannot pay for schools and doctors, we cannot have them.

Apart from the expansion to Nigerian prosperity which we are all determined shall come to pass, the need for development, particularly in Agriculture, is urgent in order even that existing standards can be maintained. For let there be no mistake about it, the time will come perhaps sooner than many of us imagine when we shall have to say to ourselves, not how much can we produce, but how much can we sell? There will only be one answer—quality coupled with price.

When our Agricultural position is examined certain sombre facts emerge. The competition with which we shall shortly be faced in the field of oilseed production is well known, but even now I am afraid that many do not fully appreciate how closely our fortunes are tied to the economic production of our crops and how narrow is the margin between prosperity and dire want.

At the beginning of the century Nigeria was virtually the sole provider of the world requirements in Palm Oil and Palm Kernels. How gravely the situation has since deteriorated and, what is worse, is likely to deteriorate still further in the near future is vividly shown by the following figures. In 1928, world consumption stood at the greatly increased figure of about 500,000 tons, but Nigeria's share had shrunk from 100 per cent to 69 per cent. In 1938, just ten years later, consumption was almost doubled but Nigeria was now providing but 46 per cent.

How much could we sell today if we had it? One and a half million tons, two million? But alas, by our out-of-date methods of productions, this golden opportunity to re-establish our supremacy is rapidly slipping through our fingers. Our output and worse still our quality has changed little in the past twenty years. This stagnation is costing Nigeria over £40 million per annum. Apart from the indirect revenue which would accrue from it, it represents almost £2½ million in Export Duty alone. There are our schools, our Hospitals, our Roads.

Turning to Groundnuts. Is there any better news here, what improvement has taken place within recent years, or is now planned? Many Honourable Members may be satisfied with the recent succession of bumper crops, I am not, for if we could produce it at the right price we could certainly sell twice the existing outturn of 300,000 tons per year. Again, this represents £6,000,000 and an Export Duty of almost £1 million.

Taking the question of Palm Oil Mills first. A year ago three were in operation, today there are six. I think Government were wise to commence slowly, but I feel sure they will agree the experimental stage is now over, the mills have proved themselves. The trickle must become a flow, the flow a torrent, for on the output figures I have given you we require 700 of these Mills.

The position regarding ploughing has already been explained. During the last year there has been an increase of 30 per cent. This is an improvement but I would call for even greater efforts. There should be a plough and oxen for every farmer who wants them and every farmer should want them. In March, 1948, we had two tractors, we now have seven. This is, of course, a mere gesture.

As I have already said, this rapid development must be a partnership. Some producers are still not co-operating. I would call upon their Representatives in this Council to persuade them, not to ask for one mill in a district but twenty, not one plough but one hundred. If we haven't got the personnel in Nigeria to erect the mills to teach plough and tractor cultivation (and we must face it quite squarely, we have not), let us here and now during this meeting vote the necessary funds to obtain them elsewhere. These Schemes cannot and must not be held up for want of a mere handful of properly qualified officers.

This is our share, let us do it and throw out the challenge to Government to produce the mills, the ploughs, the tractors, the personnel, which is their share. I am certain that we shall not find them wanting.

Let us do these things, and I suggest we shall then be bringing the people something more priceless than the mere building of a handful of Schools and Hospitals, we shall be bringing them prosperity, and with it the means to provide every essential Social Service and, what is more, to maintain them for all time.

Your Excellency, I support the Appropriation Bill.

The Second Nominated Member (Major the Hon. J. West, M.C.):

Sir, it is very difficult, and indeed in some cases an impertinence for the layman to criticize the expert. But this is precisely the position in which Unofficial Members of this Council find themselves, for it is their duty to criticize the Budget and the presentation of that Budget by the Honourable the Financial Secretary. For my part I should like to revert to the old system under which this Debate was held after Select Committee. I quite understand this Debate, Sir, is on principle only, but I believe that assistance would be given to the Unofficial Members of this Council if they had the benefit of the knowledge of the details of the Budget, they would understand the principles behind it very much better. I would like to make two remarks and two remarks only on the speech of the Financial Secretary.

I was very pleased indeed to find that he had been able to raise his estimate of tax accruing from the profits of companies above the two million mark. In this I fully agree with him because last year was a very good one for mining companies in the way of profits. The profits were of a high order and they will be reflected in this year's estimates. But one word of warning. Our present profits are on a very much lower scale, and this naturally will be reflected in the Estimates for next year. Another point I was interested in in his speech was his suggestion that in times of prosperity taxation should be higher and moderated in times of depression. Well, Sir, this is something I do not understand. Surely experience has shown in the past that when money is tight then more taxation is required and it will follow that taxation if decreased at all is only decreased in periods of prosperity. I would therefore like to ask him to give a further explanation of his policy in this direction. Now, Sir, with your permission, I should like to refer to some subjects that are out of the scope of the Appropriation Bill.

In the first place I would like to refer to the Regulations and the framing of Regulations. In the ordinary way a Bill is published in the Gazette. It is subject to discussion both at meetings, in the press, and sometimes mass meetings in Lagos. Afterwards it goes up to the Regional Houses—more discussion, criticism and amendments are put forward. It generally comes in front of this House, and the same procedure takes place—discussions—amendments—before the final passing of the Bill. In fact there has been every opportunity for the public to both understand and criticize what is considered objectionable from their point of view. However, I do not think the same thing can be said over Regulations. These are frequently framed without any consultation with the public whatsoever. The result is that we get numbers of unreasonable Regulations. I will give some examples.

With regard to Motor Traffic Act and the Regulations under it I fully agree that most of the Regulations are reasonable and indeed necessary to public safety. But some are not. I would like to take for instance a man who buys a kit car either because it is cheaper or because it is more convenient for his work than a saloon car. He pays the same amount of duty as on a private car if its carrying capacity is under 3,000 lb, that is 10s for every 28 lb net weight. Under the Ordinance it can be registered as a private vehicle only if he uses it to carry about his own personal equipment. That, I take it, means that if a man carries about with him the tools of his trade that vehicle at once becomes a commercial one, and once it becomes a commercial vehicle it at once becomes subject to the following irksome restrictions. First of all it has to have two road inspections a year. These cost 10s each, and although I do not see why they should cost anything at all, it is a matter of waste of time more than the actual cash,

for the Eastern Provinces yesterday characterised this as a very welcome departure from the usual slow and dilatory method of the Public Works Department. However that may be I still congratulate those responsible for this beautiful work.

In the printed Address Your Excellency referred to the political situation in Abeokuta which culminated in the demand for the Alake's abdication and the appointment of the Egba Central Council as Interim Native Authority. As Your Excellency has rightly mentioned, party politics and differences have hampered the Council's work and have resulted in financial difficulties which have necessitated the suspension of all capital works of the Administration for the time being. I am however happy to be able to say that the Egba Native Administration is gradually emerging from these difficulties and there are hopeful signs of an early total recovery and resumption of its pristine progressive activities. In this connection I wish, Sir, to place on record the thanks and appreciation of the Egbas regarding the services of the Honourable the Resident for Abeokuta Province with his team of admirable administrative officers. He has, by his tact, vision and very careful handling of a difficult situation, and with the assistance of his very able lieutenants, been able to pilot the ship of the Egba Native Administration to a point where anyone can now safely say that a peaceful haven is within sight. Your Excellency, he must soon proceed on holiday to enjoy his well-earned rest. May we respectfully cherish the hope that after the expiration of his leave Your Excellency will make it possible for him to return to the Province to complete the Herculean task which he has so admirably performed half-way.

As regards the Estimates, I like, Sir, to congratulate the Honourable the Financial Secretary and his staff for the preparation of the Estimates and for the able and impressive manner in which the Appropriation Bill has been proposed. The Honourable the Financial Secretary is a great orator of no mean order. He has an easy way of explaining a difficult matter and the way he has addressed himself to all the Resolutions standing in his name cannot fail to convince even a stubborn critic. It is a healthy state of affairs to have a balanced budget and an estimated surplus. It is therefore praiseworthy how the Financial Secretary was able to get over the £900,000 deficit and expect a balanced budget and a possible surplus. The Honourable the Second Member for the Eastern Provinces conferred upon him yesterday the honorary degree of Master of Figures. Sir, it was less than three months ago that I was unanimously voted by the unofficial members of the Western House of Assembly to join this honourable assembly and I have not got in my possession sufficient material to be able to criticise each department of Government as I should have liked to, but I endorse the views of my Honourable Friends who have been doing the work and who have been able to place before Government some of what we accept or need.

The Chief Secretary's motion to appoint a Select Committee to recommend to Your Excellency what steps should be taken in reviewing the Constitution shows how much the Government recognises the value of public opinion. It is a step in the right direction.

Sir, the people of Nigeria owe Your Excellency and the Government a great debt of loyalty and co-operation and if Government will take the people of Nigeria more into its confidence, the Government will surely reap a rich harvest of loyalty and co-operation for confidence begets confidence. I therefore advocate that the Government should take the public and the people of Nigeria more into its confidence in every major step of the administration.

Sir, may I also refer to Your Excellency's opening speech? It is wonderful how within a period of less than a year Your Excellency has been able so correctly to appraise and assess Nigeria's problem as a whole. Everyone will agree with Your Excellency's threefold difference between the Nigeria of today and the Nigeria of ten years ago as (1) Tremendous increase in vigour and vitality (2) new political consciousness and (3) the awareness of our country's problems. Every right thinking Nigerian will also endorse Your Excellency's condemnation of some of the manifestations in sections of the press as not admirable or just or conducive to true progress, and I am sure that all concerned will now for the sake of our beloved Nigeria desist from such evil practices, and extend the right hand of fellowship one to another to enable us together to approach our task with a determination to think first of the good of Nigeria and also with mutual respect, tolerance and goodwill to choose construction and not confusion.

Sir, I shall now address myself to the main issues that people in this country most care about or the things closest to their hearts as diagnosed by Your Excellency and what Government is doing or should do to help the people to solve their problems and attain their aims.

The general background of these issues is the desire and the determination of the people to take an ever-increasing share in the management of their own affairs. This, Sir, is a new political consciousness, quite different and more far-reaching than the old order of the Africans merely securing greater participation in the discussion of their own affairs.

The first of these desires is economic development and the First Nominated Member has dealt with two aspects of that point this morning in a very able way; particularly, Sir, I put improved agriculture and land use first.

Your Excellency, the Agricultural Department of Government is a very important department in the economic life of the people of Nigeria, as Nigeria is essentially an agricultural country, there is therefore an urgent necessity for the betterment of the agricultural economy of the people. For instance, there is at present a dearth

But let me ask what is the plan of the Government to create employment for and absorb these boys and girls or a great proportion of them after the completion of their different courses? Are we then to look forward to an army of unemployed graduates strolling aimlessly up and down the streets of our towns and villages?

Again, there is a lack of accommodation for our boys and girls in our secondary schools—what is Government doing about this? A still greater problem is the accommodation in our Elementary Schools, the position here is rather serious and the problem must be tackled without any further delay: I wonder whether the Government and Native Authorities will consider the establishment of Government and Native Authority schools in our towns and rural areas to help solve this problem. It is not my intention, Sir, to minimise the efforts that are being made by Government and some patriotic people towards the advancement of education in Nigeria, but I think and I submit that all available avenues have not yet been explored. The efforts of some proprietors of private schools are praiseworthy and deserve recognition by the Government. The general public feeling is that Government's attitude towards private schools leaves much to be desired. Of course it is conceded that Government must be careful in according recognition to schools run by private individuals as some of the proprietors are more concerned with their pockets than with the welfare of the children entrusted to their care. There are however private schools run by experienced teachers with suitably qualified staff, but greatly handicapped by lack of funds. Government should select such schools for financial assistance from public funds, and do all that is humanly possible to help the proprietors. Sir, I commend this suggestion to the Government. As regards Mass Education or Community Development, as Your Excellency has termed it, it is increasingly realised that mass illiteracy is an evil that should be combated both by Government and the people themselves. In this connection it is refreshing to note that the Department of Education has devoted particular attention to Adult Literacy Campaigns and Mass Education organisers have organised campaigns both in the Colony and the provinces with encouraging results. It is hoped, as Your Excellency has said, that with an increase in staff these campaigns will be extended and a more vigorous drive will be made to exterminate what is undoubtedly a drag on society by conducting active propaganda and the Government may also assist in supplying low-priced literature in the principal languages of the country. It is encouraging to note that during the course of the year 29,000 adults passed through 1,200 classes in about 432 villages but Sir, I counsel that mass education should not proceed at the expense of child education.

As regards technical education, Sir, we are grateful to the Government for establishing Yaba Technical Institute with syllabus covering Handicraft and Manual Instructors' courses as well as courses for Mechanical Engineering Assistants. There are also

Trade Centres at Yaba, Kaduna and Enugu. We venture to hope that more Technical Institutes and Trade Centres will soon be established in the Western and Eastern Provinces. On the whole our Department of Education has made great strides and it is heartening to note Your Excellency's remarks that as proof of Government's interest in expanding and developing education the expenditure on the service ten years ago was just over £250,000 whereas the draft Estimates for 1949-50 provide a total expenditure both recurrent and from loan funds of over £3,000,000.

With regard to our Health Measures, and in this category Your Excellency has put water supplies very high on the list. No one with the experience of the shortage of water during the last two or three weeks will doubt the accuracy of this statement. In almost every Province we are experiencing an acute shortage of water and there is a great need for improvement in our water supplies both as regards quantity and quality and therefore steps should be taken so that if in future we are faced with a dearth of water we shall at least be sure that we shall have sufficient reserve to carry us through difficult times.

I now come to a very important subject; one that is uppermost in the minds of our people and that is land. Nowhere in the world is the determination to keep and guard the land more intense than in Nigeria; the land is the wealth and life of the African and those who seek to take it away from him must be prepared to face his indignation. There are many complaints against Government Land policy in Nigeria in respect of political boundaries, transfer or alienation of land to aliens, and certain provisions of the Public Lands Acquisition Ordinance.

As regards political boundaries in Nigeria townships are usually grouped together for administrative purposes, and such groupings have always bred discontent and wranglings unless pains were taken to see that the subordinate towns are tied by affinity with the principal towns, from which directions as to the running of their administrations are to come. For example the Egba-Ijebu boundary culminating in the dispute regarding the ownership of Orile Oko village between the Egbas and Ijebu Remo Native Authority. The Egbas have asserted their rights to the village as against Ijebu Remo people and a petition has been forwarded to the Authorities for a redefinition of Egba-Ijebu boundary. There is hardly any doubt that the inclusion of the Orile Oko village in the Ijebu Remo territory was wrong. Oko township is in Abeokuta town in Egbaland and the people resident in Oko township are the descendants of the original settlers who migrated from Orile Oko (Oko Homestead) during the internecine wars, it is therefore evident that any place in Orile Oko not taken from the Egbas by conquest is Egbaland. These Orile Oko villagers have their compounds in Oko township in Abeokuta till today. They speak Egba dialect and have Egba customs. And when women were exempted

from paying any poll tax in Abeokuta the women of Orile Oko thought they too were included and refused to pay. This created a crisis and over sixty women were imprisoned, of whom one was reported to have died in prison. It is the duty of the Government to step in now, make necessary enquiries and readjust the boundary.

The Ekiti-Ondo political boundary with reference to the Akure-Idanre dispute which culminated in litigation.

The Ikale-Ijebu dispute between the Ijebu-Ode people in Ijebu Province and the Oshoro people in the Okitipupa Division of the Ondo Province. The matter is *sub judice*.

Government Land Acquisition Ordinance—Sir, the people of Nigeria both in the Colony and the Protectorate feel rather sore against the Government (a) for declaring all "lands acquired to be Crown Lands for the purposes of the Crown Lands Ordinance from the date of such acquisition and may be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of that Ordinance notwithstanding that the purposes for which such Lands were acquired had failed or that all or any of such lands are no longer required for the purpose for which they were acquired or are being used". This offending enactment was added to our Statute Book by the Public Lands Acquisition (Amendment) Ordinance, 1945, and it is contained in sub-section 2 of section 3 of the said Ordinance.

Your Excellency, there have been many acquisitions of lands since 1876 and that such lands should now be converted into Crown Lands as stated in the amending Ordinance is a deviation from the original land policy of the Government which was to preserve to the indigenous inhabitants of Nigeria their communal lands. The recognised rule of legislative policy that a new law should not be retroactive is also thereby violated. The people of Nigeria have always understood that when any land is acquired for public purposes it means for exclusive Government use or for general public use and not for conversion into Crown Lands. Anyone can therefore imagine the feelings of a quondam owner of land acquired by the Government when he discovers that his land was not used for the purpose for which it was acquired but has been leased to European firms.

Sir, it is the wish of the people that when lands were no longer required for the purpose for which such lands were acquired either through failure of the original purpose of the acquisition or otherwise such lands should be made available to the original owners for redemption.

And (b) for declaring some lands to be *unoccupied lands* for which no compensation shall be paid if acquired—Sir, under the Native Customary Law large tracts of communal lands must necessarily remain "unoccupied" for varying periods, but no land is without an owner in Nigeria or West Africa. Sir Thomas Crossley Rayner, late Chief Justice of the Colony of Lagos in his report on West

line or two; we welcome the fact that a real plan is being evolved. I happened to see the Eastern Regional Plan for really settling down to the capital job of girl and women education ”.

It would appear that the Public Works Department is to disappoint much of all this hope. Shall we move a vote of censure? No one would regret this course of action more than myself or my colleagues of the Eastern House.

Posts and Telegraphs. Other Honourable Members have justly criticised both the efficiency, or lack of it, and the courtesy, or lack of it, of this department of public service. Air letters from Lagos to London get there and elicit a reply before letters from Lagos get to Arochuku—in spite of internal air service between Lagos and Port Harcourt.

You despatch a priority telegram at Akure for Aba, arrive Aba by car, and wait a day to receive your telegram.

These are by no means isolated instances. The defence offered by the department—page 64 of Your Excellency's printed address—reads:—

“The existing system (*i.e.* telegraph) has reached saturation point and cannot carry more traffic without heavy delay ”.

On the face of this the department continues to make the public pay for what is erroneously called “priority telegrams”. But for the absence of a personal motive, one would accuse the department of receiving money under false pretences! I have it on the authority of a high official of the department that one cause of inefficiency is the excessive dilution of the service with insufficiently trained recruits.

Everyone will agree that the standard of business courtesy in general leaves much to be desired throughout the country, with the possible exception of some branches of Kingsway Stores, some special hospitals and nursing homes—formerly designated European—and the Banks. The Posts and Telegraphs ought to set a high standard in this respect, but one regrets the utter lack of regard for the feelings of the public amongst particularly the junior members of the department.

In conclusion, Sir, I should like to mention, very briefly, the twin Departments of Agriculture and Forestry. I wish, while commending the latter on its progressive Africanisation policy, to congratulate the former on initiating an interesting experiment with departmental courses and appointments for women students. I wish the department unqualified success in the field of technical training for our womenfolk.

Your Excellency, I beg to support the second reading of the Appropriation Bill.

His Excellency:

Before I call on the Honourable the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces, as this is the first Meeting of Council at Ibadan, it is right that I should invite the attention of the public in the galleries—who are known to us in Parliamentary language as “strangers”—that they must restrain their enthusiasm, and I must ask them not to acclaim the speakers.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

Your Excellency, last year, March 1948, the Honourable the Financial Secretary told the people of Nigeria that it could spend the sum of nearly £30 million during the financial year, 1948-49. A few days ago, Sir, he assured us that we are in a position to spend an amount to the order of more than £36 million during the coming financial year, 1949-50. This certainly is happy news. All through his speeches, whether it be the budget speech or his speech in introducing a Bill or a Motion, one cannot fail to mark how the Honourable Member is doing his very best to conserve and advance the financial position of Nigeria. I heartily commend his wisdom and foresight, and I would like to say, Sir, how much we appreciate the efforts of all those who work and co-operate with him in endeavouring to tackle and solve our economic problems, and devise ways and means to put the country's finances on a sure and sound basis.

All the same, I must make a few comments here and there relevant to the budget speech and cognate topics. I am particularly happy to note the passing into law of the “Ordinance to provide for the establishment of Regional Development Boards for the purpose of fostering the Economic Development of Nigeria by making grants and advances out of such moneys as may be made available, and for purposes connected therewith,” and also three other Ordinances making provision for the marketing and export of Nigerian oils and oil seeds and Nigerian cotton, bringing these very important economic products of Nigeria into line with the farming of cocoa “and”, to borrow the language of the Honourable the Attorney-General, “for matters connected therewith”. With hard work, Sir, and with plenty of optimism, I can see my esteemed friend the Honourable the Financial Secretary budgeting for perhaps the sum of £60 million within the next two or three financial years.

I welcome the increase in import duties on tobacco as a whole, but I should like to see heavy duty put on manufactured snuff. I suggest the imposition of 20s to the pound weight. I honestly think, Sir, that the habit of stuffing the nostrils with a lot of powdered leaf, special kind of leaf, may be, and then almost immediately blowing the whole stuff out again with the usual accompanying loud noise, should be resolutely discouraged. I am absolutely shocked and disappointed, Sir, to see that there is no movement whatsoever with regard to alcoholic liquors. Surely,

Your Excellency, the country can very profitably benefit by a further addition of import duty on gin, whisky, rum and brandy, or are there any other such commodities of this kind?—a class of commodity which I consider deserving of the highest imposition of import duty. What about cosmetics, Sir? The Honourable the Financial Secretary said, "It is of course essential to avoid any taxation which would tend to raise the cost of the basic necessities of life" Do these classes of merchandise belong to "the basic necessities of life"? Perhaps my Honourable Friend might like to debate the matter in Select Committee.

I must thank him, Your Excellency, for his reasonable explanation in the matter regarding foreign capitalists and their investments in Nigeria. He has given me much material for deep and careful thought. I see the danger to Nigeria of imposing unworkable conditions on these people, and I am genuinely glad to note that both the Honourable the Financial Secretary and the Honourable the Development Secretary are doing all in their power to attract suitable Big Business into Nigeria. We need Big Business, Sir, to help us develop our country industrially and otherwise, but only on the condition that Government sees to it that Nigeria benefits substantially and unmistakably from such capitalist undertakings. In the meantime, Sir, I do affirm that Nigeria is getting the worst of Big Business. All these big combines in Nigeria give me the headache. The United Africa Company Limited and their subsidiaries have dominated and monopolised our trade for many years now, and between them and the other combines, the Nigerian trader or business man has been completely dwarfed, so that his genuine fight to identify himself in the world of Trade and Commerce has been difficult indeed and oftentimes quite a failure. You will forgive us, Your Excellency, if we do not take kindly to this frustrating influence and if we are unduly critical and vindictive. I personally take courage, however, in the following statement of the Honourable the Financial Secretary when he says:—

"I realize that there is a feeling that foreign capital is exploiting the wealth of Nigeria to the detriment of Nigerians. There is no doubt that the shareholders of a great part of the capital employed in Nigeria are living overseas and that therefore there must be an export of dividends which if utilized in this country would benefit Nigeria. But the truth is that we have not got the money ourselves, and we must therefore borrow it from overseas and it is only reasonable that the people who provide the funds should get a fair return on their investment. I say a fair return because with present day competition and modern legislation regarding land and labour conditions and taxation, there are not now the possibilities of unrestricted profit which may have been present in the past."

But his next statement is a challenge to the people of Nigeria and it is for us to accept the challenge and get busy. He says, "I spend a great deal of time, as I know also does my colleague the Development Secretary, in discussing with visiting business men possible industrial projects, but I assure Honourable Members that they are not falling over themselves to bring capital to Nigeria." I hope that the Colonial Development Corporation will really establish in Nigeria and that it would be one medium at any rate by which Nigerians will learn the art of Good Business.

I welcome the proposition to establish a Trade Commissioner's Office in London and the likelihood of the Board of Trade of the United Kingdom establishing an office or offices in Nigeria. Both establishments will undoubtedly be of the greatest assistance to the Nigerian Importer and Exporter. This brings me, Sir, to the very vexed question of Trade Agency. One finds that the Nigerian small trader cannot place his orders direct with the manufacturers and shippers in the United Kingdom. In nearly every case he is told to obtain his supplies from the local combines who are the sole agencies. I hope, Sir, that the presence in Nigeria of a representative of the Board of Trade will do much to put this matter right. A few points about the Public Works Department.

May I, Your Excellency, ask one solitary question about the Public Works Department? Why is it that the Junior Technical Staff of this Department is not graded? They go up to a maximum of £108 per annum. I shall probably be informed that two or three similar cases exist in other Departments. Even so, why then are they not graded or scaled like the others?

Turning to the Labour Department. One of the difficulties confronting us at this time is the question of communal labour. The Labour Code takes exception to this and calls it Forced Labour. But Communal Labour is by no means Forced Labour. It is one valuable weapon with which the African community has for many centuries employed in maintaining services which are to the common good. We farmed and still do so by Communal Service; one member of a community is helped to build his house by the *willing co-operation* and services of the rest of the said community. We built and maintained our roads by communal service. Indeed, Sir, it is a plain case of the practice of self-help. But just now the Government is studiously, or could it be unwittingly, discouraging, if not killing this very useful quality possessed in common by all Africans. If the Honourable the Commissioner of Labour would direct his attention to this matter, I am sure that he would be doing this country much good. In these days people want roads, and they want schools, and they want many other things, and since we cannot always afford the funds each community is always willing to turn out and do the work. But then, Sir, there is always the imposition of a fine or penalty if one did not help with the work, and the matter might become a court case. If found

guilty and fined the offender might appeal to the Local District Officer, who might not see his way to accepting the judgment of the Court. He would go back and rejoice that he was free and that he was right to do as he did. What happens is that whenever another call is made, Sir, for another communal work nobody turns up and all our ambition is frustrated.

The Posts and Telegraphs. I do not wish, Sir, to make any further comment on this Department, but I would like to know why it is that an officer who is controlling perhaps more than two million pounds of money—of Nigerian money—is not a member of the Legislative Council. I think, Sir, he should be here to hear the comments and criticisms made against his Department. I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government to the policy which has been shouted here a few times in the Legislative Council, and that policy is the giving to the Have-Nots in preference to the Haves. Motoring down to Lagos some time last month I noticed that the old telegraph poles and wires were being replaced by new ones on the main Asaba-Ibadan Road. One would have thought that the new poles and wires should have been used in areas where tele-communications are urgently needed. I repeat, Sir, that when materials are available those who have not must first be considered before those who already have.

With regard to the Education Department, Sir, I would like to reserve my observations until my Motion comes before this House.

Medical—with regard to this Department I would prefer to discuss various matters with the Honourable the Director of Medical Services in Select Committee. I have in mind the possibility of the institution of a Health Insurance Service at least in Lagos and Port Harcourt to start with; the urgent need of good and efficient X-Ray apparatus in the bigger hospitals in the Eastern Provinces; the necessity to pursue vigorous campaigns for yaws by organized mobile units; and the fate or the present position of the proposed Union Mission Hospital. In the meantime may I express how very much indebted we are to you, Sir, for instituting a Commission of Enquiry into "The Private Practice of Medicine and Surgery by Officers of the Department of Medical Services, Nigeria" and "Grants-in-Aid of the Medical and Health Services provided by Voluntary Agencies in Nigeria". We are very much indebted to Sir Sydney Phillipson. My colleague the Honourable the First Lagos Member and I hope very soon to place before the Honourable the Director of Medical Services our considered view on the two Reports of the Commission. Whatever else we may have to say, Sir, we consider that the privilege accorded to Government Medical Officers to carry on private practice should stop as from the end of March, 1949.

I imagine, Sir, that the Commissions cost the Nigerian Government a good lot of money. I do not say, Sir, that the people must not agitate rightly, but when they do so, Sir, we must have an eye on our coffers. I would like to refer to the latest Commission of Enquiry, Sir. I refer to the Gorman Commission. A section of the public would like their hours of work to be reduced from forty-five hours a week to forty hours a week. That seems to me, Sir, very very heavy indeed. This is a time when the country is fighting and wanting to work to get ahead, and marshall all its economic resources. I do not think, Sir, that we have cause to rest on our laurels which we have not won. If there must be a Commission of Enquiry, I would suggest, Sir, that both parties contribute money to help in defraying the cost of the Commission. The Gorman Commission has cost the country £50,000; £38,000 from the Nigerian taxpayer and £12,000 from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund. Mr Gorman made very very few recommendations. All along the pages I see "I do not recommend," "I do not recommend," "I make no recommendation". In my opinion very few Departments have a right to make this kind of demand in our present day progress. What of the medical profession or the people in the Senior Service who literally work for twenty-four hours a day. It should be a lesson for those in other departments of the service. Every penny we spend in Nigeria comes from the Nigerian taxpayer and until we realize this it will not be possible for us to make headway or advance in this country. I would have liked to oppose the Appropriation Bill because of this particular cost to the Government, but this is the first time that I have spoken about this, and I would let sleeping dogs lie.

Sir, I support the Appropriation Bill.

The Third Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Iro Katsina):

I have read in Your Excellency's Printed Address with extreme appreciation all the various activities of Government. Indeed, Sir, much has been done and is being done, and we still expect much more to be done. Sir, I have only a few points to raise concerning some Departments.

With regard to the Agricultural Department I would like to point out to the Director of Agriculture that we want more ploughs to be brought for the mixed farmers especially in the Northern Provinces. Sir, I would like to point out to the Director of Agriculture that the growing of sunflower seed introduced last year and carried on by some farmers seems to have its effect. The farmers who make extra money out of it have the intention of growing more next season, and also their neighbours who did not grow any last year have promised to grow some. But we hope, Sir, that the price will not be reduced.

The Education Department. Sir, much has been done in this Department, but I have one comment to make concerning mass education. We want more money to be granted for adult literacy for those areas interested other than the campaign areas.

Medical Department. I would like to draw the attention of this Department to some hospitals where the provisions in the wards are so unfit and too congested so that new additions to the wards are required to be built to remedy the situation.

Public Works Department. I have the same complaint concerning this Department every year, and that is the shortage of building materials and staff hinders the progress in this programme. Well, Sir, I agree to that, but with regard to roads, the condition of the existing ones is not good. They are too bumpy. We want the roads to be put in good condition, and that is all I have to say, Sir.

With regard to the Budget, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Financial Secretary for his efforts in the preparation of the Budget. He did this very well.

I support the Appropriation Bill.

The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. Nyong Essien):

Your Excellency, I bring you and your Lieutenants Greetings from the East. The Administration to-day spells itself that it has reached cross-roads. We have got to view it, Sir, that we have travelled in what I may term the old administration to where that old administration has to stop and a new page be opened up for further travel. The preparation which Your Excellency has made and your learned Lieutenants has completely disarmed me and I do not know what to say, but to look to the future to see what that preparation will bring. Nevertheless, I must say something in the nature of giving to this House a very short reminiscence of the past administration so that we may be careful what steps we take to hew out the future.

In your speech, Sir, and the speeches of your two Lieutenants, you referred to what is a vital weakness in the grand body of Nigeria, by that I mean political fights in the Press, confusion and other upheavals which tend to bring Nigeria to ruin and destruction. To everything there is a cause. We may venture to trace what the cause is. May I place before Your Excellency and before this Honourable House that the cause may be found in the saying of Oscar Underwood in his "Drifting Sands of Party Politics", page 42—he says:—

"When a people lose respect of one bad law, it is but a short step before they include the good laws with the bad and are shortly in rebellion against all law."

and labour for private gains and personal interests. Their banks are no longer in "Heaven", but all are now on this earth. The best of laws made in the past have been outgrown and outweighed by the present time and life in Nigeria. Changes must come.

Your Excellency, man nowadays depends mostly on secular supplies. The simple and profound principle of "take care of the pence and the shillings and the pounds will take care of themselves" is definitely applicable to the "body, soul and spirit". Our duty is to see that we give secular education completely to our people—that is give fully and indiscriminately to the body what the body needs, and the soul and the spirit will automatically be supplied with what they need from the body. The days of tomfoolery and of camouflage are past. Now is the day of and for the light of thorough understanding.

I have an authority on that too, Sir—it is very short. This is a pamphlet on, *What They Say In England* page 6. The caption of this is "Secular Education League" and the reference reads as follows:—

"The Secular Education League is an English organisation which advocates that schools conducted with government aid should not mix religious teachings with ordinary subjects of education. It says that a religious body that runs such a school should teach its religious knowledge outside the school hours to the children of its own religion, so that during school hours, children of other religions may attend the same school, to study only the secular or ordinary school subjects. With such a plan, children of small religious bodies could be safe to attend schools opened by a large religious body, without the possibility of the large body using the medium of its schools to convert the children of other religious bodies against the free will of their parents".

The League points out that if Government grants-in-aid or public money is paid to a religious body to be used in maintaining a school where religion is taught, it means in fact that the Government is thereby supporting that religious body to impose its own religion upon others who do not belong to it but who attend the school hoping to be neutral in that religion. The Government is not against religious teachings, but against what seems an indirect way or measure, method or means, by which that religion is imposed upon others. Government is neutral in religious controversies. That is the spirit of toleration and of freedom of worship. I need not add to that, Sir.

Referring to the debates of the period between 1939 and 1940, Your Excellency, you will find that there was reference made to this particular subject. We made mistakes yesterday; now we have realised that the money we spent to Missions for education in those days fostered the interests of imported religion rather than and above those of "education". Man is created and born religious.

He is a created son by and of the Uncreated and Non-Distant Father. No Nigerian needs a religious creed to be forced on him. His need is Education which he must get, and that the correct and the proper kind. The required change is "Let the Missionary keep for himself Religion, and give or sell to Nigeria Education. That is Nigeria's chief concern today. Religion is a matter of private choice, and freedom of choice is one of Nature's gifts to mankind in general. Therefore the Nigerian wishes to and, like men and women of other races the world over, must enjoy that privilege without let. Government's duty is to legislate, not for compulsory religion but, for compulsory education.

Closing down of Nigerian schools is another point. The only appropriate occasion when schools in England have to be closed has been indicated in this book by the title of *Education in 1938—Being the Report of the Board of Education and the Statistics of Public Education for England and Wales*—page 6—this refers to the closure and amalgamation of schools. It reads thus:—

"The problem of reducing the number of redundant schools has continued to receive the attention of local education authorities. During the year altogether 151 schools, including fifty-four small schools with an average attendance of less than thirty were closed as compared with 112 during the previous year. Of these seventy-seven were Council schools, sixty-nine were Church of England schools, two were Roman Catholic schools and three other Voluntary schools."

And where there was no school one had to spring up in a night like a mushroom. Even those termed as redundant schools offered no small resistance and task to be closed down—England and Wales registered strong protests against that bad policy. The book continues:—

"Proposals to close seven of the smaller schools were disputed and a formal determination by the Board under section 19 (1) of the Education Act, 1921, was therefore necessitated notwithstanding that the closure is disputed."

"Close down no school" is Education injunction and Education Axiom in Britain; but in Nigeria our Government promotes and protects illiteracy by closure of schools: the rule of "Keep the people in illiteracy and ignorance and you will do with them as you like." Your Excellency, this is a wrong which stands in need of being righted immediately.

Your Excellency, with this I associate the name of Education Missionary Societies founded in Nigeria in 1943. The cause of closing down the schools of this Mission, Your Excellency, is still on the table of the Honourable the Director of Education. That Department has been indicted; it is impeached in the ultimate Court of Justice. Justice demands from that Department a statement on this matter. Under what heading of offences or crimes is the term

I would not like to waste Your Excellency's time, but this I have to say further and finally—that the way we are now preparing to meet the New Nigeria is appreciable and acceptable. Nigeria is yearning for self-Government. That is a system of government offered by Britain to any of her Colonies found fit for that rule. Apparently and for the first time in the history of Nigeria, the Government has invited public opinion of the whole of Nigeria to be contributed from every quarter of the country for the framing of a new Constitution for Nigeria. This is a laudable, democratic, advanced and unique policy ever adopted by our Government in the interest of the inhabitants of this vast territory.

My humble advice to Your Excellency in this Honourable House, therefore, is the following:—

When such an opinion is submitted to this House by any person or group of persons, irrespective of the nature of the name or qualification of the contributor, we are wrong either to reject that opinion or to abuse and ridicule the contributor of the same. One of my Honourable Colleagues in this House this morning did adopt such an unfavourable and unfortunate attitude towards an opinion which has been submitted to this House by a group of Nigerians who assembled at Kaduna. That practice is discouragement and insult to our people. If we continue to adopt such a method, we shall ever keep on fanning the blame of confusion and ill-will in the country.

Our bounden duty is to open our arms to collect and receive all and every opinion submitted to us by all and sundry in Nigeria according to Your Excellency's demand and requirement.

We have invoked the spirit of co-operation and goodwill, and we must welcome it with absolute carelessness of its dimensions. We have no choice. That choice has now been handed over to the whole of Nigeria. Ours is to receive and present.

With this brief observation, Sir, I beg to support the Appropriation Bill.

His Excellency:

I think we might interrupt the debate at this point. There were three further names put down for speaking today. Is it the wish of the House, and I think it will be wise, for us to meet this afternoon at 4 o'clock? I would like to consult the wishes of Unofficial Members. Will those in favour of our meeting today at 4 o'clock say "Aye", and those against say "No".

I think the "Ayes" have it.

Council adjourned at 12.45 p.m.

Council resumed at 4 p.m.

His Excellency:

We will resume the Debate on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill.

as it is going to be reviewed very shortly, and if need be very drastically too, when it is expected that full discussions at all levels will afford every responsible person, group, club, organization and leader of opinion an opportunity of expressing views by which it is hoped to ascertain the form of Constitution that will be adopted.

Mar. 15, 1949]

Council Debates

425

The Member for Calabar (The Hon. E. E. E. Anwan):

Your Excellency, in supporting the second reading of the Appropriation Bill I trust you will permit me to commence my speech with a reference to two extracts from a speech Your Excellency rendered last Tuesday at the opening of the Legislative Council. The text of the said two extracts, one of which I will quote at length, reads as follows:—

“ I would say that, in so far as one can generalize about a country so large and so diverse, the people place first emphasis upon economic development including improved agriculture and land use, industrialization, internal as well as external trade, and the basic services—such as communications, power, light and water which are necessary for economic development. As I judge, the people give this form of development first priority, not because they do not want improved social services—and we do not need to be reminded how much remains to be done before we can hope to have for our people conditions of life that are judged adequate by the standards of the twentieth century—nor because they fail to appreciate the long-term economic value of social services which will result in having a healthier, better fed, better educated population with greater earning capacity and wiser saving habits. It is just that they are realistic and see the danger of becoming committed to recurrent expenditure on a vast increase of social services before they can see their way to pay for them after external aid ceases. It is a blunt truth that a country can only have the social services which it can afford.”

“ As regards the Budget itself I shall say just this. The increasing demands for the development of public services can be met only if there is evidence of an equal progressive expansion of revenue. It would prove a grave disservice to the country if we allowed recurrent expenditure to advance with undue acceleration, and were later compelled to reduce the services to the public, and to retrench Government employees who had been led to believe that they were secure in their employment.”

These two extracts set out in a plain and forthright manner the primary burning problems that are at present exercising the mind of every Member of this Council with any sense of political responsibility. It is an accepted fact, although at times there are genuine causes to be reminded of it, that it is the duty of the taxpayer in this country to place at the disposal of the Government sufficient funds with which to provide and maintain all the various public services that are to be enjoyed within the territory, and a comparative study of this country's Estimates for the past ten years shows in what alarming proportions this burden has steadily been

that desire often professed by the Government of your country to train us up for independence, by hastening the pace of our development and progress in this direction so that we may reach that goal which all true nationals of a country aspire to.

Finally, in regard to the matter of Local Government Reforms, I shall make one or two passing remarks. These proposals are promulgated by Unofficial Members of the Eastern House of Assembly presumably after a careful study of the conditions and circumstances obtaining in that area, and are intended for the peoples of that Region. It is the resolute determination of the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces, to have those proposals discussed at all levels and to present nothing to this House that does not meet the general approval of the peoples of that Region. This House can place implicit confidence in our Chief Commissioner in this matter.

Sir, I beg to support the second reading of the Appropriation Bill.

The Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Yahaya Ilorin):

Your Excellency, much has happened for the benefit of the country since your arrival. Old gigantic plans have been swung from the offices into the fields. New ones are being made and executed and the future is not left to itself. We in this august Assembly are being encouraged by the keenness and the enthusiasm shown all over the country to move forward. We cannot yet congratulate ourselves and rest on our oars but must strive harder and harder with the determination to do more than before.

Your Excellency, it is almost a year ago now since you took over the administration of this country, and I can confidently say that during this short period you have won the affection of the country by your frankness of expression, respect for public opinion, and your earnest desire to break down suspicion wherever it exists among the people. Your day to day talks with leaders of opinion; the recent announcement of the revision of the Constitution; your opening speech at the present session; are a few pointers to these facts.

Sir, I would like to start my general observations with a few remarks on the Development Schemes. The periodical reports which are supplied to the Honourable Members have all been a great help in assessing the progress being made in this field. While I do not hesitate to congratulate the Honourable the Development Secretary for the most encouraging progress already made I strongly appeal to him to kindly allocate some of the funds at his disposal for the improvement and tarring of the Ilorin-Oyo Road. This road is very much neglected in spite of the heavy traffic using it every day.

Those of us who have driven over this road know how unpleasant, or even dangerous, it is to do so. It gives no comfort either to the vehicle or to the user, and the sooner attention could be given to it the better. I hope also that the proposed textile industry for Ilorin is still receiving the attention of the Government.

Although reference has already been made in the Budget Speech of the Honourable the Financial Secretary in regard to the water supply for Ilorin Town I must say, Sir, that my people are becoming too impatient and beginning to doubt the sincerity of the Government because I can remember in 1947 when I asked about the time when the work would be started I received exactly the same reply as in 1949: namely that the plans had been prepared. The question of water and electricity supplies is uppermost in the minds of the people of Ilorin and Offa, and although assurances have been given that plans have been prepared I hope special effort will be made by the Government to put the works in hand without further delay.

Sir, I now turn to our technical schools. Very serious attempts are being made to train our technical students, but there is much difficulty in retaining these students in their training institutions. One reason, Sir, may be that some of our boys have no aptitude for dirty jobs. This may be true, but if you look at it the other way round the whole fault may not be with the boys.

I refer particularly to the Veterinary School at Vom, to which reference was also made in Your Excellency's Printed Address. According to the information received five of the six students who attended the Assistant Veterinary Officer course have been forced to leave in the fourth year because perhaps they have failed in the examinations. I would have thought that the inefficiency of these students could have been discovered much earlier. There is, I think, a fairly large number of expatriate staff who are employed purposely to produce two grades of officers, Assistant Veterinary Officers, and Veterinary Assistants. Is it economical to the country's purse to maintain the students for the whole time merely to produce one or even two Assistant Veterinary Officers? The Agricultural Schools are not free from this difficulty.

Sir, I now turn to Agriculture. When I listened to my Honourable Friend the First Nominated Member in his speech in this Assembly two years ago I was much struck by the warning he then gave against erosion. He talked from his experience in Kenya with gigantic plans now coming on the question of the protection of our soil is of vital importance. The Agricultural Department has done much to protect its own farms, but I would think that other farms also should be protected. Erosion in certain parts of the country and the fierce burning of bush are both pointers to the evil day to come. I would wish to suggest that the section of the Agricultural Department dealing with soil conservation should be considerably reinforced so that more attention can be paid to the ordinary farms. Its scouts will be able to control bush burning

Now, Your Excellency, that will show the various methods in which we in this House have learned to respect each other's views on different subjects and topics.

Now, Sir, one of the most important events in recent years in this country has been the Commission on the Nigerianization of the Service. That is a commission on which, Sir, I had the honour and privilege to serve. There was some bitter criticism levelled against that Commission on the ground that the whole principle was as objectionable as the name, and the people who put forward this view were mostly non-Nigerians. They felt that if we insisted on Nigerianizing the Service, it would mean that people from other parts of West Africa could not find employment in this country. To my mind that is a very desirable thing. I think the Civil Service of this country should be open in the first instance to Nigerians, and that it is only when we have not the men that we can look outside Nigeria for the men to fill the posts. I think the term "Nigerian" excludes all other West Africans as well as Europeans and Americans, and I do not see that anybody who really is considering the welfare of this country can grumble about the Nigerianization Commission.

There is one point also to which I would like to make some reference. That is the question of Education. This is a matter on which I know very little myself, but like most people who know very little, I am very pleased and eager to criticize, and I hope, Sir, that what I may say will be taken in good part, and if I say anything that is improper the Director himself will excuse me on the ground that I know nothing about Education.

Now, Sir, there can be no gainsaying the fact that there is a tremendous percentage of illiteracy in this country, and surely the question which should vex the mind of the Director should be how best to remove this high percentage in the shortest possible time. This country is not really interested in well-rounded phrases—Codes, Ordinances—Blue Prints. This country, I think, Sir, is really interested in knowing and feeling that in the past ten years illiteracy has been reduced by so much per cent as a result of Government effort. Putting up a new Code every year is not going to meet the case. I remember in 1942 there was an Education Ordinance. The only purpose that Ordinance ever served was to befog the minds of Judges, Magistrates and Lawyers, because every time we opened the Statute Book and found the Ordinance there we took it for granted that the Ordinance was in force and every time a question arose, it was said that the Ordinance was not in force; so that for five or six years this country had an Ordinance which was not in force and which deceived everybody who ever opened the Law Books at all. Now, Sir, some years ago when this question of reducing illiteracy was brought up to the Board of Directors it was stated that it would cost the country a colossal amount of money. A Member pointed out that in Brazil, I think it was, and in the

Soviet Union, illiteracy had been reduced to a bare minimum, and he then said that in those two countries education had been spread to the people at the point of the bayonet. Well, I think we may well consider in this country whether on this particular aspect of national life the time had not yet come to use more stringent powers to reduce illiteracy. As I said, Sir, in the House of Assembly the Government does not hesitate to use force in collecting taxes and in seeing that the laws are obeyed; but they appear to hesitate to use force on the question of education. Surely it must be clear to all that without education all our hopes of development, social services, improved trade, must be dashed to the ground. If you want a man to use a hospital you have first to educate him to the benefits of medical science. It is no use telling him to go to a hospital and get cured, so long as jujy reigns over his mind for he will continue to employ the services of a jujy doctor. But if he is educated superstition will be removed and he will have more faith and confidence in medical science. He will without any request at all turn to the Hospital for treatment. Therefore when we talk of developments and improving our trade and more production, we must admit that at the bottom of all this is the need for the complete awareness by the people of the importance to our national economy of development, improved trade, more production and mechanised agriculture; this can only come about through education. Therefore, if this country fails in the next twenty or thirty years the blame for failure must rest securely on the shoulders of the Director of Education. That is how I reason it out.

Now, I gather, Sir, although on this point I am not well-informed, that in India the Government has devised a method whereby they hope to remove illiteracy in a very short time. It is said that the Government of India proposes now to conscript teachers; that is to say, nobody in an Indian University can hope to get a degree unless he has put in a certain number of years' service as a teacher in any part of the country. Now in this country we have not enough men in the Universities to serve the needs of the whole country, and I would suggest, Sir, that on the matter of education Government will assume emergency powers now and meet this disaster as I call it, in the same method as it met the menace of war. Again, Sir, in war time, the Government conscripted houses, people, motor cars, anything because the national safety was in jeopardy. To my mind war is a far less menace to our freedom than illiteracy because in war you might lose your freedom for some time until you are strong enough to throw off the yoke of the oppressor; but illiteracy imposes slavery for ever, and so long as there is no urge to remove illiteracy the people are bound to suffer for ever and ever. There is no hope at all. Therefore if we can excuse emergency powers in war-time I think we must demand it in peace-time as the only answer to illiteracy. There is to my mind not sufficient force in Government policy now. The

whole policy of Government on this issue strikes me as unimaginative. It is not bold at all. It goes about the matter in a very slipshod manner. If you met a boy in the street who says he won't go to school nobody appears to worry. It is time Government worried about this; that is, assuming emergency powers on the question of education. I am aware that some people might argue that once you open the door to any degree of bureaucratic autocracy there is no knowing where it is going to stop. Emergency powers may be assumed in education, and the next day assume in other things. But I think, Sir, Legislative Council is wide awake to its duties and there should be no difficulty at all in keeping the Government well within bounds.

Now, Sir, having dealt with this subject on which I know so little, I will now turn to a subject on which I know even less. That is finance and economics. I must confess to complete ignorance on matters affecting finance and economics. An Honourable Member from the Eastern House gave me some very sound advice four days ago. After the Honourable the Financial Secretary had addressed us at length on the resolution I sent him a chit asking him whether he understood what the Honourable Member was talking about, and he replied that he did not, but that he proposed to conceal his ignorance by voting "Aye", and he advised me to do the same; and I did. Now, Sir, I have very patiently and carefully listened to the Address on the Appropriation Bill, and what few ideas I have in mind after reading the content of the estimates were shaken together and thoroughly confused, and I left the House on the morning of Saturday knowing far less on the Estimates than I did before I came. But all the same, Sir, after listening to Honourable Members of this House, I have begun again to have some clear ideas as to what it is all about.

The Address of the Honourable the First Nominated Member went very far towards clearing my mind about the economic difficulties facing this country, and I have come to the conclusion that the pith and marrow of the speech of the Honourable the Financial Secretary was really a huge question mark. The question being, Sir, how are we going to increase the national revenue, and how are we to keep this revenue at a high level for some years to come. Now the Honourable the First Nominated Member pointed out to us how very closely linked our exports were with our social services. The edible fats and oils which we export can well be translated into schools and hospitals. Now, there is to my mind another aspect of national economy which may well be considered by Government as a source of revenue. I speak of the mines and minerals of this country. In England today under a Socialist Government, there appears to be a great tendency to nationalize; first of all the Railways, then the Mines, and now Steel. And I think, Sir, that we may well consider on the lines of the Memorandum on Colonial Mining Policy which has been issued by the Colonial Office whether

this Government may not try nationalizing the mines and minerals of this country. Nobody will dispute the fact that companies are not run on altruistic principles—they are run for profit, and the moment profit ceases to exist they wind up their affairs and distribute whatever assets they have and go home. Now in this country we have some mining companies, and their very existence to my mind seems to argue that their undertaking is a profitable one. They are a source of revenue to the country. Surely if they are making a profit I see no reason why this profit should not go into Nigerian coffers, and I think we can buy over the interest of these mining companies and work them as advantageously as they are doing themselves. No doubt, Sir, the Honourable the Financial Secretary must have given the matter considerable thought. I have myself and do not know the answers. Possibly he might care to enlighten us as time goes on.

Now, Sir, another part of the Appropriation Bill which strikes me very forcibly is the tax proposals which are contemplated now. I fully endorse the sentiments expressed by the Honourable the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces that the tax proposals would not or cannot possibly give the best advantage if you leave out certain luxuries untaxed. As I said last year this country can still make much money from taxing alcohol. I observe that only tobacco comes in for more import duty but cosmetics and alcohol have been left unscathed. There is no reason why further taxation should not be imposed on spirits and cosmetics. These two items are luxuries and ought to be taxed as fully as possible. If certain individuals suffer as a result that is just too bad. We are determined to make money by hook but not by crook. Again, Sir, I am assured that one method of conserving national economy is by imposing a light export duty and a heavy import duty. By doing that, Sir, you stimulate home production—production for the home market—that is by keeping away as much of useless imports as possible. Importation of those home made articles you will tax as fully as possible if those items of import are luxuries or semi-luxuries; letting in with light duties those which are necessities. But in this country to my mind, Sir, the position is reversed. You have here a heavy export duty and a comparatively light import duty, and I assume, Sir, that those heavy export duties are imposed on the principle enunciated by the Honourable the Financial Secretary, that he must get the most out of the people in good years, and the least in bad years. I can understand that, Sir, because when a man has plenty of money he would not grudge paying a good deal, but that when he has not much money he would not like to pay at all; and I suggest, Sir, for his consideration, whether it might not be possible to get more money out of import duties and let off export duties with a lighter scale of taxation.

Now, Sir, I leave this field of my ignorance and turn to the general deeds and misdeeds of Government over the past twelve months.

As a Member of this Honourable House, I visited a place somewhere in Nigeria, and I interviewed twenty-two prisoners awaiting trial. Of these twenty-two, seven had been in custody for three months and upwards, seven had been in custody for one month and upwards, and eight had been in custody for periods ranging from one to four weeks. Of the seven who had been in custody for three months and upwards, six had been in custody for seven months awaiting trial. Now I tried to find out from them **whether they** were able to get sureties to guarantee their appearing before the Court. I investigated why they had been denied this privilege of bail. In some cases they made allegations against the police, and in other cases they would supply no answer to the question, but to my mind, Sir, it seems to me to be unfair that anybody should be kept in custody awaiting trial for anything longer than one month, and if it is not possible to bring him to trial I think he should be discharged. Every person, after all, is assumed innocent until he is proved guilty, and I suggest that if he is kept for about six months awaiting trial it seems to me to be purely splitting hairs to say that he is presumed to be innocent; so that I submit that Your Excellency might cause investigations to be made about the length of time people should await trial in prison. In England if a man was kept in prison awaiting trial for two months it might be sufficient to bring down a government. There is government on party platforms and politics in that country; but in this country, Sir, the Government cannot be brought down, so I take it, Sir, that the Government will do its best to see that these points are looked into and that the people get a square deal.

Now on the question of motor advances and basic allowances I spoke at some length last year. I have also listened carefully to the answers given on the point, and I still hold that no convincing answer has yet been given. I repeat, Sir, that the whole principle of the advances for the purchase of motor vehicles and basic allowances should be re-examined. It is not uncommon, and I think everybody knows this, that Civil Servants who purchase cars with advanced money sell them at black-market prices. I do not say that it is a rule, but there are instances known to me, and I am submitting to Honourable Members, that if these cars are bought with public money there is no reason why there should not be a form of public control on their disposal. If we buy a car for an officer and give him the wherewithal to pay for the car, I take it that the car belongs to the Nigerian Government. Why should this officer turn round and sell a car which he purchased for £300 for £750? It seems to me to be unjust to put it in the mildest form, but I am certain, that as usual there will be an answer for that and the answer will be given in due course.

May I now turn, Sir, to the Judicial Department—a Department for which I have the highest respect. Now we trust that Nigerianisation of the Higher Bench will not be ignored, but, Sir, as a person who pins all his faith on the rule of law, I must say that

impartiality and unquestioned integrity and constant sobriety must be the paramount consideration on each appointment. I am prepared to see the Lower and the Higher Bench manned by independent, honest, impartial Europeans than to see it manned by corrupt Africans; but I think Government itself will always examine and see that on every occasion an honest African is forthcoming he will not be denied the opportunity of climbing higher and higher.

Your Excellency, I will not at this stage make any statement on the question of expatriation pay as this would be out of order on the ground of anticipation. I have a Motion coming up for debate in this House on this subject. When that time comes I will respectfully ask that Standing Orders be suspended for members to speak for as long as they may wish.

Now, Sir, I would not say it is fashionable to attack Government Departments such as the Posts and Telegraphs and the Medical, but I think it is necessary to attack it. The Posts and Telegraphs have failed in their duty. No Member in this House can hold a brief for this Department. Not long ago a very beautiful photograph was displayed in the "Nigeria Review" of the Honourable the Financial Secretary speaking to the Gold Coast. When I first saw this I thought I was dreaming, because I felt at the time that it must be something to do with the Posts and Telegraphs, and when the Posts and Telegraphs work so well as to be able to provide facilities for speaking to the Gold Coast, then they were really getting on. Later, I was told that this was the doing not of the Posts and Telegraphs but of the Cable and Wireless Limited. May I humbly suggest, Sir, that if the Government can no longer provide the country with proper Post Office facilities, proper telecommunications, then they are well-advised to hand the whole business over to the Cable and Wireless Limited, because they seem to have the knowledge and the necessary facilities, and I am certain that if the Post Offices in this country were in the hands of private companies we would not be in the muddle in which we are now. The question of discourtesy on the part of telephone operators seems to me to be not worthy of attention. One has now come to connect the telephone services with discourtesy. In fact, if you took up your telephone and the operator gave you a courteous answer, you might wonder if you had not got on to the subscriber at the other end by mistake, as it has not been within my experience that anyone in the Telephone Department ever had had a good word to say to the subscriber who takes up the telephone. Again there, Sir, the answer rests with Government. They have to provide these things and they must either admit failure or they must explain their conduct.

I am thankful, Sir, to the Medical Department for having provided extra wards for patients at Enugu. Two years ago I complained about patients sleeping two to a bed, sleeping on the floor, and so on. I am happy to say that this congestion has now been relieved, but I am not happy to say that bribery and corruption

in the Medical Department have not yet been removed. My friend the Second Member for the Eastern Provinces painted a very sombre picture of a case at Port Harcourt. If only we knew to whom the bribes were paid, the trouble might not be so bad, but a patient going into hospital in many parts of Nigeria has to tip from the ward servant who comes in to sweep the hospital to the chief nurse in the hospital. I myself witnessed a case somewhere in Nigeria where a lady patient was on the point of having a baby and the nurse who was supposed to look after her was outside dancing. While it is sometimes difficult to interfere with Departments about which you know nothing, it is clear to all of us here, Sir, that the Medical Department should be thoroughly overhauled, both on the question of private practice and on the question of integrity of the lower staff. It is said that some of the doctors get the nurses to collect money for them. That I do not know. With this bad example before them these nurses themselves will try and make some money on the "q.t." That may be, but it seems to me, Sir, that the Medical Department, being a Department to which the lives of our people are entrusted, should be the last to be influenced in any way by monetary considerations. We are all very thankful for the report on the question of private practice, but it must be apparent to Government that if they were to remove private practice from doctors there would be mass resignations; and sometimes, Sir, one tends to blame the Government for some of this because one finds that doctors with local diplomas are sometimes the worst offenders in this line. They have no professional ethics and as they are not subject to B.M.A. discipline it is for the Director of Medical Services to discipline them seriously and Government may well consider whether more stringent conditions of service should not be imposed. Whether a person who has been educated with public funds locally and given every facility for good service should be allowed to continue service even though he should prove a traitor to the very Government who paid for his education, is for Government to consider. If I were the Director of Medical Services I know what I would do. But what I would do, Sir, would certainly not be in accord with the wishes of a democratic government.

Now, Sir, another Department which is very often criticised in this House is the Police Department. I think the Harragin awards have increased the salary of the police, and speaking to a high official of Government I learned that the reason for this was that an argument always put forward on the question of bribery and corruption was that police were under-paid. Well, I will now ask Government whether since the Harragin revision of salaries and since the more beneficial emoluments paid to the police, there has been any marked decrease in bribery and corruption in the Police Department. I can say, Sir, that not long ago some policemen in Port Harcourt who were placed on watch-duty were charged with burglary. Now to my mind, Sir, it is very odd that a man who is told to watch a house turns out to be a burglar himself. There is something wrong

somewhere. Either the people of this country have not got enough civic sense to oppose bribery and corruption themselves, or there is something inherently wrong with the people. I know for a fact that in this country if you were to give evidence and as a result of that evidence a man got into gaol the blame would be put on the man who gave evidence. People would say, "There now, I hope he is satisfied". This outlook is doing great harm to this country. I take it, Sir, that it is the duty of every citizen in this country to support the forces of law and order and that our people themselves should concentrate more on cleansing their Augean stables than worrying about self-Government. To my mind the removal of bribery and corruption is a far more urgent need for this country than revising the constitution. You can have any constitution you like but if the people themselves are not going to work honestly then it is bound to collapse. Therefore, Sir, I humbly suggest that the time has come when the Government may consider setting up a commission to find out, investigate, the root causes of bribery in this country, because there is no Department of Government free from bribery and corruption. It is a very painful indictment for me as a Nigerian to give these facts but I must accept the facts as I find them. I am not going to suggest for a moment that every Nigerian Civil Servant both in the Senior Service and the Junior Service is a saint. Far from it. I would not admit that every European is a saint. But I think, Sir, that it is for us to cleanse our country. Therefore, I think that we should now worry ourselves more about how to prepare the people who are going to work the new Nigeria, how to get them to understand that duty must be done irrespective of money, not caring about brothers and sisters or cousins or favouritism in any form; to do your duty for its own sake and not to do your duty because you hope to get financial reward hereafter.

His Excellency :

I must invite the Honourable Member's attention to the fact that he has exceeded his half an hour.

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. H. Bowari Brown) :

I move that the Honourable Member be allowed to continue.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama) :

Your Excellency, turning to the Gorman report there was a demand by a certain Trade Union for a forty-four hour week or a forty-hour week, or something. I myself do not support this demand itself because it clearly indicates that the people themselves did not understand that the time had come to give out maximum production. We may read in a newspaper that some people in London or some people in France or some people in America had gone on strike to get fairer working hours, and got it; but we must understand that these countries are highly industrialised countries and that they have had two or three hundred years of industrial evolution, and

that we have not even entered our own industrial revolution. If the Nigerian workers had thought about their country at all they would have been able to say to their people, "In the past two years production went up 50 per cent; we guarantee that production will remain at that peak if we get the forty-four hour or the forty-hour week", or whatever it may be. But they did not—they said, "We want a forty-hour week—the reasons for that we do not yet know", and I think that the best answer was that given by Mr William Gorman when he gave them one hour less than what they were doing at present. If they were sensible they would see that it was merely something to satisfy them. "You have got reduced working hours now go and sit down". But in any case, if you are going to die from a forty-five hour week, the chances are that you will die from a forty-four hour week. For a very long time this Government has bowed almost consistently to the Trade Unions. Almost every week there is a strike in one place or another. They want higher wages and they do not stop to think where the money is coming from. They think that every penny you spend here is shipped from England, brought to spend here. They think it is Government money. But I as a taxpayer would oppose any further increases to Trade Unions based merely on blackmail demands. After all, Sir, it boils down to this—that the railway employees say, well we know that in this country we are the only people who can run the railway, either pay us more money or we will go on strike." That is nothing more than blackmail to my mind, and the Government should no longer bow down to blackmail either from the Medical Department or from the colliery or from the railway. Unfortunately, Sir, the colliery seems to be the worst offender in this case, because the people have only to say we shall not go to work. Why is the Government so weak on this point? There can be no end to the demands. If I myself were a Trade Union official I would say "Go on strike", as that appears to be the easiest way of getting increased wages. I gather now that people went on strike not just so much because they had not enough money but because they resented a certain appointment. If we are going to have a policy of Government by strikes I myself would entirely withdraw from public service. But the Government should be stronger. I do not think they have been strong enough in the past, and certainly, Sir, the time has come to take off the velvet glove and show the mailed fist in answer.

And now the other point and the last but one is a demand or a request from some people in the Onitsha Province. They live at a point 131½ miles from Port Harcourt on the railway. The railway has recently opened a station for changing trains and these people request that facilities for purchasing tickets and boarding trains might be given to them. I do not think, Sir, it would cost very much more to the Government and I think, Sir, that the advantages to the people would far outweigh the cost that Government might undergo by providing facilities for the sale of tickets.

Now, Sir, the last point with which I wish to deal is the question of employment of persons who have not attended Government recognised schools. I have before me here a letter addressed to one such person from a certain Department of Government. This boy was employed by the Government in the Posts and Telegraphs. About some months later he was terminated on the grounds not of inefficiency but because the school he attended was not recognised by the Education Department. Well, Sir, I very respectfully disagree with any policy which would deprive a man of employment merely because he did not attend a particular school. I think that if a man by his own efforts was able to assimilate education, he should be given a chance to get employment. The only reason why a man should be unemployed should be because he is inefficient or that because he has not the qualifications necessary for his employment. It should not be that he has not attended a particular school; but this is a particular case, Sir, which I shall bring to the notice of the Department concerned in Select Committee.

There is just one more word on disabled soldiers. I have before me, Sir, a letter addressed to me by the Ex-servicemen, Oji River Settlement. They say, Sir, that the increase in awards and pensions was not paid to them. I can well understand this, because the Board will argue that the mere fact that they contracted this foul disease while on Active Service does not mean that this was consequent upon Active Service. Logic is all very well, but I think Government should be more lenient and less logical in this case and that something should be done so that these soldiers may enjoy the increased awards and pensions.

That, Your Excellency, exhausts all I have to say, and I heartily support the Appropriation Bill.

The Emir of Abuja (The Hon. Sulemanu):

×Your Excellency, on rising to support the Appropriation Bill, I should like first to offer greetings and thanks to our Western friends for the welcome they have given us in this great city of Ibadan. In one way and another we are becoming much travelled men; I hope that the result will be that our minds will be broadened and that we shall have more sympathy and understanding for each other's problems and difficulties as well as for those which concern us all.

Last year at a meeting in Kaduna, I said that we in the North do not want politics, we want education; and I was taken to task about it by my friend the Honourable the Second Member for Northern Provinces. But of course there is no real difference between us, and now that the question of revising the new Constitution has arisen, I think it might be well if I said—very briefly, I promise you—what I meant and what I hope to see. The kind of politics to which I referred was that irresponsible quarrelling of a few people with loud voices and scratchy pens who try to get more importance for themselves by exaggerating everything that is wrong with the Government of the country, and by making big promises about the better way they themselves would

government—promises which they do not have to fulfil, but which distract the minds of the people from real understanding and education. We do not want any of that; but as the Honourable the Chief Secretary has said, a passionate interest in the welfare of our country and its government is a very different matter.

There has been some talk of two possible ways of getting a United Nigeria, either by fusion or by federation; but in my opinion, the first of these, fusion, does not exist even as a possibility. We in the North are anxious to work for a strong union of Nigerian peoples, but we have no intention of letting ourselves be fused into something foreign to our manners, our customs and our desires. The new Constitution is essentially one of federation as I see it—perhaps that is why it was so unwelcome in some quarters. Here are the separate regions; here are the chosen representatives; and we all meet together to discuss not only our own particular problems, but problems common to Nigeria as a whole; and that, Sir, is how I hope we shall continue to work together when the time comes for complete self-government.

Has the time come already for a further evolution? In the North we are rather cautious of sudden changes; we like to see clearly where we shall land before we take a jump. But although we may be suspicious of hurried transfer of power in the central authority, I think there is one direction at least in which Nigeria is ready for more self-government at once. That is Regional affairs. The North should have more power to deal with the internal affairs of the North, the West of the West and so on. Now generalisations are all very well, but we get rather many of them in the course of our meetings, so let us come to practical points and think how we can begin to take over this larger share of control. First, it seems to me, by giving the local Native Authorities more powers—start with the small, easily controlled unit, and you will soon have an effect on the whole. So I say give the Native Authorities more power. We shall make mistakes of course, but that is to be expected and does not matter much so long as we learn by them. The best way to prove to doubters that the intention to give Nigeria self-government is sincere, and the best way to teach us how to use it, is to start now and hand over to the Native Authorities some of those powers which are at present in the hands of the local Administrative Officers. It sometimes happens that a young man, fresh to the country and the work, has immediately more authority than the chosen or natural leaders and their experienced advisers. For instance, although the Native Authority is entirely responsible for the integrity of its Treasury and the safety of its funds, it has at present no right whatsoever to exercise even the smallest discretionary powers with regard to those funds. If the estimates of a vote fall short—as they have the unfortunate habit of doing nowadays—the Native Authority cannot transfer even £5 from one item of a vote where it is not urgently needed to another item where it is essential to finish a job; but the Administrative Officer, though with little

experience, can take such action immediately. I may come here and by my vote give support of my people to the spending of millions of pounds, but when I go back home and find that they want an extra £5 to finish off some little improvement in the market, I can not do that without the permission of the Administrative Officer. I do not mean to suggest that such permission would be refused; I suggest that it should no longer be necessary to have to ask for it. That is just one small example, but I hope it will serve to illustrate my meaning. Sir, give us, then more self-government locally today, regionally tomorrow and nationally as soon as we are all agreed to ask for it.

Tied up with this matter of self-government is the question of European officers. We in the North know that we need European advice and technical knowledge very badly and shall need it for a number of years yet, until our own educational machine has been built up and can turn out enough good material. We have got however to realise that if we want these people, we must offer attractive conditions of service and salary. Why should a man come here to work if he can get better conditions at home or some other country? These salaries may sometimes be enormous, but what matters to a man is not merely the money he earns during the month, but the money he has left at the end of a month after paying all his bills. Our most interesting visit to England taught me something of the meaning of the phrase 'cost of living' from the point of view of an Englishman. I know the house will sympathise with me when I tell you that to have this robe and turban pressed in London not counting washing, just pressing the crease out, was charged at twenty-five shillings. I tell you I felt very much expatriate.

Recently we were told that thirty-six new Administrative cadets are about to arrive for the Northern Provinces, and there was a lot of strong comment immediately, saying 'No, we do not want any more administrative officers. Send us Teachers, Doctors, Agricultural Officers and Engineers instead.' Well, I do not know if these cadets are merely replacing senior officers who have retired or who will soon leave, or if they are additional, but surely the trouble is this, and I quote the words from the address of His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces in January "the complexities of modern government have increased the office work and thus prevented the Divisional Officers from touring their divisions as thoroughly as they would wish." The result of this is that the administrative officer seems to many people just someone living in an office amongst letters and files, making some more letters and files for another officer in another office to deal with and so on. It is rather like a snake swallowing its own tail—very much hard work, but no good can come of it. Consequently we prefer Teachers, Doctors and Technicians whose work does show some obvious results. I suggest that to give us more self-government



Debates in the Legislative Council of Nigeria

Wednesday, 16th March, 1949

Pursuant to notice the Honourable Members of the Legislative Council met in the Hall of the Western House of Assembly, Ibadan, at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, the 16th of March, 1949.

PRESENT

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- His Excellency, the Governor,
Sir John S. Macpherson, K.C.M.G.
- The Chief Secretary to the Government,
The Honourable H. M. Foot, C.M.G., O.B.E.
- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,
His Honour T. C. Hoskyns-Abrahall, C.M.G.
- The Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces,
His Honour E. W. Thompstone, C.M.G., M.C.
- The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,
His Honour Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, C.M.G.
- The Attorney-General,
The Honourable G. L. Howe, K.C.
- The Financial Secretary,
The Honourable A. W. L. Savage, C.M.G.
- The Director of Medical Services,
Dr the Honourable G. B. Walker, C.B.E.
- The Development Secretary,
The Honourable C. J. Pleass.
- The Director of Education,
The Honourable R. A. McL. Davidson, C.M.G.
- The Director of Agriculture,
The Honourable A. G. Beattie.
- The Director of Public Works,
The Honourable R. W. Taylor.
- The Commissioner of Labour,
The Honourable A. H. Couzens.
- The Acting Commissioner of the Colony,
The Honourable J. G. C. Allen.
- The Senior Resident, Kano Province,
The Honourable E. K. Featherstone, C.M.G.
- The Resident, Ogoja Province,
The Honourable P. M. Riley.
- The Resident, Abeokuta Province,
The Honourable J. H. Blair, E.D.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

Your Excellency, according to the *African Echo*, it took Your Excellency fifty minutes to deliver your 12-paged speech to this Honourable House at the opening of this Budget Session. That did not take into consideration Your Excellency's Address of eighty-three pages. As one of the Unofficial Members, I am expected to have a say not only on the 95-paged speech and address of Your Excellency, but on the 21-paged speech of the Honourable the Financial Secretary, in addition to the 328-paged Estimates of Nigeria and Memorandum, the 176-paged Regional Estimates and Memoranda, and the 99-paged Railway Estimates. In other words, I am expected to make comments on documents totalling 719 pages (of which 603 pages are foolscap size) in thirty minutes, according to our new Standing Orders. This is a herculean task indeed, and I hope that some Honourable Member will come to my rescue when the allotted time is due, whilst giving my assurance that I shall not speak for two days, as I did, last year at Kaduna.

The Appropriation Bill before this Honourable House seeks to expend the sum of £36,056,970 for the maintenance of social services, law and order, and the administration of this country. Against this, the Honourable the Financial Secretary estimates revenue to the tune of £26,519,960, with "a potential recurrent deficit of £900,000." However, he assured that it might be possible "to obtain the additional recurrent and extraordinary revenue required to present a balanced budget."

What struck me as I perused the Appropriation Bill and the Estimates was the avidity with which certain departments increased their votes, over and above the approved Estimates of the last financial year, to wit: Miscellaneous £1,244,200, Public Works Extraordinary £340,860, Colliery £297,710, Police £238,760, Electricity £207,960, Marine £195,810, Development and Welfare £177,148, Pensions and Gratuities £94,360, Posts and Telegraphs £77,520, Public Works Recurrent—Maintenance Works £48,100, Prisons £34,020, Public Relations £30,850, Commerce and Industries £24,539. That is, if my observations in this respect are limited to the top-ranking departments in the race for squandermania.

As against these spendthrift departments may be mentioned certain departments which have set an example of thrift in their budget for the year 1949-50, by reducing expenditure, to wit: Medical £47,510, Customs £35,970, Agriculture £33,490, Nigerian Secretariat £29,130. Whilst I am not unmindful of the good intentions and hard work of the free-spending departments already mentioned, yet I wish to record my esteem for the wise and practical way the thrifty departments grasped the realities of Nigerian public finance. If other departments would follow suit, allowing for certain *sine qua non* expenditures, I am almost certain that the Honourable the Financial Secretary would be less exposed to the broadsides of the Honourable Members on this side of the House.

In a country like Nigeria, I would differentiate between productive and unproductive departments, speaking purely in terms of material economics. If a statistical study of the former is made, it will be found that the less the productive departments spend, the more the unproductive departments spend, relatively speaking. Since there are exceptions to any rule, I will concede that certain productive departments may be obliged to spend more, whilst the unproductive ones may be obliged to spend less; nevertheless, this is explainable and can be adjusted without harmful effect on the tax-payer. Left to me alone, I would classify in the category of productive departments in the economy of Nigeria, the following: Agriculture, Aviation, Colliery, Customs and Excise, Development, Electricity, Forestry, Geological Survey, Inland Revenue, Marine, Medical, Mines, Posts and Telegraphs, Public Works, Survey, and Veterinary.

I must admit that I am not happy at the way our finance is administered, not because the Honourable the Financial Secretary has not done a fine piece of job in preparing and presenting his budget, but because, as he admits, "Heads of Departments at present carry the responsibility for the control of expenditure," and, he continued, "I know their difficulties in relation to staff, but I intend seeking their further co-operation in initiating this year a special drive by every officer in their departments to obtain closer control and supervision." Very timely and well-chosen words! Had this been done in the past, the tax-payers of this country would not be in an anomalous position of creating a bureaucracy which, like Frankenstein, is now busily engaged in destroying its creator. Let us hope that the Honourable the Financial Secretary will implement his promise in this respect.

I am in a quandary to appreciate the intrinsic value of making a speech of general nature at a debate on the Appropriation Bill. I know that, traditionally, after the Budget Speech, the Unofficial Members use that as an opportunity to survey the whole field of administration. I am not sure that this is not a dissipation of energy, because after all, participation in discussion of affairs generally is not the same as participation in the management and control of our finance.

If the tax-payers of this country had management and control of their finance, they would be in position to realise that the aim of taxation is primarily to make the life of the tax-payer less irksome. Surely, inadequate water supplies, unavailability of hospital services to the greatest number of the people, limitation of education to a privileged few, restriction of mileage of bitumen surfaced roads, lack of street lighting on a wide scale, virtual absence of fire protection, and parsimonious and inefficient postal system and telecommunications, do not justify the existence of the type of bureaucracy we have in this country. It is a record which I cannot be proud of, after eighty-three years of Anglo-Nigerian relations.

After all, students of political science agree that the criterion of good government is the ability of the government to provide the above necessities for the greatest good of the greatest number of its tax-payers.

Applying the above tests to Nigeria, I am not unmindful of possible explanations, namely: that the country is poor and incapable of financing such large-scale community enterprises and that there is shortage of staff. Granting that this is the case, but are the excuses convincing? Could it not be that lack of imagination and energy are responsible, other things being equal, until recently?

In presenting the Appropriation Bill, the Honourable the Financial Secretary made it clear that the problem before this Honourable House is to reconcile increasing expenditure with a diminishing revenue in a setting which is gloomy. For what else can he mean when in one breath he asks for £36,056,970, and in another, warns us (i) that we must expect a deficit of about one million pounds, and (ii) that since the prospect of the present boom in produce prices would not last long, we must anticipate increased taxation? I had expected that since our economic future is so darkened by the clouds of uncertainty that a programme of positive action or a definite planning would be prepared in order to save us from this prophetic maelstrom.

As I see the problems of public finance in Nigeria, I think that reliance on a few sources of revenue, exportation of Nigerian money abroad, an untrammelled bureaucracy, colonial status with implications of tutelage, and lack of zeal to industrialise Nigeria are intertwined with our economic woes.

I would like to see definite planning of our public finance assuming shape in the immediate future on a pattern which whilst making room for the present political status of Nigeria, would be more energetic and adaptable in envisaging a more stabilised economy for the country. I would suggest the following as a way out:

1. De-nationalization of our public utilities, like Building Construction, Colliery, Electricity, Marine, Railway, Road Construction, and Telecommunications.

In this category, I see no reason why public corporations should not be established on purely commercial lines, to operate these utilities, as distinct from allowing them to be run under the aegis of an inefficient civil service.

Perhaps, a "Cable and Wireless (Nigeria) Limited" will be an answer to the accusations of inefficiency levelled at the Posts and Telegraphs Department. Perhaps, a "Nigerian Collieries Limited" will save our Colliery Department from any financial embarrassments. Perhaps, a "Nigerian Railway Limited" will solve the adverse criticism on our railway administration. Perhaps, a

“Nigerian Shipping Limited” will be a way out of the dilemma of a Marine Department which is like Moloch in devouring the gold sacrificed to it. Who knows whether Nigerian corporations for the construction of our roads and houses will not prove more beneficial to the tax-payers than the present system of bureaucratic control under the Public Works Department? I am informed that it is the plan to transform the Government Electricity Undertakings into a public corporation. This is welcome. It is a step in the right direction.

2. As far as possible, Nigerian money should be kept within our territorial limits.

I would rather invest Nigerian surplus funds in public corporations and utilities floated in Nigeria than abroad, although I appreciate and agree with the reasons given by the Honourable the Financial Secretary for investing our money abroad, in the past.

I would restrict the number of non-Nigerian directors, managers and employees of companies doing business in Nigeria, to a ratio of 60:60:20 per cent, respectively, in order to benefit both the *rentier* and the wage/salary earning classes of Nigeria.

I would cancel expatriation allowance which costs the country in the neighbourhood of half-a-million pounds annually and is a source of misgivings between Nigerian and non-Nigerian civil servants.

3. Personal emoluments should be related to the productive capacity of our financial resources.

I would trim the salary scales of the Senior Service and make them to relate equitably with the earning capacity of Nigeria, because I am of the considered opinion that our top-flight civil servants are over-paid, if the economy of the country is used as a yardstick.

4. Interest should be charged on all public moneys advanced to individuals or groups.

In this connection, I would insist that all civil servants who receive advances for any object whatsoever should pay interest on same just as one would do in a private concern, if that is not the case at present.

5. Departments which are not productive economically should be scrutinized thoroughly and their budget rigorously clipped and limited.

6. Prospects of industrialization of Nigeria on a large scale should be stepped up, instead of being allowed to remain in a state of doldrum, as at present.

Manufacture of by-products of coal, cement, nail, ceramics and bricks and tiles, textiles, dehydration of garri, yam and corn flour, products, etc., should be undertaken.

The work that is being done by the Department of Agriculture and private enterprise in the local manufacture of citrus and other fruits can be encouraged on a wider scale in order to conserve our fruits by industrial processes and by cheapening the cost of fruit drinks and living on the products of our country. Dehydration is now a necessity, especially in our food industries. The bulk of our people live on perishable foodstuff like garri (product of cassava), yam and corn together with flour obtained therefrom. Any step along these lines would be a boon to the Nigerian house-keeper.

7. Nigerianization of the civil service should be made at a faster tempo than at present.

Discussing taxation, the Honourable the Financial Secretary announced the increase in tobacco and cigarettes, in addition to increase in the companies income tax. The increase in manufactured tobacco accords exactly with the suggestions I made at Kaduna last year, in spite of the fact that same was rejected. I will repeat that, in addition to the changes in taxation embodied under an Order in Council already confirmed by this House, the customs tariff can still be amended, bearing in mind what I suggested at Kaduna. The 66½ per cent *ad valorem* duty on perfumery, cosmetics and toilet preparations should be increased to 70 per cent. Duty on Imported soap should be increased from five shillings to five shillings and three pence the hundred pounds. Spirits and liquids of all kinds, like brandy, gin, rum, whisky, etc., should be increased from £3 15s to £4 5s the gallon. For reasons adduced in reducing export duties on cattle hides, cocoa, goat skins and sheep skins, I have no adverse comments to make; the same is applicable to the increase in export duties on groundnuts, palm kernels, palm kernel oil, palm oil, and tin or tin ore. I note with satisfaction the imposition of export duties on benniseed, groundnut oil, groundnut cake, palm kernel cake, and sheanuts. For years, I, in concert with others, have advocated taxation on these commodities, and it is good that Government has now realised the need for this move.

Making a general observation on taxation, I would like to emphasise the aspect of Your Excellency's address on the Police Department. The disturbances which necessitated the presence of Police at Abeokuta, Shagamu and Iperu require tactful approach by this Government especially with reference to the taxation of women, bearing in mind the taxation incidents of 1929.

May I be permitted, Sir, to make a few observations of a general nature with respect to certain points raised either in Your Excellency's address or on matters affecting Government policy generally?

The labour problems of this country continue to be chronic. I agree that a stabilization of wages is necessary in order to avoid plunging the country into a depression necessitated by excessive and incessant increase in wages and salaries. But some of the root

causes must be examined scientifically. If the cost of living index continues to show increase how can we expect the wage index to remain at a level which is not only lower, but may be below the minimum of subsistence level? With increased cost of food, shelter and clothing, coupled with efforts to increase and better the conditions of the higher-incomed groups, we cannot but continue to face these serious problems. The need for stabilizing personal emoluments cannot be over-stressed, although the problem of stabilizing the cost of living in Nigeria, if ever possible, cannot be divorced from this aspect of our public finance. It is my sincere hope that non-Nigerian civil servants would appreciate that any demands made by them for increased salaries, perquisites, allowances and other privileges are bound to have repercussions on the attitude of the members of the Junior Service towards demands for higher salaries and wages; this was one of the major causes of the General Strike of 1945.

I should not be misunderstood as supporting perennial labour disputes, for the fun of embarrassing employers of labour, of which I am one, but these are basic factors which the Labour Department must grapple with tact and with vision.

I agree that forced labour, as it was practised, aboriginally, has some desirable features but in view of the Anti-Slavery Convention of 1926 and the Convention on Forced Labour of 1930, of which I understand Great Britain is a signatory, forced labour may be exacted solely for public purposes, and a compensation may be paid. For the protection of our peasantry, I think that this provision is very desirable, in view of the sordid history of forced labour in the Belgian Congo and other parts of the world.

I do not agree that in asking for forty-hour week, the workers of Nigeria have erred. If Great Britain is a signatory to certain conventions made in this connection, there must be some good in it. Besides, the fact that wage-earners in the tropics have to face almost intolerable conditions, climatically, makes the case for shorter working hours very desirable. But I agree that there must be efficiency and increased output to justify same. If an unskilled worker in Europe is good enough to work for forty hours a week in a temperate climate, how can we escape blame for refusing the same right to an unskilled worker in a tropical climate like Nigeria, other things being equal? Unskilled labour cannot be subject of discrimination based on factors of race or environment, but I agree that the right of collective bargaining should not be abused.

Last year I called attention to the need for Nigerianizing the Nigeria Regiment or whatever is the name used to designate our unit of the Royal West African Frontier Force. Since then only one Nigerian officer had been commissioned. This should be handled more energetically; surely Nigeria can produce more than a score of officers annually.

The establishing of a Trade Commissioner's office in London is welcome. When I suggested the establishment of a Nigeria House in London, at Kaduna, the idea was pooh-poohed. I wish this move the success it richly deserves and hope that it will be a medium for advertising Nigeria to Britain and the world, in order to knit us together "in true love and charity one towards another," as members of this great commonwealth.

I endorse the views of those who have mentioned the harmful effect of monopolies and combines on our national economy. Although the Honourable the Financial Secretary appears to "see red" whenever accusation is made that Nigeria is exploited "for the benefit of foreigners and strangers" yet we cannot close our eyes to the reality of existence of a regime of monopoly that tantamounts to restraint of trade. Whilst I sympathise with him, because I agree that "the basic purpose of our economic policy naturally is to improve the well-being of the people of Nigeria," yet effort should be made to protect the Nigerian tax-payers from the grip of monopolists, otherwise, it would be an abuse of trust. I understand that, if the Labour Party wins the General Elections in Great Britain, in 1950, it would nationalize an important monopoly-combine with which Nigerian trade and commerce have been identified for many years. I am not in position to confirm this news, but if it is true, it will be heartily welcomed.

One Honourable Member suggests that Nigerian problems should be treated purely as an internal concern. He means well, Sir, but I beg to differ. The problem of colonies is now one of international concern. With respect to the Protectorate of Nigeria, this is a purely international problem, bearing in mind the Berlin Conference of 1885, which established our protectorate status. We should not forget that Great Britain, France, Russia and the United States were among the signatories to the conventions of that conference.

In view of my suggestion for denationalizing certain quasi-commercial departments of the civil service, for reasons shown, I might be charged with inconsistency. That would be unfortunate. Nationalization of industries can be more successful in a State which has sovereign powers and is answerable to the people. I hardly think that nationalization will be as successful in a colonial territory whose top-flight civil servants are mainly expatriates and not *nationals* of the country concerned. Hence, State Capitalism, rather than State Socialism, might be a panacea.

When I remarked last year that we should not dovetail our economy to that of Great Britain, I was misunderstood and it was interpreted to mean an independent economic existence, which is certainly suicidal. What I have in mind is the renunciation of economic nationalism and economic imperialism—big words these. If we had a free market to buy and sell commodity, without artificial restrictions; if other nations had free access to our raw materials,

without bottle necks, then we might be better off. But I do not minimize the magnitude of certain practices by some nations which tend to have adverse effect either on our trade and currency or those of the United Kingdom.

In course of the deliberations of this Council, mention has been made of criticisms in the press and otherwise. Some have accused the press of malicious attacks and some have accused those who disagreed with them as acting in self-interest. Such observations have extrinsic, but not intrinsic, value. Whilst it is true that the press is critical of public figures, yet that is no evidence of ulterior motive. After all, public figures must realize that the nature of their avocation makes them a target for criticism. Consequently, we cannot afford to be hypersensitive and sentimental about it. We must admit that criticisms must be fair and constructive, but when they are unfair or destructive, the solution is not by adopting a holier-than-thou attitude, but by rectitude in public affairs. Sir Philip Sidney said: "Men are almost cruel on their neighbours' faults, and the overthrow of others the badge of their own ill-masked virtue."

Even among the most vociferous critics of the press they cannot claim perfection either in their utterances or allegations or social behaviour, being human. In fact, generalization is the stock-in-trade of some of them—generalizations which cannot be substantiated when put to the strict proof of evidence. Surely, Sir, people who indulge in platitudinous criticisms of others have no right to claim amnesty from the shaft of press criticism, and people in the public eye, who flout public opinion or who are delinquent in their obligations as public servants have no right to claim amnesty from press criticism. Any Government which resents criticism is a despotism, benevolent or malevolent.

Whilst what I have been saying is a fair appraisal of what should be the attitude of public figures towards criticism, yet I agree with Your Excellency, that when "evidence of hatred and envy and malice" feature certain sections of the press and their technique is to feed their readers "on a diet of abuse and malicious lies . . . against any Nigerian who happens to be of a different party or a different opinion," the future of our country cannot but be ominous. What then is the way out? I would suggest that those who live in glass houses should not throw stones. In many instances, some Honourable Members of this House make allegations which are unfounded on fact. They are usually corrected by the Official Members. In doing so, the good motives of those who commit such errors are not questioned. They should do likewise with the press, in spite of its faults, real and imaginary.

One ogre which hampers cordial relations between Government and the governed and among the various leaders and followers of different shades of opinion, in this country, is the growing feeling

of suspicion and distrust of the other man's point of view. This assumes different shapes and forms:

- (i) by doubting the genuine and sincere efforts of those who disagree with them;
- (ii) by impugning the integrity of those with whom they are in disagreement;
- (iii) by imputing ulterior motive, self-interest and selfishness to those who are critical of them;
- (iv) by becoming chronic fault-finders in the activities of others.

Certainly, if Government or any person has a right to doubt the good intentions of any person, by what process of reasoning does either party think that their good intentions will not be impugned, on the basis of reciprocity? Your Excellency refers to the present clash of ideas and conflict of interests in this country, in these words:

“ I am bound to say that I cannot regard some of the manifestations of the new political consciousness, notably in sections of the press, as admirable or just or conducive to true progress, but in spite of this I can sincerely declare that I rejoice in the new interest in public affairs, the new spirit of enquiry, the new testing of the actions and intentions of Government, of local authorities, and of all who aspire to leadership; political or otherwise. But I pray, for the sake of Nigeria, that this testing and appraising will be done honestly in a spirit of service to the country, and not with destructive or self-seeking motives.”

No responsible person would disagree with the sentiments expressed above; once genuine efforts are not doubted, integrity is not impugned, ulterior motive is not imputed, we throw the door wide open for the fresh air of co-operation and mutual understanding to disperse the foul air of suspicion and distrust. It is said that confidence begets confidence and I hope that in our future relations this should be a flood light to guide our feet on the road towards mutual respect, goodwill and fellowship.

I cannot, therefore, but endorse the statement in your speech that, “ The greatest danger of all is that animosities might be aroused and exploited which would result in the different races of this country falling apart.” In spite of all the din and fury, in the press, personally, I remain calm and unruffled, believing with Immanuel Kant: “ Have patience a while; slanders are not long-lived. Truth is the child of time; ere long she shall appear to vindicate thee ”.

In conclusion, Sir, I hope that your administration will bring hope to those who still have an iota of faith in the good intentions of the British Government, and I trust that it will restore confidence in the minds of those who have had cause to begin to doubt, due to certain extraneous factors. Co-operation between critics of Government policy and the Government is not impossible, if both parties concede the honest intentions of each other. We may have our

internal quarrels too, but these are mere manifestations of a nation in ferment. As Horace said, "Time will bring to light whatever is hidden; it will conceal and cover up what is now shining with the greatest splendour".

Now that the Richards Constitution is to be revised, a great opportunity has been offered to all parties, to bury the hatchet of misunderstanding and smoke the pipe of peace, so that Nigeria and the Camerouns may have a new life consistent with her importance in the world. This is possible, in view of your wisdom in allowing the people of this country to decide for themselves what kind of Constitution they want. Personally, I appreciate this gesture, for it accords with what Pandit Motilal Nehru was reported to have said in the Indian Parliament on February 8, 1924: "I don't think anything deserves the name of a Constitution for a country if the people of that country have no voice in drafting it". And I endorse same with all my heart.

Making allowance for the fact that Edmund Burke was a reactionary, and that he directed his advice to the British Government in respect of Colonial Policy under circumstances which are not necessarily on all fours with our condition as a Colony and Protectorate, may I, with Your Excellency's permission end these observations of mine in his immortal words:

"Let the colonies always keep the idea of their civil rights associated with your government;—they will cling and grapple to you; and no force under heaven would be of power to tear them from their allegiance. But let it be once understood, that your government may be one thing, and their privileges another; that these two things may exist without any mutual relation; the cement is gone; the cohesion is loosened; and everything hastens to decay and dissolution.

"As long as you have the wisdom to keep the sovereign authority of this country as the sanctuary of liberty, the sacred temple consecrated to our common faith, wherever the chosen race and sons of England worship freedom, they will turn their faces towards you.

"The more they multiply, the more friends you will have; the more ardently they love liberty, the more perfect will be their obedience

"Deny them this participation of freedom, and you break that sole bond, which originally made, and must still preserve the unity of the empire.

"Do not entertain so weak an imagination, as that your registers and your bonds, your affidavits and your sufferances, your cockets and your clearances, are what form the greatest securities of your commerce. Do not dream that your letters of office, and your instructions, and your suspending clauses, are the things that hold together the great contexture of this mysterious whole. These things do not make your government. Dead instruments, passive

tools as they are, it is the spirit of the English communion that gives all their life and efficacy to them. It is the spirit of the English Constitution, which, infused through the mighty mass, pervades, feeds, unites, invigorates, vivifies every part of the empire, even down to the minutest member.

"All this, I know well enough, will sound wild and chimerical to the profane herd of those vulgar and mechanical politicians, who have no place among us; a sort of people who think that nothing exists but what is gross and material; and who therefore, far from being qualified to be directors of the great movement of empire, are not fit to turn a wheel in the machine. But to them truly initiated and rightly taught, these ruling and master principles, which, in the opinion of such men as I have mentioned, have no substantial existence, are in truth everything, and all in all.

"Magnanimity in politics is not seldom the truest wisdom; and a great empire and little minds go ill together.

"If we are conscious of our situation, and glow with zeal to fill our places as becomes our station and ourselves we ought to elevate our minds to the greatness of that trust to which the order of Providence has called us.

"By adverting to the dignity of this high calling, our ancestors have turned a savage wilderness into a glorious empire; and have made the most extensive, and the only honourable conquests, not by destroying, but by promoting the wealth, the number, the happiness of the human race"

These thoughts of an eighteenth century politician are worthy of serious study, not because I am necessarily an apologist of imperialism, but because I believe that they are pregnant with wisdom and are capable of turning the tide of Anglo-Nigerian relations from one of confusion to co-operation. It is up to those who uphold the torch of British democracy to understand our yearnings and desires and to adjust and adapt themselves for the greatest good of the greatest number in Nigeria. Whether they will take heed of the handwriting on the wall of destiny or not, history shall be my witness.

Your Excellency, in the circumstances, I cannot but support the Appropriation Bill.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

* Sir, five weeks ago I met a high official along the Marina in Lagos who enquired whether I was getting ready for the Legislative Council meeting at Ibadan. I told him, Sir, that I was, and that I had succeeded in manufacturing eleven highly dangerous explosives for the occasion, and that incidentally I intended one of them for his Department. Unfortunately Sir, before I got to Ibadan one of them exploded in the Lagos Town Council a few days ago. May I take this opportunity Sir, to welcome most heartily the President of this august assembly to the first of our stormy meetings, and I do hope you will not find it too stormy. We are deeply touched

by the kind sentiments which you have expressed about the peoples of Nigeria and the Cameroons both at the Swearing-in Ceremony in Lagos in April last and at the opening session of this Council. We wish to reassure you, Sir, that we in Nigeria are no less warm-hearted than the five million people who live in that part of Great Britain beyond Carlisle. All we ask, Sir, are fair play; respect for healthy public opinion; less of Anglo-Saxon arrogance, racial prejudice and intolerance; recognition of ability, without regard to sex, creed, colour or race. In the Nigeria of today, Sir, we cannot tolerate the recruitment of Europeans with two or three credits in the Cambridge School Certificate or Bus Conductors from Great Britain, into our Civil Service at £450 per annum minus its expatriation components, when Nigerian boys and girls with better or identical qualifications are paid a wretched sum of £96 per annum. Having listened, Sir, attentively to your spoken address last week I was beginning to feel very uneasy about my explosives, and when I got home Sir, I discovered that nine more had exploded, leaving one remaining which I intended, and still intend, for the Nigerian Secretariat and the Printing Department. May I congratulate you, Sir, on your excellent speech and on the bold, sincere, definite and categorical declaration of your policy on Tuesday, 8th March, 1949. History, I believe, was in fact created in Ibadan with the pronouncement of that policy—a policy propounded and implemented by five of your distinguished predecessors in office, out of the thirty-three Governors Nigeria ever had. The names of these five British Governors have been indelibly inscribed in the innermost core of our hearts. First on the list, was His Excellency Sir, J. H. Glover, still affectionately referred to by our forefathers as Afari Ogun. He was one of the greatest of the older Governors. Next, Sir, was His Excellency Sir C. A. Moloney. Thirdly, was His Excellency Sir William Macgregor, M.D. Amongst the more recent Governors, Sir, we have His Excellency Sir Hugh Clifford and His Excellency Sir Donald Cameron, whom the then Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies Mr Malcolm MacDonald described as one of the greatest Governors of all time. I venture to say, Sir, that with the implementation of your policy in the years ahead—and we have no doubt that it will be implemented—it would be our pleasurable duty in the silent future to tell generations of Nigeria yet unborn that whereas His Excellency Sir John Stuart Macpherson came to Nigeria as the thirty-fourth Governor, he left as one of the greatest six.

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 X The Development Programme. We are anxiously looking forward to the Development Plan gaining momentum, particularly the Education and Medical Services, from the 1st of April, 1949—and by that, Sir, I don't mean "April Fool".

Land Policy. While we welcome the official pronouncement that legislation will soon be proposed on Government Land Policy and the Town Planning Scheme with special reference to the Public Lands Acquisition Amendment Ordinances, I would like to sound a

note of warning before that legislation was in draft. I wish to bring it home to the Government Sir, that according to the tradition, custom and usages of our forefathers, which are rigid and inflexible, and which I repeat, Sir, are based upon immemorial usage, expressions such as "Crown Land", "Crown Grants", "Leasehold", "and Rent" and "Unoccupied land" are repugnant to our common law to which I have referred, and I suggest they should be discarded in favour of a more reasonable policy.

We wish you, Sir, and Lady Macpherson, good health while you are in Nigeria, and a happy sojourn amongst us in order to enable you to implement the bold policy which you have declared before this House on the 8th of March. Now, Sir, I wish to say a few words about the Departments of Government. Reference has been made to the unfortunate tornado which devastated Lagos and Districts some time last year. As Secretary to the Committee, Sir, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those public-spirited ladies and gentlemen who readily volunteered for public service to bring relief to the victims. Our task, Sir, has not been an easy one, but I must submit, that the parsimonious attitude of Government in not giving generously to the Committee adequate amount of money towards the Committee's funds is to be deplored in the strongest terms. Charity, it is said, begins at home; but it does not necessarily end there. If Government can jolly well afford to provide the sum of £15,000 from the Nigerian revenue to the flood victims in England a part of England for that matter then Government might as well be magnanimous to have provided fairly generously to the fund of the Lagos Tornado Relief Committee, to the extent which the English victims were provided, instead of giving a paltry sum of £1,500 for Lagos and Districts, a fact which rendered the task of the Committee more difficult, and its problems almost incapable of solution. I therefore, Sir, protest on behalf of the victims, that had Government been more liberal and less stingy the Lagos and Districts Relief Committee victims would have benefitted more than they did. I wish to take this opportunity, Sir; however, of reassuring the Lagos public that the Committee has neither been partial in its enquiry nor in the method of its awards, and I do hope that they will understand that the Committee had been working under very precarious circumstances beyond which it had no control. But, Sir, I am in the position to say that the sum of £235 is still on hand (last Report from the Bank) and more deserving victims will benefit therefrom as soon as the Secretary returns to Lagos. We are indeed extremely grateful, Sir, that after nearly fifty years, in the act of local self-government under the panopoly of the Union Jack the City of Lagos would become a fully fledged municipality next year, and I am quite sure, Sir, that the embryo graduates will not only surprise our Professors but the world in general when we take over control of affairs. We look forward, Sir, to the General Election next year, and the election of the first Mayor in Nigeria.

The Legal Department, Sir. When I was an undergraduate, Sir, I learnt the following rhyme, "A man who would woo a fair maid and 'prentice himself to the trade, he should 'prentice himself at fourteen and practise from morning to even". That was in forever Scotland, Sir, a few years ago. I am convinced, that in the dear old Shamrock, of Ireland, there is an identical, if not a better, rhyme. If that were so, Sir, I wish to take this opportunity to appeal to the Honourable Attorney-General—the keeper of His Excellency's political conscience.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

I oppose that.

His Excellency :

I do not associate myself with it.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

Fortunately, Sir, our present Governor is an administrator, not only a politician; so that the Attorney-General will have no political conscience to keep for the next four years, but it is paradoxical, Sir, that some administrators have to borrow the politicians' brains with which to work. It is needless for me to say, Sir, that the administrator is the elder brother of the politician and that the eldest brother of them all is the statesman. May I appeal again to the Honourable Attorney-General to give Nigerians a chance in the Legal Department, so that they can 'prentice themselves to the trade and practise from morning to even.

The Labour Department. I wish to indicate, Sir, that I would prove very troublesome to the Commissioner of Labour when we get into Select Committee.

The Marine Department. Last year, Sir, I complained bitterly about the report submitted by the Director of Marine, especially about the lack of details regarding the expenditure which involved the sum of £88,850. This year, Sir, however, the Director of Marine remains unrepentant. He has beaten his own record, Sir, in that the annual report he has submitted for 1948-49, involving the expenditure of the sum of £1,132,600 has been condensed into a shorter report by half a page than last year's. The case of the Marine, Sir, would appear to be a chronic one, and like all chronic diseases, what cannot be cured must be endured. Fortunately, Sir, I am given to understand that we are not going to endure for a long time, because the Director of Marine is proceeding on leave preparatory to retirement in a few weeks time. I wish to refer, Sir, to the Five Cowrie Creek Bridge on the road to the sea-side in Lagos. This bridge, Sir, is a danger to the public, and the attitude taken by the Marine Department in regard to the resurfacing of the bridge in small portions is not good enough, and I hope, Sir, that if we do not want to hear about the death of one of the Members of this House, having been drowned in his car over the bridge, I hope that Government will do something very soon and I

am quite sure that Members of this House will vote the necessary money so that the bridge can be resurfaced properly. The railing, Sir, is also a danger to pedestrians, particularly young children who come from the Beach to Lagos and vice versa. Now, Sir, if one looked beyond the bridge one would find a road, a deplorable one at that leading to the sea-side, which I think is a creditable monument to the administrative capabilities of the executive members of the Lagos Town Council, I suppose, Sir, that this House is going to vote another £6,800 for the Lagos Town Council for the maintenance of roads. When on the Town Council, Sir, I have asked several times, for repairs to roads, I am always told to sit down.

Medical. I have always intended, Sir, that I will not deal with the Medical Department in the open, but I find that this time I shall have to do so, because a matter of principle is involved. I have got an authority here, it is called "Medical Jurisprudence and Toxicology" and incidentally was written by the man who taught me Forensic medicine at the University of Glasgow. I want the Director of Medical Services, Sir, to accept my challenge before this House, as to whether he is a registered medical practitioner who has been legally qualified and duly registered and whose name has been duly inscribed in the Medical Register—if I should issue a Medical Certificate—whether the Honourable Director of Medical Services was competent to dishonour that Certificate. This matter, Sir, has been agitating the mind of both Doctors and the public for some years back. The medical officer or medical practitioner will issue a certificate, Sir, about somebody who is not in Government service, and the various firms in Lagos and some parts of the country would say to that employee that unless that certificate had been countersigned by the medical officers in Government Department, they would not acknowledge that certificate. This, Sir, is one of the ways how medical officers in Government service carry on their nefarious private practice. Now, Sir, I am not anticipating just now the reply of the Honourable Director, but I wish to refresh his memory about section 29 of the Medical Act of 1858, now I think, Sir, I have brought this matter before three Directors and nothing has been done about it. It says here, Sir, according to the definition given by the Court of Appeal in 1892:—

"If it is shown that a medical man, in the pursuit of his profession, has done something with regard to it which would be reasonably regarded as disgraceful or dishonourable by his professional brethren of good repute and competency, then it is open to the Council to say that he has been guilty of infamous conduct in a professional respect."

And I believe, Sir, I am open to correction that if such a medical practitioner has been tried by the necessary authority and has been found guilty, the only verdict is to have the name of such a medical practitioner expunged from the Medical Register. Now, Sir, if

there are some doctors in any part of the country who have been given false, misleading and improper certificates, I think it is up to the Director, he has got wide powers under this section, to bring those doctors before the law, instead of his medical officers and the Director himself maybe, refusing or treating a certificate of their colleagues with contempt. I shall continue, Sir, on this subject when I get to the Select Committee. I would like to endorse, Sir, what the Honourable Member for the Colony has said about the Inland Revenue and the Administrator-General's Department, and I will take the matter up at some length in Select Committee. I now come, Sir, to the Provincial Administration. The great French Philosopher Pascal stated: "The choice of an occupation is the most important thing in life, while the whole relation of man to his work, his supervisors and the social group with whom he works, has a vitally important effect on his physical and mental health". And Socrates, Sir, the wisest of all men in Plato's Republic, propounded the following dictum: "If every individual were to follow the course of employment for which he was endowed by nature, the cows would be well tended". In the same dialogue, Sir, Socrates continued, "Things are done better and more easily when a man only does work adapted to his capacity and at a time agreeable to him". Now then, Sir, I wish to take this opportunity to advise some Administrative Officers that before going out to open up agricultural shows in Ibadan, Badagry or in Oyo, they should ponder, ruminate on what Socrates and Pascal have said, and take a good look at themselves in the mirror, then I am sure, Sir, more cows will be well tended. The Nigerian Secretariat, Sir. During the regime of His Excellency Sir Alfred Moloney and until the departure of His Excellency, Sir Donald Cameron from Nigeria, the Nigerian Secretariat enjoyed a prestige second to none throughout British West Africa. Indeed, Sir, it was a palladium of truth, sincerity, efficiency, right and justice, and all that was to be proud of in the British or indeed any culture. But today, Sir, it is deplorable to observe that the Secretariat of yesterday is no more than a pandemonium of immorality and corruption, stuffed—mark my words, Sir, I said stuffed, not staffed—with some of the most superfluous ignorant, mercenary and servile crew, who are unanimous in evil and diligent in mischief; who are variable in principle and constant to flattery; who are talkers for liberty but slaves of power. In short, Sir, that institution has become such a one in which any reasonable man can expect no remedy but poison, no relief but death, therein. Happily, Sir, we have in this country today our amiable the Honourable the Chief Secretary next in command to His Excellency the Governor. Since his arrival in this country we have been compelled, Sir, not only to respect but admire his administrative capabilities;—As an illustrious son of an illustrious father, may I, Sir, on behalf of the people of Nigeria express the sanguine hope that he will endeavour to restore the prestige of the Nigerian Secretariat to what it was

in the good old days. In passing, Sir, I would very much like to pay a deserving tribute to a former official of the Nigerian Secretariat, and I cannot do so more graphically, Sir, than in the language of William Shakespeare: What did Shakespeare say of him? Of him, Sir, he said,

“ The kindest man, the best condition'd
And unwearied spirit in doing courtesies;
And one in whom the ancient Roman honour more appears,
Than any that draws breath in Italy ”.

Coming nearer home, Sir, all I have to do is to substitute the word “ Africa ” for “ Italy ”. Why, Sir, because, this official served with conspicuous merit in East Africa, according to the records of his achievement, which has been transmitted to us by some of our kith and kin on the opposite side of the Continent of Africa. He continued, Sir, to maintain that very high standard which he has set up for himself, both in Nigeria, Zanzibar, Kenya, and Uganda, and now as His Excellency, the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Sierra Leone. As our erstwhile Chief Secretary to the Government, Sir, we believe he did his best to restore the prestige of the Secretariat to what it was in the good old days. But unfortunately, Sir, very unfortunately, he was then dealing with irreconcilable ill-will of some individuals in the Nigerian Secretariat. Now, Sir, a word about the Secretariat would not be complete, if I did not refer, Sir, to the following unsatisfactory state of affairs. That is to say, adverse confidential reports, anonymous letters, petitions to the Secretary of State and petitions to His Excellency the Governor. I do not intend to waste time, Sir, but in the days gone by, adverse confidential reports were usually brought before the official for his own comments. I don't think, Sir, one can stab anybody in the back and then not give him an opportunity to defend himself. His Excellency Sir Alfred Moloney, Sir, would not tolerate any head of department writing an adverse confidential report on any official without the two of them coming before His Excellency for a statement. Now, Sir, we would like the Government policy declared with regard to anonymous letters which have been in the past sent to Government by some of our people, ‘ who place a premium on traitorship ’, and then, Sir, for Government to have taken action on some anonymous letters was not good enough. Now, Sir, letters to His Excellency. More often than not, Sir, many letters and petitions have been sent from time to time by various members of the public to His Excellency the Governor for redress for wrongs perpetrated by some heads of department as well as Administrative Officers throughout the country; but it is amusing, Sir, to find that in 75 per cent of cases stupid replies were issued from the various Excellencies in the Secretariat to the effect that, “ His Excellency regrets he cannot intervene ”, or “ His Excellency may not properly intervene ”, or “ His Excellency has not statutory powers to intervene ”. That was the reason for putting Question 437 to the Honourable the

Chief Secretary. Now, Sir, I do not wish to be misunderstood, I merely stated that the replies were stupid and not necessarily the people who sent such stupid replies. But the fact remains, Sir, that there are far too many Excellencies in the Secretariat—that one often asks the question “Which Excellency”? Outside the Secretariat, Sir, there are many a psychological case who deserve our pity and the country's pity rather than its censure who go about by the appellation of Their Excellencies. But I submit, Sir, with all the emphasis at my command, that there can be one and only Excellency in Nigeria, and that is the President of this august Assembly. Now, Sir, finally on the Secretariat, I submit, respectfully, that he is a magnanimous one and a gentleman, who makes mistakes and who tries in a gentlemanly manner to rectify them. I further submit, Sir, that he is a pusillanimous individual who realises that he has made mistakes and who obstinately refuses to rectify them. Government, Sir, is not above mistakes, and Government should always be magnanimous to admit its mistakes and try to rectify them. That, Sir, is not a sign of weakness on the part of the Government. I submit, Sir, that it is and will always remain, an element of strength.

Printing Department. Now, Sir, I went to the Printing Department a few days before I came up to Ibadan, a few days ago, and I am sure, Sir, it will interest the Civil Service Commissioner when I take him round the department. He has said that he does not find an African in this department who can be elevated to the Senior Service. I am sure, Sir, that he will find in me a useful assistant when I take him round the Department. In 1946, Sir, the Harragin Report came before Select Committee, the Honourable Cannell and myself were very pleased about the work of the department that we upgraded the salary of the Government Printer from £900 to £1,100. That did not mean, Sir, that it was the Government Printer alone who was the only official in the Department who merited acclamation. The opinion of the Council, Sir, was that everybody from the Government Printer right down to the messenger, deserved commendation, and I see no reason, Sir, why the junior members as well as the senior members, in fact everybody in the department should have been left out. In this connection, Sir, I would like to read with your permission, a telegram sent by the Honourable the Chief Secretary, to the Superintendent of Press last year at Kaduna, “His Excellency directs me to send to you and your staff a special message of gratitude for their contribution during the meeting of the Legislative Council. His Excellency knows the very long hours worked and the high standard of work performed, and directs me to say how grateful He and the Council are to all those who took part in the first great effort”. Now, Sir, I think the question of the members of the staff of the Printing Department, should receive favourable consideration of my honourable friends when we get into Select Committee. Under health measures in the Printing Department. There is an interesting printed form here, Sir, a report

dated 1946 and I am sure that it will interest the Honourable the Director of Medical Services to glean over it. We who are in the medical profession, Sir, know that people who worked in the Printing industry all through the war were liable to industrial poisoning such as lead, and we do know, Sir, that two milligrams of lead inhaled over a period of months, say seven or nine or twelve, that people who are in that trade are liable to contract lead poisoning either in the acute or in the chronic form. That is why, Sir, people in the printing industry are subjected to periodical medical examination every six months. I would like the Director of Medical Services to tell us—provided his medical officers are not too busy with private practice—how many times since 1946, Sir, have these people been medically examined—this is printed by the Medical Officer of Health in Lagos. It is a very serious matter, Sir. And also how many of them have been X-rayed to show any evidence of disease occasioned by lead and other industrial chemicals in the discharge of their duties. What I say about the Printing Department also refers to the Railway Department, Printing Section.

His Excellency:

I am afraid I must call the attention of the Honourable Member to the time.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

I propose that the Honourable Member be granted an extension.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

I beg to second.

Extension approved.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

The junior members of the staff in the Printing Department, Sir, I don't think, Government is aware that there has been and there still is discontentment over the pay of the junior members of the staff. I have here, Sir, a man who has served for thirty-two years in the department and who has retired as a second class official. Another official, Sir, served for twenty-five years, he also retired as a second class official. What I cannot understand is this. After his retirement, Sir, he was given a certificate of merit. Personally, Sir, I should have torn that certificate on the spot, to show how appreciative I was to receive it. If I was not good enough after working for thirty-two years, Sir, to be a first class official, why should I receive a certificate of merit?

Now, Sir, I come to the Financial Secretary. May I congratulate, Sir, the Honourable the Financial Secretary on his able budget address which has been a characteristic feature of his previous ones. We in Nigeria, Sir, are not prone to flattery. We would relentlessly criticise any official who deserved criticism, and we would also unhesitatingly applaud any official who merited acclamation!

I would like to associate myself with the sentiments already expressed by the other Honourable Members of the House, that we are indeed very proud of our Chancellor of the Exchequer. In Nigeria, Sir, there are three qualities we admire and respect in any individual, of whatever race or colour. The first, Sir, is ability, the next is industry, the third courtesy, and I am sure, Sir, that I say this without any fear of contradiction, that the Honourable the Financial Secretary possesses these three attributes in the highest degree. We are therefore in concord, Sir, with William Shakespeare, when he said:

“ Oh, he stands high in all the peoples eyes
And that which would appear offence in him;
His countenance like richest alchemy
Will change to virtue and to worthiness.”

I would like, Sir, to appeal to the Honourable Gentleman, through you, Sir, that before he leaves Nigeria on a well merited promotion, we hope that our Sinking Fund and our surplus balances will be securely safe so that no unscrupulous Financial Secretary will come to this country in the near or the remote future to play with Nigeria's surplus balances. The word “play”, Sir, has an unfortunate connection. What I mean is this, Sir. Honourable Members will be aware that when His Excellency Sir Donald Cameron left this country, we had 6½ million pounds in the reserve fund. After his departure, Sir, one unscrupulous Financial Secretary came before this House, and with the concurrence of the Presiding Member said, “Gentlemen, we have 6½ million pounds in the Reserve Fund. Let us spend 4 million pounds and we still have 2½ million pounds to play with”. Indeed, Sir, it is needless for me to remind Honourable Members that the first aeroplane which landed on the Apapa aerodrome went into six feet of mud instead of an aerodrome, and that was one of the schemes on which our 4 million pounds was expended. In conclusion, Sir, I wish to emphasize that we are extremely glad to hear from official quarters that a new era has been proclaimed in Nigeria. And when the rays of that new era is on the horizontal plane we shall not throw coconuts this time; on the contrary, with your permission, Sir, a public holiday shall be declared throughout the length and breadth of Nigeria, so that every Nigerian, male and female, young and old in the villages and in the bush, in the towns as well as in the cities, shall be free on that day, not only to dance and drink the toast of the new Nigeria, but also to the health of the gallant knight and the gracious lady who ushered in the new era. Sir, I support the Appropriation Bill.

The Second Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa):

Your Excellency, first I would ask the permission of the House to make brief comments on some of the points raised by the Honourable Members in the course of the debate on the budget. Many points have been raised, Sir, some of them could well be

discussed in the Regional Councils. Some of them are worthy of discussion in this Council and some of them are not. Honourable Members, Sir, put forth suggestions ranging from an immediate introduction of mechanized farming and the establishment of oil mills to objection in the closing of practising schools.

Sir, many of the Honourable Members criticised Government Departments. There were criticisms of development schemes; but of all the points raised the ones which touched my heart most are the ones dealing with the Nigerian himself, and that is the anxiety of some of the Honourable Members on bribery and corruption in this country, on press criticisms and also on the insistent demands by Nigerian workers and Civil Servants for higher wages and pay. Now, I do not want to deal with these points in detail, but I think that some of them need to be explained in a little detail. And in doing so I would like to explain only my personal views. Now, mention was made of the pay of the expatriate staff. It may be wrong that we are now called upon to pay more pay for an expatriate officer than for a Nigerian officer, who happens to be with the same qualifications and who also does the same work. That may be so, but let us take it this way. Do we have enough Nigerians now who will run these services? Do we have enough Nigerians who will help the economic development of Nigeria? Now if we do not have these local men, we must be prepared, I think, to pay whatever salary we are asked to pay to people who will come to develop this country.

This country has to be developed, we do not have the men and therefore we must be prepared to pay whatever we are required to pay to them to develop us. I don't mind who comes—red, black, yellow or green men. I don't mind whether he is an African, an Asiatic, a European or an American. This country has to be developed and the people of Nigeria must be prepared to pay for that development. I take it, Sir, that it is more or less an investment—that we pay for the services of those people because probably in future those services will be entirely for the benefit of Nigeria. Now, one of the Honourable Members for the Northern Provinces, Sir, in his speech yesterday, mentioned how rather grieved the Northern Provinces are in learning that thirty-six Administrative cadets have been imported into that region. It was I, Your Excellency, who first raised strong objection in the Northern House of Assembly about the importation of these officers into that region. I do not think at all that it is necessary for that region to have these thirty-six Administrative cadets. We are now in a time when we are crying for development, with more emphasis on the economic development. We are crying for education, we are crying for technical schools, and instead of having engineers, doctors, education officers and other professional people, we are now to have thirty-six Administrative cadets. I cannot understand it, Sir, and I ask the question when I read in the address of His Honour the

Chief Commissioner at the Northern House of Assembly. I said to myself, is this an admission of failure in the system of indirect rule, that after forty years training in the system of indirect rule, there is not a single Northern man who is able to do the duties of an Administrative cadet? This is surprising. Now in the House of Assembly, Sir, I also raised this question. I said indirect rule in the form that it is being practised today will have to go—because it has no place whatsoever in the new Northern Nigeria which we are now trying to build.

Now an Honourable Member, Sir, also from the North, spoke of the unwillingness on the part of the British official in that region to let any part of the power escape from his hands. That is the practice, Your Excellency, from the foreman of works upwards. People must now realise that a new class of people is being created in the Northern Provinces. It will be difficult for me, Sir, to say to whom the power should pass by the time that probably the British official is willing to let it go from his hands. This is a matter for investigation and it is also a matter, I think, for the people themselves to decide. Now, Your Excellency, to turn to the budget. I think I must first say that Your Excellency's review of Government departmental activities in the past year, as set out in Your Excellency's printed address, is very encouraging and shows that our development programme is really beginning to take shape. We fully realise, Your Excellency, the difficulties of Government in recruiting staff and also in making available the necessary materials required for carrying out our various schemes of development. I could well see, while reading your address, that the past year was rather a busy one for the Government. It was a year of planning, it was a year of putting into effect our development schemes, and I think it was also a year of great hopes for Nigeria, and I also think that if we could really stick to the pace at which we progressed during the past year, there is no doubt that Nigeria would have changed tremendously in five years. Now, the Honourable the Financial Secretary, Your Excellency, sounded a note of warning in his budget speech. He said, "More haste, less speed". I agree, Your Excellency, that the time has come when this Government has to think of which of its public services are the most essential for expansion every year and which of its public services are to remain in their present strength for a temporary period until their expansion is really justified. I find this year's debate on the budget, Your Excellency, a rather difficult one. Because this debate is being conducted at a time when no one in this country has any very definite ideas in his mind as to what the financial arrangements of this country or of this Government will become when the present constitution is revised. This is also, Sir, probably the last budget session in the short but historical life of this Council. Now already a third of the time fixed for carrying out our various schemes of development has gone, and one would naturally like to

before I left Bauchi, Your Excellency, there were rumours that certain questions were asked in this Council concerning matters relating to some of the Native Administrations of the Northern Provinces. I know that this is not a House of Assembly, but I think I should be failing in my duty if I did not take this opportunity of warning the members of this Council about questions of that nature. I take it, Sir, that Honourable Members of this House are people who are well aware of their responsibilities and I don't think that they could possibly descend so low as to base their questions entirely on false information. Now, Your Excellency, at the first budget session of this Council in 1947 in Lagos, I said in my speech that peoples from other regions of Nigeria should not interfere in our affairs in the North. At that time, Sir, many of the Honourable Members here did not understand me. I hope most of them do now. At that time, Sir, there were people in this country who were taking advantage of our silence to claim to be our voice. Now I would like to make it clear once more that the destiny of Northern Nigeria will never be in the hands of a small group of minority on the sea coast. Our destiny lies up-country in the North. Now, Your Excellency, I think before I sit down, I have to convey a special message of greetings and good wishes from the Northern Provinces to all the peoples of the Western Provinces. We are very happy, Sir, to see that with all its modern changes and improvements, Ibadan is not an artificial town. I support the Appropriation Bill.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

Your Excellency, I must first of all inform you, Sir, that I have come to this Honourable House, not with a view to showering on Government officials congratulations and encomiums for perfectly and efficiently doing their duty. I have come to criticise. But that does not mean that I do not appreciate good work and good sense of responsibility. The budget speech of the Honourable the Financial Secretary has given us good food for thought and I would say that the arrangement by which we had a sort of pre-budget meeting at Lagos has clarified a lot of knotty points, and that is why probably you don't see us making much noise in this House. On the other hand, I have come to criticise your Government, Sir, but I would do so constructively. If any Government official has not done his duty to the satisfaction of Your Excellency and the country of Nigeria, the only thing I would do is to ask you kindly to give him his exit permit and off he goes. In this matter, Sir, there are two departments that have been very strongly criticised by this House from years past up to the present. The first is the Posts and Telegraphs. Before I move a vote of no confidence in that department or the present official in charge thereof, I would say that a sort of enquiry should be instituted into the working of that department, and if the work is found to be too much for one person to manage, kindly split it. And on the other hand if it is the fault of all the officials there, kindly let them go, notwithstanding the general slogan

“shortage of men and shortage of materials.” The other department that has always been in the public eye for criticism is the Development Department, and it is really very pleasing to note that there has been a really very good change in that department for the better. I very strongly support the suggestion that the Income Tax Commissioner should be told to go. I am sure that the majority of this House will agree with me that we can do without that gentleman at Accra. Your Excellency, I would also request you, Sir, to kindly inform the Honourable the Director of Medical Services to fill the long-standing vacancies in his Health department with Africans who are fully qualified to be Sanitary Superintendents. We have so many of those people, because I asked him last time the qualifications of a Sanitary Superintendent and he told me that the holder of Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate is good enough, and I see, Sir, that we have now in Nigeria, not only people with Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate, but also people who in addition to that, have diploma in inspection of food. I can also say this, Sir, that it has come to my knowledge that even in that department there is an expatriate Sanitary Superintendent whose qualification is only membership of an Ex-servicemen's Union. I am just wondering, Sir, when Your Excellency will put a stop to the private practice of medicine by the Government Medical Officers. I say boldly that it is this that causes corruption and bribery in the hospitals. Nurses, gatemens and hospital attendants who see doctors collecting fees right and left, must naturally feel the urge to go and do likewise. I remember, Sir, some time ago I happened to be in the General Hospital, Lagos and the electricity in that part of the town gave way, so the hospital was in darkness suddenly. One could imagine the confusion and embarrassment caused to everybody that night. And so I would suggest, Sir, that special electrical lighting plants should be installed in our large hospitals in case of emergencies of that nature. The Education Department this time has not been attacked much, for the simple reason that everything has just been planned anew according to the new Education Ordinances, and it is hoped that we are going to reap good fruits from that seed. But I would like to suggest to Your Excellency that a national scale of teachers' salaries all over Nigeria is overdue to be schemed out. That will avoid the breakneck race between managers and proprietors of schools as far as the engagement of teachers is concerned. One Honourable Gentleman has referred to the Printing Department. But I would like to add this. That the work of the linotype and monotype and keyboard operators of that department should be reviewed without any delay. There have been occasions on which the work which these people could do has been entrusted to an expatriate official who was engaged specially from overseas to come and do that work. I think this is a waste of money for Nigeria. I agree that our prison warders, Sir, should be placed on the same position and scale of salary—

benefit of the country. In my opinion, Sir, the time has now arrived when such a Committee should be set up by this House. I wish to emphasise the need for the setting up of the Committee I have referred to because, in the allocation of funds for expenditure not enough attention appears to be given to the needs of certain Departments engaged in productive activities. I am sure such an omission would not occur if greater unofficial control were exercised in the direction in which expenditure was incurred. I shall illustrate my point by quoting one or two cases. For instance there is the Ijora Sawmill. This is one of those productive activities of Government which should have claimed far greater share of money voted by the House than has been granted to it for many years past. The history of the plant and equipment of this establishment, if my information is correct dates back to more than thirty years ago, after the 1914-18 war. Most of the machinery, it is said, consisted of materials condemned by the Nigerian Railway as useless and assembled together by some enterprising officers of the Public Works Department who conceived the idea of setting up a Sawmill for Government. This was done and met with surprising results. But the Ijora Mills have grown and it is a matter of regret that instead of being provided with adequate funds to develop the establishment it has been starved of the necessary funds and deprived of the improved equipment and machinery which would have contributed to greater efficiency and increased output and production which the very able officers in charge of the enterprise were quite capable of achieving if they had had the right sort of tools to work with.

At present, output is restricted and much inconvenience and loss is caused to large number of members of the public who do business with the establishment. As you are probably aware, Sir, Ijora takes large quantities of supplies of log timber from African Contractors. These Contractors arrived there with their orders for delivery, but as the equipment for handling the logs is so inadequate, deliveries which could have under better condition been effected in a few days run into weeks thus causing them great inconvenience and loss. It is not only the Contractors who suffer, but also the European management and their very hard worked African staff who have to submit to extra effort often under very great physical strain which under better condition could have been avoided. There could easily have been greater output with less strain on the staff if the necessary provision had been made for modernising the establishment. This is a matter of the greatest urgency both in the interest of the staff, the public and incidentally of the revenue of the country, and to my mind this should receive top priority of attention.

Before I pass over this point, Sir, I wish it to be quite clear that in my remarks, there is no suggestion whatever that the blame for anything that was wrong at Ijora is in anyway the fault of the management or large number of African workers. If anything I

like to pay them high tribute for what I might describe as making bricks without straw. And to me it is amazing how successful they had worked with bad materials and produced the results they have.

I said before, Sir, that I would quote one or two cases. The other instance is the Posts and Telegraphs, and I am afraid the circumstances become very different when we come to the Posts and Telegraphs, about which in my opinion no criticism could be sufficiently strong. From the counter upward the whole service is a monument of inefficiency. The Telegraph and Telephone services had become a joke, but now they have so deteriorated that it is far too serious a matter to treat them as a joke. I shall quote a recent case of a man who sent an urgent telegram from Sapele to Ijebu-Ode to a business friend on an important business. And if the point is disputed by the head of the Department, I shall be prepared to tender the original copy of the telegram in Select Committee. The telegram was sent at Sapele 3.25 p.m. on February 16th, 1949. The sender left Sapele the following morning and arrived at Ijebu-Ode that day, and after concluding business with his friend left for Lagos the following morning (18.2.49). About 11 a.m. the same day (18th February, 1949), the so-called urgent telegram arrived in Ijebu-Ode. Sir, complaints of this nature are quite general. As for the telephone service, I doubt whether there is anything like it anywhere else in the world. The subscriber pays not only to get the poorest service but is often the victim of the insolence of exchange operators. If the Government is not capable of running a better service, would it be too much to ask that the whole organisation be handed over to private enterprise. Year in year out Members of this House have criticised the inefficiency of these services, and the result has been, not an improvement, but rather a general deterioration. The only solution seems to be on the lines I have indicated. Unless something drastic is done, I for one will oppose the vote for this Department.

I associate myself with the remarks of the Honourable the First Lagos Member about the unfortunate tornado incident which happened during the second half of last year, but would go further by saying that Government was very unfair to other areas which were equally affected then by the tornado. I understand that Government refused to listen to any appeal from other areas which were also victims of the tornado. Take for instance, in the Ijebu Province, private houses, schools and places of worship were badly affected. People who were affected hearing what assistance Government gave to Lagos people, sent their appeals to the Lagos Secretariat for favourable consideration, but I understand up till now no attention was given to their appeals; may be such oversight was due to the fact that the people are far away to the seat of Government or perhaps they have not in the past indulged in agitation. I appeal to the Government to look into this matter and give whatever assistance they think it is reasonable to the people and do not wait until they agitate before paying attention to their appeals.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Member for the Colony,
The Rev. and Honourable T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.
- The First Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Obisesan, O.B.E.
- The Second Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.
- The First Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable I. Olorun-Nimbe.
- The Emir of Gwandu,
The Honourable Yahaya, C.B.E.
- The Emir of Katsina,
Alhaji the Honourable Usuman Nagogo, C.B.E.
- The Oni of Ife,
The Honourable Aderemi I, C.M.G.
- The Oba of Benin,
The Honourable Akenzua II, C.M.G.
- The Atta of Igbirra,
Alhaji the Honourable Ibrahim.
- The Emir of Abuja,
The Honourable Sulemanu.
- The First Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Bello Kano.
- The First Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable C. D. Onyeama.
- The Second Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.
- The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable H. Buowari Brown.
- The Third Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Iro Katsina.
- The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable A. Ikoku.
- The Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Aliyu, Makaman Bida.
- The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.
- The Second Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe.
- The First Nominated Member,
The Honourable P. J. Rogers.
- The Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Yahaya Ilorin.
- The Third Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.
- The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable N. Essien.
- The Third Lagos Member,
The Honourable Adeleke Adedoyin.

The Member for Calabar,
The Honourable E. E. E. Anwan.
The Second Nominated Member,
Major the Honourable J. West, M.C.
The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Soetan.

ABSENT

UNOFFICIAL MEMBER

The Third Nominated Member,
The Honourable N. B. Edwards.

PRAYERS

His Excellency the Governor opened the proceedings of the Council with prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 16th of March, 1949, having been printed and circulated to the Honourable Members, were taken as read and confirmed.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

Your Excellency, I rise to give notice of this Motion, which reads as follows:—

“ Be it resolved :

“ That this Honourable House views with grave concern
“ the general and continual inefficiency in all
“ branches of the Posts and Telegraphs Department
“ of the Government, and recommends that a
“ Commission of Enquiry be instituted without
“ delay to investigate the administration and general
“ workings of the Department, and to recommend
“ ways and means of having efficient and satisfactory
“ posts and tele-communications services in
“ Nigeria.”

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

Your Excellency, I beg to give notice of the following question:—

To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) How many non-Nigerians, that is Europeans, are at present living in Shendam?

(b) What is the nature of their business activities in that area?

(c) Is farming undertaken by any of them? If so, what proportion of these are farmers?

(d) Is there any regular transport to Shendam? If so what is the nature of such transport?

QUESTIONS

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

15. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Has Government any programme for housing and maintaining the blind, the feeble-minded, the lame and other physically handicapped members of Nigerian and Cameroonian Society?

(b) If so, will same be clarified?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) and (b) The Honourable Member is aware that in few other countries has the Central Government made provision for the class of handicapped persons mentioned except in comparatively recent times. In the United Kingdom, for instance, the work contemplated by the Honourable Member has been largely undertaken (and to a great extent still is) by Voluntary Societies. In Nigeria the family, clan or local community often regard such help as its responsibility, and it is hoped to develop this responsibility through the local authorities with the Central Government helping to provide any remedial or educative assistance that may be practicable.

Government has given preliminary consideration to proposals designed to alleviate the lot of the blind. Following the recent publication of the Report on Blindness in British Africa and Middle East Territories, it has been decided that training centres for the blind should be established and it has been suggested that for a start two such centres should be set up in the Northern Region, where the incidence of blindness is higher than elsewhere in Nigeria.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

60. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(i) How many Assistant Secretaries and Principal Assistant Secretaries—Nigerians and Non-Nigerians—are there in the Nigerian Secretariat, and what are the duties of each of them?

(ii) How many Assistant District Officers and District Officers are now serving in the Nigerian Secretariat, and why?

(iii) Would it not be more advantageous to post them to where their services are more urgently needed?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

I shall be glad to provide the Honourable Member with copies of the Office Orders setting out the complete establishment and distribution of duties of the Secretariat including the Civil Service Commissioner. There are twelve Nigerians, two Sierra Leonians, and one Gold Coaster, and two other Nigerians are at present studying in the United Kingdom.

With regard to Part (ii) of his question there are seven District Officers and fifteen Assistant District Officers at present serving on secondment in the Secretariat.

With regard to Part (iii) of the question I think that the Honourable Member knows that both the Provincial Administration and the Nigerian Secretariat are staffed by members of the Colonial Administrative Service. There is nothing unusual therefore in District Officers and Assistant District Officers serving in the Secretariat. I am myself constantly conscious of the urgent need to pursue the policy of decentralizing in the functions of the central Government and I hope that in years to come a substantial reduction in the staff of the Nigerian Secretariat will be possible. I am satisfied however that it is not possible to make any immediate reduction.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

84. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

(i) What is the average daily attendance at Orthopaedic Hospital at Igbobi, stating the comparative figures for the out-patients and in-patients who attended the Hospital in 1948?

(ii) How many of the total number treated in the year under review were private, Government and non-Government patients?

(iii) What is the total bed accommodation in the Hospital, and how many beds are allocated for the treatment of Medical cases?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

(i) Average attendance daily:—

In-patients	...	...	...	174
Out-patients	...	...	...	58

In addition there is an average attendance of thirty per day at the Fracture Clinic.

(ii) Of the total number treated during the year there were:—

Private	...	...	...	259
Government	...	...	...	569
Non-Government	...	...	...	1,949

This excludes the fracture clinic figures because whether they are Government or Non-Government is not stated on their accident cards.

(iii) Total bed accommodation—176.

Beds allocated for Medical Cases: None, though members of the staff and their families have been occasionally admitted for immediate medical treatment.

Supplementary Question to No. 84 by the First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe).

Sir, why is it that a surgical Hospital such as Igbobi has frequently admitted medical patients to its wards to the exclusion of fairly urgent surgical cases awaiting admission?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

Sir, I require notice of that question.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

102. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many acres of land have been or are being acquired for Public purposes absolutely in connection with the proposed Town Planning Scheme for the City of Lagos, Apapa, Victoria Beach and Ikeja Areas?

(b) How many acres of land would be available to the indigenous inhabitants of Lagos? Give the corresponding figures for non-Nigerians for comparison?

(c) Is Government aware that the entire population of Lagos and Ikeja areas exclusive of Government Agents are definitely opposed to the Scheme?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) From the phrasing of this question it appears there may be some confusion between acquisition for public purposes under the Public Lands Acquisition Ordinance (Cap. 88 of the Laws of Nigeria), and the application of town planning schemes under the Lagos Town Planning or Nigeria Town and Country Planning Ordinances. The first ordinance is only indirectly connected with town planning, and the last two do not necessarily involve extensive acquisitions of land by the Planning Authorities. So far as Lagos is concerned the Lagos Town Planning Ordinance obliges the Board, if it decides to dispose of land thus acquired, to grant an option to the original owners, or, when acquiring for slum-clearance involving a redistribution of holdings, so far as possible to return in exchange land of equivalent siting extent or value to that taken. And the Board in fact does so. Similar provision covers redistribution schemes under the Nigeria Town and Country Planning Ordinance. Acquisition in such instances is thus not absolute in the sense apparently implied by this question. I should add that the whole question of the provisions of these Ordinances is now under review following representations made to the Government.

There are two further possible sources of confusion in that:—

(i) Government has as an interim measure at Victoria Beach acquired a large area of waste land with a view to its reclamation and subsequent development under a planning scheme when the Lagos Executive Development Board has staff and funds available to take it over.

(ii) Land at Apapa which was originally acquired for public purposes has now, owing to subsequent events, in fact become available for development by the Lagos Executive Development Board. No other land has been acquired under the Public Lands Acquisition Ordinance in connection with any planning scheme for Lagos or Ikeja, though an area of 872 acres was acquired at the latter place for a Government Residential Area prior to the appointment of a planning authority there.

(b) The following is a complete statement of the approximate area of all Crown land in the Municipality and Colony of Lagos. This land includes much that is used for roads and railways, markets, hospitals, schools, post offices and other similar public

services, as well as for Government and Municipal purposes. It does not cover areas which the Crown has not acquired but over which Planning Authorities have declared or are preparing schemes.

LAGOS TOWNSHIP

1. Victoria Island	1,517	acres
2. Yaba (less areas reconveyed in freehold) ...	1,389	„
3. Apapa (and Suru Lere)	1,984	„
4. Ikoyi—east of Macgregor canal	2,230	„
5. Lagos—west of Macgregor canal	255	„
6. Iddo	269	„
7. Creek Lands south of the Harbour (Meridian to Lighthouse)	310	„
Total	7,954	acres

REMAINDER OF THE COLONY

8. Ikeja and Agege	3,473	acres
9. Iju	5	„
10. All other areas	344	„
Total	3,822	acres

The purposes to which these areas are now being or are to be put may be generally described as:

- Nos. 1-3 Development primarily of benefit to the people of Lagos. At Apapa, also, harbour installations and industrial expansion of common advantage to the whole of Nigeria.
- No. 4 Government Residential Area, Obalende Settlement, cemeteries, parade grounds (also contains undeveloped swamp).
- Nos. 5-6 Public and Municipal uses and railway.
- No. 7 Harbour Works (and swamp).
- No. 8 Airport, residential area, and Agricultural Station.
- No. 9 Lagos water-works.
- No. 10 Stations at Epe, Badagri, and Ikorodu (all of long standing).

Of the totals given, the areas of Crown Land which have been leased to persons or bodies other than Africans are:

Firms and individuals	278.4	acres = .024	of the whole
Public and Semi-public bodies ...	49.2	„ = .004	„ „
Missions	45.7	„ = .004	„ „
Clubs	228.7	„ = .019	„ „

602 acres = .051 of the whole

When planning schemes have been approved for Victoria Island and Apapa both these areas, as did Yaba Estate, will increase considerably the resources available for the benefit of the Lagos public at large: indeed on Victoria Island it will be the chief beneficiary. No scheme will reserve any area, whether business or residential, to a particular racial group.

(c) There has been considerable opposition in the past to Lagos Executive Development Board Schemes in Lagos, but as stated above the provisions of the relevant Ordinances are under review and it is hoped that in the course of this a clearer understanding of the true purposes of the legislation will be obtained by the public. I am not aware that the Ikeja Planning Authority has encountered such opposition.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

104. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

(i) Is it true that the only Government Secondary School for girls which serves the Colony and Colony districts is being removed to Ede?

(ii) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Honourable the Director fully explain by whose knowledge and consent is the Institution being removed?

(iii) Is Government aware that the tax-payers of Lagos and Districts are definitely opposed to the removal of the Institution? If so, will Government demonstrate in a practical manner its good intentions about its policy of co-operation?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education:

(i) The general intention of Government is that indicated in Chapter 11, paragraph 11, of Sessional Paper No. 20/1947 which was endorsed at the last Session of this Council. A departure, however, is proposed from the intention to have a co-educational secondary school in Lagos. It is now considered possible and more in the interests of girls' education to have an all-girls' secondary school to serve the Lagos community.

The school to which the Honourable Member refers at present serves the whole of Nigeria and not merely the Colony. There are indeed only twenty-six Lagos girls in attendance out of a total enrolment of 175. It is intended under the Ten Year Plan for the development of the Territory's educational services to establish two additional secondary schools, one at Enugu to serve the Eastern Region, the other at Ede to serve the Western Region, including the Colony area outside the Lagos municipality. These institutions must of necessity be boarding institutions. The girls' secondary day-school which will serve the Lagos community is Queen's College. This however should be centrally situated, and I have been in communication with the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony regarding the reservation of a suitable site for the new buildings. The Honourable Member is reminded that the present buildings are temporary huts situated on land which has been earmarked for other purposes. The school therefore must be re-established on a central site with due regard to the Lagos town-planning scheme.

(ii) and (iii) Do not arise.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

107. To ask the Honourable the Director of Agriculture:—

(i) Whether he is aware of the fact that on the Gold Coast and in East Africa, Officers of the Civil Service of some years' experience who have been sent to the Refresher Course in Trinidad are usually appointed Agricultural Officers on the completion of their studies?

(ii) Will the Honourable the Director fully explain why such conditions do not obtain in his Department considering that those who have been sent to Trinidad for the Refresher Course must have been Officers of proved ability and character?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture :

(i) I am not aware that completion of the Refresher Course in Trinidad has been accepted on the Gold Coast and in East Africa as qualifying officers for appointment to the grade of Agricultural Officer.

(ii) It was never the intention in this territory to regard successful completion of the Refresher Course as providing an alternative qualification to the normal minimum qualifications required for appointment to the grade of Agricultural Officer. In fact two officers who successfully completed the Refresher Course have, since their return, been appointed to the grade of Agricultural Superintendent in the Senior Service. This promotion has been gained by reason of proved experience and efficiency in the required duties and not solely as a result of completing the Refresher Course.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

119. To ask the Honourable the Director of Agriculture :—

What social amenities are provided for the Agricultural Staff living in remote Agricultural Stations?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture :

Football and tennis facilities are available at stations where the number of Junior Staff is sufficiently large to warrant this course.

Facilities vary a good deal in accordance with the wishes of the staff, for example at the Oil Palm Research Station near Benin a temporary house is set aside for a reading and recreation room; and a football pitch and a tennis court are available.

At Bambui in the Cameroons there is a tennis court, football field and recreation room. At Abakaliki a tennis court and football field are in preparation. At Umuahia there is a tennis court and recreation hall. At Nkwele there is a tennis court and Junior service staff club.

In several instances Government funds have been made available for the augmentation of local subscriptions in order to improve facilities.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

123. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services :—

(i) How many Dispensaries are there in the Colony Districts and if he would name them? Are they efficiently staffed? If so, what are the qualifications of those posted there?

(ii) Why are the Dispensaries at Ijebu-Igbo and the one at Ejinrin closing down?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

(i) There are Eighteen dispensaries in the Colony Districts, as follows:—

(a) *Ikeja Division*

1. Ikeja
2. Agege
3. Ipaja
4. Ojokoro
5. Mushin
6. Idimu

(b) *Badagry Division*

1. Badagry
2. Ojo

These are under the supervision of the Medical Officer in charge, Ebute Metta Dispensary.

(c) *Epe Division*

1. Epe
2. Eredo
3. Agbowa
4. Lekki
5. Orimedu
6. Ejinrin
7. Ijebu-Igbo

(d) *Ikorodu Area*

1. Ikorodu
2. Ijede
3. Aja (Eti-Osa Area)

These are supervised by the Medical Officer, Ijebu-Ode.

The dispensaries are in immediate charge of *trained* dispensary attendants and are regarded as efficiently staffed to discharge their limited functions.

Dispensary Attendants are trained for one year in General Hospitals in the Wards, Out-patients and Dispensary. They are given demonstrations and lectures by the Health Staff. The Attendants are expected to return for a three months refresher course after a period of two years. A standard syllabus is followed.

(ii) While Ijebu-Igbo dispensary continues to function, that at Ejinrin has had to be closed temporarily following a recent Court conviction of the Attendant there. The ante-natal section still continues.

Supplementary Question to No. 123 (1) (d) by the First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe).

If the Dispensary at Ijebu-Igbo continues to function, may I know the name of the nurse now in attendance because I understood the previous nurse had resigned her appointment?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

Your Excellency, I am afraid I must again ask for notice.

Supplementary Question to No. 123 (c) by the Second Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. T. A. Odotola, O.B.E.).

Under (c) Sir.

Is there any place called Ijebu-Igbo in the Colony District? If not, is Ijebu-Igbo in Ijebu Province now under Epe, if so why?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

Sir, I feel that that is a question which is not my concern.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

128. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(i) How many Honourable Members stayed at Government Catering Rest Houses at Kaduna last March?

(ii) How many have indicated their willingness four months ago to stay at the Catering Rest Houses at Ibadan next March?

(iii) Will Government confirm that some of those already promised accommodation in writing four months ago are now being refused accommodation at the ninety-ninth hour, and have been requested to look for accommodation elsewhere?

(iv) Will these Honourable Members stay in these Rest Houses free of charge?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(i) Fourteen: eleven Unofficial and three Official Members.

(ii) Sixteen Unofficial Members and three Official Members.

(iii) The catering rest house at Ibadan contains only twelve quarters and it was therefore impossible to provide accommodation there for all who sought it. Efforts were made to find suitable accommodation for seven members in the town, but these proved unsuccessful. The catering rest house was therefore reserved for unofficial members from the Northern and Eastern Provinces, who would normally have most difficulty in finding accommodation for themselves. The Unofficial Members from Lagos and the Colony were therefore requested in January to make their own arrangements. Accommodation in the Catering Rest House has since been found for two of the Lagos Members.

(iv) No, Sir.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

160. To ask the Honourable the Development Secretary:—

In view of the fact that certain parts of Nigeria are without water supply, at one time or another during the year, what plans have been devised by the Government for the construction of a dam or dams at strategic centres of the country in order to remedy the situation?

Answer—

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

If the Honourable Member has in mind the construction of a major barrage or barrages at suitable points on the larger rivers of Nigeria, no such schemes have been planned, since only a small proportion of the towns and villages in Nigeria could be supplied with water by such means, while the cost would be prohibitive. The Rural and Urban Water Supply Schemes which form a part of the Ten Year Plan of Development and Welfare were designed to provide villages and towns in Nigeria with a supply of water, and work is proceeding in accordance with those schemes.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

168. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Will a statement be made departmentally in respect of the Senior service establishment of the civil service, as follows:—

- (a) Number of vacancies as on April 1, 1947.
- (b) Additional vacancies created in the 1948-49 estimates.
- (c) Number of vacancies occurring by deaths, retirements, etc. during 1947 and 1948.
- (d) Number of vacancies filled since April 1, 1947, by
 - (i) transfer from Ceylon,
 - (ii) transfer from Palestine,
 - (iii) transfer from Burma,
 - (iv) transfer from India,
 - (v) appointment of ex-servicemen expatriate officers,
 - (vi) appointment of civilian expatriate officers,
 - (vii) appointment of non-expatriate officers.
- (e) Number of vacancies since April 1, 1947 which remain unfilled at this date.
- (f) Number of vacancies since April 1, 1948 which remain unfilled at this date.
- (g) Number of indents now with the Crown Agents for the filling of (i) 1947 vacancies still unfilled, (ii) 1948 vacancies still unfilled.
- (h) How many vacancies have been advertised locally in respect of (i) 1947 vacancies, (ii) 1948 vacancies.

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

The Honourable Member will appreciate that to compile a full answer to this question, a great deal of research would be necessary. This would seriously interfere with the performance of other essential work, and I am afraid that my answer must, in part, be limited to a statement of the source from which the required information can be obtained.

- (a) The information may be obtained by comparing the Classified Staff List published in July, 1947, and revised to 1st April, 1947, with the Estimates 1947-48.
- (b) The information is available in the Estimates 1948-49.
- (c) The information is available in the *Nigeria Gazette*.

- (d) (i) None from Ceylon.
 (ii) Twenty-five from Palestine.
 (iii) One from Burma.
 (iv) Six from India.
 (v) and (vi) 778.
 (vii) 104.

(e) (f) and (g) It is not known accurately how many indents for staff have been sent to United Kingdom. The position is being checked. The Honourable Member will in any case remember that the accepted policy of Government is that no non-Nigerian should be recruited for any Government post except when no suitable and qualified Nigerian is available.

(h) The Honourable Member will recollect that it is now Government's policy that vacancies in the Senior Service should not be advertised unless no suitable Nigerian candidates are available for promotion from within the Service. Since this policy was adopted in September ten vacancies have been advertised in the Gazette and Local Press.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

173. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many Nigerians hold commissions in the Royal West African Frontier Force?

(b) How many Nigerians are being trained with a view to being commissioned in the Royal West African Frontier Force?

(c) Of the West Africans holding commissions in the Royal West African Frontier Force how many are from the Gambia, Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast and Nigeria?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) One.

(b) (i) Three at present undergoing training in the United Kingdom at Officer Cadet Training Units.

(ii) Four undergoing specialised training with units in Nigeria as potential officer cadets with a view to their final selection as O.C.T.U. candidates if favourable reports upon their capabilities and character are received in due course.

(c) *Gambia.*—Nil.

Sierra Leone.—Nil.

Gold Coast.—Four.

Nigeria.—One.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

174. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) What is the nature of the commission granted a Nigerian who has just been appointed an Officer in the Royal West African Frontier Force?

(b) Is there any difference in duties, responsibilities, emoluments and other perquisites between this Nigerian Officer and his non-Nigerian opposite numbers?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) Emergency Commission.

(b) It has already been decided that there shall be no difference in duties, responsibilities or other perquisites. The question of emoluments is still under consideration by the War Office and a decision is expected shortly.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

176. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

What concrete plans have been formulated or are being contemplated for the Nigerianization of the Nigerian Regiment, in the immediate future?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

The following plans have been formulated:—

(a) Granting of Regular and Short Service Commissions to Nigerians.

(b) Increase in the number of Technicians and Junior Leaders to produce replacements for British N.C.Os.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

182. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

(a) How many Government schools were opened in 1948-49 and where are they located?

(b) Is it intended to open any Government schools during 1949-50? If so, where will they be located?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education:

The following Institutions were made available for occupation in the following financial year 1948-49:—

A double stream Secondary School at Zaria

A Higher Elementary Training Centre at Katsina

A Men's Elementary Training Centre at Maru

A large Domestic Science Centre in Lagos

Smaller Domestic Science Centres at Victoria and Kumba.

In addition extensions have been effected to the following existing institutions:—

The Men's Elementary Training Centre, Toro

The Women's Training Centre, Kano

The Boys' Secondary School, Ibadan

The Men's Elementary Training Centre, Ibadan

The Boys' Secondary School, Umuahia

The Men's Elementary Training Centre, Uyo

The Domestic Science Centre, Ibadan.

A start has been made with the Boys' Secondary School at Ughelli and the Women's Training Centre, Enugu.

(b) In 1949-50 it is hoped to make substantial progress with the following projects, some of which were begun in 1948-49:—

Boys' Secondary School, Keffi (the first intake to this school is already accommodated in the buildings vacated by Kaduna College).

Men's Elementary Training Centre, Mubi

Boys' Secondary School, Ibadan (further extension)

Boys' Secondary School, Ede

Boys' Secondary School, Ughelli

Women's Elementary Training Centre, Ilesha

Men's Elementary Training Centre, Okitipupa

Women's Elementary Training Centre, Enugu

Girls' Secondary School, Enugu

Boys' Secondary School, Umuahia (further extension)

Boys' Secondary School, Afikpo

Men's Elementary Training Centre, Uyo (further extension)

Men's Elementary Training Centre, Owerri

Men's Elementary Training Centre, Abraka (extension).

In addition it is proposed, under the supplementary plan for the Northern Provinces, to open Senior Primary Schools for girls at Birnin Kebbi and Kontagora and for boys at Hadeija, Ismaila and Birnin Kebbi. The proposals under the Department's Technical Branch include:—

(a) the establishment of a Trade Centre at Tiko;

(b) the establishment of a Printing School at Yaba;

(c) the building of Handicraft Centre at Lagos, Ibadan, Enugu and Calabar; and

(d) the conversion of Northern Provinces Middle School workshops buildings into modern well equipped Handicraft Centres.

The Honourable Member will appreciate that the rapidity of the progress towards completing the foregoing projects is conditioned largely by the building potential of the Public Works Department and/or the availability of competent contractors.

Supplementary Question to No. 182 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

Is there any plan for opening Secondary Schools, under Government auspices, in the Rivers, Owerri and Cameroons Provinces in the future?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education :

Not at present, Sir.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

183. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

How many students from the Eastern Provinces were admitted into King's College, Lagos, from 1938 to 1948, year by year, (i) as scholarship students, and (ii) as paying students?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education :

The Honourable Member is referred to the explanation given in the first part of the reply to Question No. 184 which he asked in respect of Queen's College, which also applies to King's College.

As in the case of Queen's College, the records of King's College were disorganised during the war years and it is regretted that the full figures required by the Honourable Member could not be obtained without much research. I have, however, obtained from the Principal the following figures of students who were admitted direct from the Eastern Provinces over the last three years :—

Year	Scholarship Students	Paying Students
1946	3	3
1947	1	2
1948	5	5

The foregoing figures do not include students whose fees were remitted subsequent to their admission to the College.

Supplementary Question to No. 183 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe).

Sir, will you be kind enough to make available the figures concerned in due course?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education :

As stated in my reply, Sir, it will take a considerable amount of research to obtain these figures, but I shall endeavour to do so.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

185. To ask the Honourable the Director of Public Works :—

(a) What towns in Nigeria are at present supplied with pipe-borne water either by the central or local government?

(b) What towns will be supplied with pipe-borne water in 1949-50?

(c) What towns in Nigeria obtain their water supply at present through wells provided either by the central or local government?

(d) What towns will be provided with wells in 1949-50?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Public Works :

(a) There are at present twenty-eight towns supplied with pipe-borne water, as follows :—

Government Undertakings

Aba, Akure, Buea, Calabar, Enugu, Ilorin, Jos, Kaduna, Lagos, Lokoja, Makurdi, Onitsha, Port Harcourt, Victoria and Yola.

Native Administration Undertakings

Abeokuta, Benin, Ibadan, Ife, Ijebu-Ode, Ilaro, Iseyin, Kano, Ogbomosho, Okene, Otta, Oyo and Zaria.

(b) Minna; Warri, Abakaliki and Sokoto are to be supplied with pipe-borne water during 1949-50 and the Onitsha pipe-borne supply is to be improved. Work on other supplies may be commenced during the year if the staff positions permits and materials are available.

(c) The great majority of towns, other than those provided with urban supplies, obtain their water either from wells or springs or streams or from a combination of any or all of these sources. Some of the wells now in use in towns and villages have been provided either by the Central or Local Government, but it is regretted that a full list of them could not be prepared without a great deal of research into past records.

(d) It is not in accordance with policy to provide wells in towns with a population of more than 5,000. The well-sinking programmes for smaller towns and villages are drawn up by Provincial Development Committees and it is not possible to say definitely how many will be provided during 1949-50; over 750 were constructed in 1948-49, and it is hoped to improve on this figure considerably next financial year.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

187. To ask the Honourable the Director of Public Works:—

(a) What are the principal roads in Nigeria which are wholly metalled?

(b) What roads were metalled during 1948-49?

(c) What roads will be metalled during 1949-50?

(d) What is the total mileage of metalled roads in Nigeria at the end of 1948?

(e) What is the approximate mileage of roads to be metalled in 1949-50?

(f) What is the total mileage of all-season "dirt" roads in Nigeria at the end of 1948?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:

It is assumed that in using the terms "metal" and "dirt" the Honourable Member intends the dictionary meaning, *i.e.*, 'broken stone' and 'soil or earth' respectively. In these terms there are no metalled roads in Nigeria except in Lagos, the Lagos-Agege Road, certain roads in the Cameroons and here and there on other roads there are short stretches which are surfaced with a material that might be termed metal.

The usual surfacing material is gravel and this is invariably employed except where it is unobtainable and a sandy soil or dirt surface has to be provided instead. Sandy clay surfaces exist all over Nigeria, especially in parts of the Northern Provinces and in the Southern parts of the Western and Eastern Regions. In addition some 900 miles of roads have been provided with a Bituminous dressing to the metal, gravel or dirt surface as the case may be.

Bearing the above explanation in mind it is hoped that the following answers will provide the Honourable Member with the information he seeks.

(a) The principal roads provided or partly provided with Bituminous surface dressings are:—

Lagos-Ibadan-Oyo
 Ibadan-Ilesha
 Ibadan-Ijebu Ode-Ejinrin
 Ijebu Ode-Ikorodu
 Benin-Sapele (part)
 Onitsha-Enugu
 Onitsha-Owerri-Port Harcourt (part)
 Port Harcourt-Aba (part)
 Owerri-Aba-Oron (part)
 Kano-Katsina (part)
 Jos-Ropp
 Kano-Daura (part)
 Kaduna-Zaria (part)
 Maiduguri-Jos (small part)
 Kano-Wudil.

There are numerous other roads or short sections of roads with gravel or 'dirt' surfaces, but it is not possible to enumerate them as there is no record of the surfaces of the Native Administration Roads totalling about 19,000 miles.

(b) No roads were metalled during 1948-49, but the following or parts of the following roads were constructed and surfaced during the year or some bridge work was done:—

Mokwa-Kontagora
 Yola-Biu
 Okene-Lokoja-Ankpa
 Maiduguri-Jos (tarring)
 Makurdi-Lafia-Akwanga
 Kano-Katsina (tarring)
 Yola-Wukari
 Kano Eastern
 Jebba-Bida-Wamba-Karshe
 Ilesha-Yashikera-Dahomey
 Kontagora-Bukwiam-Sokoto
 Ropp-Shendam-Wase
 Zungeru-Minna-Abuja
 Damaturu-Biu-Shani-Gwara
 Shagamu-Asha-Ibadan
 Ijebu Ode-Benin
 Ife-Ilesha-Benin (tarring)
 Oshogbo-Ilesha (tarring)
 Benin-Sapele (tarring)
 Warri-Sapele (improvement and tarring)
 Warri-Ughelli-Kwale-Utagbo-Uno (improvement)
 Bansara-Mamfe
 Calabar-Mamfe
 Port Harcourt-Aba (tarring)
 Onitsha-Owerri-Aba-Oron (tarring)
 Oron Ferry
 Uyo-Nwaniba
 Sombreiro River Bridge
 Lagos-Ikorodu
 Benue, Nasarawa-Umaisha

Kabba, Egbe-Isanlu Makatu
 Kano, Kafin Gana-Dutsi-Kiyawa
 Sokoto, Sokoto-Kalmalo
 Kano, Garko-Kibiya-Rano
 Bauchi, Lau-Karim-Filiya-Biliri
 Bauchi, Gubi-Bunga-Ningi
 Katsina and Sokoto, Batsari-Runka-Dunya-Kwatarkwashi
 Niger, Gulu-Baro
 Katsina, Bakori-Guga
 Oyo, Ikoyi-Igbetti
 Ijebu, Araromi-Shimawa-Likosi
 Agbowa-Ibefun
 Isolo-Igando-Akesan
 Ikorodu-Ijede.
 Ikorodu-Imota-Agbowa

(ii) In addition the following or parts of the following roads were constructed:—

Kwali-Yewumi; Osara-Egani, Yola-Wafango, Dutsin-Makarfi, Itobe-Ijinle-Ankpa, Zura-Yakoba-Monkin, Shagamu-Agbowa, Oshun River-Imobi, Ago-Imora-Imodi, Age-Iwoye-Aduye, Ife-Ogudu.

Bafut-Modele, Umuahia-Ebem, Oguta-Ahoda, Alayi-Mpu, Ipen-Ikum, Obubra-Akunakuna, Nwofun-Effiam-Ugbale, Agba-Nkomore, Umileri-Naugbe-Nsukka, Umuabi-Achi, Abbo-Lengwe, Bende-Itu, Kruji-Tsana, Umo-Uwajugu, Itori-Onigbedu, Akure-Aladi, Irela-Junction Lagos Benin Road, Emure-Efore, Efi-Oso, Ijero-Epe Ara, Awo-Iropira Ira, Ogutun-Ikaji, Jerimi Oluwagbe, Oyode-Bethel, Afunata Abinti, Ishiagu-Afikpo, Inyimagu Iboko-M.63 Ogoja Road, Alike Amaidi, Nkalaju Eka Amufin, Emanduh Ukpe Road Bridge, Ituma Road Bridge, Obong Ita Idikif, Ikot Akpada Eket Bey, Ikot Odupi Nguot, Calabar Aka Market, New Ikotana Ikotibi Bridge, Etinan Hospital Mbiago, Amara Ututu Achara, Obinto Ike Asonga Aro, Eket Ebino, Nung Ukin Uguok, Ekeya Bridge, Nkalu Ilure, Nyara Eyin Bridge, Okigwi via Isuofia Awka, Ndroru via Ibere and Mkalu, Alayi Nupe, Abatete Orukwo Maluilo, Nkwo via Nnewi Adazi, Nnewi Eguochi, Amachi Orlu, Umueji Adani, Akpagu Oroku, Naji Adazi, Abeki-Amachi, Amara Ututu Achara, Obong Ilam Idideh, Iffi Bridge, Eket Okon.

(c) Work in 1949-50 will consist of the continuation of the construction of the Roads scheduled at pages 237, 238, 239 and 240 of the Draft Estimates for Nigeria including the items not yet started and listed in answer (b) (i) above and including the roads listed at (b) (ii) not yet completed and also including additional Feeder Roads not yet selected for inclusion in the programme.

(d) The total mileage of roads in Nigeria in 1948 was 25,945 miles. For reasons already stated it is not possible to distinguish between those with gravel and those with a sandy clay surface.

(e) It is hoped to complete the construction of at least 450 miles of road during 1949-50 and in addition to provide a bituminous surface to another 130 to 150 miles.

(f) For reasons already given it is not possible to quote the total mileage of all season 'dirt' roads. But Trunk Roads "A" and "B" and Township Roads comprising both gravel and sand clay surfaces are all season 6,941 miles. A large proportion of the 19,004 miles of Native Administration Road are also all season.

Supplementary Question to No. 187 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe).

Sir, (d).

What was the total mileage of roads in Nigeria, in 1948? How many were provided with a bituminous surface?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Public Works :

Sir, I cannot answer that question accurately off-hand, but the mileage is of the order of 700. I can give the Honourable Member a more accurate figure later.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

193. To ask the Honourable the Director of Agriculture :—

(a) How many oil mills, rice mills have been established in Nigeria and the Cameroons and where are they located?

(b) What persons or organizations are responsible for their operation, individually?

(c) Under what conditions were such mills established, on an individual basis?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture :

Palm Oil Mills.—(a) The following Pioneer Palm Oil Mills have been established in Nigeria :—

<i>Mill</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Date</i>
Amuro	Owerri	October, 1946
Azumini	Owerri	April, 1947
Umuchima	Owerri	October, 1947
Ahoada	Rivers	January, 1948
Amansi River	Onitsha	June, 1948
Akpabuyo	Calabar	January, 1949

The following mills are under construction :—

Okan	Warri Province
Asagba	Warri Province
Mbawsi	Owerri Province

The following sites have been approved and construction will start as soon as the necessary leasehold documents are completed and supervisory staff is available :—

<i>Mill</i>	<i>Province</i>
Ayangba	Kabba
Akolu	Abeokuta
Oyubia	Calabar
Usung Inyang	Calabar
Nnewi Court	Onitsha
Lilu Waterside	Onitsha
Udigu	Calabar
Ikot Akpa Obong	Calabar
Rumugi	Rivers

Isiokpo	Rivers
Degema Hulk	Rivers
Unuma	Owerri
Ndizuogo	Owerri
Emekuku	Owerri

Three complete mills were sold to the Cameroons Development Corporation. One mill has yet to be allocated to the Western Provinces.

This accounts for twenty-seven mills ordered. The first twelve have been delivered and the machinery is arriving rapidly for the other fifteen.

(b) and (c) The Department of Commerce and Industries has erected all the Pioneer Oil Mills (save the three sold to the Cameroons Development Corporation) on behalf of the Nigeria Local Development Board, and it operates them as agent for that Board until they are sold. The policy of the Board has been to sell these mills to African enterprise operating in the areas in which the mills are situated. For this purpose loans totalling over £20,000 have been made during the past year.

Rice Mills.—(a) Nine rice mills have been established and are operated by Government at the following places:—

Northern Provinces

Baro
Badeggi

Western Provinces

Wasimi
Owode
Ughelli
Ondo
Ekpoma

Eastern Provinces

Okpoha
Aguleri

A mill is also in course of erection at Abakaliki.

(b) and (c) The mills were established with the object of encouraging rice production by the provision of milling facilities for local rice growers at a reasonable cost and with the further object, if the undertaking proves to be commercially sound, of disposing of suitable mills as going concerns to private or co-operative African enterprise, as is done in the case of the Pioneer Palm Oil Mills.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

195. To ask His Honour, the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) In view of the fact that this Honourable House had rejected a motion regarding the discussion of affairs of the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons at the last Budget Session at the Kaduna Trade Centre, why was such tolerated in the House of Assembly of the Eastern Provinces?

(b) Will assurance be given that the Eastern House of Assembly will not be used in future as a forum of disguised attack on the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons?

(c) Will assurance be given that equal opportunity will be afforded to friends of the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons for defence against any tirades on this national group by its political antagonists?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

(a) Reference to the affairs of the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons was made during the course of the debate on the budget in the Eastern House of Assembly. The reference was no violation of the Standing Rules and Orders of the House.

(b) No, Sir. The procedure in the House is governed by the Standing Rules and Orders and, subject to those Standing Rules and Orders, freedom of speech will of course be permitted.

(c) Yes, Sir, subject to the requirements of the Standing Rules and Orders of the House.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

196. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :—

(a) Did the women of Abeokuta refuse to pay tax?

(b) If so, what was responsible for their action?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

(a) The women of Abeokuta paid flat-rate tax from 1918 to 1947 without general objection. Agitation against payment of flat-rate tax took place in 1947 and 1948.

(b) The objection appears to have been based on the fact that women did not pay flat-rate tax in the neighbouring province of Oyo.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

201. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :—

(a) Were the Police summoned to assist the Alake of Abeokuta in order to maintain law and order during the Abeokuta taxation crisis?

(b) How many detachments were sent to Abeokuta?

(c) What were the concrete achievements of the Police in executing their duty?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One detachment.

(c) The Police ensured that order was maintained.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

202. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) Were the Police summoned to assist the Akarigbo of Ijebu Remo in order to maintain law and order during the Remo taxation crisis?

(b) How many detachments were sent to Remo?

(c) What were the concrete achievements of the Police in executing their duty?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:

(a) No, Sir; the police were summoned to assist the Ijebu-Remo Native Authority.

(b) Three detachments.

(c) They restored order without injury or loss of life.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

207. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

Is there any agitation at Ijebu Remo for the abdication of the Akarigbo?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:

None of which Government is aware.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

208. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) What is the basis of the relationship between the Akarigbo and the British Government?

(b) What is the nature of the treaty relationship between the Remo people and the British Government?

(c) Will a copy of any treaty or treaties negotiated in connection with (a) and (b) *supra* be made available to this Honourable House?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:

(a) The relationship between the Akarigbo and Council and the Nigerian Government is the normal relationship established between a Native Authority and Government by the Native Authority Ordinance, No. 17 of 1943.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to two treaties dated the 4th of August, 1894.

(c) Copies of the above treaties and proclamations will be found in Volume II of the Laws of the Colony of Lagos which are available in the Nigerian Secretariat Library.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

222. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue of the Sokoto Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(b) What is the total expenditure of the Sokoto Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(c) What is the total amount expended as salaries and wages for members and employees of the Sokoto Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

223. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue of the Bornu Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(b) What is the total expenditure of the Bornu Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(c) What is the total amount expended as salaries and wages for members and employees of the Bornu Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

224. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue of the Dikwa Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(b) What is the total expenditure of the Dikwa Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(c) What is the total amount expended as salaries and wages for members and employees of the Dikwa Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

225. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue of the Kano Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(b) What is the total expenditure of the Kano Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(c) What is the total amount expended as salaries and wages for members and employees of the Kano Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

226. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue of the Katsina Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(b) What is the total expenditure of the Katsina Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(c) What is the total amount expended as salaries and wages for members and employees of the Katsina Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

227. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue of the Zaria Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(b) What is the total expenditure of the Zaria Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(c) What is the total amount expended as salaries and wages for members and employees of the Zaria Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

228. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue of the Abuja Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(b) What is the total expenditure of the Abuja Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(c) What is the total amount expended as salaries and wages for members and employees of the Abuja Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

229. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue of the Gwandu Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(b) What is the total expenditure of the Gwandu Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(c) What is the total amount expended as salaries and wages for members and employees of the Gwandu Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

230. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue of the Daura Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(b) What is the total expenditure of the Daura Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(c) What is the total amount expended as salaries and wages for members and employees of the Daura Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

231. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue of the Igbirra Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(b) What is the total expenditure of the Igbirra Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(c) What is the total amount expended as salaries and wages for members and employees of the Igbirra Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

232. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue of the Ilorin Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

242. To ask the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony :—

(a) Are women subjected to direct taxation in the Colony area which is under the jurisdiction of the Native Authority Ordinance?

(b) In what areas?

(c) What is the nature of such taxation?

(d) What revenue was derived therefrom in the last financial year?

(e) What is the proportion of such revenue to the Native Authority and general revenues of the Colony area which is under the jurisdiction of the Native Authority Ordinance?

(f) According to native law and custom of the various linguistic groups living in the Colony area which is under the jurisdiction of the Native Authority Ordinance, are women subject to direct taxation?

(g) If so, what is the ethnographic evidence which supports this point of view?

Answer—

The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (g) As the reply to part (a) of the Honourable Member's question is in the negative, parts (b) to (g) of the question do not arise.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

243. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government :—

(a) Is it a fact that citizens of Nigeria and the Cameroons who sojourn in the United Kingdom are being discriminated against, on account of their colour, especially in the obtaining of jobs and lodging?

(b) What is being done to guarantee to His Majesty's protected persons and subjects a square deal in obtaining employment and accommodation in the United Kingdom?

(c) Does the Government of Nigeria appreciate that discrimination against Nigerians and Cameroonians, anywhere in the British Commonwealth and Empire, tends to demoralize them and intensifies their bitterness against Great Britain, thus embarrassing inter-racial relations?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Persons from Nigeria and Cameroons who come to the United Kingdom to seek employment are treated in the same way as any other British or British protected persons and are entitled to and receive assistance from the authorities concerned with employment, relief and housing.

There is however a very great shortage of accommodation in the United Kingdom particularly in certain large centres such as Liverpool and London to which persons from Nigeria often come. There are long waiting lists for accommodation in these places of local residents who have had to wait for years for suitable accommodation. Clearly new arrivals cannot expect to jump the queue.

Furthermore there is no general shortage of male labour in the United Kingdom at present though skilled and heavy workers are wanted in some industries. Unskilled workers from overseas, therefore, have inevitably great difficulty in finding work particularly in maritime towns.

So far from any discrimination being exercised by Government against workers from the Colonies, much thought is being given to means of solving difficulties presented by unemployment amongst them.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

259. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) What are the relevant facts regarding the alleged proposal of Government to instal oil-pressing machinery at or somewhere near Azaregbelu Emekuku, Owerri?

(b) Is the site alleged chosen by the District Officer the identical one selected by the Roman Catholic Mission for the erection of a college?

(c) What is the attitude of the Elders and women of this area towards the proposal?

(d) If their attitude is negative, what may be said to be responsible?

(e) Is it true that the Emekuku federal meeting held at Port Harcourt, which approved the scheme, constitute a minority element of the people of Emekuku?

(f) Will the site in question be acquired for public purposes?

(g) What guarantee have the land-owners that the interference on their land will not affect adversely the ancestral or aboriginal rights of the people of Emekuku?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

(a) In accordance with Government's policy for the introduction of Pioneer Oil Mills to improve the quality of Palm Oil and to improve extraction rate, consideration has been given to the erection of Oil Mills at a site near Emekuku in Owerri Division.

(b) The site was chosen as suitable for the purpose following consultations between Technical Officers of the Department of Commerce and Industries, the Agriculture Officer and the District Officer. It is on part of an area on which the Roman Catholic Mission at one time contemplated erecting a Secondary School. The Mission decided to build elsewhere and the Secondary School is now in the course of erection on another site nearer Owerri.

(c) The overwhelming majority of the people in the area want the Palm Oil Mill to be erected on this particular site, but there is opposition by the landowners.

(d) The attitude appears to be negative, and Government is therefore not aware what is in the minds of the landowners.

(e) It is not known what percentage of the people were represented at the Emekuku federal meeting held at Port Harcourt.

(f) An agreement will be made between the Government and the landowners if the landowners agree. If they maintain their opposition to the proposal consideration will be given to the erection of the Pioneer Oil Mill elsewhere.

(g) In view of the answer to (f) the question does not arise.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

267. To ask the Honourable the Financial Secretary:—

(a) Is Government aware that there is a strong feeling in this country that instead of investing the surplus funds of the Nigerian Railway and the Central and Local Governments abroad, same should be used for local development?

(b) What is the present policy of Government regarding the investment of our funds in overseas securities whose interests are usually low?

Answer—

The Hon. the Financial Secretary:

(a) and (b) It is not a fact, as implied in the questions, that all of the surplus funds of the Nigerian Railway and of the Central and Local Government are invested abroad. The matter was dealt with in the Budget Speech of the Financial Secretary.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

272. To ask the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony:—

(a) How many scholarships were awarded by the Native Authorities of the Colony (i) for study in Nigeria and (ii) for studies overseas, as at December, 1948?

(b) Are the surplus funds of the Native Authorities of the Colony, where such favourable conditions obtain, not a good source for use in connection with the education of the people, which is obviously a State function?

Answer—

The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony:

(a) The number of Scholarships awarded by the Native Authorities of the Colony are for the purposes set out:—

(i) Forty-four.

(ii) Nil.

The approved estimated expenditure on Education by the Colony Native Authorities for the current financial year is £5,546 which represents 17.3 per cent of the estimated total Recurrent Expenditure. This question is kept under constant review but no further surplus funds can at present be utilised for educational purposes as the Native Authorities already find great difficulty in balancing their budgets even with the aid of Government Code Grants.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

274. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total area inhabited by the Eastern Ijaw-speaking peoples of the Eastern Provinces?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular area?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this area and under whose sponsorship?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this area?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this area?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this area, in spite of its abundant water supply?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this area? In what towns?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

(a) 1,800 square miles approximately.

(b) (i) None, Sir.

(ii) Four.

(c) (i) Thirty-four Elementary Schools all sponsored by Voluntary Agencies.

(ii) None, Sir.

(d) Canoe and bush path.

(e) (i) There is no Post Office in the area but one at Brass just outside.

(ii) None within the area, but there is a Post Office and Radio telegraph office at Brass.

(iii) Five.

(f) None, Sir. As the villages are so widely scattered and transport by water is slow, a Fire Brigade would be of little value in this area.

(g) None, Sir.

Supplementary Question to No. 274 by the Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Honourable H. Buowari Brown).

If the answer to (b) is none, what steps will Government take now to provide the necessary hospital and dispensary facilities for this big area?

And (d).

Since the answer is Canoe and Bush Path, will Government now take steps to implement the promise of two vessels for transport between Port Harcourt and this area?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

I am obliged to ask for notice of this Question.

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. H. Buowari Brown) :

Your Excellency, excuse me, Sir. I would also ask why no Government schools are provided in those area. It is left entirely to the mercy of the Voluntary Agencies. The question is c (i).

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

I must again, Sir, ask for notice.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

280. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) What was responsible for Government policy in prohibiting the distribution and consumption of spirituous liquor in Asaba, Ishan and Kukuruku Divisions?

(b) Is Government aware that there is a growing feeling that this action is discriminatory and inconsistent with the spirit of the Liquor Traffic Convention?

(c) Will Government be disposed to review this matter (i) out of deference to public opinion in the areas concerned, and (ii) in the light of scientific evidence regarding the physiological effect of alcohol on the human body?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:

The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to Question No. 167 of 1948 wherein the position regarding the Asaba Division was explained. This explanation applies also to the Ishan and Kukuruku Divisions.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

290. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) What are the facts relating to alleged increase in hospital fees at Ijebu Ode?

(b) What is the nature of the increase?

(c) What is the attitude of the Ijebu Ode Native Authority Council on this issue?

(d) What does Government propose to do to ease the position?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:

(a) There has been no increase in hospital fees at Ijebu Ode.

(b), (c) and (d) therefore do not arise.

Supplementary Question to No. 290 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe).

(a), Sir.

Is His Honour in position to explain why the rumour about this alleged increase gained ground at Ijebu Ode and elsewhere?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:

I am afraid I am in no position to explain how this rumour got out.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

294. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

(a) Is it a fact that during interviews by Scholarship Selection Boards, some members are disposed to ask candidates the nature of their political beliefs?

(b) If true, is this not an invasion of human rights?

(c) Will assurance be given that candidates for scholarships shall be interrogated only to enable the Boards to assess their intellectual and moral capacities, divorced from the periphery of politics?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education :

(a) No, Sir: but it would be wrong, I think, to endeavour to exclude all questions about political affairs which may be asked to enable the Boards to assess a candidate's general knowledge and intelligence, and questions on political matters are sometimes asked for that purpose.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Supplementary Question to No. 294 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe).

(c), Sir.

Will you agree that political affiliation of Nigerians should not prejudice their chances of obtaining any Government scholarships?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education :

I quite agree, Sir. But I am sure that the Honourable Member will agree, with Aristotle, that " Man is a Political Animal ", and that there is no impropriety in addressing questions to scholarship candidates on political affairs with a view to assessing their general intelligence.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

297. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) What were the circumstances surrounding the recent death of 38-year old Johnson Olojo Kosoko, who lived in Camden Town, N.W., London?

(b) Is the verdict of the Coroner at the inquest that, it was due to " accidental death " true in substance?

(c) Did the Police Authorities make appropriate investigation to satisfy themselves that there was no element of foul play?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) I have made enquiries through the Colonial Office and I understand that the deceased slept in a room without noticing that the gas tap was on, and the Coroner accordingly found that death was accidentally caused by coal gas poisoning.

(b) See (a) above.

(c) Yes, Sir. A copy of the police report on the case is being forwarded to this Government by the Secretary of State.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

315. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) What is the nature of the Akpaka Infectious Diseases Settlement at Onitsha?

(b) Is it attended to by a Medical Officer?

(c) Will statement be furnished showing (i) total number of inmates in 1948, (ii) the nature of their ailments, (iii) how many were discharged, and (iv) how many succumbed?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

(a) The Akpaka Infectious Diseases Settlement at Onitsha accommodates patients suffering from infectious diseases.

(b) It is visited periodically by a Government Medical Officer and regularly by an Assistant Medical Officer, Sanitary Superintendent and Senior Sanitary Inspector.

- (c) (i) The number of cases admitted in 1948 was 368.
- | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (ii) Small Pox | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 191 |
| Chicken Pox | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 155 |
| Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| Mumps | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
- (iii) 321.
- (iv) Forty-seven.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

359. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

(a) How has the Medical Department taken advantage of the published offer of the British Medical Association with regards to the admission of Licentiates of the Nigeria School of Medicine for the M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P.?

(b) Since the offer, how many Nigerian licentiates have obtained registrable qualification?

(c) Is assurance forthcoming that the Medical Department is energetic in co-operating to make registrable qualifications accessible to as many local licentiates as possible?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

(a) and (b) No such offer has been made by the British Medical Association, but the Honourable Member no doubt refers to the special facilities granted by the Conjoint Examining Board of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, London and England, to Licentiates of the Yaba Medical School enabling them to enter for any of that body's diplomas or for the M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Three Yaba diplomas were sent on Departmental Scholarship two years ago to study for the Diplomas in Public Health, Anaesthetics and Psychological Medicine respectively and one for the M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. The only result officially to hand so far indicates that the candidate for the D.P.H. was successful, but it is believed from a private source that the diplomate entered for the appropriate course has gained the M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

(c) The Medical Department is being as energetic in this respect as its shortage of qualified personnel permits. Four Yaba Diplomates are at present taking a specially arranged revision course in Anatomy and Physiology at Yaba with a view to proceeding to the examination for the M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., while arrangements are in train to secure that a further five will commence special post-graduate work in January, 1950, under the aegis of Ibadan

University College with a similar end in view. The whole question of the type of medical qualification most suitable for award in future at University College, Ibadan, is however, under consideration by the College Authorities in consultation with Government and the Secretary of State. It is not at present possible to predict the outcome nor its effect on the policy of the Department.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

360. To ask the Honourable the Director of Public Works:—

(a) How many refrigerators have been distributed, free of charge, for the use of members in the senior service?

(b) What will be (i) the capital expenditure and (ii) estimated annually recurrent expenditure?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:

I invite the Honourable Member's attention to Memorandum No. 131/1948-1949 for the Standing Committee on Finance of this Council which described in detail Government's proposals for the distribution of refrigerators to Government quarters. This scheme was approved by Honourable Members attending the Finance Committee. It is understood that no refrigerators have yet been distributed.

Supplementary Question to No. 360 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe).

(a) Sir.

Will refrigerators be distributed in 1949?

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:

The Refrigerators will be distributed as soon as they arrive, and I cannot say for certain whether it will be in 1949 or 1950.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

375. To ask the Honourable the Director of Public Works:—

(a) Is it a fact that a navigable river, five miles from Owerri, situated at Ihiagwa, could be a source of water supply, all the year round, for the whole of Owerri Division if a pipe-borne water system is installed?

(b) If so, will Government consider the desirability of tackling this vital State duty?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:

(a) No, Sir. It is not practicable to supply the whole of Owerri Division with a piped water supply from this source.

(b) Government is investigating and constructing water supplies as fast as recruitment of staff and supply of materials will allow, and so far as practicable the priority given to such supplies is that recommended by Provincial and Regional Development Boards. Owerri is not included in the 1st Priority list of the Eastern Regional Development Board.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

382. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

What is the total number of lepers in Owerri Division and the means employed in combating this dreadful scourge?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

The total number of lepers in Owerri Division is not known. In Owerri Province at Uzuakoli, there is a Central Settlement at which there were 1,201 patients on the 31st of December, 1948, and in the Province there are sixty-three Leprosy Treatment Centres and thirty-seven Leprosy Segregation Villages. Within Owerri Division, there are two clinics established for the Oguta and Okpuala-Ngor clans and two more are under construction for the Ohuoba and Oratta clans. 355 patients are attending these clinics for treatment. There are as yet no segregation villages in Owerri Division itself.

Prior to 1947 attempts to investigate Leprosy in the Owerri Division were defeated largely by the unco-operative attitude of the people themselves and work was therefore concentrated in other areas of the Province where co-operation was assured.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

383. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) Is it true that there is a mass recruitment of youths of Owerri Division for service in the Spanish labour plantations of Fernando Po?

(b) In view of the notoriety of these plantations, will assurance be given that the interest of those so recruited will be protected?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

(a) No, Sir. There is no such mass recruitment in Owerri Division or in any other part of Nigeria.

(b) The second part of the question therefore does not arise, but the Honourable Member knows, I think, that the interests of Nigerian workers in Fernando Po are protected by the terms of a Treaty between the Nigerian Government and that of the Spanish Territories in the Gulf of Guinea. An officer, with Vice Consular status, is stationed permanently in Fernando Po to ensure the observance of the Treaty terms and to take all requisite steps to safeguard the welfare of those workers who, having been recruited voluntarily in Nigeria are employed in Fernando Po under the provisions of the Treaty.

Supplementary Question to No. 383 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

(a), Sir.

Will figures of the recruitment of workers for the Spanish Plantations in Fernando Po be made available showing the source of supply of labour, province by province, in the Eastern Provinces.

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

Yes, Sir. Those figures can be made available to the Honourable Member.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

399. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many Textile centres have been opened in Nigeria for the past three years?

(b) Cost of maintenance per annum?

(c) Name of the centres and Instructors?

(d) Is it a fact that Ex-servicemen are among the pupils in the centres and do they justify their admission to the centres in comparison with ordinary civilians of the twons of establishment?

(e) How many private and independent looms are there in Nigeria for the past three years and how many of them are the outcome of Government tuition?

(f) What is the attitude of indigenous weavers to the newly introduced textile system?

(g) Are cloths being woven by Government looms appealing to African Community and being patronised by them?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) Three Textile Centres have been opened in the last three years. Work is in progress on a further four.

(b) Cost of maintenance of one centre in full operation is approximately as follows:—

Supervision	...	...	...	...	...	£
Office and General	...	...	...	...	...	750
Transport and Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	100
Cost of Demonstrations	...	...	...	...	...	210
Working Capital	...	...	...	...	...	500
						150
						<hr/>
						Total £1,710

(c) Centre	Opened	Instructors
Ado Ekiti	April, 1947	Mr L. Knibb
Oyo	September, 1947	Mr L. Dale
Auchi	September, 1948	Mr J. Whitaker and Mr W. Whalley

Under Construction

Ilorin	Mr A. C. Winter
Kano	Mr L. Bleasdale
Sokoto	Mr J. Edwards
Aba	Mr H. Cunliffe.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A census of the private and independent looms in Nigeria has not been undertaken and it is almost impossible to estimate how many looms of different types there are in the country. Approximately 100 looms have been supplied to trainees direct by the centres, but many other looms have been constructed as an outcome of the tuition given at the centres.

(f) Indigenous weavers and spinners have welcomed the opportunity to learn the use of improved methods taught at the textile centres.

(g) Cloths being woven on Government looms are made by trainees only and examples have improved design and wider weave. These have sold readily to the African community.

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. H. Buowari Brown):

409. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) What is Government doing to expedite the improvement demanded and very much necessary as regards working of the Postal and Telegraph Department and Tele-communication services throughout the Country?

(b) Is the Director of Posts and Telegraphs unaware of the numerous complaints and rather adverse comments being made every where, even by visitors from other Countries, regarding our Postal, Telegraph and Telephone services and what is he doing to improve the situation?

(c) Where Wireless installations exist and are intended to be established, will the Director take requisite steps to have more reliable Machines erected under efficient management instead of second-hand troublesome instruments causing great inconveniences to Government, Merchant Shipping Companies and the general public?

(d) Will the Director please see to it that the Wireless Stations now at Bonny and Brass be carefully examined for essential improvements and arrange for early installation of one at Bori in Ogoni Division since it seems impossible just now to extend the telegraph line to that station?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) Postal Services are being speeded up by extended use of the internal air service which has already affected a very great improvement in the Service. An extensive building programme has been commenced, which will provide the accommodation urgently required for the greatly increased volume of postal matter. Urban and rural postal delivery services are being developed. Licences for the sale of postage stamps, where required, are being issued and pillar boxes being supplied. Private boxes are being installed as rapidly as possible. Additional telegraph and telephone channels are being provided for the telecommunication services of the Posts

and Telegraphs, Aviation, Railway, Marine and Police Departments. Telephone exchanges are being enlarged and new cables to serve telephone subscribers are being laid. Provision has been made for new Stores buildings and Workshops to enable the Department to handle the very great increases in equipment required for telecommunication development. The training of staff in the postal services branch, which has been curtailed for some years owing to very heavy demand for new services, is now being extended and the training of engineering staff will be very greatly improved by the new technical school at Oshodi. In addition, a number of junior service officers are receiving training with the British Post Office.

(b) No, Sir. He is very acutely aware of the numerous complaints and adverse comments. He is also acutely conscious of the fact that much of the adverse criticism is justified. Nothing short of perfection will allay criticism of a department which comes into such close contact with the public in its daily life, and perfection is not possible while staff, materials and accommodation are still lacking; but to the best of his ability he is implementing the improvements outlined above.

(c) Yes, Sir. The necessary steps have been taken to obtain the skilled staff required for the maintenance of power supplies for wireless transmitters, but the additional staff has not yet arrived.

(d) Yes, Sir, as soon as the staff is available. The installation at Brass has been difficult to maintain owing to lack of transport facilities. New equipment for Bonny has arrived and will be installed as soon as staff is available. The installation of a wireless station at Bori will also be undertaken when staff and material are available.

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. H. Buowari Brown):

410. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

Whether Government intends to extend to the Provinces or Regional Headquarters the privilege of Technical Institute such as the one now established at Yaba for training of boys and girls from our Primary and Secondary Schools? If not what other provision is being made for the Eastern Provinces please?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education :

Yes, Sir. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to paragraph 10 of Chapter XV of Sessional Paper No. 20/1947—Memorandum on Educational Policy in Nigeria.

In the Eastern Provinces, plans for the establishment of the Enugu Trade Centre are now well advanced and it is hoped that it will open in January, 1950. Provision for a Trade Centre at Tiko has been included in the Draft Estimates for 1949-50, and, if this provision is approved, building will commence within the next six months.

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

No. of Medical Officers	Nature of Course	Duration
2 Europeans ..	D.P.H.	6 months and 10 months
1 European ..	Certificate of Public Health	3 months
4 Europeans ..	D.T.M. & H.	6 months
1 African ..	D.T.M. & H.	6 months
1 European ..	Course in Medicine	13 weeks
1 African ..	General Medicine	5 months
1 European ..	Histo-Pathology	16 weeks
2 Europeans ..	Instruction in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene	5 months
1 African ..	F.R.C.S.	6 months (may be granted extension to cover the course).
1 European ..	M.R.C.P.	6 months
1 African ..	Diploma in Gynaecology and Obstetrics. Sitting an examination for M.A.O. degree on 30.6.49.	9 months

(b) 4—L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. 3 years
 D.P.M. 2 „
 D.P.H. 2 „
 D. of Anaesthetics 1 year

(c) It is hoped to send four Yaba Diplomates to Britain within three months for the purpose of acquiring a British qualification.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

438. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) If he is aware that during the Gorman Arbitration in January or February, 1948, that the Chief Mechanical Engineer, Nigerian Railway, admitted that there had been occasional friction between the Craftsmen and Chargemen in the Loco Department over the disparity in their respective salary scales, and that the position, since the Arbitration, is getting worse?

(b) In the circumstances, will Government not consider a revision of the case of the chargemen with a view to their upgrading to the same salary scale as Shop Foremen, Grade III, viz., scale £180-220, or to Scale G. 2A of the Harragin Revision?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) In Mr Gorman's award, published in *Extraordinary Gazette* No. 13 of 28th February, 1948, the Chief Mechanical Engineer is quoted as having stated, *inter alia*, the following:—

“ A Chargeman was responsible for the work and discipline of a section of about twenty men; each section performed some separate function, or dealt with some separate part of a locomotive, etc. Since the commencement of the Arbitration, he had heard the suggestion that the proximity of the

salary of Craftsmen to that of Chargemen was causing difficulty. Upon investigation he had found that that did happen on occasions, but they were few and far between; in his position of responsibility, it did not cause him anxiety as to the efficiency of the work in his Department".

I am not aware that the position regarding the relationship between Chargemen and Craftsmen has since deteriorated.

(b) No, Sir. The matter was specifically referred to Mr Gorman who awarded that there should be no change in the grading of Chargemen.

The Third Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. T. A. Oduola, O.B.E.):

440. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) What is the total number of Forest guards up to the grade of Forest Ranger employed in the Forestry Department, their nationality or tribe?

(b) How many Africans since the inception of the Department have been appointed to the rank of Forest Officer, and if none, are there any plans for the training of men for such office in future in view of the increasing development of the forest resources of the country?

(c) Is the supply of suitable footwear part of the equipment or uniform of Forest Guard? If not will steps be taken to make provision for such supply in view of the nature of the work of this class of officer who have to do extensive trekking over hard and rough country?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) There are at present 223 members of the uniformed field staff of the Forestry Department belonging to the following tribes:—

Yoruba	...	...	...	46
Bini	...	...	...	86
Ibo	...	...	...	68
Hausa	...	...	...	12
Cameroons	...	...	...	11

(b) None, but two probationers are at present at the Imperial Forestry Institute at Oxford with a view to appointment to the Senior Service if they are successful in their course. Two others have just been awarded Scholarships to Oxford for next year, and a third is under consideration. One student is already at University College, Ibadan, on a Government Scholarship and eight more have been recommended for scholarships next year.

(c) Yes, Sir, there have been difficulties in obtaining suitable footwear but it is hoped to obtain additional supplies soon.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

443. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

For the academic qualifications of all expatriate officers in Executive posts in the Posts and Telegraphs Department, commencing from the Director of Posts and Telegraphs?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

The detailed information for which the Honourable Member has asked will be forwarded to him as soon as possible.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

446. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

For the nature of duties of the Postmasters at (a) Bauchi, Numan and Lau Post Offices in the North (b) Ogoja, Nsukka and Orlu Post Offices in the East (c) Ejinrin, Badagry and Yaba Post Offices in the West indicating the salaries appropriate to each post?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) *Bauchi*.—Salary £180 in Scale G.2. Performs the more responsible counter duties, assists his junior assistant in the treatment of mails as necessary, prepares the daily cash account and is generally responsible for the organisation and supervision of his office.

Numan.—Salary £144 in Scale G.1. Duties as at Bauchi.

Lau.—Salary £170 in Scale G.1. He has no assistant and performs all counter, sorting office and telegraph operating duties, and all work connected with the Postal Branch of a Post Office.

(b) *Ogoja*.—Salary £190 in Scale G.1. Duty details as at Bauchi.

Orlu.—Salary £190 in Scale G.1. Duty details as at Bauchi.

Nsukka.—Salary £170 in Scale G.1. Duty details as at Lau.

(c) *Ejinrin*.—Salary £170 in Scale G.1. Duty details as at Lau.

Badagry.—Salary £210 in Scale G.2. Duty details as at Lau.

Yaba.—Salary £180 in Scale G.2. Postmaster is responsible for general organisation, supervision of his subordinate staff, preparation of daily cash account, correspondence and public enquiries.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

450. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

For a definition of a technical Instructor in the Mechanical Engineering Department of the Railway Department indicating briefly his academic qualifications, and why was he entitled to Scale C1, 2 by way of emoluments?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

An officer responsible for the teaching of elementary technical subjects to Mechanical Apprentices. He must have had a good secondary education with a sound practical background and be capable of instructing apprentices in Elementary Machine drawing, Elementary Mathematics, and Applied Mechanics. The duties are similar to those of other Technical Instructors already on Scale C1, 2.

Supplementary Question to No. 450 by the First Lagos Member (Dr the Honourable I. Olorun-Nimbe).

Will the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government define with precision what is meant by "A good secondary education with a sound practical background"?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Before I reply to a Question of this kind I shall have to consult Heads of Departments and the Director of Education.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

451. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) For a definition of Workshop Foremen in the Mechanical Department of the Railway?

(b) What are the academic qualifications and the salaries attached to these posts?

(c) What is a Production Assistant, indicating briefly his academic qualifications?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) A Workshop Foreman is an officer responsible for the supervision of the plant, equipment and personnel of a Workshop or Section.

(b) A good general education followed by an approved apprenticeship.

Salary—Scale C1. (£450-600).

(c) A Production Assistant is an officer responsible for dealing with the execution of Work Orders for Locomotive and Carriage and Wagon parts and details, and for co-ordinating the production Departments, and seeing that the work is produced as quickly as possible and in its proper sequence. He should have had a good secondary education followed by sound practical Technical Training.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

453. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) For the academic qualifications of Establishment Officers and Assistant Establishment Officers in the Office of the General Manager of the Railways?

(b) What are their respective qualifications?

(c) How many of them are Nigerians?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) Qualifications required for the post of Assistant Establishment Officer are published at paragraph 94 of pamphlet N.S.S.16 as follows:—

"A candidate must have been educated up to Matriculation standard and preference would be given to one who had

obtained a degree of Bachelor of Commerce or Bachelor of Science (Econ.) or who was an Associate Member of a recognised Secretarial body."

(b) 1 Bachelor of Commerce; Graduate of the Institute of Transport.

1 Associate Member of the Institute of Transport.

2 London Matriculation.

1 Institute of Bankers examination.

1 United Kingdom Railway Commercial and Operating Certificates.

1 Senior Clerical Examination.

1 Junior Clerical Examination.

(c) One. There is also one who is of Gold Coast origin but who has been in Nigeria Railway service for over twenty years.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

454. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Whether the Railway Department believes in the principle of equal pay for equal work?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, why are expatriate officers rated £450 (Scale C1) and Nigerians are rated G3?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) I am not sure that I have understood the purpose of this question, but Salary Scale C1 applies equally to expatriate and Nigerian holders of the same post. Posts graded on Scale G3 are not the equivalent of posts graded on Scale C1.

BILLS

(Second Reading)

THE 1949-50 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Director of Education:

Last year Honourable Members bestowed a more than usually generous amount of attention on the educational "garden". They gave their general blessing to a memorandum on policy. They approved a liberal annual grant in aid for a five year period to the University College and a still more liberal appropriation from the Territory's funds to establish an endowment fund for the College. They appointed a Committee of this Council to discuss adult education with the new Board of Education. They passed an Education Ordinance and, with it, the new grant-in-aid regulations which will play such an important part in the evolution of local government in the years to come. And they did several other things. On this occasion, however, they have, for the most part,

withheld comment a fact which, though a pleasant enough experience for the Director of Education, need not necessarily be counted unto him for righteousness but probably reflects a natural desire on the part of Honourable Members to await the germination of the seeds they planted in 1948.

Some of these seeds, Sir, have already begun to sprout quite lustily. For example, the Regional Boards met early in the year and the Central Board had its first meeting only three weeks ago. These Boards were convened primarily to draw up General Regulations for submission to Your Excellency in Council but, in the case of the Central Board, the items on the agenda swelled to nineteen and the deliberations lasted until approximately 8 p.m. on most days of the meeting without, I may say, occasioning noticeable signs of fatigue on the part of members.

A significant feature of the present debate has been the emphasis on the need for preserving a balance between economic development and the expansion of the social services. True, both are interdependent but the later should, I suggest, lag slightly behind the former if we are to avoid all manner of disappointments.

It has been pointed out by several Honourable Members (and my Honourable Friend the Financial Secretary has had occasion to remind me of the fact from time to time) that the Grants-in-Aid Vote has, in recent years, increased at a formidable rate.

The actual round figures are as follows:—

				£
In the financial year	1944-45	...	...	281,000
" "	" "	1945-46	...	387,000
" "	" "	1946-47	...	520,000
" "	" "	1947-48	...	992,000
" "	" "	1948-49	...	1,295,000

For the coming financial year the draft estimates include provision for £1,609,000.

× And that is not all, Sir. During the next triennium, Government has undertaken, subject of course to the provision of funds by this Council, to take the heavy additional strain imposed by the progression of teachers along their salary scales and a large part of the strain represented by the output of trained teachers. May I remind Honourable Members of some of the implications? We hope that some 2,000 additional certificated teachers will be produced by 1952 and, in the Eastern and Western Regions where it is generally agreed that dilution has gone too far (the problem in the Northern Region is somewhat different), the untrained teachers displaced by these trained teachers will find themselves out of a job unless—and this is the crucial point—unless the communities concerned are prepared to bear the cost of the salaries of the teachers so displaced.

In brief, Sir, if primary education is to be expanded on the scale which is desirable and for which, indeed, there is a clamant demand, it can only be achieved through increased financial support from the local communities concerned. This is merely another way of saying that increases in the revenues of local government bodies will in fact be needed whether through higher local taxation, improved methods of assessment or more efficient arrangements for collection. The machinery for securing the co-operation of the people in this endeavour is provided under the new Ordinance which was discussed in some detail by this Council last August. The House will have an opportunity of exploring this intractable problem at a later stage of the proceedings when a Motion to be moved by the Honourable the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces comes to be debated; so I need not detain Honourable Members by attempting a further analysis at present.

The economic theme was vigorously expounded by the Honourable the First Nominated Member and reflected in the speeches of those Honourable Members from all Regions who pressed for an extension of technical education in order that the Territory may use its raw material to greater advantage. A perusal of the draft estimates will show that a considerable expansion of technical education is proposed and, in your spoken Address, Sir, you mentioned that consideration was being given to the establishment of a Regional College for Nigeria, with branches in the different Regions. Dr Harlow's Report on this project is now awaited; but it may be of interest to Honourable Members if I sketch some of the leading features of what is, in some respects, a novel conception. The Regional College would admit pupils from secondary schools who had reached School Certificate standard or a level approaching to that standard on the technical side, and would provide various types of vocational or technical training, flexibly adapted to the Territory's needs, combined with general education up to at least Higher School Certificate standard. The college would thus extend widely beyond technical education. Its function would include the training of non-graduate secondary school teachers, youth leaders and welfare workers; adult education; training in commerce and advanced technical and vocational courses, some of which are now conducted by Government Departments. The basic idea underlying the Regional College is that "the customer is always right". Thus it would be reasonable to suppose that courses of study would be prepared and organised for persons engaged in Agriculture, Building, various branches of Engineering, Mining, Surveying, Pharmacy, Sanitary Inspection work, Nursing, Hospital Administration, Secretarial and Administrative Work, Bookkeeping, Accounting and Banking, Railway and Road Transport Administration, Shipping, Commerce and Public Administration. In the respective subjects the courses would be arranged on collaboration with employers on the "sandwich" system to enable employees to

discharge their duties more efficiently or to qualify for positions of greater responsibility. There is much, I suggest to Honourable Members, to be gained by training different kinds of technical staff in a common institution so that the team spirit and the necessity for co-operation with other departments, as well as a wider outlook, can be inculcated.

The importance of Mass Education or Community Development has been stressed during the debate, notably by the Honourable the Member for the Eastern Provinces who tilted a merry lance! So far as mass literacy is concerned the preliminary discussion between the Board and the Honourable Members appointed by this Council, emphasized the wide divergence of opinion shown during the debate on this subject last March though agreement was reached on certain major issues. So far as I can judge the progress made in Nigeria can compare very favourably with that made in Brazil—a country mentioned by the Honourable Member. The school population has doubled during the last few years and the success of the adult education campaign has been indicated in Your Excellency's Address. I cannot, of course, claim to provide the statistics sought by the Honourable Member—no one knows the population of Nigeria to within one million—or even two millions—but I do claim that the campaign against ignorance and backwardness in certain areas in order to achieve better living is making faster progress that is generally realised. It was suggested, I think, by my Honourable Friend, that the problem might be handled more imaginatively and he suggested that I be given emergency powers. I might, of course, were I to be given the emergency powers of a commissar, order the Honourable Member to Dikwa and enjoin him to make 500 people in that area literate within a year; failing which he would spend the following year in reconditioning the Potiskum-Damaturu road. But more severely practical considerations suggest that the Regional College, for example, might be of use by training, with the help of experienced workers, new personnel for work in the villages, by providing workers in this field with practical and technical information of value in Community Development, by undertaking experimental projects, by becoming a centre for the collection and dissemination of mass education activities, by disseminating to workers in the field information relating to methods found useful in other areas, by becoming a centre for conferences, by providing refresher courses for workers in the field and by collaborating with the Medical Department, for example, in assisting health measures in the villages and with the Agriculture Department in giving instruction to farmers.

I now pass to certain *obiter dicta* by Honourable Members which merit brief comment.

The Honourable the Third Member for the Eastern Provinces indicated that the good faith of Government would be tested by the application of the Phillipson formula. I think it can already be

claimed that the change-over to the new Regulations has been effected with a minimum of fuss as a result of intensive work, particularly at the Provincial level. It would have been incredible if the operation had been carried through without a single voice being raised: the fact that complaints have been so very few is, I think, a tribute to the essential soundness and justice of the scheme. I believe it will be found—I cannot of course claim complete accuracy at this early stage of the proceedings—that some five-sixths of the present school population are provided for in schools judged to be efficient and socially useful, and, as a corollary, aided by the Central Government. I would remind the Council, Sir, that the table of zonal adjustment is provisional only and represents a “commonsensé” appraisalment of capacity to meet the various amounts prescribed in the Regulations. The intention is, during the present year, to prepare, in consultation with the Provincial Administration, a more carefully considered table which will be, as it were, a tabular relief map of the economic state of the various parts of the Territory. Regulation 16, Sir, states that in 1949 the rates in Tables III and IV shall be revised by the Director in consultation with the Central and Regional Boards and, after approval by the Governor in Council, the rates so revised shall remain unaltered for a period of three years.

The Honourable the Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces spoke at some length but I believe I am not alone in admitting that I found it extremely difficult to follow the trend of his argument. In so far as it concerned education I think he is under considerable misapprehension on three points. First, he suggested that Educational Regulations contain no “conscience clause”. Second he suggested that redundant schools were automatically closed—that is quite incorrect, Sir, they are merely excluded from the grant-in-aid list. Thirdly, he implied that no school should be closed in any circumstances, a proposition which Honourable Members found themselves unable to accept last August.

The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. Nyong Essien):

I did not say that no school should be closed down under any circumstances.

The Hon. the Director of Education:

I apologise to the Honourable Member if I misunderstood him. But he gave me a clear impression that school children might, with impunity, be entrusted, for example, to the care of lunatics, moral perverts or convicted criminals. I can assure the House that the power to close a school is sparingly used and that, in any event, an appeal lies to the Regional Board which includes in its membership a strong representation from the Regional House of Assembly. That, Sir, seems to me a sufficient guarantee against arbitrary administrative action by my Department.

I do not pretend, Sir, that I have dealt with every educational point raised in the course of the debate. It would scarcely be proper for me to do so as several are of a nature which could be more profitably discussed in Select Committee. If any Honourable Member feels that I have been remiss, I hope that he will apprise me of the fact in Committee.

Finally, Sir, may I remind Honourable Members that the Secretary of State's Educational Adviser is now in Nigeria and express the hope that they will endeavour to meet him and outline to him their views on our more pressing educational problems. They will find Mr Cox a ready listener: and those members of the Council who met him in London last year will have realised his keen interest in Nigerian education. We have made it plain to Mr Cox that in a country of this size and diversity his stay must on no account be less than three months and, I am glad to say, he has agreed. I trust, therefore, that Honourable Members will avail themselves of the opportunity thus afforded.

Sir, I support the second reading of the Bill.

The Hon. the Director of Public Works :

Your Excellency, before dealing generally with matters concerning the Public Works Department raised in this Debate, I would like to thank you, Sir, on behalf of the Western Regional Members of my staff for the appreciation which you have expressed of the work done in the construction of this Council Chamber. Your remarks, Sir, have been much welcomed and will prove an encouragement for further strenuous efforts. As a certain interest has been shown by Honourable Members in the organisation of the construction of this Hall, I would like to mention that it was not done by the ordinary form of lump sum contract, but by what we call a "labour contract", which is an arrangement we have been employing in many parts of Nigeria. The work is set out and supervised by the Public Works Department, which also provides timber and all imported materials. The contractor provides the local materials and does the labour side of the work—in this particular case the roof and steel work of the re-inforced concrete was done by direct labour. The contractor, Sir, is the gentleman whose name festoons various approaches to this Hall. His work has been much appreciated. I understand that he was once in the Public Works Department, but now, Sir, there is no need for him to retain the modesty which is considered so becoming to serving Members.

It is, Sir, an unfortunate fact that the work of an Engineering Department is measured in terms of money, and that figures must be used to give an over-all picture of what it has done and what it has to do. I would restrict myself to the minimum and only quote them in approximate terms. Whereas in the last year before the war the expenditure on Government works amounted to £460,000 approximately, the work for which my Department is responsible

this year amounts to about £3,000,000. Allowing for depreciation of money values, this represents an expansion of volume of work of about 450 per cent. But this is not all, Sir. It may not be appreciated by Honourable Members who only view the work of the Department in terms of the annual estimates or of the work of the Finance Committee, perhaps, Sir, I should say in deference to the Honourable the Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces, the wizardry of the Finance Committee, that officers of the Public Works Department are also responsible for a considerable volume of Native Administration works, which this year may well approach the figure of £600,000.

The Appropriation Bill now under debate budgets for an over-all expenditure by the Public Works Department under Extraordinary, Recurrent and Development Heads of nearly £5,000,000. Again allowing for depreciation of money values this represents about seven times the volume of work done in the last year before the war. In the same period, Sir, since the war started, the actual numbers of staff of civil engineers on whom falls the main burden of the work, was reduced by four from 92 to 88. These figures of expenditure are big figures, and I would wish to impress them on those Honourable Members of this Council whose voices have been raised in denunciation of lack of progress. The song that they sing, Sir, is, I maintain, out of tune with reality.

Honourable Members, are, I think, most interested in Development works, and I am pleased to say that there has been considerable expansion of progress. Whereas last year the expenditure was about £600,000, I anticipate that this year it will be about the £1,000,000 mark. Under Rural Water Supplies over 800 water points have been completed and another 300 are in hand—work all done this year. This is 50 per cent more than has been done in the three previous years and is actually approaching 75 per cent of the target of the Ten-Year Plan. The total of these water points will provide water for one million people. After a slow start the pace is now satisfactory and provided there is no hold-up of materials and that part of the staff on indent will be forthcoming, I look forward to a considerable gain of momentum next year.

Urban Water Supplies do not present quite so rosy a picture. I do not want to grumble, Sir, but I cannot help but point out that since the start of the Development Programme we have not had one single Water Engineer, and at this stage the Development Plan budgetted for thirty-two Water Engineers for Urban Water Supplies alone. Nevertheless work is in hand at Jos, Sokoto, Abeokuta and Ogbomosho. Minna and Warri should be completed in a few months, and materials have been ordered for Maiduguri. Much work has been done on the Lagos extension and the new intake on the Ogun River, and it is most disappointing that there has been delay in the delivery of the special large pipes needed for this scheme. This is particularly vexatious at a time when

consumption is overtaking supply from the Iju River, and that we have had to appeal, to the people of Lagos to economize in their use of water. Work on the new Onitsha supply should start shortly, and plans are now ready for Ilorin, Kaduna, Makurdi and Ilésha. In addition investigation is in hand for supplies to twenty-seven other towns. The plans for these are not yet ready but rough calculations have been made for the probable cost and altogether now, water supplies in hand, planned and under investigation will account for about £2,000,000 out of the £3,500,000 allocated in the Ten-Year Plan. That so much has been done is due to the two or three Water Engineers on the permanent establishment of the Department and to the assistance of Consultants.

I think perhaps, Sir, I should remind Honourable Members that 70 per cent of the cost of Urban Water Supplies is met from loan, the annual charges on which, as well as the recurrent expenses, have to be met by the consumers. In some cases it is becoming very difficult to get decisions from the towns themselves as to whether they are or are not prepared to meet these charges. Rough approximations of the possible amount of these charges on every scheme under investigation have now been made, and sent to my Honourable Friend the Development Secretary, and no doubt he will circulate them to the Regions, so that the authorities concerned may make up their minds, now, as to whether they will be able to meet these charges. By these means it is hoped to avoid the waste of time, trouble and money in finalizing schemes that cannot be paid for. Honourable Members will appreciate the point more clearly when I tell them that it takes two years from the inception of a scheme to its finalization, and that often thirty to forty sheets of plans are involved in each one.

I would now like to turn to the question of roads, Sir. At Question time, and during this Debate, there has been much mention of dust and corrugation, bumps and bitumen. I feel, Sir, that some Honourable Member may have arrived at this meeting, in the frame of mind expressed by the famous Scottish poet—Robert Burns—in these words:

“ I’m now arrived thanks to the Gods
Thro’ pathways rough and muddy
A certain sign that making roads
Is not this people’s study
And though I’m not with scripture crammed
I’m sure the Bible says
That heedless sinners shall be damned
Unless they mend their ways.”

I apologise to the Council for quoting this verse, but it does conveniently stress the two aspects of road work—making the highways and maintaining them. As regards the making, about 1,400 miles of road are now in hand, of which 1,100 miles are either

completed or passable to traffic. This represents an increase of about 600 miles on last year's figure. Good progress is being made in all three Regions, and among many others I would mention the Kano Eastern Road, the Yola-Wukari and Mokwa-Kontagora Roads, the Lagos-Benin and Calabar-Mamfe Roads. It is now possible to motor from Victoria to Enugu, and on the journey you will travel over 162 miles of road constructed out of Development funds. The ferries may prove a little tiresome, and that at the Cross River perhaps nerve-racking to the timorous driver. Designs for a bridge are ready, but the cost will be £180,000. It is of the suspension type. So it is being deferred in favour of the more numerous smaller and cheaper bridges, so that ferries can be reduced to a minimum. A considerable amount of bridging has been done and now there are over 11,000 feet of new permanent and temporary bridges. In addition to all this it is expected that 117 miles of bituminous surfacing will be completed during the year. This is three times the amount in the previous year. It is a small step towards the elimination of the dust and corrugation nuisance so complained of by road users. It also includes forty-five miles of the much abused Ife-Ilesha-Benin Road.

I turn now, Sir, to the question of road mending. Two years ago the bill for the maintenance of Government roads was about £310,000. This year it is £480,000 odd. Next year it is to be about £540,000. There is a corresponding increase in the cost of Native Administration roads. In your Printed Address, Sir, you mentioned that the total annual bill may well reach the million mark, when the Development Programme approaches its conclusion, or even exceed that formidable figure unless wages remain static. There is no work so sensitive to wage rate fluctuations as road work, and especially road maintenance work where 80 per cent of the costs are labour costs. The whole maintenance organization of the Nigerian road system is to all intents and purposes completely Africanized. Owing to the emphasis on capital works, superior supervision, at the executive engineer level is small and the country is dependent on its road overseers, foremen and its engineering assistants for economic and effective road maintenance. The major proportion of trunk roads are maintained by Native Administrations, by reimbursement monthly or quarterly of the whole or a proportion of their expenditure. It is most important to encourage local authorities to assume responsibility for works in their area, and to organize and train the staff to execute the works that devolve on them. But it is incumbent on these Authorities, as it is in the case of roads directly maintained by Government, that they should make every effort both by improved methods and by increased intensity of supervision to combat these rising costs.

Many Members of Council have expressed a desire for more and more roads to be bituminized. We all like driving on a smooth surface in safety at fifty miles an hour and upwards, free from corrugations and dust. But it behoves us to reflect that our

comfort and speed are costing the tax-payer every year, £60 for every mile over and above what he would have had to pay prior to "sealing". It is, in my opinion, essential that road construction and improvements should conform with economic requirements. Speed should be adapted to the type and condition of the road. It is only by doing so that the ever-rising tide of road casualties can be kept within reasonable bounds.

The problem of economic service to industry and trade, speed and safety is world-wide, and it is relevant to quote an extract from a recent *Engineering Journal*. "We may safely say that if ever this country gets decent roads in sufficient measure to aid industry, stop casualties, and save time, the price we shall be called upon to pay will cripple us all, for as long as life survives on this preposterous planet." The country referred to, Sir, is Great Britain. Need these words refer to Nigeria? I think No, Sir, not yet, and they need not in the future providing we spend road funds at our disposal wisely and economically.

Now, Sir, turning to the building programme. It is probable that under all heads of the Development Building Programme, expenditure this year will amount to about £400,000, which is roughly two-thirds of the Budget figure. This, I suggest is reasonably satisfactory in view of the staff difficulties that still persist. I do not propose to quote long lists of works in hand; these can be seen in the Draft Estimates. Your Excellency has already mentioned ten hospitals, and I would add to these twenty-three schools and other educational establishments, six health centres and medical field units, several leprosy settlements, and two large research institutes for oil palm and trypanosomiasis respectively. Numerous quarters have been built and are being built in connection with these institutions. The Boys' Secondary School at Zaria is now open although the final instalment is not yet complete. I understand everyone is very pleased with it, and it forms a standard at which to aim. The Boys' Secondary School at Ughali has also been begun, as has a hospital at Birnin-Kebbi. Where so many works jostle for priority it is not convenient to initiate construction in the more inaccessible areas, and there has been a great temptation to concentrate on works where transport, labour and staff difficulties can be most easily overcome, and where a constructional organization already exists. I am glad, Sir, that this temptation is being overcome.

During the year the Parliamentary Sub-Committee on the Estimates visited Nigeria to investigate the Development Programme. One of the results of this visit, is the reduction of building standards. Where this reduction has affected planning and scales of accommodation it has been welcome, and it has led to economy, but reduction of constructional standards must be treated with caution. If these are carried too far, although more work can be done for the money now, much heavier maintenance costs

will have to be met in the future. Although the instructions to reduce standards caused some set-back in planning owing to the necessity of re-designing some of the institutional buildings, this is rapidly being made good thanks to some hard work on the part of the architects, and now for the first time since the Development Programme started, I see some prospect of starting a new financial year with a few plans complete and ready for the work to be done during the year.

As for next year's programme, Sir, the total budgetted for under Development Works only exceeds £2,500,000. Since there has been no increase of staff, in fact it is now a little smaller, it is obvious that this large volume of work cannot be put in hand unless recourse is made to contractors on a considerable scale. There are now in Nigeria a number of contractors capable of undertaking building projects of £100,000, and negotiations are in hand as to the possibility of concluding agreements with firms capable of major engineering works such as Ilorin Water Supply and Foggo Bridge. By means such as these it is hoped that a considerable proportion of the work will be put in hand, but it will have the effect of raising costs.

On the question of staff, Sir, I would like to mention that the Lagos Town Council has advertised for Engineers for eighteen months all over West Africa. One appointment has been made, a native of the Gold Coast, and I understand that he was the only applicant. I was interested to hear the Honourable the Second Lagos Member suggest that Public Works should be performed by public corporations or under comprehensive agreement. The same thought occurred to me a short time ago, and I asked the head of a large firm of engineering contractors what his attitude would be towards entering into an agreement for the maintenance of the trunk road system of Nigeria. His reply was curt—that he “would not touch the proposition with a barge-pole”. So, Sir, it looks as if Nigeria will have to suffer its Public Works Department for a short time longer.

In conclusion, Sir, I would like to refer to the vote of censure suggested by the Honourable the Third Member for the Eastern Provinces. I would remind my Honourable Friend that at Kaduna last year in Select Committee he himself approved the amount to be expended this financial year on the Women's Training Centre at Enugu, and consequently approved the progress that was represented by that amount. I would now like to inform him that construction has been done falling only a little short of this progress. If, therefore, a prisoner's dock is the most appropriate place from which to hear the verdict on the vote of censure, I trust that the Honourable Member will be my companion there. And perhaps my Honourable Friend the Director of Education, who is not unassociated with the matter will lead us in.

Sir, I beg to support the Appropriation Bill.

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture :

Your Excellency, in your speech, Sir, reference was made to the principal purpose of the various Produce Marketing Boards, and the Regional Production Boards. The establishment of these Boards is particularly timely in their relation to the producer. It may be indeed that their establishment will come to be known as the most progressive step ever taken in Nigerian Agricultural history. My purpose today, Sir, is to describe one or two ways in which the purposes of the Boards are being, and can be fulfilled.

Honourable Members will have observed from the Estimates that the Cocoa Marketing Board has made available to my Department more than half a million pounds for expenditure in a period not exceeding fifteen years, on Cocoa Survey, on Cocoa Soil Survey, and Cocoa improvement and rehabilitation. Of this about £84,000 is available this year.

Let me explain that Cocoa Survey has to do primarily with the trees and elimination of disease. Cocoa Soil Survey on the other hand, aims at expanding the industry by determining suitable soils for cocoa, in both the Eastern and Western Regions and in serving to eliminate the growing of cocoa on unsuitable land. It is doubtless true that the benefits of this work will be felt most in the Western Region, but investigations have shown that there are areas in the Eastern Provinces and the Cameroons in which expansion of the industry can take place.

The West African Cocoa Research Institute which works in close collaboration with my staff has provided us with seed from introduced high yielding strains of cocoa of quite remarkable vigour. These have come from the Amazon; and they come into bearing in three or four years, by comparison with the five or six years for existing cocoa.

The development of these strains is of special significance for they may have far reaching effects on the whole cocoa industry.

Before leaving the subject of Survey I wish to pay special tribute to the work of the small team of officers and staff who have been responsible for the survey and mapping of 600,000 acres of cocoa. I understand that the cutting out of diseased trees is now proceeding with little interruption, and it is confidently hoped that all diseased trees which have as yet been discovered will be destroyed this year. I should like, Sir, to make a few remarks about commercial fertilisers of which mention is made in Your Excellency's printed Address.

I need not dwell on the necessity for increased production of foodstuffs, for we all accept the fact that more food is required to meet the needs of increasing population. The question is, and always has been, how best to obtain it. It is of only moderate interest to the average Nigerian farmer to hear that he can maintain fertility by the use of green manure; or even by the use of farmyard manure. Many in the Northern Provinces in particular, already

know and appreciate the value of farmyard manure, but because of the fact that the tsetse fly makes the keeping of stock precarious in a large part of Nigeria, vast numbers of the people know little or anything of its value. The use of green manures is effective, but it has only limited appeal, for farmers are naturally reluctant in the first place to grow a crop which cannot be consumed, and secondly to go to the trouble of ploughing it in.

The fertiliser I particularly wish to refer to today is derived from a form of rock phosphate found outside Nigeria. There is a shortage of phosphate in the soils in this country, and particularly in the Northern Provinces. Cereals like guinea corn, and crops like groundnuts contain a lot of phosphate. For example the export crop of groundnuts expected to be shipped from Nigeria this year, 300,000 tons, will remove the equivalent of 17,000 tons of superphosphates from the soil. Under a system of good farming this should be restored or put back into the soil in order to maintain fertility. In the Northern Provinces we have a method of processing this into a slab of 100 pellets each of which can be readily broken from the slab. During the war superphosphate could not be obtained. Now we can get it delivered in Nigeria for about £20 per ton or for almost exactly the purchase price of a ton of groundnuts. One ton of it can be expected to give back to the farmer at least three or four tons of nuts more than he would receive without its use. A team of my officers have proved that in return for 50 lbs of it applied to one acre of groundnuts, the average farmer should get 200 lbs of groundnuts. In other words, for the outlay of 10s worth of superphosphate he should get a return of an extra £2 worth of nuts, and probably more. Some known facts about fertilisers were provided by my Department to the Groundnut Mission which visited the country last year and their principal recommendations were based on these facts. This year's yield trials at Kontagora and Damaturu have more than confirmed the former experience. The exact yield figures for the trials are of interest. At Kontagora unmanured plots gave an average yield of 660 lbs, whereas with 50 lbs of superphosphate the test plots gave 1,019 lbs. At Damaturu the comparative figures were 652 lbs for unmanured, and 947 lbs for those treated with superphosphate. I repeat that at Kontagora 50 lbs of superphosphate per acre gave a return of 359 lbs; and at Damaturu 50 lbs of the fertiliser gave 295 lbs of nuts. This represents in the first case an increase of seven times and in the latter nearly six times. These results are conclusive, for they are derived from well conducted replicated trials with a sufficient number of plots to provide significant statistical answers. It is noteworthy that this means a return of £3 10s 0d for the investment of 10s at Kontagora, and £3 for the same expenditure at Damaturu. It sounds unbelievable, but it has and can be done. Ten farmers in Bornu Province were induced to use the fertiliser on their own farms and were able to show their neighbours that for the outlay of 10s they obtained a

direct return of 35s worth of nuts. Superphosphate can be relied upon to give highly economic returns of local grain crops as well as of the major export crops.

It may well be asked, Sir, why these fertilisers have not been used before. The answer is fairly simple, for when fertiliser trials were commenced in 1930, and until the late war, prices of most farm products were too low to pay for the cost of fertilisers. During the war fertilisers were unobtainable, and it is only now that we can expect to get them in quantity, and at economic prices. Concentrated effort will be made during the forthcoming year to acquaint farmers with the practice of applying commercial fertilisers.

In the Eastern Provinces the need for certain fertilisers is acute. At Umuahia my officers have been able to show that with application of half a ton of lime made sixteen years ago at a cost of £2 10s 6d there resulted extra food crops to the value of £10 16s 0d over the intervening years—an average of 10s worth of food per annum more than could be obtained without the lime. During the past year 350 demonstrations of the use of lime have been given on farmers' land in the Eastern Provinces. Tests are also being carried out there with combinations of nitrogen and potash which show promising results.

Honourable Members will readily appreciate the importance of price stability and the capacity of the Boards to ensure continuation of research of the kind which is now being carried out with commercial fertilisers. The Groundnut Marketing Board will doubtless see here an opportunity for the utilising of surplus funds, perhaps even in subsidising the use of fertilisers. The use of fertilisers may not be as large as we hope at first for farmers must learn to use them correctly but after all, most important agricultural progress has been made from small beginnings. Instance the cotton and sugar development in Nigeria. In 1913 an Agricultural Officer on returning from Uganda brought with him a small quantity of Allen cotton seed. From this seed in a very few years there has grown up a stable industry in the North. In 1937 I was privileged to visit India where I found simple sugar crushers in operation which I thought suitable for Nigeria. A number were introduced, and from the use of these has sprung a valuable minor industry.

To go further back and consider cocoa. At the beginning of the century only 5,000 tons of cocoa was shipped annually from the Gold Coast and Nigeria. Today the total reaches 300,000 tons.

Now I should like to mention cotton. Twenty years ago the average ginning percentage of cotton for export, that is the amount of fibres or lint that comes off the seed was about 29 per cent that is 29 per cent of lint in relation to the whole seed and lint. Today improved seed in course of distribution yields up to 35 per cent of lint to seed cotton. This represents a very large increase in

production, brought about by the patient and painstaking work of a team of agricultural specialists, but this work must be continuous and interest must not be allowed to lag.

For the benefit of those Honourable Members who may be unfamiliar with the processing of cotton I should say that the ginning process consists in removing the fibres by machinery from the seed of the plant.

Improvement on yield and quality of a crop like cotton, as well as in oil bearing or ordinary food crops does not just "come naturally" as is sometimes thought. It can only be brought about by diligent and sustained effort on the part of well trained plant breeders and Agricultural officers.

Mechanisation in Agriculture is receiving the full attention of Government. Provision is made for a new engineering section for my Department. Several farms in various provinces will be established this year for the purpose of demonstrating the value and use of machinery to as many people as possible. In the Northern Provinces, for example, these will be established at Daudawa, Shika, Sokoto, Kafinsoli, Bauchi, Bida and Ilorin.

Similar work will be conducted on farms in both Eastern and Western Provinces, but it will be appreciated that if mechanisation is to be fully effective in oil palm country, it will be essential to set out palms on plantation lines. Food crops can well be grown between rows with the aid of mechanisation, if plantation practice is adopted.

Trials with food crops between young palms are being conducted at the Oil Palm Research Station. This work is described in the Seventh Annual Report which has just been published and which was laid on the Table yesterday.

My Honourable Friend, the First Member for the Western Provinces, has spoken of his desire to find some alternative method for the harvesting of palm fruits, to replace the time honoured method used by the climber.

I have given a good deal of thought to this Sir, and the best remedy I can suggest is the replacement of the old tall and unproductive palms with new high yielding ones. Seed will be available shortly in adequate quantities for everyone. On trees of up to thirty or forty years of age fruit can readily be reached from a light ladder, and a lift or elevator should not be required.

My Honourable Friend, the Third Member for the Western Provinces, has expressed concern about the temporary withdrawal of staff from his Province. I can assure my Honourable Friend that this step was taken with the greatest of reluctance. I am however pleased to say that it has now been found possible for a Senior Service officer to be posted to Benin Province within the next few weeks.

I have been heartened by the encouraging speech by my Honourable Friend, the First Nominated Member, for whose opinions I have the highest of respect.

Several Honourable Members have spoken of the shortage of ploughs in the Northern Provinces. I am glad to be able to report that supply has improved, and I anticipate no shortages in future.

I agree with my Honourable Friend the Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces that the Agriculture Department should do all it can to combat erosion, including the dissemination of information about destructive effects of grass fires. It is the duty of every Agricultural Officer to give attention to these matters. However, I think my Honourable Friend will appreciate the limitations imposed upon any Government agency unless its efforts are fully backed by the people concerned. I suggest that a useful first step toward preventing grass fires could be taken by those Native Administrations which already have the legal powers to enforce prevention. I know that Government would welcome firm initiative of this kind. I will go further and say that unless the whole hearted support of Native Authorities is behind such a campaign it is bound to fail.

Permit me to refer again Sir, to the organisation of representative bodies which will have far reaching effects on Nigerian Agriculture. I observed with great satisfaction the ready acceptance this Honourable House gave to the Agricultural Bill after its amendment, and after full explanation of its important clauses had been given in the Regional Houses. One of these provides for the formation of a Board of Agriculture. Since the last meetings of Regional Houses, full membership of this Board has been announced, and its deliberations will commence shortly. I look for great things from this Board, Sir, in its capacity to review on a country-wide basis, all aspects of Agricultural planning and progress.

The Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board has already shown how it can help Nigerian Agriculture, and I give you my word Sir, that I shall not be long in seeking the assistance of the other Boards for Agricultural Schemes, as soon as they are in a position to consider them. Reference to general organisation would be incomplete without mention of the Nigerian Local Development Board which has demonstrated in full measure its capacity and willingness to make capital available for agricultural enterprise.

I have not mentioned hitherto, Sir, the work at our Agricultural Schools. These have been expanded to admit an increased student body. We are fortunate in seeing the establishment of an Agricultural Faculty at the Ibadan University College. Let us all combine to make the best use of these facilities.

Let us all look forward to the time when love of the land will be reflected in better use of the soil, when with improved conditions of land tenure the Nigerian Farmer can feel secure in the ownership of his own home and farm land.

The peasantry of this country is traditionally industrious and of cheerful and kindly disposition. All our efforts aim at preservation of these high qualities. The secret lies in the soil. Destruction of the soil must inevitably lead to destruction of the peasantry. I submit, Sir, that the organisational and technical achievements which I have mentioned today constitute important contribution to the progress and happiness of the people of Nigeria. The stage is set for progress.

Your Excellency, I support the Bill.

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

Your Excellency, I do not feel that I need say much at the present juncture as Honourable Members have made it abundantly clear, to me at least, that although they have been testing some of their big guns they have merely been skirmishing and that I may expect the main offensive against the Medical Department some day next week.

There are, however, two matters that we have been warned may be raised in Select Committee about which I feel I must say a few words. The first question, in my humble opinion, is a matter for discussion within the ranks of the profession to which I have the honour to belong. The second question touches a knotty problem—and I do not care how Honourable Members spell 'knotty',—which is of serious concern to me, to my Department and to the public.

My friend and colleague the Honourable the First Lagos Member issued a challenge yesterday which I am pleased to accept, and although he did not indicate the nature of the weapons to be employed I think that I am possibly able to suggest to him two alternative venues for the combat. He informed this House that various commercial concerns had demanded a counter-signature by Government Medical Officers of *bona fide* medical certificates issued by private practitioners. I am not, Sir, in possession of the full facts of those cases, but I suggest that perhaps it was simply a question of employers wishing to secure a second medical opinion. If such is the case, as it well may be, then I suggest that the fault, if fault there is, lies at the doors of those employers and not at mine. On the other hand, if I am wrong and my Honoured Friend seriously believes that there is an element of professional misconduct connected with the case, then I would advise him to lay a complaint before the Board of Medical Examiners, and as the Chairman of that body I guarantee that the case will be subjected to careful and full enquiry and that such action will be taken as it merits and within the provisions of the appropriate statute.

The other matter which calls for a few comments before it is discussed in Select Committee concerns the very vexed and vexing problem of private practice amongst Government Medical Officers, and it was suggested, I believe by my other medical colleague in this House, my friend the Honourable the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces, that he was going to put forward a motion that

private practice should be completely abolished as from the first of next month. I, Sir, having no axe to grind and, assuring in particular the Honourable the Second Member for the Eastern Provinces, nothing to lose, have often thought that complete abolition would offer a grand and certainly an easy solution to a difficult problem, but mature and sober reflection has completely convinced me that, if we were to take this drastic step now, we would be inviting disorganisation, if not disintegration, of a public service already gravely embarrassed by shortage of qualified staff.

I wish, Sir, to refer now to the matter of corruption within the Medical Department, which has been a cause of grave concern to me for some considerable time. Your predecessor, Sir, when he indicated to me that I was to be his unhappy choice as Director of Medical Services, commanded me to oust corruption from all our hospitals, and in particular from Lagos General Hospital. I told Lord Milverton at the time, Sir, that I thought it was a pretty tall order, and I have found that, even with the ready and full cooperation of the Police, it is one which is much taller than I can fulfil. I proceeded to increase supervisory staff in the Lagos Hospital, I appointed representatives chosen by the Criminal Investigation Department to post within and near the gates of that hospital. I had pamphlets printed in English and in the common vernacular languages posted in prominent positions in all hospitals; I even had the assistance of the mighty Press. Now, Sir, why have those measures failed? I believe, Sir, that the Honourable the First Member for the Eastern Provinces gave us the answer to that question when he suggested that perhaps the people themselves did not have the sense to combat bribery and corruption. To quote an instance which goes towards proving this contention—I cite a case which was brought to my notice in a leading article in a prominent Lagos daily, in which it was stated that two poor fellows had been victims of extortion in Lagos General Hospital, and at my request the Editor very kindly arranged to have those two traced. He was successful in one case and he sent this alleged victim along with two of his own representatives to my office, but those representatives assured me that the witness was not of the slightest bit of good to us because he refused to give evidence in any shape or form, being afraid of poisoning by some of my friends. Well, Sir, if the Press and the Police fail, why should I be blamed?

In concluding my remarks on this subject I should like to say that I am confident that, had the parents in the case cited by the Honourable the Second Member for the Eastern Provinces, laid the sordid facts before the Medical Officer in charge of Port Harecourt Hospital, he would have taken action to see that the culprit was brought to justice whether the offender was the gate-man or the Director of Medical Services.

There are several matters which have been brought up in full Council which I consider may be appropriately dealt with at the Committee stage when further figures and facts will be produced.

and when the Honourable the Financial Secretary will be present. These include such questions as the provision or extension of fully-dieted hospitals, promotions to the Senior Service within the Medical Department, Ekpoma Hospital, the provision of X-Ray installations in Mission Hospitals and the United Mission Hospital: Also the status of labourers attached to the Native Administration Dispensaries.

Sir, I beg to support the Appropriation Bill.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Your Excellency, last year I said that if I might venture a prophecy it would be that although the implementation of the Development Plan had inevitably been slow in getting under way, it would move with ever-increasing speed in the next few years. In so far as the past year is concerned, this has certainly been true. In 1947-49 the sum of £2,300,000 was spent under the Plan. In 1948-49 the latest estimate is that the sum of the order of £3,700,000 will be spent. In the present estimates now before you, which have been prepared on a realistic basis, it is estimated that £6,600,000 will be spent in 1949-50. But here I would put in a word of caution—that if we continue to lose technical staff at the rate at which we are at present losing them from promotion, transfer, retirement, etc., and do not succeed in recruiting new staff, we shall not succeed in carrying out the plans made for this forthcoming year.

Progress under the Plan has, of course, been uneven, as was to be expected. But particularly rapid progress has been made in certain aspects thereof—I would mention only—technical education and textile development.

With regard to technical education, much has already been said about this, and I would only say, Sir, that both at Yaba and Kaduna the greater part of the buildings is completed. At the Technical Institute at Yaba, 92 resident pupils are now attending full-time courses, 96 part-time apprentices are attending day continuation courses, and 209 are attending evening classes. As so many Honourable Members stressed, technical education is of great importance to this country. Greater provision than is made for it in the Plan will, I am sure, have to be furnished. A start has been made to that end and provision has been included in the draft Estimates now before Honourable Members for a Trade Centre at Tiko and a Printing School at Yaba, two items which were not included in the original Technical Education Plan.

With regard to textile development, the Plan provided for the construction of eight Textile Centres. Of these, six will have been built by the end of 1948-49. By the end of 1948, it is indeed pleasant to be able to report, the staff position had improved beyond expectation and recruitment was completed with the appointment of a Dye Chemist.

It is encouraging to note that from three centres in the Western Provinces, 300 men and women have already been trained as spinners and weavers.

Honourable Members will, I think, be interested to know that there is a growing power-loom industry in Lagos, and that for some time past a Textile Officer has been visiting and advising power-loom weaving establishments which have been assisted by loans from the Nigeria Local Development Board.

During the course of the Budget debate last March there was considerable criticism of the Plan on the ground that it was over-weighted on the side of development of the social services and insufficiently weighted on the side of economic development, while at this Session great emphasis has been laid on economic development. I am indeed fortunate, Sir, in that much of what I might have had to say regarding economic development has been said, and said much better than I could say it, by you, Sir, and by my Honourable Friend the Financial Secretary. But I can assure Honourable Members that during the past year, while the development of the social services provided for in the Plan has proceeded, more and more emphasis has been laid on economic development. Most of the loans made by the Nigeria Local Development Board were for purely economic development. Full details have been set out in the Annual Report of the Board, which has been laid on the table of this House as a Sessional Paper. But I should like to mention that loans amounting to over £20,000 have been made to local companies or partnerships for the purchase of Pioneer Oil Mills erected by the Department of Commerce and Industries, while a new scheme financed by that Board provides for the operation of an experimental canning plant. One Honourable Member mentioned the failure to find a market for Citrus fruit. Here is an outlet for that production. This scheme is being undertaken primarily in order to find out and endeavour to overcome the difficulties which must naturally be expected in such an undertaking, in order that the knowledge may be passed on to Nigerian industrialists who wish to undertake similar enterprise.

There is no need for me to say anything more on the subject of the Marketing Boards, but it may be of interest to Honourable Members to know that with the setting up of these Boards no less than 97 per cent of all the agricultural produce exported from Nigeria will have been brought under public direction.

I can assure the Honourable the First Nominated Member that Government is awake to the fact that as long as the unit of production in this country remains the man with the hoe there is little prospect of permanent raising of the standard of living. To increase the economic wealth of the people of this country is one of Government's foremost aims. I need say no more about Pioneer Oil Mills—these have proved themselves and a demand for them has now been created. Improved methods of agriculture are being carried on in numerous resettlement schemes, mainly, it is true, in

the Northern Provinces, but there is one outstanding example in the Eastern Provinces—The Bamenda-Cross River-Calabar Scheme—in the farms of which over 50,000 oil palm seedlings were planted last year. Very active negotiations are proceeding with the Colonial Development Corporation to undertake the Niger Agricultural Project. This, Sir, will not be a plantation scheme but, if it materialises, a scheme like the Gezira Scheme in the Sudan wherein the land will be occupied and worked by peasant proprietors under the directions of the experts of the Corporation. If it be successful, since example is more powerful than precept, it may be the forerunner of many similar but much larger schemes to be carried out by the people themselves. Another of the projects being examined by the Colonial Development Corporation is that for a large-scale plant for the extraction of groundnut oil, while the Nigeria Local Development Board has in prospect a scheme—which it will now hand over to the Northern Regional Local Development Board—for the establishment in the Northern Provinces of small plants for such extraction locally; plants of a size and capacity similar to that of Pioneer Oil Mills. The Colonial Development Corporation is also actively considering a scheme for the establishment of a sack factory to supply some of the 14 million sacks this country uses annually, and a project for the establishment of a cotton spinning and textile factory wherein will, I hope, be spun and woven cloth like that which so impressed the Honourable the Second Member for the Eastern Provinces in the Belgian Congo.

During the course of the year expert missions have visited Nigeria to investigate and report on (a) the possibility of improving the quality of the hides and skins exported and the possible establishment of a tanning industry, (b) the possibilities of mechanised agriculture, (c) the development of a cattle industry, (d) rice production, all, it will be noted, Sir, proposals for economic development. In addition, the Report of the Powell Duffryn Technical Services Limited has been received and this Council has already approved the expenditure of the money to implement the proposals for development in the Colliery. It may interest Honourable Members to know that in the Draft Development Estimates for 1949-50, 51½ per cent of the total will be expended on economic development and 48½ per cent on the development of social services. I have no doubt that this emphasis on economic development will continue and will expand, and I hope that next year we shall see come to fruition some of the plans which have been made this year.

One of our great difficulties has continued to be shortage of certain supplies, particularly of steel. At the beginning of last year a detailed examination of our capital equipment requirements was carried out by an officer of the Central Economic Planning Staff of the United Kingdom and an officer of the Colonial Office, and as a result of their visit and report steps have been taken to ensure as far as possible that Nigeria now receives a fair proportion of the steel supplies available, calculated according to its essential needs.

One particular item of steel is still in very short supply, namely well-casings, for which there is a demand throughout the world. To assist in such matters an Economic and Development Liaison Officer has been appointed by the Secretary of State, whose duty it is to travel between the West Coast of Africa and the United Kingdom, and to make our requirements known to the Colonial Office and to keep us aware of the supply position. He has recently visited Nigeria and toured extensively. From his assistance we hope for much.

I have not, Sir, attempted to reply to individual criticisms—these I will reply to in Select Committee, and I trust that Honourable Members would prefer it that way. But I have, I hope, said enough to show that Government is fully seized of the need for economic development and is determined to satisfy that need.

Sir, I support the Bill.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:

Your Excellency, may I be permitted to offer my humble and dutiful thanks for the greeting which Your Excellency extended to me as a new member of this Honourable House, and also to thank those of my Honourable Friends who have made kind remarks about me.

I feel privileged, Sir, to have become associated with this extremely keen and capable team amongst whom I sit, and who represent the friendly peoples of the Eastern Provinces.

As I see it the vital thing today is to promote unity, and then to direct the energy of all to our one set purpose—the rapid economic and political advancement of the Regions and Nigeria. To achieve this, Sir, goodwill amongst all is essential.

I should like to pay a high tribute to the peoples of the Eastern Provinces. It is a tribute to their characteristics of kindness, good humour and good sense which are inherent in them. They are, indeed, characteristics which I have found in all the African peoples that I have known. I mention this purposely, Sir, because there is a modern tendency to ignore the qualities of virtue that everywhere surround us and instead to concentrate on the failings that may or may not exist.

There is little, Sir, which has arisen from this Debate which requires any reply from me. Nevertheless, I should like to say one thing in support of my Honourable Friend the Development Secretary.

A complete stranger, Sir, sitting in the gallery and listening to the debate would, I think, leave with very mixed feelings. I believe he might have gained an impression that little had so far been achieved in the development plan. That impression would be a wrong one, Sir, and a very unfair one to the staff in the Provinces, both Senior and Junior Services. With little increase

in numbers, that staff has shouldered the extra burdens that have been placed on it, and it deserves full credit for what has been achieved.

I am happy, Sir, in that the Unofficial Members of the Eastern House of Assembly will be visiting the headquarters of each Province in the near future and will be able to obtain first-hand information of all that has been done up to date.

Unfortunately, Sir, there is a popular idea being fostered that the Government is responsible for providing every modern amenity for each and every citizen. The sooner this is corrected the better as it can only result in disappointment. Even worse—it will sap the initiative of the people. Amenities and luxuries have to be paid for, they do not descend like manna from heaven. It will be to the local Governments and to the payment of local taxes and rates that the people must look for any wholesale provision of modern amenities. One of the purposes of the local Government reforms in the Eastern Provinces is to provide the means for this.

Your Excellency, I return to that important question of goodwill on which Your Excellency has always placed so much emphasis. Sir, I think that the complete stranger in the gallery to whom I have referred may in the end gain one clear impression from this meeting of Legislative Council. An impression, Sir, that goodwill is now in the ascendancy and that the future of Nigeria is therefore assured.

Sir, I support the Appropriation Bill.

His Excellency:

May I suggest that Council might break off at this stage this morning and continue the Debate tomorrow, if that is your wish.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

May I ask before we break off that the members of the Select Committee on the Constitutional Review should meet this afternoon at 4.30, and not at 5.00 as previously suggested, in the Catering Resthouse.

Council adjourned at 12.15 p.m.

Debates in the Legislative Council of Nigeria

Friday, 18th March, 1949

Pursuant to notice the Honourable Members of the Legislative Council met in the Hall of the Western House of Assembly, Ibadan, at 10 a.m. on Friday, the 18th of March, 1949.

PRESENT

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- His Excellency the Governor,
Sir John S. Macpherson, K.C.M.G.
- The Chief Secretary to the Government,
The Honourable H. M. Foot, C.M.G., O.B.E.
- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,
His Honour T. C. Hoskyns-Abrahall, C.M.G.
- The Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces,
His Honour E. W. Thompstone, C.M.G., M.C.
- The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,
His Honour Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, C.M.G.
- The Attorney-General,
The Honourable G. L. Howe, K.C.
- The Financial Secretary,
The Honourable A. W. L. Savage, C.M.G.
- The Director of Medical Services,
Dr the Honourable G. B. Walker, C.B.E.
- The Development Secretary,
The Honourable C. J. Pleass.
- The Director of Education,
The Honourable R. A. McL. Davidson, C.M.G.
- The Director of Agriculture,
The Honourable A. G. Beattie.
- The Director of Public Works,
The Honourable R. W. Taylor.
- The Commissioner of Labour,
The Honourable A. H. Couzens.
- The Acting Commissioner of the Colony,
The Honourable J. G. C. Allen.
- The Senior Resident, Kano Province,
The Honourable E. K. Featherstone, C.M.G.
- The Resident, Ogoja Province,
The Honourable P. M. Riley.
- The Resident, Abeokuta Province,
The Honourable J. H. Blair, E.D.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Member for the Colony,
The Rev. and Honourable T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.
- The First Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Obisesan, O.B.E.
- The Second Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.
- The First Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable I. Olorun-Nimbe.
- The Emir of Gwandu,
The Honourable Yahaya, C.B.E.
- The Emir of Katsina,
Alhaji the Honourable Usuman Nagogo, C.B.E.
- The Oni of Ife,
The Honourable Aderemi I, C.M.G.
- The Obá of Benin,
The Honourable Akenzua II, C.M.G.
- The Atta of Igbirra,
Alhaji the Honourable Ibrahim.
- The Emir of Abuja,
The Honourable Sulemanu.
- The First Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Bello Kano.
- The First Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable C. D. Onyeama.
- The Second Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.
- The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable H. Buowari Brown.
- The Third Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Iro Katsina.
- The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable A. Ikoku.
- The Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Aliyu, Makaman Bida.
- The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.
- The Second Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe.
- The First Nominated Member,
The Honourable P. J. Rogers.
- The Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Yahaya Ilorin.
- The Third Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.
- The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable N. Essien.
- The Third Lagos Member,
The Honourable Adeleke Adedoyin.
- The Member for Calabar,
The Honourable E. E. E. Anwan.

The Second Nominated Member,
Major the Honourable J. West, M.C.
The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Soetan.

ABSENT

UNOFFICIAL MEMBER

The Third Nominated Member,
The Honourable N. B. Edwards.

PRAYERS

His Excellency the Governor opened the proceedings of the Council with prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17th of March, 1949, having been printed and circulated to the Honourable Members, were taken as read and confirmed.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

Sir, I rise to give notice to ask the following question:

To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Will Government agree to take no action on the Phillipson's reports for the present as I whole-heartedly endorse all that my worthy friend and colleague Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiyam had said about the Medical Department, with special reference to Private Practice by Government Doctors and Sir Sydney Phillipson's reports.

As Medical experts on the Unofficial side, we are preparing a Memorandum for submission to Government as representing the unanimous or the great preponderance of the considered opinion of the Honourable the Unofficial Members of this House.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

Sir, I rise to give notice of the following question.

To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Nigerian Faith Mission, of Trenton, New Jersey, United States of America, is an organization established at Ureggi for missionary activities for twelve years?

(b) Is it a fact that this mission has spent thousands of dollars in connection with its activities at Ureggi?

(c) Is it a fact that Government contemplates closing the premises of the Mission at Ureggi?

(d) If so, what are the reasons for such a drastic action?

(e) If (c) is true, did the Government state the reasons for its alleged contemplated action, in writing, to the Mission, and was the Mission given opportunity to defend itself?

(f) Is it a fact that four district or village heads or chieftains have appealed to the District Officer of the area concerned in writing that the Government should stay its action in this connection?

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

Sir, I rise to give notice of two motions:—

1. “ Be it resolved:

“ That this House considers that solitary confinement
“ of prisoners, other than violent criminal lunatics,
“ should be discontinued as a form of punishment
“ for breaches of prison discipline or for any other
“ offence.”

2. “ Be it resolved:

“ That this House considers that no person in Nigeria
“ shall be kept in custody awaiting trial for any
“ period exceeding four weeks and that suitable
“ legislation be enacted to give effect to this
“ resolution.”

MOTIONS

The Hon. the Financial Secretary:

Your Excellency, I rise to move the resolution standing in my name which reads as follows:

“ Be it resolved:

“ That the amendments of duties under the Customs
“ Ordinance, 1942, set out in the Customs (Increase
“ of Duties—Tobacco—and Export Duties) Order in
“ Council, 1949, and the amendments of duties of
“ excise under the Excise Ordinance, 1941, set out
“ in the Excise Tariff (Cigarettes) Order in Council,
“ 1949, be referred to a Select Committee for
“ consideration and recommendation to the Council
“ whether such amendments should be confirmed
“ under the provisions of section 12 of the said
“ Customs Ordinance, 1942, and under the provi-
“ sions of section 13 of the said Excise Ordinance,
“ 1941, respectively.”

The Hon. the Development Secretary:

Sir, I beg to second.

Motion adopted.

BILLS

(Second Reading)

THE 1949-50 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1949

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:

First of all, Your Excellency, I should like to make an apology, and express a hope, and my apology is for the weather. We never seem to be able to get it quite right. Last year at Kaduna Honourable Members will remember that we were nearly frozen to death and nobody quite knew whether what was blowing up was a dust storm or a snow storm. This year we are, I am afraid, what I

might call in the melting-pot. Next year, we shall, I hope, be meeting at Enugu, and I hope that the Wise Men in the East will make certain that it is neither too hot nor too cold, and that we have not too much nor too little coal dust. An Honourable and gallant friend and colleague has threatened us with a motion that the financial year shall be altered to enable this House to meet for the Budget Session in August, and sometimes when I look round at the wilting faces of my colleagues in this House, I think that this motion would be very well received. And now I express a hope, and that hope is that our sins here in Ibadan of commission and omission will be overlooked. It is a very big business to organise a meeting of Legislative Council and a number of people have worked extremely hard at it. I am sure that perfection has not been attained, but I do hope that Members will forgive and forget, and I hope that Honourable Members will leave this town—will leave the Western Provinces—Members from the North, the East, Lagos and the Colony (I think that is correct) with a feeling that new friendships have been formed and that the bonds of friendships which exist in this House amongst Members will have been strengthened by this meeting.

Your Excellency made very kind reference to this building in which we are having our deliberations and mention was also made by the Honourable the Director of Public Works. We in the Western Provinces were greatly gratified by the remarks made by Your Excellency. I personally, for obvious reasons, took a very great interest in the construction of this building, and I must confess that two or three months ago I had secret misgivings as to whether this Chamber would be completed in time. And if I may be allowed to move one step from the general to the particular, I would like to say that were it not for the extreme hard work and conscientious effort of Mr Wynn of the Public Works Department, both in working hours and out of them, there would not have been a hope of this House—this Chamber—being completed in time. It is not, as Members are aware, yet completed. There should be a parquet floor and various other additions, including, I hope, fans, and when it is completed I think that it will prove a Chamber worthy of the councillors who gather in it.

Your Excellency, in your address, stressed the extreme importance of local government advance. Now I have an impression that a good many Honourable Members of this House are not altogether *au fait* with what is going on in the way of local government advance in the Western Provinces, and so I crave permission to say a few words on what we have been doing in the Western Provinces and what we hope to do in the future. There are in the Western Provinces, and particularly in the eastern part of the Western Provinces, a number of small units, small Native Authorities, Local Authorities, which in the past have been unable to develop as they should owing to their size. The policy on which we are engaged, and I may say have been engaged for some years, is an

attempt to bring some of these small units together in a federation, the size of which will enable them—both financially, administratively and executively, to hold their own in the modern world. Of course, to do this requires the goodwill of the authorities themselves and, I need not add, the goodwill of the mass of the people. It requires and has required and will go on requiring a great deal of spade work.

There is no doubt whatever that the small Native Administration has no place in the world of today and still less a place in the world of tomorrow. In the Western Provinces the people are being trained towards eventual responsible self-government, and as I said I can see no place for a tiny independent unit in the Nigeria of tomorrow. Now there is another thing with which I agree, and that is the view that I have heard expressed on many occasions by our younger people, when they say, "You talk about Native Administrations' advance towards local government and towards local responsible self-government, but where is our place in this set-up?" I agree that if you continue with tiny Native Administrations it is perfectly true that there is no place for these young men, but if you have federations of a reasonable size with reasonable revenue, then I trust and believe that these younger people will find opportunities therein, either as administrative secretaries or as treasurers or in other capacities. Now our work towards federation is not confined to Warri or Benin Province. I might add that in Ondo Province the Ekiti federation has been in existence now for quite some time, and is finding its feet and is progressing in a very satisfactory way. In addition to Ekiti I just might mention,—it won't take a moment—just one or two other places in which advance is being made along these lines. In Ondo Province, Akoko is another federation which has come into existence. In Okitipupa there is a proposed federation which has not yet come into existence. In Abeokuta the Egbado federation is now in existence. In Warri the Western Urhobo have federated, and there is, I hope—I believe that there will be—a further federation between the Western Urhobo and the Urhobo Divisional Native Authority. In Benin there have been various federations in the Kukuruku Division, and in Ishan it is proposed by the people that all the eleven Native Authorities should federate in the near future. Now there is a good deal of confusion of thought as to what federation means. There is an idea abroad that federation means subordination. That is not true. Nothing could be further from the truth. Federation means partnership, and partnership means unity and strength.

Speaking of partnership, there is one particular form of partnership to which I would like to draw attention, a form of partnership which is essential for the health and progress of the Western Provinces, and that is partnership between what one may roughly describe as the old and the new. It exists more commonly than is sometimes imagined or from what one would gather from reading various articles written on the subject of Western Provinces

progress. Where this exists the outlook is indeed a happy one, where it does not exist there will be up-hill work in the future. One of the things in which the new and the old can be brought together is in such formations as patriotic unions and so on. I can mention that there are in the Western Provinces a number of patriotic unions or progressive unions who have done or are doing a tremendous amount in the assistance of the development of the particular areas to which they belong and I will just mention two—there are many others—but two come to my mind. One is the Asaba Union, the President of which Union I believe is in the Strangers' Gallery today, and the Egbado, which contains many friends of mine. Both these unions are working hard towards the progress of their people in complete co-operation with the Native Authority. Now there are others, and I do not wish to waste the time of this House in discussing these others at any length. But there are certain unions which appear to spring up in the night, and the subject of which is to extract money from the many for the benefit of the few. I will not speak more on that subject, beyond saying that I am quite certain that even in those unions who to my mind have not got a good record of service towards their Native Authorities, or towards their people, there is a core in them which can be won from Mammon to God. The main point that I would like to hammer home is that there must be co-operation between the old and the new if we are going to progress at the speed at which it is essential for us to progress.

I have a profound conviction that the road to self-government in the Western Provinces lies in the development—I emphasise that word—in the development of the indigenous system of administration. I say it in the plural—"systems". These systems are well understood and the policy of Government is to develop these systems along modern lines to meet the needs of today and tomorrow, as is well known to the Administrative staff of the Western Provinces. If I may be permitted to quote a very short passage from my speech in the House of Assembly a few months ago which reads as follows:—

" I will do no more here than remind members once more of the principles on which our policy is based:—

- (1) A wider representation on Native Authority Councils and Committees.
- (2) Greater responsibilities.
- (3) Improved efficiency of the executive.
- (4) Federation of smaller Native Authorities into larger and stronger units.
- (5) Political education of the people, particularly in the more backward and rural areas,"

That policy is, I believe, well understood in the Western Provinces. Quite apart from the work done by the Administrative Officers in the Provinces—I believe that I am right in saying that I have

addressed every single Native Authority in the Western Provinces on that subject—and many of the larger ones I have addressed on a variety of occasions. Now, I don't want to be accused in any way of dogmatizing, but I would like to suggest that the speed of progress in the Western Provinces depends in the main on three factors. The first factor is the willingness of the Chiefs—the traditional leaders—to be prepared to co-operate. The second is the willingness of the people—the great mass of the people themselves, and the third is the availability of trained staff to carry out the progressive policy of Government.

As regards the first of these, the willingness of the Chiefs,—I am bound to say that I have met generally with not only co-operation but eagerness to advance and a full appreciation of the urgency of the times in which we live. Where there is suspicion—and I do not deny that it exists in some places—where there is suspicion it is for us to undermine that suspicion and replace it with confidence. In regard to the second point, as Your Excellency is well aware, the masses of the people in this country are farmers, and everyone knows that farmers the whole world over are very conservative people. My friend the Honourable the Director of Agriculture will be the first to agree, I am sure, that the farmer is not prepared to sow a new type of crop or to embark on a new form of cultivation until he is quite satisfied that that crop and that form of cultivation are good things. So it is in the way of political progress. Until the farmer is satisfied that our new ideas are good things he is not prepared whole-heartedly to accept them. For example, the farmer may, in some places, feel some suspicion of the literate councillor, until he is quite convinced that that literate councillor is going to work on his behalf. Nevertheless I believe that we are carrying the vast majority of the rural population with us in our policy.

I am not quite so happy in regard to the towns, and in particular as regards the towns which lie outside the Western region, where the people's sons living away are so little, I am afraid, often so little in touch with what is going on in their home towns or their home districts. Now it has been very clearly stated on a variety of occasions that you cannot reform what you do not understand. It has been said with regard to the constitution that few people in this country understand the first thing about this constitution and therefore how can they propose improvements? We have, as Your Excellency is aware, issued a pamphlet which tells people what the present constitution is, and so having told them, they can say for themselves later—"Well, this is how we think it should be improved". In exactly the same way a man cannot fairly criticise local government unless he has some idea of what local government is and does and where its failings are and where are its successes. I am satisfied that there is a great deal of ignorance, as I say, particularly in the towns, and I hope that it will be possible to rectify this. I am hoping,

with the assistance of the Regional Public Relations Officer, that it will be possible to get rid at any rate of some of this ignorance. I know that people, that everyone of us does feel at times that the pace is too slow and that we ought to go faster and faster, and that brings me to my next point, and that is the availability of staff, the availability of trained and experienced staff.

I do not think it is necessary for me to enlarge on that subject, Your Excellency. Your Excellency is as aware as I am, of the lamentable shortness of Administrative staff in the Western Provinces. I wish to say something on behalf of a service against which so many—a certain number, anyway, of people—delight to fulminate. I should like to say in regard to the Western Provinces that, considering our acute shortage of experienced staff, considering how many young men we have in the service who have only recently joined us and have had very little experience, that in the last year a very fine job of work has been done by them, and I am proud to work with that team of keen enthusiasts. In regard to the administrative service, I understand that my Honourable Friend the Chief Secretary will have something to say on that subject, so I shall confine myself to two points only. One is a question and the other is a fact. If it is true that Administrative officers are an expensive and unnecessary luxury, why is it that wherever I travel in the Western Provinces, North, South, East or West, one of the first questions that I am asked is, "Why do you not give us more administrative officers? Why is it that you have taken away our Administrative Officer? Why is it that in years gone by we were constantly visited by an Administrative Officer and now we never see an Administrative Officer?" Why is it that they do not hold up their hands to high heaven and exclaim in despair, "Who will rid us of these turbulent District Officers?" On the contrary, like Oliver Twist, they ask for more. That was the question and the fact is as follows: Again there is a misunderstanding of the duties—I am speaking of the Western Region, I am not in a position to speak of any other Region—there is complete misunderstanding of what are the duties of an Administrative Officer, which are perfectly simple to my mind. The duties of an Administrative Officer are to help Native Authorities, in the early stages with guidance, and then in the later stages with advice. The time will come—I do not know when that time will be—when the advice and guidance or the guidance and advice, to put it in that order, of the Administrative Officer will be no longer needed, because the childhood of the Native Authority is over and he has become a fully fledged entity, capable of taking his place in the self-governing Nigeria which we hear so much about.

Another matter closely connected—I should like to mention, if I may, is that I did say during the meeting of the House of Assembly in December, that I proposed to set up a Committee to advise and consider the means by which the modernisation and development

of the Native Authorities to meet the needs of the modern world, could be undertaken, and I propose to set up that committee in the near future.

There is yet another matter which, if I may be permitted to, I should like to mention, and I mention it only in a few words, not because it is not a matter of extreme importance, but because it is a very painful subject. There are some people, who appear to imagine that progress can be accelerated by violence and that either by hitting a man over the head or by threatening his person and his property; you can make the wheels of progress go round faster. I would liken a man who holds those views to someone who maintains that a motor car will go down a hill faster if it has not got any brakes, and he appears completely to overlook the fact that that motor car and its unfortunate occupants will probably never reach their destination.

His Excellency :

I am obliged to inform His Honour that the time is up.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

I move that another half-hour be granted.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

May I thank the House. I promise that I will not be half an hour or anything like that. Some people think that Government is supporting a moribund reactionary administration which is half dead and dying on its feet. That is not true. Government is helping in the growth and the development of a live and a vigorous plant and that live and vigorous plant covers the administration of the Western Provinces. I am prepared to admit that occasionally tares appear amongst the wheat, but only a madman or an enemy would wish to destroy the whole field because of a few tares.

The Honourable the Third Lagos Member and the Honourable the Second Member for the Western Provinces made some kind remarks about the Regional Public Relations Office. I thank them for these remarks and I am bound to confess that I think they were justified. They have done and are doing a very good job of work.

After listening to Honourable Unofficial Members I find I get to the stage in my remarks which almost forces from my lips the following menacing words: " And now I turn to the Posts and Telegraphs Department ". Now, like the Honourable the First Member from the Eastern Provinces, I do not pretend to know very much about the Posts and Telegraphs Department, but I do know that on occasions it has taken a letter five or six days to go from Ibadan to Lagos or from Lagos to Ibadan, and of course when that happens it is always an urgent and most important letter. Indeed, in my younger days I can assure Your Excellency that I could have taken

that letter in my hand and walked on my flat feet to Lagos and delivered it at an earlier date. Having said that, I would like to put in a plea for the Posts and Telegraphs Department. A lot of hard things have been said about it. I myself have always found the closest co-operation and courtesy from that Department in Ibadan. I know that there are times when I pick up my telephone and I wait and I wait and I wait, and nothing happens, and I am likely to get impatient, but I do ask Honourable Members to realise that they should not get impatient with the operator,—they should get impatient with the antique and worn-out machinery which those operators are forced to use. Now, I have spent the best part of an hour at the peak-hours of the day, watching those unfortunate operators at work, and I can assure Your Excellency that they have an extremely tough time of it. Just one other thing about good manners—we have heard a lot about that. I have heard, not only in the Western Provinces, not only in Nigeria, but in other countries of the world, I have often heard and seen people pick up a receiver and immediately speak to the operator at the other end as if he were a deadly enemy. Now I know, I am fully aware, that the customer is always right, but I do think that there is some truth in the expression that courtesy begets courtesy.

Now, Your Excellency, I started with an apology and I end with one. I have talked a great deal longer than I intended to, and I am afraid that I have possibly worn out and exhausted the patience of the House, especially after what I have said about the hot weather. However, Honourable Members will realise very well that it is a good deal hotter standing on your feet and talking than it is sitting, and listening—or not listening—as the case may be. My only excuse is that I have now completed ten years of service on this Honourable Council. During those ten years a great deal has happened, the world has changed and all the faces in this Council have changed with one notable exception, and I refer to the Honourable Member for the Ibibio Division, since translated into the Honourable the Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces. The composition of the Council has changed, but what I would really like to do would be in ten years time to come back and peep through the window of this Council and see what changes have taken place in that time. All that I can say is that I am an optimist and that I have high hopes for the future. And the reason for that is that I have implicit confidence in the innate common sense of the ordinary man, the rustic, the farmer, call him what you will. And my prayer will be that this House will contain statesmen rather than politicians, or to put it in simpler language, Members of this House will think first of Nigeria and a long, long way after, will think of petty party politics. I support the Appropriation Bill.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Your Excellency, unlike the Honourable Member who has just spoken, I have been in this Council for only a year, and this is therefore only the second Budget debate which I have attended.

I have had the impression, as we sat here on the Government benches day after day listening to the speeches of the Honourable Unofficial Members—as indeed I had the impression at Kaduna a year ago—of being on the ground during a heavy and prolonged air raid. We had the same sense of uncertainty, the same sense of helplessness, the same sense of enforced inactivity, while we listened to the drone—or should I say the roar—of the bombers overhead, punctuated by occasional heavy thuds as well directed bombs found their targets or as time bombs were dropped under Notice of Motions to be exploded on subsequent occasions. I have felt in the last few days the same restlessness and helplessness which one feels in an air raid, and I should be the last person in the world to restrain my Honourable friend the Financial Secretary, who is, I think, at the moment, rather in the position of a fighter pilot eagerly awaiting his opportunity to take off for the counter attack.

I look forward to the reply which he will make to the heavy bombers who have had so many days to do their damage. But I gather from him that he proposes to carry only sufficient petrol for the stipulated period. Therefore, Sir, as we have no other business noted today, I ask Your Excellency's indulgence and the indulgence of the Council to allow me to make one or two general observations—certainly not in the form of a set speech—on some of the matters which have been raised in this debate, with special reference to the Government Service. I, Sir, have the honour to be responsible to you as the nominal head of a great Service, a Service of 3,000 Senior Officers and 40,000 Junior Officers in established posts, with a very large number, of course, in other posts. And I should like, in the time allotted to me to make some reference to the problems of organisation which we in the Government Service have to consider in these days, so that the Government Service can be an effective instrument for public service.

First of all, Sir, I should like to make some reference to the Nigerian Secretariat. I often feel that a state can be compared to a ship. On the bridge, there is the captain, setting the course, commanding the instant obedience of his crew, always having in mind the welfare of every soul in the ship. He is, of course, His Excellency the Governor. Up on the sunlit decks are the officers in their immaculate uniforms, confident and assured in the knowledge that they held the respect and affection of the passengers and the public. They are the Chief Commissioners and Heads of Departments. But, Sir, in another section of the ship, out of sight and often forgotten in the stokehole, there are men who work long hours under miserable conditions, conditions of sweat and strain. The stokehole is, of course, the Secretariat, and the stokers are my Secretariat colleagues. I should like to say a few words to the Council this morning as a Leading Stoker. There has been some criticism of the Secretariat; particularly, I

was surprised to find, from my Honourable friend the First Lagos Member. I think he painted, Sir, an entirely unfair picture of the Nigerian Secretariat. As I listened to him he seemed to be describing group of men—secretive, sour and sinister, spending the greater part of their time writing adverse reports on their colleagues, using Your Excellency's name in vain and deciding what action should be taken on anonymous letters. This is the fourth territory in which I have served as a Chief Secretary. I have worked with many good men before, but I would say, Sir, that the team in which I work here, the team of the Financial Secretary, the Development Secretary, the Administrative Secretary and those who work with us, is the best team that I have yet encountered. Every member of that team is devoting unsparingly his whole effort to pulling his full weight as a member of the team. We in the stokehole believe that if we were to stop, if only for an hour, the wheel, Sir, would not respond to your hand, the passengers and the crew would be thrown into confusion, and indeed the progress of the good ship Nigeria would come to a complete stop. It may be that we rate our efforts too high, but I can assure the House that there are in the Secretariat many devoted officers doing good, honest work for very long hours, without praise or recognition, and I think, Sir, it would be quite wrong to allow the criticisms which have been made in this House to pass without that comment. During this session we have heard some reference to the forty hour week. I can assure the Honourable the Second Lagos Member that he would be shocked if he knew the hours which are worked in my office, where we work fifty, sixty or one hundred per cent above the hours which he advocates.

Before I turn to one or two questions affecting the organisation of the Government Service, I wish, like my Honourable friend the Chief Commissioner for the Western Provinces, to say something about courtesy. It seems to me that this question of courtesy on the part of Government officials is a much bigger question than just a matter of the behaviour of a few telephone operators or clerks in the Savings Bank. It seems to me that it is absolutely fundamental. The purpose of the public service must be to serve the public. We must all of us, every one of us, whatever position we occupy, we must recognise that our position is not that of a master but that of a servant. We must recognise that every member of the public, whoever he may be, and whatever Government officer he may in the course of business have to approach, has a right to a fair hearing and a courteous reply. I have always felt that there is nothing more contemptible than the discourtesy of a Government official to the public who pay him, and I hope that in this Service we shall always be able to maintain, and where it does not exist that we shall not be content until it does exist, the first principle of a Government service which is that our duty is to serve the public. I hope that that will be understood by every Government official from the top to the bottom.

I am anxious to make some reference to questions of government organisation. It has been said that we are in a new era. I believe that we are. It has been said that we have a host of new problems to face. We certainly have, and it seems to me quite clear that this great Service must, at this time, review its organisation and decide whether there are improvements, changes and reforms to be introduced, so that the Government service can keep in step with the constitutional advance which we all hope to see, and so that the maximum use can be made of the good material which we have. It is, I think, a most remarkable thing, as we have heard from one Head of Department after another that much great advances are being made in spite of diminishing staff. We all have in our minds the need to welcome into our ranks in the senior posts more and more Nigerians, and my concern at the moment is with the methods of making the fullest use of the material available and the system which we should employ in order to ensure that the Government service is an effective instrument for carrying out the wishes of the people.

I shall mention three aspects of this problem. The first is in relation to public corporations. I do not know if it has been sufficiently realised that at this time we are in many ways undertaking what in total is almost a revolution in Government organisation. The old idea was that everything should be operated from a central Secretariat in Lagos, with the large Departments dependent on that central Secretariat, tied by Audit and by Treasury and by regulations—that was the conception years ago. But in the last few years, Sir, we have seen changes. There have been many departures from the old conception. We have found a new form of organisation which can be employed in this country and is already being employed. The greatest example of this new kind of organisation is, of course, in the Marketing Boards, and I was very glad to hear my Honourable friend the Director of Agriculture refer to the part which the Production Boards can play in the future. I was very glad to hear that he, the head of one of the biggest and most important Government Departments, so warmly welcomed the Production Boards as a new instrument for carrying out Government policy. I well remember that a year ago at Kaduna we had two ideas to which we were giving thought at that time. The first idea was that in agricultural advance it is absolutely necessary to bring the people in and let them share the responsibility for introducing new methods. Particularly it was, I believe, in regard to the East that that proposal came forward, but it was obviously equally applicable to other areas. At the same time thinking about the new marketing system, under which reserve funds could be built up in order to provide for price stabilization and for schemes of benefit to the producers.

And I well remember the meeting, as my Honourable friend the Development Secretary will remember the meeting, when it occurred to us that the two ideas should be brought together. The difficulty about getting a new organisation to undertake new

systems of agricultural production was the lack of funds. The weakness in the Marketing schemes was that they did not directly contribute to increased production in the future. We can trace back to that discussion in Kaduna the decision to unite the ideas of controlled public marketing and increased and improved agricultural production. I believe that we shall be able to trace back to that meeting the greatest advances that we have ever made in agricultural development in this country. That is an example of a new instrument, an instrument in which, I am glad to say, there will be Nigerian participation, with Nigerians taking a leading part. With the greatest respect to my Honourable friend the Director of Agriculture I am glad that we did not leave agricultural development solely in the hands of the Department of Agriculture, for we know the staff position, we know the reaction of the people to any suggestion that their land rights might be tampered with by the Government. It was wise, I am sure, to decide that this major new development should be carried out, not by any Government Department, with all the restrictions necessarily imposed on Government Departments, but should be carried out by this new organisation, this new instrument.

But that is not by any means the only new instrument for carrying out public services which we are considering. Before I joined this Council the Bill was passed establishing the Cameroons Development Corporation. There was also passed the Ordinance establishing the West African Airways Corporation. We are now thinking, as has been announced, of establishing an electricity corporation. There are many other spheres of Government activity, in my opinion, where the instrument of a public corporation can be used and should be used. I agree with my Honourable friend the Director of Public Works that to suggest that the diverse activities which the Public Works Department has to undertake could be undertaken by a public corporation does not merit any consideration at all. But where big single tasks have to be carried out, like the electricity scheme or like irrigation schemes, or like the new plantation schemes, then I believe that we should make and use a new instrument. This is no less than a new conception in the organisation of Government, a conception only now a few years old. It is necessary to give it a fair run. We cannot establish a corporation with the object of freeing it from Government control, and then insist that at every step it must be checked by controls, regulations and questions. We cannot have it both ways. I answered one or two questions in this matter several days ago, and I was relieved to find that there were no supplementary questions arising from my answers. I hope I can assume that the questioners were fully satisfied. If you establish a Corporation with the object of giving it freedom of action it is obviously impossible to require it to give detailed account of its working to this Council, or for this Council to enquire into every detail of the activities of these quasi-commercial concerns.

I myself feel that almost the greatest advantage to this country in this new conception of public corporations rather than Government departments undertaking our great schemes is the advantage of Nigerian participation. We have heard a great deal about the Posts and Telegraphs Department. The difficulty is that in a Department it is impossible to ensure, under our old system, that representatives of the public should take part in the direction of the Department. How different, for instance, is the position on the Cocoa Board. The Cocoa Board is not a Government Department—very far from it, and it is possible to introduce the best possible opinion of the cocoa growers on the Board itself, and in other public corporations the same object can be achieved. What a very great advantage it is if we can ensure that the views of the people are constantly known to those who direct policy in the carrying out of our great undertakings. We have still much to learn about the best means of operating public corporations. I was surprised to hear the Honourable the Second Member for Lagos talk about “denationalization”. I am not concerned to enter with him into a discussion of theory in these matters. But the establishment of public corporations in other countries—in England, for instance would certainly not be referred to as “denationalization”. In any event the object is for the Legislature to lay down the main policy to be carried out in the Bill establishing the corporation, then to give freedom to the corporation within the general framework of that policy to carry out the task allotted to it, and to make it answerable to the Legislature on main questions of policy but not on the details of its day to day commercial activities. It is a new idea, it is a great idea, and with shortage of staff and the other Departmental difficulties that we know so well it is essential, in my opinion, that we should make the maximum use of the public corporation as a new instrument for carrying out the wishes of the people.

I am not quite sure that I have kept my eyes on my time, but I would like, if the House would allow me, to recall a personal experience. I should like to refer to it in order to illustrate another point which I want to make in relation to public corporations. During the war, Sir, I was sent to a remote part of the Arabian desert, with a company of Australian sappers whose purpose was to build a railway through the desert. The inhabitants of that part of the desert had done no railway work since the line from Constantinople to Medina was laid forty years ago. We had the Australian sappers who were experienced in railway work, and we had on the other hand Bedouin Arabs who had no experience of dealing with railways or Australians. If the Australian sappers had been left alone with the Bedouin Arabs another small war might have started in that area. I was an Administrative Officer sent down to assist. I knew nothing about railways, but I could speak the language of the people, I knew the people, I had travelled amongst the people, and my task was to ensure that the

company of sappers should carry out the skilled work—which they could carry out probably better than any other organization in the world—with the co-operation and the understanding and assistance of the Arabs. Reference has been made to the functions of the Administrative Service and I am sure that if we establish those Corporations and give them freedom of action, it is an absolutely essential function of the Administration to act as the interpreter between the people and the corporation, to ensure that the corporation does not offend against the wishes and the customs and the rights of the people, and to ensure that the people on their side understand the necessity for new methods, and understand in advance what the corporation intends to do. I am convinced, Sir, that the part that the Administrative Service has to play will not be less important when new public corporations have been set up but more important.

I now wish to make some reference to local government with special reference to its relation to the Government Service. We welcome Nigerians who are coming forward in increasing numbers to take their places with us in the Senior Service, but I remember, Sir, that when I was in Mapo Hall last year a deputation came to us there and said "Recruit no more Nigerians for the Administrative Service." The deputation felt that young men in Nigeria should look to local administration more than to the central Government for a career. We did not fully accept the view then put forward. We said that for the time being we considered that Nigerians should continue to be recruited to the Administrative service. **But I think** every one of us on the Commission realised the force of the argument which was being put forward—the argument that there must be in the service of the Native Authorities or other local government bodies the same rewards, the same opportunities, the same career as the Government service can offer. My Honourable friend the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces, is clearly thinking on the same lines. Unless we can give the people efficient local administration local administration will fail, and in order to have that efficiency one has to have skilled and trained staff, yes professional staff too. I believe that one of our tasks in the next few years, quite apart from the question of reform or advance of the system of local government, is to evolve some method of achieving that purpose—it may be by grouping together the Native Authorities in an area, may be it will be as was proposed in the East, by forming a local Government Board to cover the whole of a region. It seems to me that we must work towards a position whereby a young man starting with his qualification or his degree will look for a career just as much to local government as he does to the central Government, and unless we can plan and provide the opportunities for that to take place, then I think that we in the Government, by encouraging Nigerians to enter the Government Service, will be doing a disservice to the future development of the country. It may be that we could start by seconding Administrative Officers who have been recruited into the Government Service for special tasks

with Local Authorities, it may be that we can set up co-ordinating authorities; such as the local government board proposed in the East, but somehow or other it seems to me that however good the reforms to be carried out and the advances to be made in local government, we shall fail unless we can give them good servants, and that is, I believe, one of the major matters of organisation in relation to the Public Service which has to be tackled and solved.

The Honourable Member who spoke last said I would make some reference to the Administrative Service.

I scarcely intended to do so, beyond saying this—that in the reform and advance of local government, that in the building up of new local government services, that in the hundred and one other tasks to be performed in connection with local government, I am convinced that unless we can maintain our establishment of Administrative Officer the work will be delayed or will not be done at all, and it will be the greatest mistake for those who believe in local government advance and reform not to recognise the part to be played by experienced Administrative Officers. I well remember, in another place where it was my business to set up a series of new local councils, that as an Administrative Officer almost my whole time was devoted to that important work. In Nigeria I have had to call on the Administrative Service for all sorts of purposes. I have to ask for Administrative officers to help develop the Co-operative movement, to help in the work in the Lands Department and to help to maintain the staff of the Nigerian Secretariat. We know that constitutional changes must also mean a strengthening of the Regional Secretariats. All these demands have to be met by the Administrative Service at this time, in addition to all their other multitudinous duties. There is no question whatsoever of increasing the Administrative Service, although I think that my friend the Honourable the Second Member for the North suggested that an increase in the Administrative Service was taking place. Very far from it—the Administrative Service dropped well below establishment during the war, and we have not got up to strength again—I doubt if we shall. But while Administrative Officers are leaving on retirement it is essential, in my view, to replace them, and if we do not replace them then I am sure that the pace of advance, particularly in local Government, will be slowed down.

Now, Sir, I would like to make reference to what is possibly the most important subject of all, in my mind, in relation to government organisation and that is the question of decentralisation. I myself, Sir, and I believe all my colleagues with me, hate the traditional qualities of the bureaucrat. We hate delay, we hate over-caution, but more than anything else I hate centralization, and that, I believe, Sir, may be my main qualification for the post at the centre which I occupy. In a country like this, with its size and diversities, to attempt to run our affairs by a system of centralization, it seems to me, must be disastrous. It might be possible under a purely bureaucratic system, but once you accept the democratic

principle it becomes impossible. We have, as Your Excellency well knows, for some years past been endeavouring to introduce a system of decentralization. First of all there must be increased powers—as my Honourable friend the Emir of Abuja has emphasised—there must be increased powers for the Native Administrations, but there must also, within the Government service, be decentralization, so that a Resident or a District Engineer refers as little as possible to higher authority, so that the Regions themselves can settle democratically the policy to be followed in the Regions. I don't know if it is realised by the public how much has been done in this direction by the Regional Directors who have been appointed in the larger Departments, and, for instance by the setting up of Regional Production Boards and Regional Development Boards. As I listen sometimes during these debates to individual complaints, I often feel that these matters ought to be settled at the Regional level. My Honourable friend the Second Member for Lagos made a very effective quotation from Edmund Burke, a quotation to which I am sure we can all subscribe. The name of Edmund Burke, as we know, was honourably connected with the city of Bristol. I always feel that in much the same way the names of Bowari Brown, Bonny and Brass will always be honourably associated in this Council. He is right to urge the claims of his people, but many of these questions should surely be settled, if not in Bonny and Brass, at any rate no higher than Enugu. We propose to push forward with the policy of decentralization, of giving power to the Regions and of cutting out the old bureaucratic idea that all initiative and all direction should come from the centre. In this country centralisation has fortunately in the past been tempered by the fact that the real strength of the Administration has been based on the work of the District Officer in his District. It was the District Officers who in the past bore the brunt of the great work which has already been accomplished in Nigeria, but at the same time there has been a tendency departmentally and perhaps as far as my office is concerned, to preserve centralization. We are determined to break that down.

His Excellency :

I fear I must remind the Honourable Member of the time limit.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

I move that the Honourable Member be granted an extension of half an hour.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Extension approved.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

I have mentioned three methods by which I think we should consider the reform of the organization of Government service. I could have mentioned many others. One is, as I have said, the

use of public corporations instead of only the Departments. The second point to which I referred was the necessity for taking some of the load off the Government Service by building up a first rate local administration Service, and the third is the need for decentralization.

I should like to say a word about trade union policy as it affects the Government Service. Several references have been made to trade unionism and the demands of the trade unions. I am convinced, Sir, that it is not only desirable, it is essential, for the sound development of Nigeria that a strong and reliable trade union movement should be encouraged and built up. It seems to me that it is absolutely necessary to deal with the large numbers of workers in the main Government Departments through responsible unions. I should like to pay tribute to the work done by the Labour Department in the painstaking conciliations which they have carried out in so many disputes since I have been in this country. We don't hear of the disputes which are settled, we only hear of disputes when conciliation breaks down. But time after time I have seen an experienced conciliation officer of the Labour Department go out, see the parties, explain the difficulties, meet a complaint, get an agreement—and the work goes on. You cannot do that if you have not got a responsible trade union movement, you cannot do it if the trade union movement is broken up. Some people suggest that we should refuse to deal with trade unions, that we should not be prepared to consider any requests they put forward. Nothing could be a greater mistake. I shall quote just one example. There was recently a "go-slow" strike at Enugu on the Railway. It was contrary to all the principles of trade unionism to call a strike before discussion and an attempt at conciliation has taken place. A branch union in Enugu decided that it would strike because a European foreman had been posted to Enugu. No discussions took place at Enugu—the strikers considered that there was nothing to discuss—and had the matter been left there the strike on the railway which held up the whole of the eastern line would have continued. But discussions took place in Lagos, and the headquarters of that union met us and the matter was fully thrashed out. They understood why it was necessary for the foreman to be posted to Enugu, because there was work which only he could carry out, but they said they were interested in the training of Nigerians to take such posts in the future, and that was, of course, fully in accordance with Government policy. Once we had met the Trade Union leaders it was possible to convince them that it was necessary to retain the foreman, and Government willingly agreed that training of a suitable Nigerian to fill a similar vacancy should take place as soon as possible. It was a reasonable decision, a sound decision reached after full discussion. The leaders of the trade union flew to Enugu and convinced the branch union—which the Government could never have done—to return to work immediately. I mention that as an example of the necessity of having a responsible trade union move-

ment, and when complaints and requests are made by trade unions, the attitude of Government, I am sure, should be this: Let us see if there is any justification in this complaint; and if there is let us be courageous enough to admit it and to grant the request. But when we have examined all the ground and made every concession which can reasonably be justified, then we must stand firm. If we do say that we will listen to no complaints or requests we play into the hands of people who have not the welfare of the workers or of the trade union movement at heart. It seems to me of first importance for the future of the country that we should be able to deal with one body representative of all the Trades Unions in the country and I deeply deplore the recent split in the Trade Union Movement.

I have kept the Council longer than I had intended. I feel myself, Sir, that we are fortunate, I certainly feel myself to be fortunate, to be serving in Nigeria, and particularly fortunate to be serving in Nigeria at this time. We have the possibility of introducing a constitution which I believe will command the overwhelming support of the country and will give real responsibility in making policy and in executive action, as well as in legislative action, to the people of this country. We have the opportunity of fashioning the Government Service so that it may become a more effective instrument of the wishes of the people. We have the opportunity under the new marketing legislation of making schemes of agricultural development and industrialization which will strengthen the economy of this country. We have the opportunity to make advances in the system of local government, which may be just as important, if not more important to the people than Central Government reform. Wherever we look, there are opportunities for constructive endeavour. You have said, Sir, that there are unlimited opportunities at this time for public service in Nigeria. The only limits are limits of time,—I am sure we all often wish that there were more than twenty-four hours in the day—and the limitations of our own weaknesses and our own shortcomings.

Finally, Sir, may I say this. We are approaching the end of the first three year period under this constitution. I have come to know Honourable Members of this Council better than any other body of Nigerians. I have had the good fortune to travel with many of them overseas, and I count many of them as my close personal friends. I believe, Sir, that both praise and blame are dangerous medicines to be used sparingly and in small doses. But I should like to say that I believe that when we look back in future years on these times in Nigeria, it will be well recognised that those who served in the first all-Nigerian Legislative Council served their country well. Everyone knows that in public life there are bound to be hard knocks, there is bound to be criticism, but I believe this Council has laid the foundation for effective parliamentary government in this country and I believe that in the future that will be

well recognised. I and my official colleagues all feel that a good start has been made and that it is a privilege to work with the good friends we have here amongst the Unofficial Members.

Sir, I support the Appropriation Bill.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Your Excellency, I am sure that we have all enjoyed walking along the sunlit decks and I regret that I must take you down to the stoke hole. I first want to say, Sir, on behalf of the Finance Branch, Development Branch and Economic Branch of the Secretariat, how much we have appreciated the very kind and generous remarks made by Members of this Council. In spite of the criticisms I can say that in the last year there has been a considerable amount of achievement in the financial and economic field, and I feel it is only right that I should say that this is largely due to the tremendous assistance given by the Development Secretary and by the Acting Financial Secretary, Mr Grey.

I propose, Sir, merely to deal with a number of points—a very few—to which I feel some publicity should be given, but the great majority of points I propose to leave until I get to Select Committee. The Honourable the Member for the Colony raised the question of beer. I can assure him that an excise duty will be imposed on the beer, as soon as it is manufactured locally, which will be, I think, some time in April. An excise on local cigars—my advice to Honourable Members would be not to impose excise at this stage. It is a new industry and is not yet well organised, and I think that is a job which our Commerce and Industries Department may well be able to tackle. But at this stage I think to impose a duty on local cigars would be a mistake. It would be very difficult to collect and it would not in effect amount to very much in revenue. The Third Member for the Western Provinces, who, last year and again this year, I personally have dubbed the Finance Member for the Western Provinces, because he always does talk such good sense on financial matters, has questioned whether we are not going too fast in expenditure, and I share his doubts, and in Select Committee I have no doubt we shall go into the details. There is one thing which he said and similar points have been made by other Honourable Members, and that is the Government of this country is responsible and not Honourable Members. Now, I have served in four Colonies, and when I came to Nigeria and found that I was chairman of a committee with twenty-eight unofficial members, there was no doubt in my mind as to whom the Government of the country was, as far as finance was concerned. Every member of this Council must and should share the responsibility of financial and economic policy. It is open to every member at the monthly meetings of the Finance Committee, or at other times, to criticise or to make suggestions, but I do think it is important that the public should know that all the responsibility is not the responsibility of one person, it is

the responsibility of the Members of this Council. The Honourable the First Nominated Member referred to me as being "stoney hearted", but I was glad, Sir, that he gave me credit for having a heart. As one who has been trained in what has been called from time to time the "unbusinesslike school of Government" it gave me some satisfaction to find that the very highly trained executive of big business thought with me on the same lines, and supported the financial and economic policy which I have outlined. He made one point, Sir, that the tax on local companies—he was referring to Income Tax on local companies—should not be as large as on foreign companies. In effect this is so. Foreign companies pay a higher rate of tax than local companies, but that is merely because foreign companies are incorporated in their own country where the tax is higher. But I think it would be a very bad thing if we in this country were to accept in principle that there should be discrimination in tax as between imported and exported capital. As I tried to point out the other day, we must attract as much capital to this country as we can, and we shall do Nigeria no good at all if we let it be known to the world that any capital brought in here will bear a higher rate of tax than the local capital has to bear. The Honourable the Second Nominated Member asked for a further explanation as to the policy of taxing higher in prosperity than in adversity. If I can explain it in this way. The taxation which accrues to Government is only a part of the national income of the country. Now if the national income dwindles we obviously cannot get as much as when the national income is very much higher. When people have a lot of money I hope that they don't notice the amount that the Financial Secretary takes, but if I attempted to impose high rates of taxes when incomes were low, I am quite certain that there would be many representations made to this House. The Honourable the Third Member for the Eastern Provinces agreed generally with the policy I outlined, but he gave notice he would take very grave exception to any tampering with the amount of money proposed to be spent on education in the coming year. That, of course, Sir, is a regional matter for the Eastern region itself to decide, because with their revenue allocation they will have to decide priorities of expenditure. But the point I want to make, Sir, is this, that I am sure that for every item of Government expenditure I could find somebody to get up in defence and say that it is impossible to reduce that below its present level. That is the problem which the Select Committee will have to tackle when we go into session next week. A number of Honourable Members, Sir, have suggested that I did not impose sufficient taxation, that I should have increased the taxes on a number of articles. It is perfectly true that I could have done so. But I was very anxious that I should obtain the necessary revenue from the smallest number of commodities possible, and that I should not bring forward to this Council a long list of small items which would not give very good returns. Indeed, it has been suggested—and I am not speaking for

the Regions or the Provinces, and I was explaining that that was not so. In fact, I think the Honourable Member felt that I was referring to the very vexed question of the regional revenue allocation. I was not doing so and I have no intention of doing so, because I gave an undertaking in Finance Committee a month ago that the matter would be investigated in April, and Honourable Members agreed that no further reference should be made to that. One point the Honourable Member did make, and that was, if I took his words down correctly, as far as the Native Administrations are concerned, they have got surpluses amounting to 3½ million pounds and now is the best time to spend. Indeed I do doubt, Sir, whether now is the best time to spend those Native Administration reserves. I realise that in a country which requires development as much as Nigeria does that we are putting a tremendous amount of money into capital expenditure, but the right time to spend heavy sums on development, of course, is when there is a depression, because then prices are low and you get far more for your money than you would do at the present time. The Honourable Second Member for the Western Provinces referred to the fact—and it is a fact—that taxation in Nigeria is the highest in West Africa, and he could not understand why with high taxation the standard of services should not also be high. That is our difficulty in Nigeria. When you add up the amount of tax which we do take from the people and divide it by 25 million it will give you a figure of about 15s to 18s per head, whereas in a smaller country the amount of tax collected per head is much greater. I was looking at the figures of another Colony in West Africa, where the amount they spend on education is very much higher than it is here and that is because the returns from taxation per head is so much greater. For us to spend that amount would mean that we should have to get a great deal more tax than we do at the moment. Finally, Sir, I want to refer to the Posts and Telegraphs Department. I have been in communication with the Director of Posts and Telegraphs and he has the intention, if Select Committee is so willing, that he should make a statement to that Committee when he attends with his estimates. But I do feel, Sir, that there are certain points to which some publicity should be given in the same way that criticisms have been made. Put briefly, Sir, I feel that we have asked the Posts and Telegraphs Department to do too much. We have expected too much of them. We have put work on their plate which they could not tackle, and we have compelled them to do their best. The notes I have, Sir, go back to the 1931 world slump, when the estimates of the Post Office of this Country were cut. People were discharged and the Department became much smaller, so that by 1938-39 they had not got the same trained staff. Their expenditure was roughly the same, their revenue was slowly increasing, but in fact their expenditure was practically the same as it was in 1924-25. Now in those twenty-five years, Sir, the Savings Bank work increased enormously. In 1924 they had £5,000 on depo-

sit, this year they have £150,000 on deposit, thirty times more. Post Offices and Exchanges were eighty-nine, now they are something of the order of 480. Postal articles,—they had to look after 6½ million, now they are looking after 40 million. Telegrams, 640,000, have increased to 2 million. In addition to these ordinary services Government has compelled the Posts and Telegraphs Department to take on a number of additional duties in relation to wireless which are quite new. The Director of Posts and Telegraphs will tell you in detail of the additional work arising therefrom, and of the amount of work arising from communication with aircraft, both at aerodromes and with aircraft in the air. But in relation to this tremendous increase in work, the Senior Service staff of that Department compared with twenty-five years ago is only three times what it was then. The standard of equipment which Nigeria has at the moment is very low by modern standards and naturally until we do modernise the equipment it does appear that we shall not get the higher efficiency which we require. However, Sir, I do propose to leave it to the Select Committee. There are no other points, Sir, which I can usefully make in Council and therefore, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be now referred to Select Committee.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill referred to Select Committee.

His Excellency :

I might now announce the composition of the Select Committee. It will be all Honourable Unofficial Members, the Honourable the Development Secretary and the Honourable the Financial Secretary as Chairman, and the same composition for the Select Committee on the resolution which was moved and adopted this morning. Council will now adjourn until the work of the Select Committee now appointed is over or until some earlier call is made.

Council adjourned at 12.5 p.m.



Debates in the Legislative Council of Nigeria

Wednesday, 23rd March, 1949

Pursuant to notice the Honourable Members of the Legislative Council met in the Hall of the Western House of Assembly, Ibadan, at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, the 23rd of March, 1949.

PRESENT

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- His Excellency the Governor,
Sir John S. Macpherson, K.C.M.G.
- The Chief Secretary to the Government,
The Honourable H. M. Foot, C.M.G., O.B.E.
- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,
His Honour T. C. Hoskyns-Abrahall, C.M.G.
- The Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces,
His Honour E. W. Thompstone, C.M.G., M.C.
- The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,
His Honour Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, C.M.G.
- The Attorney-General,
The Honourable G. L. Howe, K.C.
- The Financial Secretary,
The Honourable A. W. L. Savage, C.M.G.
- The Development Secretary,
The Honourable C. J. Pleass.
- The Commissioner of Labour,
The Honourable A. H. Couzens.
- The Resident, Ogoja Province,
The Honourable P. M. Riley.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Member for the Colony,
The Rev. and Honourable T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.
- The First Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Obisesan, O.B.E.
- The Second Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.
- The First Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable I. Olorun-Nimbe.
- The Emir of Gwandu,
The Honourable Yahaya, C.B.E.

- The Emir of Katsina,
Alhaji the Honourable Usuman Nagogo, C.B.E.
- The Oni of Ife,
The Honourable Aderemi I, C.M.G.
- The Atta of Igbirra,
Alhaji the Honourable Ibrahim.
- The Emir of Abuja,
The Honourable Sulemanu.
- The First Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Bello Kano.
- The First Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable C. D. Onyeama.
- The Second Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.
- The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable H. Buowari Brown.
- The Third Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Iro Katsina.
- The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable A. Ikoku.
- The Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Aliyu, Makaman Bida.
- The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.
- The Second Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe.
- The First Nominated Member,
The Honourable P. J. Rogers.
- The Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Yahaya Ilorin.
- The Third Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.
- The Third Lagos Member,
The Honourable Adeleke Adedoyin.
- The Member for Calabar,
The Honourable E. E. E. Anwan.
- The Second Nominated Member,
Major the Honourable J. West, M.C.
- The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Soetan.

ABSENT

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Director of Medical Services,
Dr the Honourable G. B. Walker, C.B.E.
- The Director of Education,
The Honourable R. A. McL. Davidson, C.M.G.
- The Director of Agriculture,
The Honourable A. G. Beattie.
- The Director of Public Works,
The Honourable R. W. Taylor.
- The Acting Commissioner of the Colony,
The Honourable J. G. C. Allen.
- The Senior Resident, Kano Province,
The Honourable E. K. Featherstone, C.M.G.

The Resident, Abeokuta Province,
The Honourable J. H. Blair, E.D.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

The Oba of Benin,
The Honourable Akenzua II, C.M.G.
The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable N. Essien.
The Third Nominated Member,
The Honourable N. B. Edwards.

PRAYERS

His Excellency the Governor opened the proceedings of the Council with prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 18th of March, 1949, having been printed and circulated to the Honourable Members, were taken as read and confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Your Excellency, I have the honour to lay on the Table of the Council the Report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council appointed to make recommendations to His Excellency the Governor regarding the steps to be taken for a review of the present Constitution of Nigeria.

MOTIONS

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Your Excellency, I have the honour to move the Resolution standing in my name :—

“ That the Report of the Select Committee set up to make recommendations to His Excellency the Governor regarding the steps to be taken for a review of the present Constitution of Nigeria should be approved by this Council and submitted to His Excellency the Governor ”.

In moving this Resolution I wish to thank all the Members of the Select Committee for the spirit they brought to our work which enabled us to submit a unanimous report. I also wish to express the hope that in the keen and lively controversy which we hope will take place in all parts of the country on all the issues at stake, the same spirit will prevail. I feel, Sir, that the fact that I am enabled by the Select Committee to submit this unanimous report is a happy augury for the work which we now have to undertake.

I move the Resolution standing in my name.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I rise to second.

Resolution adopted.

His Excellency :

After that brief action, Council will now adjourn until a date and time to be notified.

Council adjourned at 9.10 a.m.



Debates in the Legislative Council of Nigeria

Wednesday, 30th March, 1949

Pursuant to notice the Honourable Members of the Legislative Council met in the Hall of the Western House of Assembly, Ibadan, at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, the 30th of March, 1949.

PRESENT

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- His Excellency, the Governor,
Sir John S. Macpherson, K.C.M.G.
- The Chief Secretary to the Government,
The Honourable H. M. Foot, C.M.G., O.B.E.
- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,
His Honour T. C. Hoskyns-Abrahall, C.M.G.
- The Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces,
His Honour E. W. Thompstone, C.M.G., M.C.
- The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,
His Honour Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, C.M.G.
- The Attorney-General,
The Honourable G. L. Howe, K.C.
- The Financial Secretary,
The Honourable A. W. L. Savage, C.M.G.
- The Director of Medical Services,
Dr the Honourable G. B. Walker, C.B.E.
- The Development Secretary,
The Honourable C. J. Pleass.
- The Director of Education,
The Honourable R. A. McL. Davidson, C.M.G.
- The Director of Agriculture,
The Honourable A. G. Beattie.
- The Director of Public Works,
The Honourable R. W. Taylor.
- The Commissioner of Labour,
The Honourable A. H. Couzens.
- The Acting Commissioner of the Colony,
The Honourable J. G. C. Allen.
- The Senior Resident, Kano Province,
The Honourable E. K. Featherstone, C.M.G.

The Resident, Ogoja Province,
The Honourable P. M. Riley.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Member for the Colony,
The Rev. and Honourable T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.
- The First Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Obisesan, O.B.E.
- The Second Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.
- The First Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable I. Olorun-Nimbe.
- The Emir of Gwandu,
The Honourable Yahaya, C.B.E.
- The Emir of Katsina,
Alhaji the Honourable Usuman Nagogo, C.B.E.
- The Oni of Ife,
The Honourable Aderemi I, C.M.G.
- The Oba of Benin,
The Honourable Akenzua II, C.M.G.
- The Atta of Igbirra,
Alhaji the Honourable Ibrahimia.
- The Emir of Abuja,
The Honourable Sulemanu.
- The First Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Bello Kano.
- The First Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable C. D. Onyeama.
- The Second Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.
- The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable H. Buowari Brown.
- The Third Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Iro Katsina.
- The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable A. Ikoku.
- The Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Aliyu Makaman Bida.
- The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.
- The Second Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe.
- The First Nominated Member,
The Honourable P. J. Rogers.
- The Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Yahaya Ilorin.
- The Third Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.

The Third Lagos Member,
The Honourable Adeleke Adedoyin.

The Member for Calabar,
The Honourable E. E. E. Anwan.

The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Soetan.

ABSENT

OFFICIAL MEMBER

The Resident, Abeokuta Province,
The Honourable J. H. Blair, E.D.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable N. Essien.

The Second Nominated Member,
Major the Honourable J. West, M.C.

The Third Nominated Member,
The Honourable N. B. Edwards.

PRAYERS

His Excellency the Governor opened the proceedings of the Council with prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd of March, 1949, having been printed and circulated to the Honourable Members, were taken as read and confirmed.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

May it please Your Excellency, I rise to give notice of the following motion:

WHEREAS under section 4 (1) (d) of the Motor Transport Licensing Ordinance, 1947, it is provided that two members of the Motor Transport Licensing Board established by the said Ordinance shall be appointed by the Nominated Unofficial and Elected Members of the Legislative Council:

AND WHEREAS the said Nominated Unofficial and Elected Members of the Legislative Council have considered the matter of such appointments:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Nominated Unofficial and Elected Members of the Legislative Council that the Second Member for the Western Provinces (The Honourable T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.) and the First Nominated Member (The Honourable P. J. Rogers) be appointed as such Members of the Motor Transport Licensing Board.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

Your Excellency, I rise to give notice of the following motion:

WHEREAS a state of hostility leading to an open inter-clan warfare has been existing between the peoples of Okrika and Kalabari in the Rivers Province:

AND WHEREAS in spite of intervention and remonstrances from various quarters the situation continues to grow worse:

AND WHEREAS the whole situation has been greatly beclouded by various judicial and administrative officers' pronouncements which require careful scrutiny:

AND WHEREAS in spite of a recent agreement purporting to restore peace and order in that area, the region is still pregnant with hate and discontent leading to sporadic rioting which has paralysed social and economic life of the Rivers Province as a whole and has resulted in destruction of properties and loss of lives:

AND WHEREAS it is the supreme function of the Government to maintain peace and order by seeking and applying the most acceptable solution to such crying inter-societal disruptions:

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that this Council approves of the immediate appointment of an independent Commission of Inquiry to investigate the cause or causes of the present dispute between the people of Okrika and the people of Kalabari in the Rivers Province, and to recommend possible terms of an early settlement of the dispute.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

Sir, I beg to give notice of this question:

In view of the embarrassment caused the Nigerian Faith Mission, at Ureggi, and the fact that the Legislative Council may not meet before the Mission premises are closed, will Government be disposed to answer the questions I posed recently, which were deemed not to be of an urgent nature?

QUESTIONS

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

9. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) What are the principles underlying the taxation of women in Nigeria and the Cameroons?

(b) In what locality or localities are women liable to poll or head tax?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) The basic principle in the Income Tax Ordinance, 1943, is that, subject to the allowances and exemptions therein declared, the income of every person (subject to that Ordinance) accruing in, derived from, or received in Nigeria shall be charged with a contribution towards the cost of the public services of Nigeria. The basic principle in the Direct Taxation Ordinance, 1940, is that all persons subject to that Ordinance, whether men or women, shall from their own means make some contribution towards the cost of the public services of Nigeria, but this principle is not enforced as regards women in areas where it is in conflict with local custom.

(b) Tax levied under the authority of the Direct Taxation Ordinance, 1940, is commonly referred to as "poll tax" even though it is in only a few areas that the method of assessment makes the use of this name in any degree correct. Upon the assumption that the Honourable Member is referring to tax levied under the Direct Taxation Ordinance, 1940, other than tax assessed at specific rates upon ascertained incomes, the answer is that the liability of women to such tax is enforced in the Benue and Sokoto Provinces and in parts of the Adamawa, Bornu, Ilorin, Kabba, Niger and Plateau Provinces. Women have hitherto been assessed to pay this tax in the Abeokuta and Ijebu Provinces; the practice has already been discontinued in part of Abeokuta Province and will be discontinued throughout both Provinces for the 1949-50 year of assessment.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

42. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) When was Government House built?

(b) Is it a fact that it cost the Nigerian tax-payers £35,000 to construct? Who was the Architect?

(c) What would be the present day estimate for the erection of such an edifice?

(d) Has Government abandoned the idea of selling this public-owned building to Elders Limited, who negotiated for its purchase in 1941?

(e) How soon will Government accede with welcome acquiescence to the request made by the Honourable the First Member for the Eastern Provinces last March at Kaduna, for the removal of the Capital of Nigeria to Enugu or Port Harcourt or Kaduna?

(f) Will Government not consider the advisability of removing the Governor's Residence *pari passu* with the shifting of the Capital?

(g) When will Government renovate the forty years old Billiards Table at Government House in order to provide better amenities for His Excellency's guests both locally and from overseas?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) 1892.

(b) The cost was £27,372. I have been unable to discover the name of the Architect.

(c) It is estimated that the cost would be at least £60,000.

(d) I am not aware that Government has ever had any such intention.

(e), (f) and (g) No proposal to remove the capital from Lagos is under consideration by the Government and I have no doubt that the Honourable Member will agree that, even if it were desirable to do so, we could not justify the vast expense of building a new

SAILORS : ATTENDANCES FOR V.D.—CURATIVE

Months	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
January	24	14	15	5	1
February	15	18	8	4	—
March	15	10	18	3	—
April	17	7	6	—	—
May	28	7	6	—	—
June	14	11	7	—	1
July	3	5	6	1	—
August	23	8	6	1	—
September	5	7	3	3	—
October	12	6	3	—	—
November	21	3	3	1	—
December	8	8	7	—	1
Total	185	104	88	18	4

Total from 1944-48 399

NON-OFFICIALS ATTENDANCES

Months	1944		1945		1946		1947		1948	
	African	Non-African	African	Non-African	African	Non-African	African	Non-African	African	Non-African
January ..	588	Not on Record	587	102	872	27	1,694	5	1,814	—
February ..	599		843	43	1,078	23	1,698	3	1,646	—
March ..	660		869	27	1,220	40	1,593	3	1,696	—
April ..	694		832	44	1,334	27	1,564	5	1,614	2
May ..	643		770	21	1,412	8	1,524	2	1,813	—
June ..	658		771	22	1,348	12	1,810	5	1,578	—
July ..	589		878	41	1,206	7	1,550	12	1,168	—
August ..	620		950	22	1,191	2	1,884	2	1,610	—
September ..	601		936	15	1,183	—	1,882	3	1,615	—
October ..	599		668	30	909	—	1,693	2	1,815	—
November ..	623		774	22	894	5	1,695	2	1,811	—
December ..	690		890	6	906	13	1,740	—	1,836	—
Total ..	7,564	9,768	395	13,553	164	20,327	44	20,456	2	

Total attendances for African 71,688
 Total attendances for Non-African 605

OFFICIALS

Months	African 1944	Non-African 1944	African 1945	Non-African 1945	African 1946	Non-African 1946	African 1947	Non-African 1947	African 1948	Non-African 1948
January ..	370	15	316	20	388	8	884	1	827	—
February ..	390	9	360	21	489	9	997	1	795	1
March ..	305	7	342	23	563	6	867	2	714	2
April ..	476	19	470	15	614	7	793	2	632	—
May ..	385	15	519	13	616	3	884	2	695	1
June.. ..	405	10	370	23	602	1	894	1	699	—
July	427	19	350	19	594	4	885	3	702	—
August ..	436	14	470	19	504	2	887	3	713	—
September ..	437	15	463	6	513	—	990	2	691	1
October ..	434	11	484	8	401	—	987	2	690	—
November ..	449	16	490	7	409	2	998	—	682	1
December ..	500	18	483	6	438	1	918	—	786	—
Total ..	5,117	168	5,117	180	6,131	43	10,984	19	8,626	6

Total attendances for African 35,975
 Total attendances for Non-African 416

Supplementary Question to No. 74 by the First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe).

Sir, what is the population of Apapa in Lagos?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

I am afraid I should require notice of that question, Sir.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

99. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

- (i) What is meant by the G.M.C.?
- (ii) When, how, and by what Statutory powers was it constituted?
- (iii) Give the composition, functions and powers of the G.M.C.
- (iv) What is the peculiar position of the Board known as the Medical Board of Nigeria? Under what Statutory powers was it constituted? Give the composition, functions and powers of the Medical Board of Nigeria.

(v) Is the Nigerian Medical Board recognised and approved by the G.M.C.?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

(i), (ii) and (iii) It is presumed that the Honourable Member refers to the General Council of Medical Education and Registration in the United Kingdom, for full particulars of which the Honourable Member is referred to the Medical Acts of 1858, 1886, etc., under which it was established.

(iv) It is assumed that the Honourable Member is referring to the Board of Medical Examiners of Nigeria established under section 3 of the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Ordinance, 1934. The present constitution of the Board is as follows:—

The Director Medical Services.
The Deputy Director Medical Services, Headquarters.
The Deputy Director of Education, Headquarters.
The Principal of the Medical School.
The Senior Medical Officer, Lagos.
Dr K. A. Abayomi.
Dr J. A. Doherty.

For full particulars of the functions and powers of this Board, the Honourable Member is referred to the Ordinance under which it was established (No. 20 of 1934), as amended by the Medical Practitioners and Dentists (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 6 of 1947.

(v) No, Sir. Recognition by the G.M.C. is not required.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

106. To ask the Honourable the Director of Agriculture:—

(i) Whether he is aware that the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad offers the best training for African and European Agricultural Officers?

(ii) How many Nigerians and non-Nigerians in the Nigeria Civil Service have obtained the Diploma of the College within the past twenty years?

(iii) Why has the Department recruited non-Nigerians as Agricultural Officers who have not yet obtained this Diploma, whereas Nigerians who have obtained this additional qualification hold an inferior status in the Department?

(iv) If he would distinguish between Agricultural Officers, Agricultural Superintendents, Produce Inspection Officers, and Marketing Officers? What are the qualifications of each of them and why are they entitled to different scales of salaries?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture :

(i) It offers an excellent, but not the only good training for Agricultural Officers.

(ii) and (iii) It is believed that the Honourable Member may have meant his question to refer to the Associateship and not the Diploma. If so the replies are:—

- (ii) Thirty-two, of whom one was a Nigerian.
- (iii) Because they have possessed other qualifications including special experience which have justified the appointments. The Associateship alone does not qualify for appointment to the grade of Agricultural Officer.
- (iv) Agricultural Officers are employed in the Agricultural Department on Scale A and Agricultural Superintendents on Scale B. Produce Inspection Officers and Marketing staff are employed in the Department of Marketing and Exports, the former grade being on Scale B.

The distinction between Agricultural Officers, Agricultural Superintendents and Produce Officers is given in the pamphlet NSS 4 issued by the Nigerian Secretariat in July, 1948.

The qualifications required for the post of Marketing Officer are recorded under (a) of the reply to Question 258.

The salary scales for these grades were fixed by the Harragin Commission after study of the duties of and qualifications required for the respective grades.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

111. Will the Honourable the Director of Agriculture explain why a Refresher Course in Ibadan qualifies a man for Senior Appointment on the Gold Coast whilst a Refresher Course in Trinidad by holders of Yaba Diploma in Agriculture does not qualify a man for Senior Service in Nigeria?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture:

The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to Question 107.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

113. With reference to the statement in the Forestry Report published in the 5th Report from the Select Committee on Estimates pages 38 and 39 Session 1948-49, Colonial Development in which it was stated that "by the appointment of two Assistant Regional Forest Officers and the proposal to send them to England to qualify as Assistant Conservator of Forest, the machinery for the selection of potential Forest Officers is complete".

To ask the Honourable the Director of Agriculture:—

What arrangements is the Honourable the Director making in his Department to extend similar facilities to members of his Staff?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture:

The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to the reply to question 112. Twelve scholarships to Colleges and Universities in the United Kingdom have been awarded to Nigerian officers of the Department since 1944 and on the successful completion of these

courses the holders will be eligible for appointment to the Senior Service. In addition one Bursary has been awarded to a departmental officer at University College, Ibadan.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

117. To ask the Honourable the Director of Agriculture:—

(i) What led to the inability of the Department to obtain Yaba Students to enter Agricultural School for the Diploma Course in 1948?

(ii) How many Agricultural Assistants have resigned within the last ten years?

(iii) Could all these resignations and the inability to get Students to the Agricultural School be due either to special Departmental policy or inefficient training scheme, or incapability of Nigerians to perform the duties of Agricultural Officers?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture:

(i) Failure to obtain Higher College recruits in 1948 was doubtless due to the opening of the University College, and possibly to preference for the better scales of salary available in the Medical Department.

(ii) 105 Agricultural Assistants none of whom were from Yaba Higher College, have resigned during the past ten years.

(iii) In most instances no reason was given for the resignations, but they are not attributed to the causes suggested by the Honourable Member.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

120. To ask the Honourable the Director of Agriculture:—

(i) Why was it necessary for the Department to maintain two Departmental Schools and two Principals of Schools? What are the salaries of these Principals, their qualifications and experience?

(ii) Would it not make for better efficiency, economy, and uniformity of training to have only one Departmental School under one Principal?

(iii) If he would give an outline of the present training scheme for Assistant Agricultural Officers? Are those trained under the scheme accorded the same standard of training as Students recruited from Yaba?

(iv) If the answer is in the negative, what steps is the Honourable the Director taking to raise the standard of training?

(v) If the answer is in the affirmative, why are they not on the same scale of salary as the Ex-Yaba Assistant Agricultural Officers?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture:

(i) (a) Two schools are necessary to deal with the very different agricultural systems in the Northern and Southern parts of the country. Each School requires a Principal to supervise it and it

is Government's view that the salary of £1,100 plus £350 expatriation pay is commensurate with the responsibility of the post.

(b) Qualifications and experience of Principals:

- (1) Dip. Ag. (Wye), B.Sc. Agric. (London), A.I.C.T.A., 3 years in the Sudan, 18 years field experience in Nigeria, 18 months in-charge Samaru School.
- (2) B.Sc. Hons. Botany (St. Andrews), 1 year post-graduate research work, A.I.C.T.A., 2 years field experience in Nigeria. 8½ years in-charge Ibadan School of Agriculture.

(ii) No, Sir.

(iii) The course consists of one year of training as an Agricultural Assistant involving elementary Science and Agricultural Subjects. Outstanding men are then admitted to a three-year course of training for the Assistant Agricultural Officer grade. The first of these three years is spent on science subjects and the remaining two years cover the former Agricultural Diploma Course.

The standard of pure science training is of necessity considerably lower than that formerly reached at the Higher College, Yaba.

(iv) Five of the Ibadan school staff have been sent to the United Kingdom for further training, three for degrees in Botany, one for a degree in Economics and one for special training in Poultry work. Three other members of School staff have been selected for scholarships this year. It is hoped that a number of these will return to Nigeria suitably qualified to take part in the training of others. Government has under consideration the recruitment of temporary science teachers until some of these men return from the United Kingdom.

(v) In view of the second part of the reply at paragraph (iii) above, the question does not arise.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

143. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Apropos to the existence of the many plantations operated by Messrs United Africa Company Limited in Nigeria, to wit:

(i) Calabar Oil Palm Estate, (ii) Ikot Mbo Rubber Estate, (iii) N'Dian Oil Palm Estate, (iv) Qua Iboe Rubber Estate, (v) Bwingwa Banana Estate, Tiko, (vi) Bai Rubber Estate, Kumba, (vii) Cowan Oil Palm Estate, Ajagbodudu, (viii) Sapele Rubber Estate, Sapele, (ix) Jamieson River Rubber Estate, Sapoba:

(a) Either to give the following information:—

- (1) Total area of each plantation?
- (2) Nature of crops cultivated at each plantations?
- (3) Whether each plantation is a leasehold or freehold?
- (4) If leasehold, the terms of the lease of each plantation?
- (5) Whether each plantation is a communal land, and if so the names and status of those who executed the agreement for the leasehold or freehold?

(b) Or to make available a copy of the agreement for each plantation?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) (1), (2) and (3) The information requested is contained in the following table:—

<i>Plantation</i>	<i>Area (1)</i>	<i>Crops cultivated (2)</i>	<i>Nature of title (3)</i>
(i) Calabar Oil Palm Estate..	3,392 areas	Oil palms	Leasehold under Chapter 89.
(ii) Ikot Mbo Rubber Estate..	1,115 "	Rubber	Leasehold under Chapter 89.
(iii) Nnian Oil Palm Estate ..	6,625 "	Oil palms and a small quantity of rubber	6,326 Freehold ; 299 under Right of Occupancy (Chapter 85).
(iv) Qua Iboe Rubber Estate..	134 "	Rubber	Leasehold under Chapter 89.
(v) Bwinga Banana Estate ..	1,149 "	Banana	Claimed as freehold.
(vi) Bai Rubber Estate	1,163 "	Rubber	do.
(vii) Cowan Oil Palm Estate ..	3,868 "	Oil palms	Leasehold under Chapter 89.
(viii) Sapele Rubber Estate ..	1,613 "	Rubber	do.
(ix) Jamieson River Rubber Estate	2,087 "	Rubber	do.

(a) (4) and (5) and (b) Information and documents regarding these plantations can be obtained from the Land Registry on payment of the charges prescribed under the Land Registration Ordinance, No. 36 of 1924.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

154. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Is Government in position to furnish the total number of deaths by drowning in the River Niger, at both banks of Onitsha and Asaba, in the last ten years, year by year?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

The following table shows the total number of deaths by drowning in the River Niger reported at Onitsha:—

<i>Date</i>	<i>Deaths at Onitsha</i>	<i>Deaths upstream from Onitsha where bodies were recovered at Onitsha</i>	<i>Total number of Deaths reported</i>
1939	4	1	5
1940	8	2	10
1941	9	2	11
1942	8	3	11
1943	10	6	16
1944	8	—	8
1945	3	2	5
1946	1	1	2
1947	11	1	12
1948	5	—	5

It is regretted that no information is at present available concerning deaths by drowning at Asaba but this information has been sought and will be communicated to the Honourable Member when available.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

156. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

How many canoe licences were granted at Onitsha and Asaba from 1938 to 1948, year by year?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

The following are the number of licences issued at:—

(a) Onitsha:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number</i>
1938	Nil
1939	130
1940	128
1941	66
1942	86
1943	103
1944	98
1945	102
1946	82
1947	97
1948	73

(b) Asaba:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number</i>
1938	Nil
1939	62
1940	43
1941	51
1942	52
1943	51
1944	47
1945	45
1946	56
1947	68
1948	105

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

164. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) Is Government aware that the Roman Catholic Mission at Onitsha prevents fishing in that part of the River Niger which flows by their foreshore, claiming that they are the rightful owners?

(b) What is the basis of the claim of the Roman Catholic Mission to reserve to themselves the right to exclude the people of Onitsha from fishing there?

(c) Will a copy of the agreement or deed of conveyance between the Roman Catholic Mission and the land-owners in this respect or in respect of the land upon which the Mission claim fishing rights be laid on the table of this honourable house?

(d) Can Government say whether the denial by Chief Obiozo Onyah, heir of the late King Anazonwu, of Onitsha, to the effect that the land which was given to the Roman Catholic Mission did not reach the foreshore is correct?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

(a) Government is not aware that the Roman Catholic Mission prevents fishing in any part of the River Niger, nor that the Mission claims to own that part of the river which flows by their foreshore.

(b) Does not, therefore, arise.

(c) No, Sir, Government has no responsibility to produce documents belonging to private Institutions.

(d) Government has no information on the point.

Supplementary Question to No. 164 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

Sir, 164 (a) and (d).

(a) Will His Honour be surprised to learn that during my visit to Onitsha last December certain landowners and fishing folk brought such information to my notice? Will he investigate accordingly?

(d) Will His Honour be disposed to consult Chief Obiozo Onyah on this point, since he gave me the information?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

Sir, I am prepared to make further enquiries and let the Honourable Member know the result.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

166. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) Have any minerals been found anywhere in Awka Division?

(b) Is there any reason to suspect that minerals might be found anywhere in Awka Division?

(c) Is Government aware that the people of Agulu and Aguata, in Awka Division, are apprehensive that minerals have been discovered in their areas?

(d) Will a statement of the true position be made to allay the fears of those concerned?

(e) Will assurance be given that the land of the people of Agulu and Aguata will neither be acquired nor be expropriated nor be tampered with, without their knowledge and consent?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

(a) So far as the Government is aware, no valuable minerals have been found in the Awka Division of the Onitsha Province.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the paper "Minerals and Industry in Nigeria", written by the Director of Geological Survey which shows that lignites are found close to the River Niger in the Benin and Onitsha Provinces, but the Government has no other information suggesting that valuable minerals may be found in the Awka Division.

(c) The Government is aware that the people of Agulu and Aguata have shown some concern at the work of a Geographer in the Awka

Division and it may be that they are under the impression that his work is connected with the discovery of minerals.

(d) The services of the Geographer have in fact been made available by the Director of Geological Survey in order that he may investigate and report on the serious soil erosion so noticeable in the Division and to recommend measures to remedy it. This has been fully explained to the villages concerned by the District Officer and has been given publicity in a Press Release.

(e) Yes, Sir, subject of course to the Laws of Nigeria.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

203. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

How many women were (i) apprehended, (ii) tried, (iii) fined, (iv) imprisoned, (v) cautioned and discharged, (vi) ordered to keep the peace, during the taxation crisis at Abeokuta?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:

- (i) Fifty-four
- (ii) Fifty-four
- (iii) Thirty-seven
- (iv) Nil
- (v) Seventeen
- (vi) Nil.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

204. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

How many women were (i) apprehended, (ii) tried, (iii) fined, (iv) imprisoned, (v) cautioned and discharged, (vi) ordered to keep the peace, during the taxation crisis at Remo?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:

- (i) Sixty-seven.
- (ii) Sixty-seven.
- (iii) Sixty-seven.
- (iv) Sixty-three in default of payment of fine.
- (v) Nil.
- (vi) Nil.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

205. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) Did the Egba Native Authority impose taxation on women with the knowledge and consent of the British Government, as their adviser, in accordance with the principle of "Indirect Rule"?

(b) If not, what role did the Resident of Abeokuta Province play, so far as advising the Egba Native Authority is concerned?

(c) Did the British Government advise either the Alake or the Egba Native Authority to modify the policy of taxation of women at Abeokuta?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

(a) No, Sir. Direct taxation on men and women alike was imposed in the Abeokuta Province in accordance with section 3 of the Native Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 74), which was applied to that Province by Order in Council No. 33 of 1918. The knowledge and consent of the British Government were not necessary in such circumstances. The Native Revenue Ordinance was repealed and replaced by the Direct Taxation Ordinance, 1943.

(b) The role of the Resident, Abeokuta Province, was that prescribed by the Native Revenue Ordinance, and, upon the repeal of that Ordinance, that prescribed by the Direct Taxation Ordinance, 1940.

(c) No, Sir.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

206. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :—

(a) Did the Remo Native Authority impose taxation on women with the knowledge and consent of the British Government, as their adviser, in accordance with the principle of " Indirect Rule " ?

(b) If not, what role did the Resident of Ijebu Province play, so far as advising the Remo Native Authority is concerned ?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

The Honourable Member is referred to the answers to parts (a) and (b) of Question 205, which apply *mutatis mutandis*.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

209. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :—

(a) What is Government policy regarding taxation of women in the Western Provinces ?

(b) Is this policy consistent with (i) the stated canons of taxation, (ii) native law and custom, (iii) treaty obligations so far as Abeokuta and Remo are concerned, and (iv) Royal Instructions ?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

(a) Government's policy regarding the taxation of women in the Western Provinces is that they should pay income tax in accordance with the Income Tax and Direct Taxation Ordinances; but that they should not pay flat-rate Tax.

(b) Yes, Sir.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

210. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :—

(a) What is the nature of the alleged crisis at Ile Ife which made it necessary for a contingent of the Police from Ilesha and Ibadan be present there ?

(b) Was the presence of the Police necessary?

(c) What were the activities of the Police in connection with the alleged crisis?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

(a) A political meeting had been announced which, it was believed, might degenerate into an unlawful assembly.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) They ensured that law and order were maintained.

Supplementary Question to No. 210 (a) by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

Sir, 210 (a). Was the political meeting held?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

I am afraid that I should require notice of that question, Sir.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

211. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :—

(a) Will a statement regarding the activities of the Egbe Omo Ibile at Ile Ife be made?

(b) What are the aims, aspirations and methods of this society?

(c) Is it intended to place an official ban on this body as an illegal organization?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

(a) The Egbe Omo Ibile is a newly formed society which appears to be of a political nature. As far as Government is aware its principal activities are the holding of political meetings and the issue of pamphlets.

(b) Not known.

(c) No, Sir; not so long as the members of the Society observe the law.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

212. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :—

(a) What is the total revenue of the Egba Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(b) What is the total expenditure of the Egba Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(c) What is the total amount expended as salaries and wages for members and employees of the Egba Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

213. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue of the Remo Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(b) What is the total expenditure of the Remo Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(c) What is the total amount expended as salaries and wages for members and employees of the Remo Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

214. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue of the Ife Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(b) What is the total expenditure of the Ife Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(c) What is the total amount expended as salaries and wages for members and employees of the Ife Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

215. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue of the Ijebu-Ode Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(b) What is the total expenditure of the Ijebu-Ode Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(c) What is the total amount expended as salaries and wages for members and employees of the Ijebu-Ode Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

216. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue of the Oyo Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(b) What is the total expenditure of the Oyo Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(c) What is the total amount expended as salaries and wages for members and employees of the Oyo Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

217. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) What is the revenue of the Benin Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(b) What is the total expenditure of the Benin Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(c) What is the total amount expended as salaries and wages for members and employees of the Benin Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

218. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue of the Ondo Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(b) What is the total expenditure of the Ondo Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(c) What is the total amount expended as salaries and wages for members and employees of the Ondo Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

219. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue of the Akure Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(b) What is the total expenditure of the Akure Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(c) What is the total amount expended as salaries and wages for members and employees of the Akure Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

220. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue of the Owo Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(b) What is the total expenditure of the Owo Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(c) What is the total amount expended as salaries and wages for members and employees of the Owo Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

221. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue of the Ilesha Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(b) What is the total expenditure of the Ilesha Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

(c) What is the total amount expended as salaries and wages for members and employees of the Ilesha Native Authority from 1938-48, year by year?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

The information sought in sections (a) and (b) of the questions is given in the following schedules. The information required by section (c) of the questions is not available without very extensive research which it is not considered that Native Authorities should be required to undertake.

REVENUE

Native Administration	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Egba	60,264	64,513	54,649	52,400	71,883	63,596	67,405	78,654	94,444	102,848
Ijebu Remo ..	—	6,384	6,465	8,497	9,702	8,530	9,149	10,788	16,513	16,685
Ife	7,870	8,751	9,942	10,038	12,356	12,156	12,966	16,236	20,121	20,382
Ijebu Ode ..	47,438	35,546	32,215	23,290	26,152	27,939	28,569	36,463	47,033	52,189
Oyo	29,726	26,374	27,070	28,395	37,017	36,235	35,526	40,690	46,911	51,268
Benin	26,375	23,876	30,153	29,295	45,367	44,615	56,268	65,473	83,911	92,375
Ondo	8,043	8,214	8,919	8,965	15,337	11,238	15,577	18,525	20,067	20,930
Akure	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,247	8,207
Owo	4,458	4,248	4,263	4,339	6,167	5,434	5,706	6,489	8,383	9,187
Ilesha	8,010	8,625	6,615	9,509	11,618	10,721	11,918	13,883	16,816	18,764

EXPENDITURE

Egba	63,114	59,931	57,172	52,975	54,554	71,495	60,716	73,800	89,831	113,512
Ijebu Remo ..	—	6,167	7,643	7,613	5,814	6,980	8,636	10,012	13,551	16,398
Ife	9,138	11,276	8,541	8,237	8,548	11,273	10,805	13,001	15,930	18,652
Ijebu Ode ..	48,129	37,814	32,980	21,545	20,410	23,768	24,756	35,415	41,995	53,638
Oyo	25,950	27,575	32,785	26,352	26,211	32,084	37,954	45,502	49,449	62,746
Benin	26,529	26,075	30,667	31,664	31,460	35,159	39,321	52,166	71,916	84,535
Ondo	5,692	6,642	8,887	9,128	6,624	7,043	9,532	11,900	16,248	23,068
Akure	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,805	9,847
Owo	3,764	3,522	4,174	4,607	4,246	4,645	5,085	6,418	7,757	9,728
Ilesha	7,733	9,917	9,877	9,705	9,436	10,308	10,557	13,687	14,367	19,134

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

237. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) Whether it is a fact that a committee comprising 150 members set up by the citizens of Bauchi town, arranged in March, 1946, to accord a reception to the Emir of Bauchi, Yakubu III, to honour the occasion of the award to His Highness, by His Majesty the King, of the Medal for African Chiefs; and after all necessary preparations for the reception had been completed and the Emir had accepted with pleasure the invitation of the committee for the reception, the Resident, Bauchi Province, who was invited to act as the chairman at the reception, turned down the invitation and compelled the Emir of Bauchi to renounce his own written consent and to punish those responsible for arranging the reception?

(b) Is it a fact that one top-ranking official of the Bauchi Native Authority was recommended for immediate dismissal but was subsequently reduced in rank as a result of his active participation in arranging for the reception?

(c) Is it also a fact that the Chairman, the Secretary, and two other members of the Reception Committee were summoned by the Emir-in-Council, on the instruction of the Resident, and severely warned against future arrangements for such a reception, and for allowing Southerners resident in Bauchi to co-operate with them in arranging for the reception?

(d) Is it a fact that some members of that Reception Committee arranged for a grand send-off which was accorded Captain H. H. Wilkinson, then Resident of Bauchi, on the occasion of his retirement from the civil service of this country?

(e) During the send-off accorded the Resident, whether all District and Village Heads in Bauchi Division, together with all juju dancers and drummers were summoned by the Native Authority to assist in making the send-off functions a big success?

(f) If so, who was responsible for the transport of some of the District Heads by the Native Authority lorries and cars, and who was responsible for the feeding and lodging of the 5,000 villagers alleged to have been compelled to attend the send-off functions, for six days?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

(a), (b) and (c) No, Sir, all the allegations are untrue.

(d) A send-off on traditional lines was arranged for Captain Wilkinson on his retirement after eight years as Resident, Bauchi.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

239. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) Are women subjected to direct taxation in the Northern Provinces?

(b) In what areas?

(c) What is the nature of such taxation?

(d) What revenue was derived therefrom in the last financial year?

(e) What is the proportion of such revenue to the Native Authority and general revenues of the Northern Provinces?

(f) According to native law and custom of the various linguistic groups living in the Northern Provinces, are women subject to direct taxation?

(g) If so, what is the ethnographic evidence which supports this point of view?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

(a), (b) and (c) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to Question No. 9.

(d) Tax paid by women is not brought separately to account and the figures are therefore not available.

(e) *See (d) above.*

(f) A great diversity of taxes existed before the introduction of General Tax. Among these in some areas were taxes on women of independent means.

(g) It is common knowledge within living memory.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

240. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :—

(a) Are women subjected to direct taxation in the Western Provinces?

(b) In what areas?

(c) What is the nature of such taxation?

(d) What revenue was derived therefrom in the last financial year?

(e) What is the proportion of such revenue to the Native Authority and general revenues of the Western Provinces?

(f) According to native law and custom of the various linguistic groups living in the Western Provinces, are women subject to direct taxation?

(g) If so, what is the ethnographic evidence which supports this point of view?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Throughout the Western Provinces.

(c) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply to part (a) of question No. 209.

(d) and (e) The figures are not available since no differentiation is made in the tax returns between male and female tax-payers.

(f) Direct taxation replaced the many customary services due in accordance with native law and custom from all members of the community of whatever sex.

(g) It is common knowledge within living memory.

Supplementary Question to No. 240 (f) by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

Sir, could you name at least two such customary services which justify this policy throughout the Western Provinces?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:

I am afraid I shall have to ask for notice of that as well.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

241. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) Are women subjected to direct taxation in the Eastern Provinces?

(b) In what areas?

(c) What is the nature of such taxation?

(d) What revenue was derived therefrom in the last financial year?

(e) What is the proportion of such revenue to the Native Authority and general revenues of the Eastern Provinces?

(f) According to native law and custom of the various linguistic groups living in the Eastern Provinces, are women subject to direct taxation?

(g) If so, what is the ethnographic evidence which supports this point of view?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:

(a) If the Honourable Member is referring to tax under the Direct Taxation Ordinance, 1940, the answer is, "No, Sir."

(b) to (e) Do not therefore arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

248. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) What are the circumstances surrounding the suspension of certain members of the Egba Native Authority (Interim) Council?

(b) Is it true that the Councillors concerned were alleged to be engaged in subversive activities against the Council, because of their agitation for the restoration of the former Alake?

(c) Were they given a fair trial?

(d) What is the nature of the suspension, temporary or permanent?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:

(a) At a meeting at the Ogboni House, Itoku, on 22nd January, 1949, allegations of subversive activities were made against four members of the Egba Central Council and that meeting, having passed a resolution regarding disciplinary measures, referred to the

Council the question of their fitness to remain members of the Council. At its meeting on Friday the 28th January, 1949, the Egba Central Council passed the following resolution:—

“Be it resolved that the members of Council complained against should be suspended whilst the matter is being considered by the Executive Committee and that the parties concerned be notified in writing accordingly: namely—Mr A. Thomas, Mr A. K. Ojgunle, Mr E. O. Shomoye and Bello, Balogun of Iberekodo.”

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There was no form of trial.

(d) As soon as the Native Authority Council's resolution came to the knowledge of the Resident, Abeokuta Province, he informed the members of the Native Authority in a letter dated the 3rd February, 1949, that they had no power to suspend fellow members, and he requested them to cancel the suspension, which they forthwith did.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

249. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

What plans have been, or are being formulated in order to democratize the Kaduna, Zaria, Kano, Jos and Minna Township Advisory Boards?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

The membership of the Jos Township Advisory Board is continually under review in order to maintain suitably balanced representation of all sections of the community. The Kaduna, Zaria and Kano Townships comprise only the Government Residential and Business Areas and their Advisory Boards are fully representative of the interests concerned. There is no Township at Minna.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

250. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) Is it a fact that during, or immediately after, rain storms at Zaria, non-Africans are usually supplied with electricity, whilst the African elements of the population are denied same?

(b) If so, will assurance be given that this unwarranted form of discrimination will be stopped *pronto*?

(c) If not, what is the official explanation?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Having regard to the safety of the men engaged on the work it is possible to repair a fault in the transmission line caused by rain storms only by disconnecting the supply in the area where that fault has occurred. The area in which the supply of electricity is disconnected therefore depends on the locality of the fault and is beyond the control of the Electricity Corporation.

When a fault occurs at the power station which necessitates a shedding of the load and permits discretion to be exercised, instructions provide that the various areas served by the system should be disconnected in strict rotation.

Supplementary Question to No. 250 (a) and (c) by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

Sir, 250 (a) and (c).

(a) Do you know, Sir, that residents of Zaria have lodged such a complaint in the local press, and that same was neither denied nor corrected?

(c) In such cases what steps are usually taken to inform the consumers of the position?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

I was unaware of any statement in the press, Sir. In regard to the second point, I think it is largely a question of how great is the emergency. In certain cases it is quite inevitable that the current is suddenly cut off to avoid damage to the plant, and in those cases it is quite impossible to let people know.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

254. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :—

(a) What are the facts in respect of the projected mission of Dr E. M. Endeley to Lake Success, spokesman of the Bakwerri Land Committee?

(b) Did the Government undertake to bear the cost of passage of the missioner either to Lagos or to Lake Success?

(c) Will assurance be given that no obstacle will be placed on the way of either the Bakwerri Land Committee or any other person or group in the Cameroons, in order to exercise their rights, in accordance with the United Nations Charter?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

(a) The Bakwerri Land Committee asked for formal permission to make an oral representation to the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations Organisation in support and elaboration of a written petition. No objection was raised by this Government and permission was given on the 26th May, 1948.

All administrative assistance was given to Mr E. M. L. Endeley, the Committee's representative, and an air passage from Tiko to Lagos on the 9th June was arranged for him by the Resident, Cameroons. The Committee had, however, failed to raise the funds necessary to cover expenses of their representative and Mr Endeley accordingly returned to Buea. The Trusteeship Council subsequently decided to postpone until its next session consideration of the Committee's petition.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

257. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What are the facts regarding the recent allegation of discrimination in the Zaria Radio Rediffusion Service, following certain announcements it made about the political activities of two distinguished British visitors?

(b) Will assurance be given that it is neither the intention nor the policy of Government to be discriminatory in the use of loud speakers for matters of general public interest?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

(a) The Reverend Sorensen, M.P., and Dr Rita Hinden visited Zaria in January in the course of a tour of Nigeria as guests of the Nigeria Youth Movement. Since their visit was one of general public interest and because they had publicly expressed a desire to meet members of all sections of the community, an announcement of a reception that had been arranged for them was made over the Zaria Radio Distribution Service. No announcement concerning their political activities was made.

(b) It is the policy of Government to use the Radio Distribution Service for the public good, and for broadcasting matters of general interest. Government does not intend to permit its use to further the interests of any political party or particular section of the community. Announcements regarding meetings of a political nature will not be permitted.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

258. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) What are the requirements for appointment in the senior service as Marketing Officer in the Marketing and Export Department?

(b) Is a Bachelor of Commerce degree from a British University a sufficient academic qualification for the post?

(c) How many vacancies in the senior service exist in the Marketing and Export Department?

(d) Are such vacancies open to Nigerians with Bachelor of Commerce degrees, other things being equal?

(e) Is it a fact that a Nigerian with a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Durham University who was said to have been considered to be a fit and proper person to enter the senior service, had been refused appointment?

(f) Why?

(g) Is it a fact that the particular applicant was not even granted an interview until after seven months, following his application to the Government?

(h) Is it a fact that:—

(i) His application was submitted in May, 1948?

(ii) Contact was made by the Civil Service Commissioner with the Sierra Leone Government in August, 1948?

- (iii) Applicant was asked to come for interview in December, 1948?
- (iv) Applicant was informed orally that the interview was successful?
- (i) Is there any tangible and sufficient evidence to justify the applicant being regarded, subsequently, as an unworthy character?
- (j) If so, will same be indicated?
- (k) Is Government aware that there is a general impression that denial of this particular appointment, irrespective of the merit of the applicant, is inconsistent with the recommendations of the Foot Nigerianization Commission?
- (l) Will definite assurance be given that appointment of Nigerians of good character with sufficient academic qualifications to the senior service will be made, without discrimination of any sort?
- (m) Will Government be disposed to review this matter and make necessary adjustments?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) The requirements for appointment in the Senior Service as Marketing Officer in the Department of Marketing and Exports are as follows:—

“ Posts are open to men only who should normally be under thirty-five years of age. Candidates must possess a sound general education with a University degree, preferably in Commerce or Economics, although this requirement may be waived in the case of a candidate with special qualifications and/or experience. Candidates should have some commercial experience and must possess tact, initiative and administrative ability. A knowledge of the produce trade in West Africa is a useful additional qualification and familiarity with Government procedure is considered desirable but is not essential.”

(b) Yes, Sir, provided that the holder also has some practical experience of Marketing.

(c) Nine vacancies exist in the Senior Service of the Department of Marketing and Exports. This total is made up as follows:—

Shipping Officers	4 vacancies
Marketing Officers	5 „

(It may be added that of the thirty-four Senior Service posts at present filled in the Department, seven are held by Nigerians, two of whom hold acting appointments).

(d) Certainly.

(e) to (m) I have enquired personally into the particular case to which the Honourable Member refers. The candidate in question was not appointed to the post of Marketing Officer since he had no practical commercial experience. I am afraid that there was unnecessary delay in giving him a reply to his application but his application for appointment to the Senior Service has remained under consideration. I can assure the Honourable Member that there is no discrimination of any sort in the selection of Government Officers except that it is now the accepted Government policy first to try to

find a Nigerian to fill any vacancy which occurs and only to recruit outside Nigeria when no qualified and suitable Nigerian is available.

The Honourable Member will agree, I am sure, that it is essential to consider not only academic qualifications but also the experience and personal qualities of all candidates in relation to the particular vacancies which are at any time available.

Supplementary Question to No. 258 (e) and (f) by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

Sir, 258 (e) and (f).

Apropos to the reply given by the Honourable the Chief Secretary to (e) to (m), what is the position today in respect to this applicant?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Sir, since the written reply was prepared the applicant in question has appeared before the Public Service Board in Lagos—I think a matter of three weeks or a month ago—and he was not recommended by that Board for a Senior Service post.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

260. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :—

(a) Have peace and tranquility been restored among the Igbominas?

(b) What is the nature of such settlement?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

(a) It is assumed that the Honourable Member refers to events in the Oke Ode District. The situation is now quiet and no incidents of civil disorder have recently been reported.

(b) A new Native Court has been established at Oke Ode and has been functioning since December 3rd, 1948. Plans for constituting an Igbomina Subordinate Native Authority are under consideration. An Administrative Officer has been posted to the area to assist the Native Authority in reorganising the District.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

263. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :—

(a) In what securities are the surplus funds of the Native Authorities of the Western Provinces invested and what is the total amount invested in each case?

(b) What is the period of maturity of each investment?

(c) What interest does each investment yield?

(d) What is the grand total of such investments as at December, 1948?

(e) What is the grand total of the interest earned from such securities?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

The replies to parts (a), (b) and (c) of the Honourable Member's question are furnished in the schedules below.

<i>Securities in which Native Administrations' Funds are invested</i>	<i>Period of Maturity</i>	<i>Rate of Interest %</i>
Australia (Commonwealth of) Registered Stock	1950-52	3½
Bootle Corporation Redeemable Stock	1958-62	3½
Cardiff Corporation Redeemable Stock	1956-58	3
Ceylon Inscribed Stock	1959-64	3
Ceylon Inscribed Stock	1959	3½
Defence Bonds	On appli- cation	2½
Defence Bonds (3rd Issue)	do.	3
Defence Bonds (4th Issue)	do.	3
Federated Malay States Inscribed Stock	1960-70	3
Funding Loan	1956-61	2½
Funding Loan	1959-69	3
Gold Coast Inscribed Stock	1956	4½
Great Yarmouth Corporation Redeemable Stock	1959-64	3
Jamaica Inscribed Stock	1956-61	3
Kenya Inscribed Stock	1961-71	4½
Manchester Corporation Redeemable Consolidated Stock ..	1958-63	3
New South Wales Inscribed Stock	1930-50	3½
New Zealand Inscribed Stock	1952-55	3
New Zealand Stock	1960-64	3½
Nigeria Inscribed Stock	1966-71	2½
Nigeria Inscribed Stock	1955	3
Nigeria Inscribed Stock	1963	4
Nigeria Inscribed Stock	1950-60	5
Nigeria Registered Stock (Local Loan)	1956-61	3½
Savings Bonds	1964-67	2½
Savings Bonds	1955-65	3
Savings Bonds	1960-70	3
Savings Bonds	1965-75	3
South Africa (Union of) Inscribed Stock	1954-64	3
Swansea Corporation Redeemable Stock	1955-65	3
Treasury Registered Stock	1975 or after	2½
Trinidad Inscribed Stock	1965-70	3
War Loan	1955-59	3
Western Australia Inscribed Stock	1942-62	4

AMOUNT INVESTED BY NATIVE ADMINISTRATIONS IN THE WESTERN PROVINCES

Native Administrations							£	s	d
Aboh	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,975	0	0
Agbor	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,370	16	11
Akoko	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,432	6	5
Akure	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,000	0	0
Asaba	..	..	..	..	..	..	300	0	0
Benin	..	..	..	..	..	..	28,242	0	8
Egba	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,892	18	11
Ekiti	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,044	1	2
Ewohimi	..	..	..	..	..	..	117	12	0
Ibadan	..	..	..	..	..	..	40,592	5	4
Ibusa	..	..	..	..	..	..	300	0	0
Ife	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,207	5	1
Ifonyin	..	..	..	..	..	..	124	15	0
Ijebu-Ode	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,580	12	0
Ijebu Remo	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,975	1	5
Ijebu Igbo	..	..	..	..	..	..	392	0	0
Ijoh	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,518	0	0
Ikale	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,192	0	0
Ilaro	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,519	9	9
Ilesha	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,617	16	11
Illa	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,000	0	0
Ipokia	..	..	..	..	..	..	900	0	0
Ishan	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,225	2	11
Irrua	..	..	..	..	..	..	117	12	0
Jekri-Sobo	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,146	0	0
Kukuruku	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,267	11	7
Kwale	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,975	0	0
Nsukwa	..	..	..	..	..	..	398	0	0
Ogwashi-Uku	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,575	11	4
Oka	..	..	..	..	..	..	585	2	5
Okitipupa	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,396	0	0
Ondo	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,000	12	4
Otta	..	..	..	..	..	..	392	0	0
Owo	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,307	8	10
Oyo	..	..	..	..	..	..	15,732	4	4
Urhobo (Sobo)	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,146	0	0
Uromi-Uzea	..	..	..	..	..	..	117	12	0
							£	200,675	19 4

(d) £203,540 1s 5d. (Market value).

(e) Interest earned in the Financial Year 1947-8 amounted to £6,709 2s 11d.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hón. N. Azikiwe):

264. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) In what securities are the surplus funds of the Native Authorities of the Eastern Provinces invested and what is the total amount invested in each case?

(b) What is the period of maturity of each investment?

(c) What interest does each investment yield?

(d) What is the grand total of such investments as at December, 1948?

(e) What is the grand total of the interest earned from such securities?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:

The replies to parts (a), (b) and (c) of the Honourable Member's question are furnished in the schedules below.

<i>Securities in which Native Administrations' Funds are invested</i>	<i>Period of Maturity</i>	<i>Rate of Interest %</i>
Australia (Commonwealth of) Registered Stock	1955-58	3
Australia (Commonwealth of) Registered Stock	1956-61	3½
Australia (Commonwealth of) Registered Stock	1964-74	3½
Australia (Commonwealth of) Registered Stock	1951-54	3½
Ceylon Inscribed Stock	1959-64	3
Defence Bonds	On application	2½
Defence Bonds (4th Issue)	On application	3
Federated Malay States Inscribed Stock	1960-70	3
Funding Loan	1956-61	2½
Great Yarmouth Corporation Redeemable Stock	1959-64	3
Leeds Corporation Redeemable Stock	1957-60	3½
Newfoundland Guaranteed Stock	1943-63	3
New South Wales Inscribed Stock	1930-50	3½
New Zealand Inscribed Stock	1952-55	3
New Zealand Inscribed Stock	1960-64	3½
Nigeria Inscribed Stock	1955	3
Nigeria Inscribed Stock	1950-60	5
Nigeria Registered Stock	1956-61	3½
Northern Rhodesia Inscribed Stock	1955-65	3½
Savings Bonds	1955-65	3
Savings Bonds	1960-70	3
Savings Bonds	1965-75	3
South Africa (Union of) Inscribed Stock	1954-64	3
Swansea Corporation Redeemable Stock	1955-65	3
Treasury Stock	1975 or after	2½
Trinidad Inscribed Stock	1965-70	3
Trinidad Inscribed Stock	1958-68	3½
War Loan	1955-59	3

AMOUNTS INVESTED BY NATIVE ADMINISTRATIONS IN THE EASTERN PROVINCES

Native Administrations										£	s	d	
Abaja .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,518	17	4
Abak .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,567	0	0
Afikpo .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,000	0	0
Ahoada .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,234	1	3
Akoko-Igarra .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,128	10	6
Andoni .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	346	0	0
Anrang .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	909	12	0
Asa .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39	4	0
Awka .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,699	19	3
Bakweri .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,000	0	0
Bamenda .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,392	0	0
Bette-Bendi .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	200	0	0
Bonny .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	117	12	0
Brass .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,208	11	1
Ebonata .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	98	0	0
Efik-Qua-Efut .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,367	0	0
Eket .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,574	2	4
Etsako .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,504	14	1
Ezza .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,000	0	0
Ibibio .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,089	0	0
Ikom .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	598	0	0
Ikono .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,898	17	9
Ikot-Ekpene .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,839	2	6
Ikwo .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	700	0	0
Iviosakon .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	752	7	0
Izi .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,000	0	0
Kalabari .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	710	0	3
Kumba .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,000	0	0
Mamfe .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,000	0	0
Ngbo .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	300	0	0
Ngwa .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,784	0	0
Nkanu .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,500	0	0
Nsukka .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,613	2	9
Obong .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	383	0	0
Obubra .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,500	0	0
Obudu .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	500	0	0
Ogoja .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,021	15	7
Ogoni .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,974	0	0
Okigwi .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,966	13	2
Okrika .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,560	2	1
Onitsha .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,704	15	7
Opobo .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	347	0	0
Oron .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	588	0	0
Otoro .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	722	13	2
Owerri .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,764	9	2
Southern Confederacy (Awka) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,702	17	2
Uyo .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,345	9	8
Victoria .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,000	0	0
Grand Total	£	101,770	9	8

(d) £106,837 4s 6d. (Market value).

(e) Interest earned in the Financial Year 1947-8 amounted to £3,938 19s 6d.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

269. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) How many scholarships were awarded by the Native Authorities of the Northern Provinces (i) for study in Nigeria and (ii) for studies overseas, as at December, 1948?

(b) Are the surplus funds of the Native Authorities, where such favourable conditions obtain, not a good source for use in connection with the education of the people, which is obviously a State function?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

(a) (i) One.

(ii) None.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Native Authorities in the Northern Provinces have for many years past devoted very considerable sums from their surplus funds to education and will continue to do so.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

270. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :—

(a) How many scholarships were awarded by the Native Authorities of the Eastern Provinces (i) for study in Nigeria and (ii) for studies overseas, as at December, 1948?

(b) Are the surplus funds of the Native Authorities, where such favourable conditions obtain, not a good source for use in connection with the education of the people, which is obviously a State function?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

(a) (i) 588.

(ii) Nil.

(b) It is the normal practice for Native Authorities to award scholarships for study in Nigeria. Provision is made as recurrent expenditure within the balanced budget. Having regard to their other commitments, Native Authorities do not generally consider it desirable to expend reserve funds for the benefits of individuals at the expense of projects for the betterment of the community as a whole.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

271. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :—

(a) How many scholarships were awarded by the Native Authorities of the Western Provinces (i) for study in Nigeria and (ii) for studies overseas, as at December, 1948?

(b) Are the surplus funds of the Native Authorities, where such favourable conditions obtain, not a good source for use in connection with the education of the people, which is obviously a State function?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

(a) (i) 186.

(ii) Nil.

(b) Yes, Sir.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

279. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Will a statement be made clarifying the proposed legislative and administrative changes in the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trust?

(b) How far do these changes reflect public opinion in the Cameroons?

(c) Are the contemplated changes acceptable to the people of the Cameroons?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

When His Excellency the Governor visited the Cameroons last year he made reference to proposals for reorganisation of the administrative structure of the existing Cameroons Province. These proposals included the creation of a new post of Commissioner of the Cameroons to be responsible to the Chief Commissioner of the Eastern Provinces for the administration of that part of the Trusteeship Territory which is included in the Eastern Provinces and the creation of two Provinces to replace the existing Cameroons Province.

It is hoped that a Commissioner of the Cameroons will soon be appointed and it will be for him to put forward detailed proposals for consideration by the Chief Commissioner of the Eastern Provinces and His Excellency the Governor. In preparing his recommendations he will of course fully consult public opinion in the Cameroons and an official statement will be published when his recommendations have been received and considered.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

281. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) Why is there a prohibition of spirituous liquor in the Northern Provinces?

(b) Who are the people affected thereby?

(c) How does this law affect (i) non-native Africans who reside in the North, and (ii) non-Africans who reside in the North?

(d) In view of the fact that non-native Africans who reside in the North have expressed their feelings against the continuation of this policy, what is the justification for this restriction of their liberty?

(e) If medical opinion is necessary for the consumption of spirituous liquor in the Northern Provinces, is that not an indication that, scientifically speaking, alcohol is a *desideratum* so far as metabolism in the human body is concerned?

(f) If so, why is spirituous liquor permit granted to sick people in order to nurse them back to health and denied healthy people who are said to need it in order to maintain good health?

(g) Will Government be disposed to review this matter particularly in respect of those who have protested against liquor prohibition?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

(a) The whole of the Northern Provinces has been declared a Prohibited Area under the Liquor Ordinance (Cap. 131). Section 4 of that Ordinance defines a Prohibited Area as an area in which intoxicating liquor may not be sold except under a licence and in which the sale of spirits to and the possession of spirits by, natives of a prohibited area is prohibited. The reason for this prohibition is the undertaking given by Government when the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria was first established that the Mohammedan religion would be respected.

(b) Natives of prohibited areas only.

(c) Both Africans who are not natives of a prohibited area, and non-Africans require, if they reside in the Northern Provinces, a licence or permit to purchase liquor or import it for private consumption.

(d) The justification lies in the undertaking already mentioned that the Mohammedan religion would be respected.

(e) Medical opinion is not necessary except for natives of a prohibited area.

(f) For the reason given in paragraph (d).

(g) No, Sir. Government intends to honour its undertaking in this matter.

Supplementary Question to No. 281 (c) and (g) by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

Sir, 281 (c) and (g).

(c) Is this licence or permit regarded as a right or as a privilege?

(g) Is the Ordinance in question consistent with section 16 of the Royal Instructions as published in Public Notice No. 141 of 1946?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

In answer to the first point, my impression is that it is to all intents and purposes automatic, Sir. With regard to the second part, I regret that I do not know what section 16 is. After I have looked it up perhaps I could answer the question.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

284. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) Are the following necessities conveniently available to the Jebba community?

(i) Medical and Health Centre?

(ii) Conservancy for the public?

(iii) Provision of housing accommodation particularly for non-natives?

(iv) Pipe-borne water supply?

(b) What effort has been made, is being made, or will be made, in order to improve existing ones which are regarded as utterly inadequate?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

(a) (i) Yes, Sir; there is a Government Dispensary.

(ii) Conservancy services are provided for the quarters of the Railway officials and employees, who constitute over one-third of the total population. There are public latrines at the Railway Station and the Railway workshops. There is one public latrine in the town.

(iii) The Railway provide housing accommodation for their employees: the general public, non-native or native, may build their own houses provided they comply with the usual formalities.

(iv) There is at present a small pipe-borne water supply limited to supplying the Railway needs.

(b) The total population including 946 Railway employees and their families, is 2,420. The town is on the railway and is sixty-eight miles by road from Ilorin Hospital. There are many larger and less accessible towns in Ilorin Emirate whose need for the facilities mentioned are greater than Jebba.

The possibility of extending the limited Railway water supply to the rest of the town was examined by the Provincial and Railway Engineers. To do so would entail a major operation and the cost would be out of all proportion to the population served.

Ilorin Native Administration proposes to spend £3,000 on building public latrines. Jebba will be included in the programme.

The above answers refer to the town properly known as Jebba South, to which the Honourable Member is believed to refer.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

285. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) Is it true that the Erinkoja Erection Fund was based on taxation or levy of one shilling per tax-payer by the Ife Native Authority, in Ife and District, since 1936?

(b) Is it true that this was raised to two shillings per tax-payer, ten years later?

(c) What was responsible for the 100 per cent increase?

(d) What is the total of this fund?

(e) Has any account of same been rendered or will same be made available to those immediately concerned, particularly the Egbe Omo Ibile Ife?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

(a) No, Sir. This fund was started by individuals in order to fulfil popular demands, which the Native Authority official funds were insufficient to meet. The fund was and is voluntary and has never been officially administered.

(b), (c), (d) and (e) There is a Committee, which administers this voluntary fund, and it is understood that anyone, who has contributed, can inspect the accounts, if he wishes to do so.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

286. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) Is it true that the Ishakole Defence Fund was based on taxation or levy of seven shillings per tax-payer by the Ife Native Authority in Ife?

(b) What is the total of this fund?

(c) How was it disposed of?

(d) Has any account of same been rendered or will same be made available to those concerned, particularly the Egbe Omo Ibile Ife?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:

(a) No, Sir.

(b), (c) and (d) The Committee which administers the fund is prepared to allow any contributor to inspect the accounts.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

287. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) Is the allegation by the Egbe Omo Ibile Ife that the Ife Native Authority is in the habit of detaining moneys belonging to claimants of dowry for unnecessarily long time, true?

(b) If so, why are people's money so handled by a Native Authority which should be more scrupulous in the handling of funds not belonging to it?

(c) Will assurance be given that the Ife Native Authority would avoid recurrence of this disgraceful complaint?

(d) Is the withholding of moneys due to dowry claimants not conducive to distrust of the integrity of the constituted local authority?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:

(a) No, Sir.

(b), (c) and (d) Do not therefore arise.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

288. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) Is the complaint by the Egbe Omo Ibile Ife that (i) of the 600 corrugated iron sheets of the old front building of the Afin at Ife and (ii) of the 2,000 corrugated iron sheets from the old wall of the Afin, only 75 sheets are available, true?

(b) If the allegation is correct, what happened to the remaining 2,525 sheets?

(c) Will assurance be given that the corrugated iron sheets alleged missing will be replaced immediately by the official or person responsible, if same was used in an irregular manner?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:

(a) It is understood that the C.G.I. sheets referred to were given to the present Oni's predecessor and inherited by the Oni. He has

disposed of none. Those removed from Afin buildings recently demolished will be used for replacement buildings to be constructed in the Afin compound at the Oni's personal expense. There is only one implied condition to this gift of iron sheets, *i.e.*, that they should be used within the precincts of the Afin compound. Naturally, this condition has been adhered to.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

289. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) Is it a fact that many water-rate payers at Ile Ife are not provided with pipe-borne water and that they have no alternative than to use larvae-infested well water, since they have no facility for enjoying good water supply?

(b) If so, what explanation did the Ife Native Authority give the rate-payers for this apparent breach of faith?

(c) Will steps be taken, if not already done, in order to supply the rate-payers with good and healthy water commensurate with the water-rate paid into the Treasury of the Ife Native Authority?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:

(a) No, Sir. There are eighty-seven public water fountains in Ife town. They are distributed throughout each quarter. This year, owing to light rains, the supply has had to be strictly rationed since the middle of December as the reservoir is abnormally low.

(b) The position has been explained to the people.

(c) The Native Authority has approved the expenditure of £800, the estimated cost of raising the dam wall, and samples of the water have been sent to the Government Analyst to ascertain the necessity for installation of filter beds, etc.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

291. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) Is it true that school fees for children have been increased by 300 *per centum* at Ijebu-Ode?

(b) What was responsible for the increase?

(c) What is the attitude of the Ijebu Ode Native Authority Council on this issue?

(d) What will be done officially to ease the situation?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:

(a) No, Sir.

(b); (c) and (d) Do not therefore arise.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

296. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) Is it a fact that during the régime of a certain Administrative Officer at Kumba there was a lot of squabbles and bickerings between him and the Chiefs, Elders and tax-payers of Kumba Division?

(b) Is it a fact during the regime of this self-same Administrative Officer at Degema, there is now brewing a lot of squabbles and bickerings between him and the Chiefs, Elders and tax-payers of Degema Division?

(c) If (a) and (b) are essentially true, is Government satisfied that this civil servant is (i) competent, (ii) tactful, (iii) efficient?

(d) Will he be removed from the service if it is proved that he has not the temperament to function in an administrative capacity?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

(a) It is assumed that the Honourable Member refers to an Officer about whom an official statement was published in the Press on the 17th of November, 1947. The Honourable Member is referred to that statement. This Officer came into conflict with a few of the local chiefs but Government is satisfied that his relations with the great majority of the people of Kumba Division were good.

(b) When this Officer was posted to Degema Division a state of inter-tribal disorder obtained between the people of Kalabari and Okrika. It was largely as a result of this Officer's efforts that the disorder has not developed into one of serious proportions.

(c) and (d) Do not therefore arise.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

298. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :—

(a) Why was Mallam Sulemanu, the Wakili Yan Doka of Ilorin, interdicted?

(b) Is it true that the Emir of Ilorin was away on tour before or after the interdiction?

(c) Who was in charge of the Ilorin Native Authority Police since his interdiction?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

(a) He was interdicted for neglect of duty and deliberate refusal to obey orders. He had been severely reprimanded by the Emir of Ilorin in August for the same offence and warned that any repetition would not be tolerated.

(b) The Emir was on tour. On his return he dismissed Mallam Sulemanu.

(c) Sergeant Major Idirisu Yamay is acting in charge until a new appointment, which is under consideration, is made.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

301. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :—

(a) What were the earnings and expenditure of the waterworks of the Egba Native Authority from 1938-48?

(b) Is the water supply of the Egba Native Authority now being run at a profit or at a loss?

- (c) What is the current water rate at Abeokuta?
 (d) Who are supposed to pay water rate at Abeokuta?
 (e) Is it true that it is intended to levy water rate on the women of Abeokuta?
 (f) What will be the nature of this rate and how does it compare to what is levied on men?
 (g) Why must the women of Abeokuta be particularly singled out for purposes of this type of local taxation?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

(a)	Year	Revenue			Expenditure		
		£	s	d	£	s	d
	1938-39	2,861	7	2	3,225	9	7
	1939-40	3,309	0	2	3,380	14	2
	1940-41	3,032	3	0	3,492	11	9
	1941-42	6,362	5	6	4,352	9	2
	1942-43	6,110	4	9	5,398	0	7
	1943-44	6,941	19	8	5,410	6	4
	1944-45	6,266	6	1	5,400	18	10
	1945-46	6,320	10	0	5,878	1	1
	1946-47	6,187	11	1	5,570	18	7
	1947-48	5,864	12	11	7,264	13	11

(b) At a loss. Estimated revenue for 1948-49 is only about 50 per cent of estimated expenditure.

The water rate which is currently levied embraces the following charges:—

- (c) (i) A flat rate of 5s per head per annum from adult males.
 (ii) Houses with private taps; 5s per month for the first tap plus 1s per month for each additional tap.
 (iii) Certain buildings are assessed at 4 per cent of the annual value.
 (iv) A charge of 1s 7d per 1,000 gallons is made for water supplied to the Nigerian Railway and of 1s 6d per 1,000 gallons for water supplied to Abeokuta General Hospital and Aro Quarry.
 (d) Under the Waterworks (Abeokuta Assessment) Order No. 12 of 1942 all adult males and females are liable to water rate, but by resolution of the Native Authority females have been exempted in anticipation of the amendment of the Waterworks (Abeokuta Assessment) Order.
 (e) No, Sir.
 (f) and (g) Do not arise.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

302. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

- (a) What is the nature of the protest lodged by a certain section of Nguru tax-payers alleging that they were being forced to pay "arbitrarily exorbitant and malicious income tax" by the Local Authority there?
 (b) What is responsible for the alleged arbitrary assessment on the part of the Local Authority?
 (c) Is Government aware that the complainants had alleged indiscretion and tactlessness on the part of the Local Authority concerned?

(d) Will assurance be given that the causes for the complaints would be removed to the mutual advantage of the Local Authority and these tax-payers?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

(a) Telegraphic protests from an anonymous body describing itself as "Nguru Taxpayers" were received in the terms stated threatening collective resistance to payment of tax. The agitation was organised by a minority element mainly composed of the trading class whose taxable income has increased with a consequent increase in the amount of tax payable. The complainants were informed of their right of appeal against their tax assessment but in only one case was this right exercised and the remainder adopted what might be described as an attitude of mass delegation aimed at a general reduction of tax.

(b) Assessment of tax at Nguru is carried out in accordance with the Direct Taxation Ordinance by the District Head assisted by a Council in which the trading element is represented. The suggestion that the assessment was either arbitrary or malicious is without foundation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. If the Honourable Member had referred to "justifiable" complaints, an assurance could readily have been given.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

304. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :—

(a) Whether Government is aware that the residents of Awgu expect certain necessities in return for their paying taxes?

(b) Why is this area neglected in the provision of (i) good roads, (ii) water supply, (iii) hospital, and (iv) educational facility?

(c) What good does the Colonial and Welfare Development Scheme envisage for this forgotten area of Onitsha Province?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the opinion of Government the area is not neglected, but is as well provided with the amenities to which the Honourable Member refers as any comparable area in the Eastern Region.

(c) Grants have been and will in future be made from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds for feeder road construction, rural water supplies, and village development.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

305. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :—

(a) Why were the lorry owners assessed by the Onitsha Township Native Authority to pay "Park" toll for the privilege of parking their lorries at the Onitsha Lorry Park?

(b) Under what authority did the Onitsha Township Native Authority act?

(c) Where else in the country is such a toll imposed?

(d) Did the Resident, Onitsha Province, advise the Onitsha Township Native Authority to act in this wise?

(e) Will Government agree that such form of taxation tends to strain relations, especially since lorry owners had paid for "Stage Carriage" Licence?

(f) Will the Onitsha Township Native Authority be advised to cancel the "Park" toll immediately in order to avoid paralysis of transport and trade at Onitsha?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

(a) In general as a means of raising revenue to offset expenditure on the proposed new Market and Car Park scheme; in particular to acquire the revenue necessary for the upkeep of the Lorry Park.

(b) By virtue of powers conferred on it by the Native Authority Ordinance, No. 17 of 1943, and Rules made thereunder, published in the *Gazette* as Native Authority Public Notice No. 64 of 1948.

(c) As far as is known similar fees have not been imposed elsewhere in Nigeria.

(d) No, Sir. He approved their resolution.

(e) No, Sir. It is a normal and fair charge for public utility services, such as is imposed by Local Authorities throughout the world. A Stage Carriage Licence permits the carriage of passengers; it does not cover the use of car parks.

(f) No, Sir.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

307. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total membership of the Onitsha Township Native Authority?

(b) What elements of the population of Onitsha are represented therein?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

(a) Fifty-two.

(b) (i) The Obi and twenty-three Ndichie.

(ii) Eighteen elected representatives of Onitsha families.

(iii) Six members representing the various Ibo Tribal unions as follows:—

2, Onitsha Division.

2, Onitsha Province outside the Onitsha Division.

1, Owerri Province.

1, Ogbaru Western Ibos.

and (iv) four members, one each from the Hausa, Yoruba, Nupe, and Kakanda settlers.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

308. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) Is it intended to introduce a form of "Local Government" in Onitsha?

(b) What will be the nature of such "Local Government"?

(c) Have the salient aspects of this "novelty" been clarified publicly?

(d) How?

(e) Would it be correct to say that the majority of the people of Onitsha are opposed to "Local Government" whose functions and ramifications are alleged to be enveloped in secrecy?

(f) Will assurance be given that the introduction of such "Local Government" will not affect adversely the traditional rights of the King and Chiefs of Onitsha, in accordance with the Treaties negotiated by their forbears and Her Majesty Queen Victoria in 1863, 1877 and 1884 establishing Protectorate Status at Onitsha?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:

(a) No, Sir. It is intended to introduce reforms into the Local Government that already exists.

(b) The extent of the reforms will depend on the wishes of the people.

(c) Yes, Sir, if the Honourable Member is referring to the reforms, and discussion of them with the people is still continuing.

(d) Does not therefore arise.

(e) No, Sir, and there is no question of secrecy in this matter.

(f) It is not anticipated that this question will arise. If it does it will be decided by the wishes of the people.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

309. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) What is the nature of the Town Planning envisaged for Onitsha?

(b) Has the confidence of the people been won over in order that they might appreciate the factors involved?

(c) Through what methods of approach?

(d) Is any map or lay-out of the proposed Town Planning available?

(e) If so, has this been made public?

(f) When and what was the nature of the publicity?

(g) Is the idea welcomed by the majority of the people of Onitsha?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:

(a) Miss Benson's plan, which is available for reference, is being used as a guide.

(b) No, Sir, not entirely.

(c) The Native Authority and Unions,

(d) A full lay-out plan will not be available until a Town Planning Authority has been set up.

(e) and (f) Do not therefore arise.

(g) It is difficult to say at this stage, but probably it is welcomed by the majority of the progressive and educated elements. A minority are influenced by the vested interests involved.

Supplementary Question to No. 309 (d) by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

Sir, 309 (d). If a full lay-out plan will not be available until a Town Planning Authority has been set up, is a copy of the Benson plan available for inspection?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

I refer the Honourable Member to part (a) of the answer, which says:

“(a) Miss Benson’s plan, which is available for reference, is being used as a guide”.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

I quite understand that, Sir, but I want to know whether it is available to the general public.

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

Certainly, Sir.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

310. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :—

(a) What is the nature of the land transactions between the Roman Catholic Mission and Onitsha land-owners at the inchoate stage of that Mission’s establishment at Onitsha?

(b) Whether the land said to be granted this Mission was delimited and well-defined?

(c) When such transactions took place?

(d) Who were the principal actors and witnesses?

(e) How were the land-owners satisfied that the Mission had acquired approximately what was intended to be granted for purely evangelical purposes?

(f) What was the consideration for such land-grants?

(g) Will pertinent documents relating to the land-holding of the Roman Catholic Mission be made available for inspection and public information?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

(a) Government is not aware of the nature of any land transactions between the Roman Catholic Mission and Onitsha land-owners other than those registered and preserved in the Land Registry at Lagos. Documents preserved in the Land Registry may be inspected on payment of the statutory fee.

(b) to (g) The Honourable Member is referred to the last sentence of the reply to part (a) of this question.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

311. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) Is it true that the Roman Catholic Mission at Onitsha has claimed all the lands on which stand the buildings of the Bank of British West Africa, Post Office, John Christian and Company?

(b) What is the basis of their claim and title to the property?

(c) Will pertinent documents in respect of (b) be made available for inspection and public information?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:

(a) No, Sir. Many years ago the Roman Catholic Mission claimed the land on which stood the buildings of the Bank of British West Africa and John Christian and Co., and the claim was settled by agreement between the parties. The Mission makes no claim to the land on which stand the present buildings of the Bank and the Post Office. John Christian and Co., no longer holds premises at Onitsha.

(b) Agreement No. 2 in Volume I of the Niger Lands Agreements, now kept in the Lands Registry at Lagos.

(c) The document is available for inspection on payment of the statutory fee.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

316. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) Is Government satisfied that the suspension bridge at Onitsha is safe for human and vehicular traffic?

(b) If not, what will be done to make it safer?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:

(a) Yes, Sir, the bridge is safe for pedestrians and for vehicles not exceeding 30 cwt in weight which is all that it was originally designed to take.

(b) Does not arise.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

321. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Is Government now disposed to regard Licentiates of the Nigeria School of Veterinary Medicine as eligible for appointment in the Senior Service?

(b) Ditto for graduates of the Forestry School?

(c) Ditto for graduates of the Survey School?

(d) Ditto for graduates of the Agriculture School?

(e) Ditto for graduates of the Engineering School?

(f) If not, when will this moot issue be cleared to the satisfaction of all concerned?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) No, Sir. The Ibadan Forestry School provides qualifications only for acceptance into the grade of Technical Assistant.
- (c) Yes, Sir, provided that in some cases certain further specialized training may be necessary.
- (d) The qualifications that may be acquired at the Agricultural Departmental School are not sufficient in themselves to qualify for appointment to the Senior Service, but coupled with proved ability and practical experience may be accepted as an alternative to the full normal academic qualifications.
- (e) There is no Nigeria School of Engineering, but if the Honourable Member is referring to graduates of Yaba Higher College Engineering Classes, the reply is that graduates are eligible for appointment to certain Senior Service posts, but that they will not be eligible for appointment to the posts of Executive or Mechanical Engineer unless they have obtained the additional qualifications required as specified in Leaflet N.S.S. 7 published in June, 1948.
- (f) See Replies to (a)-(e).

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

322. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

- (a) What were the circumstances which led to the Hausa-Ibo riot in Jos, a few years back?
- (b) Ditto for the Idoma-Ibo misunderstanding at Oturkpo?
- (c) Ditto for the Tiv-Ibo dispute over timber at Gboko, in January, 1949?
- (d) Will effort be made by Government to discourage communal strifes in the Northern Provinces?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

- (a) A market quarrel.
- (b) It is assumed that the Honourable Member refers to certain events which took place in 1945. These were due to the unauthorised occupation of Idoma farm lands by Ibo immigrants.
- (c) Government is not aware of any such dispute.
- (d) At all times Government has made it abundantly clear that it strongly deprecates communal strife and will do all in its power to prevent it.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

323. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

- (a) What were the circumstances which led to the Ibo-Efik clash at Calabar, last year?
- (b) Ditto for the Kalabari-Ibo tussle at Degema, last year?
- (c) Ditto for the alleged anti-Ibo feeling in certain parts of the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trust?
- (d) Will effort be made by Government to discourage communal strifes in the Eastern Provinces?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:

(a) There was no clash, Sir. There was, however, a certain amount of feeling between the Efik people and the Ibo community in Calabar which appears to have originated from an idea that the latter was successfully gaining control of local enterprise. This in turn led to a move by certain Efik individuals and groups directed towards imposing legislation of a discriminatory nature, in restraint of trade. The efforts, however, of responsible members of both the Efik and Ibo communities soon resulted in a settlement of the differences.

(b) The Kalabari-Ibo dispute in 1947 was due to a certain amount of tribal jealousy, brought to a head by disagreement over methods of fishing. There were threats of intimidation on both sides but no overt acts of violence, and the dispute was soon amicably settled.

(c) There has been some ill feeling and opposition on the part of the local population in the southern areas of the Cameroons Province directed against Ibo settlement in those areas. The circumstances which led to this state of affairs were the movement of Ibos to take up employment in those areas and the fears of the local inhabitants that their interests might be adversely affected thereby.

(d) As the Honourable Member knows it has been and is the policy of the Government to take every possible step to discourage tribal animosities.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

327. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) Why was the poll tax increased by 200 per cent, lately, by the Ijebu Native Authority?

(b) Are the tax-payers also assessed to pay water and occupational rates?

(c) Are Idowa people expected to raise £2,000 as tax annually?

(d) Are the peoples of Ijebu Igbo and Odogbolu levied to raise £16,000?

(e) What benefits do the Ijebu Ode, Idowa, Ijebu Igbo and Odogbolu tax-payers derive from such taxation?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:

(a) Tax payable under the Direct Taxation Ordinance, 1940, by each adult male subject to the jurisdiction of the Ijebu Native Authority will be increased from 9s to 15s in 1949-50, to make good the short-fall resulting from the abolition of the flat-rate tax payable by women.

(b) Tax-payers in Ijebu Ode town, where there is a pipe-borne water supply, pay water-rate. A trade or business tax is also paid by persons following certain defined callings which is subject to abatement where such persons pay a tax computed in accordance with their ascertained incomes.

(c) No, Sir. The total tax assessment for Idowa in 1948-49 is £1,521.

(d) No, Sir. The total tax assessment for Ijebu Igbo in 1948-49 is £6,793, and that of Odogbolu is £1,327.

(e) The Honourable Member is referred to the expenditure estimates of the Ijebu Native Administration, a copy of which is available for the Honourable Member's inspection in the Western Provinces Secretariat.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

352. To ask the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony:—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 198,912 people living in an area of 1,357 square miles in the Colony Districts of the Colony Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular Province? In what towns?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this Province and under whose sponsorship? In what towns?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this Province and what is the mileage of metalled roads there?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this Province? In what towns?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this Province, in spite of fire hazard?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this Province? In what Districts?

(h) How is the interest of the Colony Districts of the Colony Province protected in the (i) Colony District Council, (ii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

Answer—

The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony:

(a) It is not understood to what period of time the question refers.

(b) Excluding Lagos, (i) Nil, (ii) Eighteen, as follows:—

BADAGRY DIVISION	..	..	Ojo	1
			Ajido	1
			Pota	1
			Irewe	1
			Ibeshe	1
				5
IKEJA DIVISION	..	..	Mushin	1
			Ikeja	1
			Agege	1
			Idimu	1
			Ojokoro	1
			Ipaja	1
			Ikorodu	1
			Ijede	1
			Aja	1
				9
EPE DIVISION	..	..	Epe	1
			Eredo	1
			Ejinrin	1
			Agbowo	1
				4

(c) Excluding Lagos, (i) 165 as follows:—

BADAGRY DIVISION	15	Church Missionary Society
	7	Methodist Mission
	8	Roman Catholic Mission
	1	Zumuratul Islamiya School
	3	Young Ansar-ud-Deen
	9	Salvation Army
	5	Native Administration
	1	Private
	<hr/>	
	49	
IKEJA DIVISION	7	Church Missionary Society
	10	Methodist Mission
	2	Roman Catholic Mission
	1	Young Ansar-ud-Deen
	2	Salvation Army
	6	African Church Mission
	1	C.M.S. and African Church Mission
	1	United African Methodist Mission
	1	United North African Methodist
	1	Baptist Mission
	1	Bethel African Mission
	1	Ahmadiya Mission
	1	Shams-El-Deen Society
	7	Native Administration
	20	Private
	<hr/>	
	62	
EPE DIVISION	9	Church Missionary Society
	3	Methodist Mission
	19	Roman Catholic Mission
	2	Young Ansar-ud-Deen
	1	United North African
	1	Baptist
	1	Native Administration
	15	Local Community Schools (for 13 of which the District Officer is Manager).
	<hr/>	
	13	
	<hr/>	
	54	

(ii) Nil.

(d) Road, rail and waterway. $38\frac{3}{4}$ miles of metalled roads, excluding Lagos.

(e) Excluding Lagos, (i) Four, as follows:—

BADAGRY DIVISION	1	Badagry
IKEJA DIVISION	1	Agege
EPE DIVISION—2	1	Epe
	1	Ejinrin

(ii) Four, as follows:—

BADAGRY DIVISION	1	Badagry
IKEJA DIVISION	1	Agege
EPE DIVISION—2	1	Epe

(iii) Eight, as follows:—

BADAGRY DIVISION	1	Ojo
IKEJA DIVISION—5	1	Mushin
	1	Oshodi
	1	Ikeja
	1	Ipaja
	1	Ikorodu
EPE DIVISION—2	1	Eredo
	1	Agbowo

(f) Excluding Lagos, — no.

(g) Excluding Lagos, — yes, in the Ikeja area of the Ikeja Division.

(h) (i) It is not understood to what body this part of the question refers. The only central administrative body in the Colony in which the Divisional Native Authorities are represented is the Annual Conference of Colony Native Authorities membership of which includes two representatives of each of the twelve component Native Authorities.

(ii) The interests of the Colony Districts are represented by the Member for the Colony and by the Commissioner of the Colony.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

362. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Whether he is aware that the Ogbaru people resent their being partitioned and distributed under four Provinces, to wit, Warri, Benin, Owerri and Onitsha?

(b) Does it not appear more convenient to group them into a Province?

(c) Will the claims of the Ogbarus be borne in mind when the political administration of Nigeria is adjusted in the light of past experience?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a), (b) and (c) I am informed that there are very different views in the different areas and that many people in the areas in question would be strongly opposed to any change of the kind suggested in the question. I am also informed that the administrative difficulties of creating a New Province as suggested would be unsurmountable.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

363. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) What is the significance of Idiong Society among the Ibibio-speaking peoples?

(b) Why was that Society illegalized, a few years back?

(c) Does the ban hold good, today?

(d) Are the circumstances which necessitated such illegalization still existent?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:

(a) and (b) The Honourable Member is referred to the speech made by the Resident, Calabar Province, in the Eastern House of Assembly on the 20th December, 1947 (at pages 128-130 of the Printed Debates of the Eastern House of Assembly), and to the statement made by the Secretary, Eastern Provinces, to the Eastern House of Assembly on the same date and reported at page 132 of the Printed Debates.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As there has been no murder reported since March 31st, 1948, the possibility of lifting the ban is now under consideration.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

367. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) Is it the intention of Government to remove the headquarters of the Ata of Idah to a distant and remote spot known as Atenegoma?

(b) Why?

(c) Has this measure received popular approbation especially on the part of the Igalla-speaking people?

(d) Is the Ata in favour of the change?

(e) If (c) and (d) are in the negative, why should Government insist upon this proposed change.

(f) Is Government cognisant of the fact that Idah is of historic and traditional importance to the average Igalla person?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

(a) No, Sir, it is not now the intention of Government to move the Headquarters of Igala Division from Idah to Ataneguma.

(b), (c), (d) and (e) Do not therefore arise.

(f) Yes, Sir.

Supplementary Question to No. 367 (a) by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

Sir, 367 (a). Was it the intention of Government to remove the headquarters of the Ata of Idah to a distant and remote spot known as Atenegoma?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

A scheme was drawn up and it was agreed that the move referred to should take place, but they changed their minds.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

377. To ask the Honourable the Development Secretary:—

What is the share of Owerri Division in the ten-year development plan and how will it affect the Division?

Answer—

The Hon. the Development Secretary:

The Honourable Member will appreciate that the Ten-Year Plan of Development was not framed on a divisional basis, but with a view to the needs of the country as a whole. Although, therefore, it is possible to list the projects undertaken, or to be undertaken, in any particular administrative division, Government would deprecate any suggestion that the benefits derived from the Development Plan can be viewed and properly assessed from such a narrow angle.

The following is a list of the major works undertaken or to be undertaken in the Owerri Division under the Development Plan within the next three or four years, with the estimated cost where the figures are available:—

Medical and Health.

	£
1. Maternity Extension to Owerri Hospital	6,300
2. Staff Quarters, Owerri Hospital	1,700

Education.

	£
3. Teachers' Training Centre, Owerri	60,000
4. Grant to Roman Catholic Mission Secondary School, Owerri	20,000

Road Communications

5. Onitsha-Owerri-Aba Trunk Road Tarring.
6. Oguta-Ahoada feeder road. Completed.

Rural Water Supplies.

7. Over one hundred wells have been rehabilitated, and it is hoped to start deep well boring in the Northern part of the Division in about a year's time.

Telecommunications.

8. Aba-Owerri Trunk. Work in hand.
9. Owerri-Orlu Trunk and Telegraph. Work in hand.

In addition to the above programme of major works, the Division may benefit, if applications are made, under the Village Reconstruction Scheme which was recently launched, and from grants and loans from the new Eastern Regional Development Board which will shortly be set up.

It will also benefit from the general economic Development which is being fostered under the Development Plan; for example, it must soon share in the benefits to be derived from the textile centre which is being built at Aba, and, on a long term basis, from the experiments being carried out at the Oil Palm Research Station.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

379. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) What is the intake of taxation derivable from Owerri Division as at December, 1948.

(b) Of the revenue derived therefrom, how much was allotted into the coffers of the Native Authorities for the improvement of the Division?

(c) What is the break-down of such expenditure?

(d) Is any balance left from this allocation?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:

(a) The total assessment of tax due under the Direct Taxation Ordinance, 1940, from the Owerri Division for the current financial year is £34,949, of which £34,402 had been collected up to 31st December, 1948.

(b) £31,797; being the balance of collections after retention for the credit of revenue declared regional of the sum of £2,605 made up of the capitation payments fixed by the Schedule to the Direct Taxation Ordinance, 1940, as amended by the Direct Taxation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1948.

(c) and (d) Revenue accruing to the Native Authorities, collected under the authority of the Direct Taxation Ordinance, is not hypothecated to specific projects but is included in the general revenues of the Native Authorities. It is not therefore possible to give the Honourable Member the information which he seeks.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

380. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

Why should Port Harcourt, a Diobu land which is Ibo-speaking be sliced away and made the headquarters of the newly formed Rivers Province?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:

The Honourable Member's meaning is obscure. Port Harcourt has not been "sliced away". The Rivers Province was created from and comprises the Ahoada, Degema, Brass and Ogoni Administrative Divisions. The town of Port Harcourt lies within the Ahoada Division (which is predominantly Ibo), and was the natural choice for the headquarters of the new Rivers Province.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

381. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

Will Government consider the desirability of transforming Owerri into a first class township and grant full franchise to the rate-payers there?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:

It is unlikely that the administration of Owerri Town will develop on the lines of a separate Municipality. It is more probable that it will form a part of a major Local Government unit. As the Honourable Member is aware, the proposals for Local Government reform in the Eastern Provinces are now being discussed. There is, however, no reason why, in due course, the citizens of Owerri Town should not enjoy full franchise.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

386. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What are the facts relating to the outbreak of riots which resulted in the destruction of over two hundred native houses in the Billiri-Tangale-Waja district of Gombe Division, in January, 1948?

(b) Is it a fact that the people of Billiri-Tangale-Waja were warned by some Christian missionaries living among them that certain areas in Billiri hills which had been turned by the Government into forest reserves contained some precious minerals for which certain mining companies had already agreed to prospect?

(c) If the reply to (b) is in the negative, will Government give assurance that announcements of sudden discovery of minerals in Tangale-Waja district will not be forthcoming?

(d) What is the total expenditure incurred by the Government in carrying out mass transfers of the people of Tangale-Waja district from the hill villages to the plains below; and what are the real causes behind these mass transfers?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

(a) At a beer party to celebrate the marriage of a Tula Wange man and a Tula Yiri woman a fight started between a Wange and a Yiri man over a trivial matter. This led on the same day to an attack by villagers of Wange on the small village of Yiri nearby. (Thirty-nine Wange men were fined or imprisoned and the people of Wange replaced in kind property stolen or destroyed and rebuilt all damaged buildings). There was no political significance in this incident.

(b) Government has no reason to believe that there is any truth in the allegation that any such warning was given by Christian Missionaries, nor is there any substance in the implications underlying the question. No mining or prospecting operations are being carried out in the area. No Forest Reserves have yet been constituted although consideration is being given to this matter. Forest Reserves are constituted by Native Authorities.

(c) Though there are at present no indications of the presence of valuable minerals in the Tangale-Waja Area, it is not possible for Government to give an assurance that minerals will never at any future time be discovered.

(d) It is presumed that the Honourable Member is referring to the Billiri Resettlement Scheme. No expenditure has been incurred by Government on this scheme. The movement of the population from the hills to the plains was started by the people themselves and was entirely voluntary; it was due to the following causes: (a) overcrowding, (b) insanitary conditions, (c) inconvenient distance from farms, and (d) serious soil erosion.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

387. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What are the results of the secret election campaigns for the emirship of the Katagum Division, Bauchi Province, conducted by the Resident of Bauchi, in the months of March, April and May, 1947?

(b) Why were the results not announced before or after the appointment of the present Emir of Katagum?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

(a) There was no election campaign secret or otherwise conducted by the Resident, Bauchi Province, in connection with the appointment of the present Emir of Katagum.

(b) Does not arise.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

388. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) How many tons of guinea-corn and millet were bought by the Army and/or the United Africa Company, Limited, through the Native Authorities in the Northern Provinces in the years, 1943-47, year by year, and Province by Province?

(b) At what prices per ton were the two commodities bought direct from the farmers by the agents of the Native Authorities in the Provinces, year by year, and Province by Province?

(c) What were then the officially controlled prices per measure, bag and ton, of the two commodities, in the *soi-disant* native markets in each Province in the corresponding period, year by year, and Province by Province?

(d) Is it a fact that when the prices, per measure and per bag of guinea-corn were six-pence and two and two pounds ten shillings, respectively, in certain areas in the North the farmers were compelled by their District Heads to sell their guinea-corn to agents of the United Africa Company, Limited, at the rates of one penny per measure and seven shillings and six-pence per bag of one hundred measures?

(e) How many and which Native Authority Treasuries used public revenue to purchase quantities of guinea-corn, millet and rice from farmers in villages at very lower rates and to sell in the large towns at prohibitive rates in the years, 1942-45; who were the people employed in those years by the Native Authorities as their buying and selling agents?

(f) Is it a fact that certain Native Authority Treasuries in the North advanced money to certain merchants in the years, 1946 and 1947 to buy guinea-corn and millet from farmers in the villages, at the rate of seven-tenths of a penny per measure in some villages, and nine-tenths in other villages, and which the merchants sold at the United Africa Company, Limited, and/or the Native Authority schools and prisons at the rate of three-pence per measure?

(g) If the allegation in (f) is not correct, what then are the true facts?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

(a) The tonnage and price per ton of grain (guinea corn and millet) purchased by the Government Supply Organisation are given in the following schedule. These purchases were made principally through the medium of the United Africa Company and Messrs John Holt and Native Administration services were mainly employed in the matter of propaganda to ensure adequate supplies reaching the buying agents. Records of quantities and prices for 1946-47 are not available.

Province	1943-44			1944-45			1945-46					
	Purchase	Price		Purchase	Price		Purchase	Price				
		£	s	d		£	s	d		£	s	d
Adamawa	2,400	3	15	0	1,665	4	0	0	452	5	0	0
Bauchi	2,700	3	10	0	2,101	4	0	0	1,420	5	5	0
Benue	550	3	10	0	750	4	13	4	480	5	6	8
Bornu	5,000	3	5	0	1,897	3	5	0	1,178	4	10	0
Ilorin	350	3	10	0	10,650	4	10	0	412	5	6	8
Kabba	350	3	10	0	250	4	13	0	46	5	6	8
Kano	—	5	10	0	1,000	4	13	0	960	5	6	8
Katsina	4,000	4	10	0	761	5	0	0	1,898	5	10	0
Niger	2,900	4	10	0	—	4	13	4	1,931	5	6	8
Plateau	—	4	5	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sokoto	2,500	5	0	0	2,115	5	0	0	1,100	5	10	0
Zaria	2,900	5	0	0	3,320	5	0	0	1,679	5	10	0

(b) See (a) above.

(c) Any such price-fixing would have been done locally and the information is not therefore available.

(d) No such cases have been reported.

(e) None, Sir.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) The procedure was that Native Authorities wishing to buy grain for Schools and Prisons did so in the open market at current prices.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

389. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) How many Emirs and District Heads, and salaried Village Heads were deposed in the years, 1945-48, with and without the Chief Commissioner's personal approval, in the Northern Provinces, and what were the nature of the offences for which they were so punished?

(b) What are the true facts relating to the deposition of the following Chiefs in particular:—

(i) Sarkin Katagum Abdulkadiri?

(ii) Bunun Bauchi Gidado?

(iii) Barayan Bauchi Yunusa?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

(a) No Emir was deposed during the years 1945-48. The power to remove District Heads and Village Heads from office is vested in Native Authorities. There are no records available which show the number of those office-holders who have been dismissed.

(b) (i) Abdulkadiri, ex-Emir of Katagum, was not deposed. He resigned with effect from the 31st of January, 1947.

(ii) Bunun Bauchi Gidado was dismissed by the Native Authority from his office as District Head in 1946 for inefficiency over a period of many years.

(iii) Barayan Bauchi Yunusa was not a chief: he was a member of the Emir's Advisory Council and head of the Native Administration central office. He was dismissed by the Native Authority in 1945 for insubordination and unsatisfactory conduct throughout his five year tenure of office.

Supplementary Question to No. 389 (b) by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe).

Sir, 389 (b). With reference to the alleged resignation of Sarkin Katagum Abdulkiri, what instituted the resignation of the Emir of Katagum?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

The decision was taken by the Emir, Sir, by the Emir himself.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

Are you aware that some time in 1946, in an interview with the Emir, the facts given to me do not seem to coincide with the statement that it was a free resignation?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

No, Sir, I was not aware of that.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

Will you be disposed to discuss the matter with me later, so that I can place before you certain facts at my disposal?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

I am always prepared to receive information, Sir, but this is a closed affair. The Emir resigned.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. and Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.) :

391. To ask the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony :—

(a) If he is aware that burglars and night marauders are on the increase in Ikeja district?

(b) That they are causing such menace to the tax-payers of the district that many in different parts are dismantling their houses seeking refuge away from their farmsteads or villages?

(c) Will the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony consider the advisability of arranging to protect thousands of souls under his care in Ikeja district by Police Night Patrols in motor vehicles fitted with telephones?

Answer—

The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony :

(a) Police statistics show that for the period 1st July to 31st December, 1948, there was a decrease of sixteen in the number of cases of burglary reported over the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) It is true that in the region of the Colony-Abeokuta boundary some isolated farm hamlets have been evacuated by their inhabitants who have withdrawn to the larger villages for greater safety.

(c) As burglars are believed to be most active in villages remote from the main roads motor vehicles would be of little use. The Assistant Superintendent of Police is, however, making arrangements for protection of such areas by means of cyclist patrols, while as soon as circumstances permit further protection will be offered by the establishment of a Police Post at Agege.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. and Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

393. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many detained prisoners were awaiting trial in His Majesty's Prisons throughout Nigeria for more than three months?

(b) When tried and convicted were the time spent as His Majesty's guests in Prisons deducted from the term of punishment awarded?

(c) If he would give the number, nationality and rank of the Police Constables convicted for felonious crime during the year 1948?

(d) How many European, Lebanese, or foreigners to Africa were convicted and committed to Prisons in Nigeria during the past three years and where were their terms of imprisonment served?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) In 1948, seventy-eight persons were in custody having awaited trial for more than three months. All the figures for the current year are not available.

(b) The time spent in prison by a convicted person while he was awaiting trial is not deducted automatically, but before passing sentence the trial officer takes this factor into consideration.

(c) The information asked for is given below :

<i>Tribe</i>	<i>S/Major</i>	<i>Cpl.</i>	<i>L/Cpl.</i>	<i>P.C.</i>	<i>Recruit</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ibo	1	1	1	9	1	13
Yoruba	1	—	1	2	—	4
Hausa	—	—	—	2	1	3
Cameroonian	—	—	1	1	—	2
Urhobo	—	—	—	1	—	1
Efik	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total	2	1	3	16	2	24

(d) The figures are as follows:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Prison</i>	<i>European</i>	<i>Lebanese</i>	<i>Other non-Nigerians</i>
1946	Lagos	15	—	—
	Kaduna	—	10	—
1947	Lagos	28	—	—
	Port Harcourt	2	—	—
1948	Lagos	7	2	—
	Kaduna	—	6	—

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

395. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

(a) If King's College and other Secondary Schools in Nigeria are to be feeders of Ibadan University?

(b) Is it a fact according to publication in Nigerian Papers that some boys were dismissed from the King's College last year for bad behaviour?

(c) If the reply is in the affirmative what was the number of the boys dismissed and for what cause or causes, to what class or standard of the College did they belong?

(d) Were they day pupils or boarders?

(e) In the opinion of the Honourable the Director of Education have the boys shown any sign of regret and apologised for their bad behaviour and is he going to consider giving them another chance in the College?

(f) How many times have such major incidents occurred in the College within the last ten years?

(g) Has the Government or the Honourable the Director of Education scrutinised the steps taken by the Acting Principal of the School and is he prepared to place on record vote of confidence in him since his acting appointment?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education :

(a) I certainly hope that some of the pupils of King's College will gain admittance to the University College at Ibadan.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Twenty-seven. The causes are outlined in the last part of the reply which has been given to Question No. 181. The pupils concerned belonged to Classes V and VI.

(d) Boarders.

(e) I understand that a number of those concerned have expressed contrition for their conduct. It is not intended, however, to readmit them to the College.

(f) Twice.

(g) Yes, Sir. I have been in close consultation with the Acting Principal before, during and after the incident and am fully prepared to place on record my confidence in him.

The Third Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. G. I. Obaseki) :

400. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) What is the total number of Senior Service Staff employed in the Nigerian Secretariat giving separate figures for those in each of the Offices of the Secretaries (*i.e.*, Administrative, Development and Financial) and their total annual Personal Emoluments?

(b) What is the total number of Junior Service Staff employed in the Nigerian Secretariat giving separate figures for those in each of the Offices of the Under-Secretaries (*i.e.*, Administrative, Development and Financial) and their total annual Personal Emoluments?

(c) What is the annual figure for (a) and (b) above for the last financial years?

The Third Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. G. I. Obaseki) :

401. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

What is the total number of Senior and the total number of Junior Services Staffs employed in the Department of the Civil Service Commissioner and their respective total Annual Personal Emoluments?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

No, Sir. It is the invariable practice for Native Authorities to be consulted before the appointment of Native Court Members.

The Emir of Katsina (Alhaji the Hon. Usuman Nagogo, C.B.E.):

429. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Whether Government is aware that the Sudan Interior Mission authorities used to take away children of minor age, without the consent or knowledge of their parents, to a totally different area and thus render the children unable to identify their parents later in life?

(b) If so, is this being practised with the consent of the Government?

(c) If not, will Government intervene and stop it, as it is being done in utter disregard of regulations governing the establishment of Missions in the Northern Provinces?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) If the Honourable Member will give me the facts upon which his suggestion is based, appropriate action will be taken by Government.

The Emir of Katsina (Alhaji the Hon. Usuman Nagogo, C.B.E.):

430. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Whether the Government would consider the advisability of establishing a Forestry School in the North for the Northern Region, in view of the importance of Forestry work which would require technical staff?

(b) If not, why not?

(c) If so, will Government lower the entrance qualifications to Middle IV as opposed to Middle VI demanded by the Ibadan School?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a), (b) and (c) I have referred these proposals to the Chief Conservator of Forests who considers that, in view of the comparatively small number of Technical Assistants to be trained annually, the establishment of a second Forest School could not be justified at present. He is however prepared to give special consideration to Northern candidates for the Ibadan School who have not obtained the educational qualification normally required.

The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. T. A. Odotola, O.B.E.):

439. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

452. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) For the academic qualifications of Foremen Electricians?

Mar. 30, 1949]

Council Debates

649

(a) What is the total area of Government Forest Reserve in the country and in what locality?

(b) What percentage of this area in each Province has been given out on licence as concessions?

(c) How much of this percentage is held by Africans and how much by non-Africans.

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) The total area of Government Forest Reserves is 5,319 square miles, situated as follows:—

Northern Provinces	299
Eastern Provinces	2,821
Western Provinces	2,190
Colony	9
(b) Northern Provinces	Nil
Eastern Provinces	Nil
Colony	Nil

Western Provinces:—

(i) Abeokuta	3%
(ii) Oyo	Nil
(iii) Ijebu Ode	36.7%
(iv) Ondo	51.9%
(v) Benin	Nil
(vi) Warri	Nil

(c) The licences which were all granted several years ago are held by non-Africans except for about 16 per cent of the licences in the Ondo Province. New applications by Nigerians are at present being considered.

Supplementary Question to No. 439 by the Second Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa).

Has Government any policy regarding the Northern Provinces?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

I am afraid, Sir, I shall have to ask for notice of that question, although I think it is clear, is it not, from the written answer under (a) and (b). I think that the reply the Honourable Member wishes is provided.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

442. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many Development Officers are now employed in the Posts and Telegraphs Department, and what are they developing therein?

(b) What are their academic qualifications?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) Two. One officer is employed on Accountancy duties while the other, now on leave, was employed on engineering duties. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to Appendix XX to the

Bachelor of Arts, one is a Bachelor of Science (Engineering), and fourteen others have academic qualifications of matriculation standard or higher. The remaining seven have no purely academic qualifications.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

457. To ask the Honourable the Director of Public Works:—

(a) How many African Contractors have been given contract work under the Development Scheme, and what is the total cost of such work?

(b) To give the comparative figures for European contractors and the amount of such work?

(c) Is it true that British contractors are given preferential treatment to the exclusion of non-British Nationals who had been in Nigeria some ten years ago?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:

(a) 137 African Contractors have been given contracts by the Public Works Department under the Development Scheme to a total value of £47,590. A very large number of minor contracts, under £50 value, have been placed for the supply of materials, but it is not possible to give the actual number and aggregate value.

(b) Three European Contractors have been given contracts totalling £102,125.

(c) No, Sir. Contracts are awarded on the basis of the ability of the Contractor to carry out the work and on the price tendered.

The information furnished in parts (a) and (b) of this reply does not, of course, refer to contracts which may have been placed by other Departments under the Development Plan.

MOTIONS

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Your Excellency, on our agenda for today we have a number of motions and one Bill. I suggest, Sir, that it may be convenient to the Council if we take the Bill first, although that is not the usual order. I therefore seek Your Excellency's permission to vary the Order of the Day for that purpose.

His Excellency:

The proposal is that we alter the sequence of the Order of the Day by proceeding now to the one Bill thereon. Will those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

Order of the Day varied.

BILLS

(Second Reading)

THE PERIODICALS AND PUBLICATIONS ORDINANCE

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

Your Excellency, I beg to move the second reading of a Bill entitled:—

"An Ordinance to provide for the registration and making known of the names and proprietors of periodicals and for the preservation of copies of books printed in Nigeria and for the registration thereof."

maintaining and operating Railway wireless communications have not yet been finally decided.

If the posts mentioned are created the staff appointed to them will require to possess qualifications similar to those shown at paragraphs 112 and 118 in N.S.S. pamphlet No. 12.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

Your Excellency, I beg to second the second reading.

The Second Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. T. A. Odotola, O.B.E.):

Your Excellency, I beg to move that this Bill, the second reading of which has just been moved by my Honourable friend the Second Lagos Member, be read this day six months. The main object as far as I can see it is to make it easier for intending newspaper publishers in the future to embark on such ventures with greater facility than is at present the case. Well, Sir, my view on the newspapers of this country, or at least a section of them as they are generally conducted, is I think already well known. If we are to go by present day standards instead of relaxing we should rather tighten up the laws on newspapers until owners and editors have come to appreciate more fully the great responsibility which publishing a newspaper entails.

The author of the Bill quoted the United Kingdom, Gold Coast and Sierra Leone, where the minimum facility is required of anyone wishing to establish a newspaper. He omitted, however, to quote Uganda where the Government only recently felt compelled to tighten up the newspaper laws. I am not sure, Sir, whether the conditions in Uganda could possibly be worse than what they are today in Nigeria. On the subject of freedom of the press, my objection is that only those are entitled to freedom who are capable of using it with a good sense and restraint. I ask in this House—all the Members of which I believe have experience of local newspapers—whether it is their opinion that those in charge of them have shown themselves fit to be left to carry on without restriction of any kind? In my opinion they have not. I am sure that that also is the opinion of the majority of the Members of this House. It is up to the author of this Bill to convince this House, by using his influence to improve the standard and tone of the local press, so that Members will, in future feel no hesitation in supporting his Bill. Now, Sir, this Bill has come before the House at the wrong time, and I suggest that the second reading should be opposed, and I move that it be read the second time this day six months.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

Your Excellency, I rise to support the last speaker about the deferment of the second reading of this Bill. From what Your Excellency said at the opening of this Council Meeting, at the last page of Your Excellency's speech you said, Sir, I am quoting now:—

“ . . . and when I see daily in sections of the Press evidence of hatred and envy and malice, I am at times filled with depression, and with sorrow for the country. A people cannot be trained for self-government on a diet of abuse

and malicious lies, not directed solely against the Government—that is perhaps not so bad—but directed against any Nigerian who happens to be of different party or a different opinion.”

From that, Sir, one could easily see that our Press in Nigeria today has got to prove itself worthy of the responsibility of being given a free hand in the affairs of the country. The Bill as it is seeks to eliminate what has been enacted before that before a newspaper is established or published there should be two bondsmen or in the alternative a deposit of a certain sum of money, so that in the case of any successful action instituted by anybody or any institution at any time against any Press or pressmen, the judgment-creditors shall be in a sure position to reap the benefit of such judgment. But what would happen if we just allowed anybody to establish any newspaper work without anything like a guarantee of this nature to the general public? I say, Sir, the Government would not be doing what it is expected to do in the best interests of the general public. If we have the interests of the general public at heart, which I think we do, such interests of the public in general should pervade all our thoughts and guide all our actions, and if that were so, I boldly say, Sir, that this Bill is only brought up in the interests of newspaper men and not in the interests of the country as a whole, and as such I entirely agree with the last speaker that it be deferred six months from this day.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

May we take it that the Honourable Member has seconded the amendment proposed?

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin) :

Yes, Sir, I second the opposition.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama) :

Your Excellency, in rising to oppose the amendment seconded, I would like to point out that if the arguments of my Honourable Friend the Third Member for the Western Provinces are followed to a logical conclusion, a law should be made to suppress newspapers; because, if he complains that the newspapers of today are feeding people on a diet of lies, then surely the only answer is to stop them publishing at all; the answer is not to prevent further newspapers, because nobody can tell what temper future newspapers might have—they might be very good or very bad—but that knowledge lies in the future. The only objection I see at present is the objection that there is no provision for bonds to be entered into or for a surety. Well, surely that is an objection which can be well met by an amending clause inserted in the Bill. If my friends consider that some restriction should be placed on the publication of this Bill, then surely they can easily introduce a clause now to retain the clause in the old ordinance. They don't say; I am sure, that there is nothing worthy of attention or

commendation in the Bill as it now stands. They ask that the Bill be deferred six months. But I think that our aim should be primarily to examine the Bill in the committee stage and remove what we think obnoxious and keep what we think is commendable. To take the Bill six months from now is virtually killing the Bill. Therefore, Sir, I sincerely urge the Members to allow this Bill to go into Committee to be debated clause by clause, and then they have the power to do whatever they like.

The Second Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa):

Your Excellency, it is true, Sir, as the mover of the Bill said, that no Member was found to support the Bill, either in the Northern House of Assembly or in the House of Chiefs. This does not mean, Sir, a lack of interest in matters of this kind. What I would like to say is that people are now ignorant of many Ordinances which they are constantly being called upon to amend or repeal. And secondly, Sir, to be frank, events in this country have made us to become very suspicious of certain things which certain people want introduced into the country. I personally see no harm in the principle of the Bill, but I shall certainly oppose any idea of removing the bonds which exist in the other Ordinance. Sir, while everybody agrees in freedom of speech in any democracy, I will refuse, Sir, freedom of speech in any country where the people have not reached a sufficiently high standard of education to distinguish, when they read the newspapers, between right and wrong, and more especially when a few literates amongst the community adopt, I will say, the method of using the freedom of speech as a form of political propaganda or as a form of weapon against anyone in the community who holds contrary views. The stage we have reached in Nigeria today, Sir, cannot be compared with countries like America or England or other places which are now highly advanced. I don't think that we have reached the stage in this country when our local press should have unlimited freedom of speech. Our aim, of course, is freedom of speech, but it is simply that we have not reached that stage. There are many people in this country who are inclined to believe every written word they see in a newspaper. And this is really very harmful in a country where the press—or certain sections of the press—have made it their habit to abuse everybody—to abuse authority and to abuse individuals. And Sir, I am afraid to say—this is just my personal opinion because we did not debate this Bill at all in Northern Nigeria—in my personal opinion, Sir, I think I will advise the Honourable the Second Lagos Member to think again of this Bill, and not to remove the clause or clauses in the old Ordinance which still require the bonds and also, Sir, on the powers on your part—that is on Government's part—I would like to see certain controls imposed on the local press in this country, because surely what those few people are writing everybody knows, that much of it is nonsense, and I always ask, Sir, why will those people

be left free to be writing all these things? Why are they allowed to do so? I say, Sir, we are making a mistake by comparing our country with, say, England. We are making a great mistake and as far I can see, Sir, my suggestion is that the Honourable Member who brought this Bill will be advised, Sir, to go and consult the Attorney-General again before the Bill makes a second appearance in the House.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Sir, if I might intervene on a point of order. I think we should dispose of the amendment before we come back to consider the second reading of the Bill.

His Excellency:

In the speech just made by the Honourable Member, am I correct in interpreting him as supporting the amendment, or does he wish to move a further amendment?

The Second Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa):

I am supporting the amendment, Sir.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

I wish to say one word on the amendment if no other Honourable Member wishes to speak upon it. The Government would prefer that we should proceed to deal with the Bill and consider it today and come to our conclusion. But, Sir, there is one point which I have previously made plain in this Council, and I think it is well understood in this Council, and has indeed been well received by the Council. I have previously on several occasions made it plain that we on the Government side believe that it should be for the Unofficial Members of this Council to decide whether any Private Member's Bill should be brought here for debate or not. Honourable Members will remember that a year ago at Kaduna we explained that procedure and we have followed it since. I also made it plain that if the Unofficial Members wished a Bill to be considered in this Council, the Government would then certainly make its own view on the Bill and its own position absolutely clear. On the amendment which has now been made—which suggests that we should postpone consideration of the Bill for six months—I therefore think that we Official Members—in accordance with the previous decision—should not vote. If the amendment is defeated and we continue with the discussion on the second reading of the Bill, we shall make Government's view on the Bill itself perfectly plain.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

Your Excellency, I don't know if I am correct in asking for a division at this stage, but I would like to suggest same, if the Honourable the Chief Secretary does not mean to make the stand of the Government clear before the amendment is put to the House, because if this amendment is put to the House and it is carried then that is the end of the Bill. I would rather have the stand of the

Government made clear to every Honourable Member of this House, then I should be given an opportunity to speak and then the amendment would be put to the House. If the amendment is carried, well, that is the end of the Bill, and if the amendment is not carried then we might consider the statement made by the Honourable the Chief Secretary. In other words, as the mover of the second reading of the Bill, I would rather for the Honourable the Chief Secretary to state the position of the Government and to make it clear, and I should be enabled to reply, and it might not be necessary after my reply for the amendment to be debated.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

I think, Sir, I must adhere to what I have said. We are at the moment discussing an amendment to the effect that the Bill should be considered in six months' time. I believe, Sir, that even if we wished to do so, we should be out of order in discussing the merits of the Bill on that amendment. If the House defeats the amendment most certainly, Sir, the Government will make its position with regard to the Bill perfectly clear. But I do not think that I should, or indeed can, discuss the merits of the Bill while we are debating the amendment.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

I do not want to waste the time of the House, but I only want an assurance that if the amendment is carried the Government will state its policy and I will be given an opportunity to reply. Surely, I don't think that there is any reason why the Government should not state its policy. Its policy should be known. It should be in favour or against the Bill and I do not think that that should prejudice the minds of Honourable Members.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

It is a point of order and procedure, Sir, and I am afraid that the Honourable Member cannot sustain his position. The Government, as I have said, would prefer that we should have an opportunity to state our views on the Bill, and we have come fully prepared to do so. But if Honourable Members of this House pass an amendment of the kind which has been proposed today, however much we may wish to state our position I am afraid that we are precluded from doing so.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

I know, Sir, and that is why I have insisted that it should be done, but if I am not in order, that is, if I am not allowed to say anything, since the Government is not prepared to say anything, at this stage, until after the amendment, then it is obvious that if the amendment is carried the Bill will be lost. May I be allowed at this stage to make a reply to the points raised before the amendment is put to the House?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

If the Honourable Member speaks to the amendment will that not give him an opportunity of saying what he wishes?

His Excellency:

An amendment was proposed and seconded. We are now speaking to the amendment, and if the Honourable Member agrees to speak to the amendment before I put it to the vote, that will be in order.

The Second Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. T. A. Odotola, O.B.E.):

Your Excellency, I am sorry to interrupt, but it appears that some of the members of this House misunderstood me. When I said that this Bill should be read this day six months, it meant that it should be rejected and not to defer it for six months.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

I did not know that that was the Honourable Member's intention, and if I may I would offer him a word of advice. He is free, of course, to take it or not. If his view, which he has now explained, is that the Bill should be defeated, then I would strongly recommend to him that he withdraws his amendment and that we proceed to vote on the second reading of the Bill. Then there would be no doubt in anyone's mind as to where we stand, and the Government would be able to make its position clear, which at the moment we are precluded from doing. I therefore suggest to him that we should vote on the second reading of the Bill and not on the amendment.

The Second Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. T. A. Odotola, O.B.E.):

I take it that the amendment has already been accepted by the Honourable Members.

His Excellency:

It has been proposed and seconded but it could be withdrawn by leave of the House.

The Second Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. T. A. Odotola, O.B.E.):

I am not withdrawing the amendment.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

I think Government will have to oppose the amendment.

The Second Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. T. A. Odotola, O.B.E.):

What I mean is that since my point has been understood by majority of the Members of this House to mean that the Bill be deferred for six months, I agree to the amendment.

His Excellency:

I don't understand.

The Second Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. T. A. Odotola, O.B.E.):

That the second reading of the Bill be deferred six months this day, that is my amendment.

His Excellency:

Your intention is that the second reading should be deferred for six months and that it should then be re-considered?

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

Your Excellency, it is that that I supported.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

On a point of order, Sir, is the Honourable Member entitled to speak a second time?

His Excellency:

I have been a little lenient with several Honourable Members.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

On a point of order, Sir, I will if I may summarise the position in which we find ourselves. The Honourable the Second Member for the Western Provinces has proposed that the Bill should be postponed for six months, and he has made it clear that he does so because he wishes to defeat the Bill. I said previously that I considered that the Government should not vote on such a proposal. Since then I have had to explain that it is not possible for Government's position on the Bill itself to be explained in discussion of the amendment. The Honourable the Second Member for the Western Provinces can achieve exactly the same result that he wishes to achieve by voting on the second reading. If he does so the issue will be absolutely clear and there will not be any doubt in anyone's mind. If, however, he wishes to proceed to a vote on his amendment, I now consider that the Government should vote against the amendment, for one reason only, and that is to enable us to have an opportunity to state our views on the Bill. If he wishes his amendment to go to the vote I am afraid that the Government members will therefore have to oppose it.

The Second Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. T. A. Odotola, O.B.E.):

Your Excellency, I wish it to go.

His Excellency:

The amendment to go to the vote?

The Second Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. T. A. Odotola, O.B.E.):

Yes, Sir. If I may Sir, I would ask for Your Excellency's indulgence that each member may be allowed to vote according to the state of his conscience.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

Sir, I would be opposed to that, because it is necessary that the views of the Government on this bill should be made clear. If that is the case, there is no need to ask officials of Government to vote

according to their conscience. The Chief Secretary has made it clear that this is an opportunity for Government to state its view.

His Excellency :

The Chief Secretary has made known the position of Government on the amendment. The original motion was that the bill be read a second time. Since then there has been an amendment duly proposed and seconded that the bill be read six months from today. I will put the amendment. That is, those voting in favour of the amendment proposed by the Second Member for the Western Provinces that the bill be deferred for six months, those in favour will say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The Noes have it.

The Second Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.):

I press for a division, Sir.

Council in Division.

His Excellency :

I wonder if I could interrupt and ask the views of the Honourable the Attorney-General. On a previous occasion I followed House of Commons procedure and on the occasion of an amendment of this sort I put the question that the word "Now" stand part of the Bill. I think there was a certain amount of misunderstanding about it, so on this occasion I merely put the amendment proposed by the Honourable the Second Member for the Western Provinces, which is that the Bill be deferred. Those who want to follow that line should say "Aye". They will be voting in favour of the amendment. It seemed to me—I may be quite wrong—that there is a possibility of a misunderstanding.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

The position is, Sir, that those members who want the motion to be rejected and the Bill deferred for six months will say "Aye" to the motion. Those who want the second reading to proceed will say "No" to the motion.

His Excellency :

I think we should start again.

Council in Division.

<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>
14	23
The Hon. the Third Lagos Member.	The Hon. the Third Member for the Western Provinces,
The Hon. the First Nominated Member.	The Hon. the Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces.
The Hon. the Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces.	The Hon. the Second Lagos Member.
The Hon. the Third Member for the Northern Provinces.	The Hon. the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces.
The Hon. the Second Member for the Northern Provinces.	The Hon. the Third Member for the Eastern Provinces.
The Hon. the First Member for the Northern Provinces	The Hon. the Second Member for the Eastern Provinces.

For

The Hon. the Emir of Abuja.
 The Hon. the Attah of Igbirra.
 The Hon. the Oni of Ife.
 The Hon. the Emir of Katsina.
 The Hon. the Emir of Gwandu.
 The Hon. the Second Member for
 the Western Provinces.
 The Hon. the First Member for
 the Western Provinces.
 The Hon. the Member for the
 Colony.

Against

The Hon. the First Member for
 Eastern Provinces.
 The Hon. the Oba of Benin.
 The Hon. the Resident, Ogoja
 Province.
 The Hon. the Senior Resident,
 Kano Province.
 The Hon. the Acting Commis-
 sioner of the Colony.
 The Hon. the Commissioner of
 Labour.
 The Hon. the Director of Public
 Works.
 The Hon. the Director of
 Agriculture.
 The Hon. the Director of
 Education.
 The Hon. the Development
 Secretary.
 The Hon. the Director of Medical
 Services.
 The Hon. the Financial Secretary.
 The Hon. the Attorney-General.
 His Honour the Chief Commis-
 sioner, Eastern Provinces.
 His Honour the Chief Commis-
 sioner, Northern Provinces.
 His Honour the Chief Commis-
 sioner, Western Provinces.
 The Hon. the Chief Secretary
 to the Government.

The Honourable the First Lagos Member abstained from voting.

His Excellency :

The voting is Ayes 14, Noes 23, with one abstention. The Noes have it, the amendment is lost. We will resume the debate on the Bill.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Your Excellency, we are now speaking to the second reading of this Bill. I have examined this Bill, Sir, carefully and there are many things in it which are excellent. There are many points in it which are good and as a maiden effort in drafting I congratulate the Honourable the Second Lagos Member. There is, however, one omission, Sir, and that is that the provision for bonds and sureties contained in our existing law are absent. Now these bonds, Sir, as Honourable Members have heard already, are there in our existing law for the protection of the citizen, to enable him, in some small way at least, to be certain of his damages if he succeeds in getting judgment against a newspaper. It is, Sir, the duty of this Government to protect in this way the citizens of this country. I do not think, Sir, that the time has come here when we may with safety dispense with the provision of security bonds and sureties. When the Honourable Member spoke on the first reading of this Bill, he said, I think, Sir, that he had never heard a case where the bond had to be used. I can tell him of one. There was a case in the Northern Provinces, Sir, relating to a publication then called the Northern Publishing Press, and it may be a familiar

reference to some of the statements made by Honourable Members here this morning at the stage when an amendment was proposed. I do not know if I am in order, Sir, to make reference to the statements made.

His Excellency :

I think, strictly, I should take exception to that, but I will try not to pull up the Honourable Member too much.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

The two speakers who have opposed the second reading of this Bill, have made the point quite clear, that the Bill is timely and would be welcome, and in one instance the Honourable the official spokesman said that many things in the Bill are excellent and some are good, and he was good enough to extend congratulations to the Sponsor of the Bill, and I am grateful to him for it. But the point which I gather from the arguments of the two previous speakers is the question of bonds and recognizances. I made it clear here when I moved the first reading of this Bill, that the suggestions made to me by the Government in respect of this Bill were acceptable to me, with the exception of this bond requirement, because I believe that freedom from that requirement should be a basic human right in this country and to deny it would be to stultify the Bill. I still stand on that point, Sir, and although I shall soon dispose of some of the points raised by the Honourable the Third Member for the East, I think that the brunt of the whole case will have to be placed squarely on the shoulders of the Government, because some members may not be aware of the implications of this Bill, either in its internal or international aspect, and it is the duty of this Government to be able to enlighten and guide them, irrespective of the prejudices of individual members of this honourable House.

The Honourable Member for the East said that the bonds and recognizances constitute the *Magna Carta* of the people. I beg to differ. On the other hand, I submit that it is an example of despotism, because where you have a society where there is a reign of law and order, surely any person who defaults the law should be distressed according to due process of law. The prison system is alien to our institutions and it was introduced here from Europe. In England, Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast, where this Bill is in operation, that is also the practice. If anybody defaults the law, or commits a libel, and fails to pay the fine, the solution is not necessarily to deprive one of one's bond or surety, but to have that individual distressed according to law. Failure to do so is an admission of weakness, and that will form the second part of my defence.

My Honourable Friend from the East speaks of vituperative warfare in the press and lays the blame for its continuance on the shoulders of Government. I agree with him entirely. A government which believes that the tone of the press is bad should enforce

the law and see to it that the press maintains balance and responsibility. Surely it is wrong, when you have sections of the press vilifying one another, for Government to say it does not wish to interfere with the liberty of the press. Doubtless any section of the press which delights in such action would welcome it as an opportunity to use such undesirable methods, and that is the case in the country today.

Some Members have mentioned Your Excellency's speech during the course of the debate on the Appropriation Bill. I submit with due respect, Sir, that that portion of the speech referred to is ambiguous. If I were in your position, Sir, and any section of the press vilified an individual, I would say so, and I would take appropriate action. I would see to it that the Legal Department maintained order, so as to prevent one group from being incited against another. It is unfortunate that I have to drag this in here this morning, Sir, but it was mentioned. And when my Honourable friend from the East says that he personally is interested in this one aspect of freedom of the press, I feel a bit discomfited, and I wish to appeal to him now to take into consideration the prayers of Your Excellency every morning here, that we should, having the fear of God before our hearts, lay aside all our private interests, prejudices and partial affections; from my experience in this House, the utterances of the Honourable Member pertaining to freedom of the press reek of personal bitterness. I think he is too big for that and he should forget it. If he has any reason to disagree with any section of the press he should say so and stick to the point.

Now to the Government. I would say, Sir, that this is one of the unhappiest moments of my life, because I am compelled to denounce what I sincerely believe to be evil and because I have been privileged to appreciate what Thomas Carlyle experienced when he wrote of a "red tape talking machine" and of "an unhappy bag of parliamentary eloquence". Fortunately, I am not of the mould that can be captivated by arguments based on expediency, no matter how respectable the source of the eloquence.

The Honourable the official spokesman has outlined forcibly the stand of the Government in respect of this Newspaper Bill, of which I have the privilege and honour to be its proud sponsor. I am grateful to him. That is why, when the amendment was debated I felt that Government should be given the opportunity to explain its stand, because I wanted also to have an opportunity of bringing one or two homely truths to this Government. His statement, however, strikes me as lacking in political consistency, judged by the logic of events in a Nigeria which participated in a world war of carnage for the preservation and extension of human rights. When I talk of human rights I would refer to the press of England which is based on human rights. Recently it was published in the papers that the editor of the "Daily Mirror" was jailed for three months. It is done everywhere. So that the argument that there is an abuse

of the liberty of the press in Nigeria, therefore the bond requirement cannot be done away with, is irrelevant and beside the point. Without any reservation I have no choice than to describe the statement of Government as an attempt to sacrifice principle on the altar of expediency. I should expect Government to be able to say that we did not take part in the World War II for nothing, and that we have not signed certain international documents pertaining to the freedom of the press simply as window dressing.

When, therefore, the official spokesman mentioned the instance of failure of one individual to pay his fine in the North, I will concede that it may be so. I was not aware of it before. But then my point is that since 1903 when this bond requirement was made, only in one instance has it been necessary to make use of this bond requirement—that is, in forty-six long years. We are almost following the example of England, where the bond requirement lasted for fifty years from 1819 to 1869; but because England retained it for fifty years I see no reason why Nigeria should. But the remarkable part of the argument of the official spokesman was that he did not advance one relevant argument either to justify the retention of the bonds and recognizances in the Newspaper Ordinance or to controvert the reasons I adduced for scrapping this anachronism in the Newspaper Ordinance at the first reading of the Bill, other than the official euphemism that Government is of opinion that the time has not arrived when such requirement should be discontinued.

What Government may I respectfully ask? A Government where the taxpayers are an extraneous factor so far as the exercise of executive power is concerned? A Government where the interest of taxpayers, in the exercise of legislative powers, is represented in the main by nominated officials and nominated unofficial members. A Government where in the exercise of judicial powers, the taxpayers are represented by a minority element. A Government where the "obedient servants" of the taxpayers dictate what they conceive themselves without taking into consideration the feelings of the taxpayers, to be in the best interests of the taxpayers.

What I have been offered as the price of support to this Bill, as stated by the Third Member for the East, is what I conceive to be a compromise of principle. With me, this stikes deeply into the basis of any human relations which should have lasting value. I can compromise for the sake of co-operation; I can compromise in order to prevent myself from being misunderstood as lacking in the spirit of give and take. But certainly I can never compromise on fundamental principles, no matter at what price, not even if it cost me my life. A writer has said, "Expedients are for an hour but principles are for the ages. Just because the rains descend, and the winds blow, we cannot afford to build on the shifting sand."

I would invite the official spokesman to controvert my arguments in these respects: That the incorporation of bonds and cognizances is not a violation of basic human rights; that this Bill is not

modelled after newspaper legislation in the United Kingdom, Sierra Leone and the Gold Coast; and that such incorporation in our Statute Book is not a dead letter. Those were the reasons which I submitted in justifying the repeal of sections 3 to 9 of the Newspaper Ordinance. Instead of controverting these points, we have been fed with flowery language which I hold to be irrelevant to the issue; outside of buttressing the ramparts of reaction.

For the present regime in Nigeria to justify its existence in the best interests of the people, whose co-operation it seeks, I hold that it should have the moral courage, the vision and imagination to stand by the forces of progress, rather than give the impression of establishing a recrudescence of retrogression in our march towards progress. The present administration should take a stand in favour of progressive forces which seek to liberate mankind from the chains of the centuries, and align itself boldly with all elements which seek to crystallise democracy in all its aspects in Nigeria and the Cameroons, notwithstanding private interests and prejudices—for none is perfect. Failure to grasp this opportunity must spell disaster, no matter how exemplary might be the character of its individual members. This regime cannot compromise evil with good and expect to succeed. Someone has said: "Compromise is but the sacrifice of one right or good in the hope of retaining another,—too often ending in the loss of both."

Your Excellency, the fact that previous regimes had supported this bond requirement is no justification why this regime should do so. It is not in the best interest either of the regime or of the friends of the regime. The issue confronting me now, Sir, is whether I should accept the suggestion of the Honourable the official spokesman, and allow my Bill to incorporate in its clauses the abominable and antediluvian requirements for bonds and recognizances. Otherwise I am threatened with the use of the official "big stick", the officials voting one way and/or stand by those who for reasons best known to them have chosen to oppose the repeal of this obnoxious section in our laws. I believe, Sir, that requirements of bonds and recognizances belong to the era of reaction in Europe following the unholy alliance of European monarchs to suppress the masses and to gag public opinion, and the result is well-known. It is therefore a fundamentally bad law which should have been expunged from our Statute Book before now. How can I agree to compromise on this issue?

What I should do in answer to the challenge offered by my friends, is to emphasize to them that any government which is unable to maintain the due processes of law in order to preserve peace is not a democracy but a tyranny. Why do I make this utterance? Because as William Pitt the Elder said, "Where law ends, tyranny begins". And I take it that in assuming that people of straw cannot be distressed this Government admits the necessity of certain extra-legal devices, and we know, as it has been declared that, "Necessity is the argument of tyrants",

When I moved the reading of this Bill for the first time, I explained the objects and reasons as best I could, placing before this Honourable House, the setting of this phase of man's struggle through the ages in order to escape from tax on human knowledge and from the tyranny of unbridled government. I also demonstrated that such an act was justified during an era when despotism was the rule in nineteenth century Europe, and submitted that in this era, in this part of the world, we can avoid treading the same path which engulfed Europe in our maelstrom of ignorance, official capriciousness and tyranny. On November 26th, 1909, Lord Milner, during a speech in Glasgow said, "If we believe a thing to be bad, and if we have a right to prevent it, it is our duty to try to prevent it and to damn the consequences." This Bill offers a challenge to this Government, and its reactions to this Bill should be a yardstick to judge whether it is one of reaction or one of progress.

In conclusion, Sir, I beg leave to withdraw this Bill, because I am convinced that to accept the learned Attorney-General's suggestion or that of the Honourable the Third Member for the Eastern Provinces is to compromise with evil. It is true, I stand alone here today, fighting for an eternal truth which men receive not now, but I know that such warfare must linger throughout my life on earth. Nevertheless, I have nerved my spirit to the proof and I am not blenching at my chosen lot.

"In the fell clutch of circumstance,
I have not winced nor cried aloud,
Under the bludgeoning of chance,
My head is bloody but unbowed.
Beyond this place of wrath and tears,
Looms but the horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find me, unafraid."

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

On a point of order, Sir, I would like the Honourable Member to tell me whether he is suggesting that because this Council is made up of a majority of Official and Unofficial Nominated Members, with a minority of elected Members, it cannot be relied on?

His Excellency:

On a point of order, there is no question before the House, except the debate.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

Would the Honourable Member like to tell me if it is his suggestion that because there is a minority of elected Members this Council cannot be relied on?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

I did not make that suggestion, Sir. I said, "Nominated Official and Unofficial Members". I never used the expression "minority element" in that connection.

His Excellency:

We can all have a good look at Hansard.

The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. A. Ikoku):

I am not sure if I am in order, but if I am I beg to oppose the withdrawal motion.

His Excellency:

Council will be asked if the Bill may be withdrawn by leave. That is the correct procedure. The Honourable the Second Lagos Member—the mover—has asked leave of the Council to withdraw the Bill.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

I do not know whether it is in order, Sir, for a Bill to be withdrawn after the second reading.

His Excellency:

I am grateful to the Honourable Member; perhaps we should pause for reflection.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:

Standing Rule and Order 34, Sir. The member in charge of the Bill may make a motion for its withdrawal at any stage of the Bill. The Honourable the Second Lagos Member, Sir, will have to move that the Bill be withdrawn.

His Excellency:

Perhaps the Honourable the Second Lagos Member would ask formally for leave to withdraw the Bill if he so wishes.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

All right, Sir, if that is necessary, I beg to move that leave of the House be granted to withdraw the Bill.

His Excellency:

I take it the seconder does not object to that request being made.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

No, Sir.

His Excellency:

The mover of the Bill has asked leave to withdraw the Bill. Will those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The Noes have it.

Leave of the Council is not given.

I shall put the question that the Bill be now read a second time. The question is that the Bill be now read a second time. Will those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The Noes have it.

Motion rejected.

His Excellency:

I suggest that as we are having a long session it might be convenient to have a break for ten minutes or a quarter of an hour now.

Council adjourned at 10.45 a.m.

Council resumed at 11.08 a.m.

MOTIONS

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

Your Excellency, I rise to move the motion standing in my name on the order paper. Before coming in here I had prepared overnight a speech of about twenty pages. Fortunately I saw the Honourable the Attorney-General in the intervening period and he gave me certain indications which made me tear up my notes and decide to confine myself to five or ten minutes. I gather, Sir, that it is not Government's intention to oppose the alternative to the motion, but that it is Government's opinion that the first part of the motion is unacceptable. The motion as it reads is:

" Be it resolved:

" That this House considers that the Peace Preservation Ordinance and more particularly section 4 thereof is out of date and should be removed from the Statute Books of Nigeria; or, in the alternative, suitable amendments should be made to the existing Ordinance to ensure that the inherent right of His Majesty's protected persons in Nigeria of access to His Majesty's Courts shall remain inviolate and undisturbed at all times."

Some people might wonder why I appear so concerned about the rights of protected persons and not about the rights of British subjects. The answer is that the Ordinance applies only to the Protectorate and not to the Colony. That is the factor which, to my mind, is obnoxious, and section 4, which I seek to amend reads as follows:

- " 4. (1) Any person who is reasonably suspected by a Lieutenant-Governor or a Resident of having been guilty—
- (a) as principal or accessory of any offence under Chapter VI or Chapter VII of the Criminal Code, or
- (b) of any offence punishable by law, being an act of violence or intimidation, or

(c) of inciting to an act of violence or intimidation tending to interfere with or disturb the maintenance of law and order,

in any proclaimed district after the same has been proclaimed, may, on the warrant of a Lieutenant-Governor or of a Resident be arrested in any part of the Protectorate and detained during the continuance of the Proclamation in a prison named in the warrant or in such other prison as may be directed by the Governor, without bail, and shall not be discharged or tried by any court without the direction of the Governor; and every such warrant shall, for the purposes of this Ordinance be conclusive evidence of all matters therein contained, and of the jurisdiction to issue and execute such warrant, and of the legality of the arrest and detention of the person mentioned in such warrant.

- (2) Every such warrant shall state the character of the offence of which the person to be arrested thereunder is suspected. A copy of the warrant shall be given to each person arrested on the occasion of his arrest.
- (3) A Lieutenant-Governor or a Resident who issues such warrant shall immediately send a copy thereof to the Governor.
- (4) On the expiration of a period of three months after the arrest of each person detained under this section, and so from time to time on the expiration of each succeeding period of three months while such person is detained, the Governor shall consider the case of such person and decide thereon; and the decision of the Governor in that behalf shall be certified under his hand or under the hand of a secretary and forwarded to the officer in charge of the prison in which such person is detained, who shall record such decision by endorsement on the warrant filed in his office."

That, Your Excellency, is a most complete way of depriving a person suspected of an offence of any avenue either of establishing his innocence or of questioning the legality of his arrest. Now, Your Excellency, the first portion of that section says:—"Any person who is reasonably suspected". It is not necessary that there should be any evidence that he committed any offence. It is enough if he is merely suspected, and I think there can be no doubt that quite often suspicions rest on mere rumours and unfounded allegations. It seems to me, Your Excellency, that it would be obnoxious in any part of the Empire that anybody could be detained for any offence whatever and have no right to be tried or any right to appeal or to be discharged. Even in time of war people who are suspected of being enemy aliens have always had the right to question the legality of their detention in the Court, and during the Gold Coast

Inquiry by the Watson Commission, the Commission made it quite clear that they considered that only an armed rising could justify the imposition of an enactment whereby people were deprived of the rights of access to the Courts. In view, however, of the statement made to me by the Honourable the Attorney-General, that he would not propose to advise Your Excellency that the alternative—that is the portion requiring amendment—should be opposed, I will content myself at this stage with that statement by the Honourable the Attorney-General, and reserve to myself the thought that at some future date I can attack the whole Ordinance in principle.

His Excellency:

Is the Honourable Member formally moving the motion?

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

Yes.

The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. A. Ikoku):
Your Excellency, I beg to second.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:

Your Excellency, I have talked to my learned and Honourable friend, and I must say I agree with him in feeling there must be provision made for free access to the Courts. I don't go quite the whole length with him in denying the entire use of this Ordinance, but I think the time has come for amendment of this nature, and if the Honourable Member agrees with me on this, I hope that when he comes to Lagos he will help me to draft the amendment. If the Honourable Member will agree, Sir, I would suggest an amendment to his motion, so that it may be carried here, to read: "That this Council considers that suitable amendment be made to ensure *inter alia* that the inherent rights of His Majesty's protected persons in Nigeria of access to His Majesty's Courts should remain inviolate and undisturbed at all times." I put in the words "*inter alia*" because it is possible that on examination of the Ordinance in detail further amendment will be required, and if the Honourable Member will accept that amendment, Sir, Government will be most happy to implement it.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Your Excellency, I beg to second.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

Your Excellency, I accept the amendment, Sir, but as I said before, I may attack the whole Ordinance at some future time.

His Excellency:

The question is that the motion be amended in the following terms: "That this House considers that suitable amendment be made to ensure *inter alia* that the inherent rights of His Majesty's protected persons in Nigeria of access to His Majesty's Courts should

remain inviolate and undisturbed at all times." Will those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The Ayes have it.

Motion amended.

His Excellency:

The question is that the motion as amended be accepted. Will those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The Ayes have it.

Motion as amended adopted.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

Your Excellency, I rise to move the following resolution which stands in my name.

In view of the vital need of a general elementary education for the people of Nigeria, including the British Cameroons;

And in consideration of the fact that the people of Nigeria, including the British Cameroons, are both financially poor and not fully sensible of their responsibility to give this general elementary education to their children as in duty bound;

And in pursuance of the policy of the Government of Nigeria whereby steps are taken to advance the progress and welfare of the people of Nigeria and the British Cameroons;

"Be it resolved: That this Council approves of the following:—

(i) That the following charges per annum *per capita* be levied yearly during the next ten years from the 1st January, 1949, to the 31st December, 1958, on every adult African male of Nigeria, including the British Cameroons, under the following categories:—

	s	d
(a) Peasants	1	0
(b) Tradesmen	2	0
(c) Artisans	2	6
(d) Salaried & Wage Earning Classes ...	5	0
(e) Business Men	10	0
(f) Professional Classes	20	0

(ii) That this money, to be called THE COMPULSORY MASS AND FREE EDUCATION FUND, shall be allowed to accumulate with interests during the ten years aforesaid, and shall be set aside exclusively for the establishment or the institution at the beginning of 1959 of a compulsory mass and free education for every boy and every girl of Nigeria and the British Cameroons from the Infant School

stage up to and including Standard Six, that is to say, from six years of age at least to the age of seventeen years."

Before I proceed, Sir, I should be grateful if I may be permitted to make the following amendment in the wording of the motion. *Delete* the word "seventeen" in the last line of section (ii), and *substitute* the word "fourteen" therefor. The amended section will then read as follows:

"(ii) That this money, to be called **THE COMPULSORY MASS AND FREE EDUCATION FUND**, shall be allowed to accumulate with interests during the ten years aforesaid, and shall be set aside exclusively for the establishment or the institution at the beginning of 1959 of a **compulsory mass and free education for every boy and every girl of Nigeria and the British Cameroons from the Infant School stage up to and including Standard Six, that is to say, from six years of age at least to the age of fourteen years.**"

In your first and notable speech in this Council in August, 1948, when you were introducing us to the subject of the Education Bill which the Council was then going to consider, you made a great pronouncement which still rings true today. You said, Sir, "There is no more important or intractable problem in Nigeria today than education". This has been for many years my confirmed opinion, but I go a little further and humbly submit that primary education, which is the foundation of all education; constitutes, Nigeria's greatest and most urgent need in this era of our people's genuine thirst and quest for cultural advancement and progress. On the 3rd of January, 1944, I made a draft of the following article which I had intended to have published in the local press if possible, but which I had neither completed nor submitted for publication. It reads as follows:—

"I know I am not an educationist, but it is not the monopoly of the educationist to say something about education. So I hope I'll be excused if I make a few remarks on this subject. I wish somebody in the Legislative Council of Nigeria would tell the Government of Nigeria that it is time it gave us free education of the mass up to at least Standard Four, but the ideal would be up to Standard Six. I am sure the Government can easily afford the colossal expense which such an undertaking must necessarily incur. It is the privilege, and the honourable duty of those Africans in authority to ask Government for this and other rights which are glaringly due to us. The efficacy and importance of the matter is to keep on asking, and ask with a united front, and a concentration of effort. This surely is not asking for the moon. The African must fight for the abolition of the gross ignorance and crass illiteracy which is our unnatural lot and heritage. If we get this very necessary

concession, then it ought to be possible for our children—boys and girls at par—to get the benefit of Secondary Education from their parents and guardians who would have used those “free” years to save from their very meagre salaries out of which they must defray every conceivable expense. What a shame! Not only do we want a Secondary Education for the cream of our country, we want them to go to Britain and learn something further. It is surprising what a couple of years in Britain can do for a conscientious and promising lad who wants to make good in order that he may be a right cog in the wheel of progress of his or her homeland. And we need many such individuals. The benefits and effects of mass education are so great and important that everything possible must be done to institute it in our country. In less than a generation mass education would actually change the face of Nigeria.”

Therefore in bringing this motion before this Honourable Council, I am fulfilling a long felt desire, and I do so with a deep sense of humility, and the knowledge that the subject calls for much work and would require a big machinery to set it going. But I am also totally convinced of its utter desirability, and I am therefore confident that I shall get the full support, not only of yourself, Your Excellency, but also the support of all Honourable Members, particularly the educationists who are with us. As I said before, Sir, the need for a universal and free mass education in Nigeria is both urgent and insistent, as insistent as the telephone bell, and is a matter requiring immediate attention. Witness what I said about it in my maiden speech in the Legislative Council Session of March, 1947:

“One vital and urgent need of the people of Nigeria today is free and compulsory education of the mass. Most people, Your Excellency, have spoken a lot about education. We have talked about the rights of the citizen of Nigeria, but I submit that our right, our first right in this country—is for the Government to make it possible that every boy and girl in this country shall have a free compulsory education up to Standard VI. This is obtained in Britain. This is why, in effect, in Britain today, everybody can read and write. Everybody knows the privileges accruing to a population which is able to read and write. Sir, if I were the Honourable the Director of Education, the Honourable the Acting Financial Secretary, and the Honourable the Attorney-General, all rolled into one, I would forthwith enact a Bill making it possible for every child in Nigeria to have a free education. It is our vital need, and I pray that the Government may not say that we have no funds for it, because if Government wanted such a thing, funds would be forthcoming, and I may suggest that if it came to it, I believe the African population would be willing to pay taxes, although taxation is death to us—it would pay taxes so long as we know that it is going to benefit our children. Just now

there is so much need for education—the boys are just going up and up while we do not see our girls anywhere, but with free and compulsory education every boy and every girl would have an equal chance in life. During this period of free education from the infant department to the primary, the African parent would have a short time for saving from his meagre income, so that he might be able to fit his boy or his girl who has the aptitude for a higher education obtainable in the secondary schools or in the Universities. We realise that not everybody can take full advantage of a secondary or University education—we know that in England today a very small percentage of people go up to secondary and University education but when they do those are the people who lead their country. We would like to have a secondary education in our country, and would like to see a University established here and now so that our boys and girls who might be the future leaders of our country might have the advantage of staying in their own country and learn the elements of leadership.”

Yes, Sir, I do realise the difficulties, its implications and the enormous task involved. I realise the fact that the country is poor and has not the funds available for immediate use. I am aware of the fact that Government is doing its best to tackle the problems of the other aspects of education, and that it has not the energy in the meantime nor the material nor the staff to cope with this most vast and certainly most important side of any education. I realise, Sir, the wisdom of getting the mind of the people of Nigeria prepared and ready to accept this new but most desirable policy so that they may give their spontaneous and willing consent and co-operation without which there can be no success in its application. Taking all this into consideration, Your Excellency, I am constrained to take a long term view of the whole matter and formulate my motion accordingly, and confidently believe that at the end of the agreed period Nigeria will be in a better and safer position to undertake and carry out a scheme for the institution of a compulsory and free education of the mass. May I draw your attention, Sir, to the terms of my motion? In the first place I crave for the consent and approval of this Council of a yearly levy on every Nigerian male for ten years of sums of money varying from one shilling to twenty shillings commensurate with the ability of each group of individuals. I have specified a period of ten years, (which I think is really too long) to give the country and the Government sufficient time to collect and have a standing fund available for the purpose. In ten years' time it is hoped that the question of building materials would not be difficult, and the number of trained teachers available would have risen to meet the situation. There are six categories under which levies may be collected. Category (a) is the Nigerian peasant with no pretensions to being anything but just an ordinary man. He constitutes the group which normally pays the flat rate tax, and the age is from

seventeen years, but not including *bona fide* school pupils. They pay one shilling. Category (b) says Tradesmen 2s. These are shopkeepers, shop assistants, petty traders and, though not of the same class, I would like to include in this category taxi drivers, motor drivers, chauffeurs, labourers, cooks and stewards and messengers. In category (c) are artisans at 2s 6d. This includes mechanics, handicraftsmen, carpenters, tailors, shoe-makers and shoe-repairers, weavers and people of that kind. Category (d) is Salaried and Wage earning classes at 5s. This covers clerks, nurses, dispensers, sanitary inspectors, policemen, prison warders up to the first class grade; all school teachers but not principals of schools or headmasters of Government schools, sailors and soldiers of the private rank. The following come under category (e) Business Men, 10s; contractors, auctioneers, managers and proprietors of private businesses, assistant chief clerks and chief clerks, office assistants, assistant chief warders and chief warders, police and soldiers from the lance corporal grade, charge nurses, senior dispensers, store-keepers, chief dispensers and chief sanitary inspectors, headmasters of Government schools, registrars of courts. In the Professional Classes (f), are principals of schools, legal men, newspaper proprietors, all Civil Servants in the Senior Service, engineers, all who hold senior posts in the mercantile houses, shipping and other private companies, and all medical men. These are the grades one can think of at the present, but I suppose a definite decision would be arrived at if I succeed in my motion and a machinery is set up in due course to look into the matter more closely. I have tried to work out what would be the total estimated amount which would be collected at the end of ten years. The population of Nigeria has not been correctly determined since the last census in 1931, nearly twenty years ago, but it has been supposed to range from 20 to 30 million people. In my calculation I have taken the happy medium and assumed a population of 25 millions. I further assumed that the male population would be about a third of the total, that is something like 8 millions. All the male members are not taxable, and I have assumed the taxable male population to be half—that is to say 4 millions. The levy ranges from one shilling to twenty shillings and to make it workable in a simple form I have taken the average at five shillings *per capita* per annum. The calculation on a population of 4 million at five shillings per person works out at one million every year. It is not supposed that the taxable population will remain static in any one year. Every year many will be disqualified on account of age, illness, death and various causes, and many new ones will qualify to contribute. I have supposed that, everything being equal, at least an additional one twentieth of the taxable male population will qualify to contribute their quota every year. That means a sum of £50,000 will be an additional yearly income. The second part of my motion requests that the money so collected should be called "The Compulsory Mass and Free Education

Fund" and should be allowed to accumulate and earn interest during the period specified in the first section of the motion. This would necessarily be at simple interest in the first year and thereafter at compound interest—possibly at three per cent. On paper it works out as follows. The first collection is, as I said before, one million pounds in 1949. Interest at three per cent would be £30,000, so that at the end of 1949 we shall have £1,030,000. At the end of the second year we shall add the sum of £50,000 to this and take compound interest and that interest would be £32,400, so that at the end of 1950 we shall have £1,112,400. In that order I would like to name the figures of the various years. In 1951, we will have £1,197,272. In 1952—£1,284,690. In 1953—£1,374,730. In 1954—£1,467,471. In 1955—£1,562,995. In 1956—£1,661,384. In 1957—£1,762,725. In 1958—£1,861,100 making a total of £14 million plus. This is a very rough estimate. With reliable statistics the figure might work out at between £12 and £14 million at the end of the ten years. The motion further requests that at the beginning of 1959, this money—£14 million, shall be used for the establishment of a universal and compulsory education which shall be free to all Nigerians and British Cameroonian boys and girls in the Junior and Senior Primary Schools from at least six to fourteen years of age. Although, Your Excellency, she is included in the motion, I have made no calculations relating to the British Cameroons, and so have not presented any figure showing the amount which might be collected from that region. Any machinery set up will have to take her into consideration. The British Cameroons is part and parcel of Nigeria, at least for the time being, and she will be entitled to the advantages which I hope will result from this motion. It will be the duty of this Honourable Council, with Your Excellency's wise direction, to set up such machinery to consider and recommend ways and means to operate this fund. This motion, Sir, seeks to make elementary education compulsory for our children—not adults. In considering the whole question, I would like to say, that I have the greatest sympathy for the people of the Northern Provinces. I can assure them that the people of the Eastern Provinces are by no means satisfied with their present state of educational progress whether it be Elementary, Secondary, Technical or University education, nor are the people of the Western Provinces. I seem to gather from the Honourable Members of the North that they do not believe in child education—that is to say in ordinary elementary education. But it is clear and indisputable that Primary Education forms the basis and foundation of all types of education, and until we accept this fundamental fact and practise it, I fear, Sir, that the road to success would be rough and full of ruts and unnecessary obstacles. This motion, Your Excellency, is intended to foster self-help and initiative on the part of the people of Nigeria and the British Cameroons. I can assure Your Excellency that all right thinking Nigerians are anxious to welcome any acceptable measure which

would make primary education compulsory and yet free for our children. The money for this purpose is to come from us, and I submit, Your Excellency, that it is the place of Government to support and encourage this proposition. In August, 1948, I gave notice that I would bring this motion before Legislative Council due to meet that month. With your permission, Sir, I should like to acquaint Honourable Members why I did not present the motion then. I sent up three motions and some questions. The first motion was disallowed "in accordance with the proviso to section 22 of the Nigeria (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1946". The motion was as follows:—

"In view of the vital need of a general elementary education for the peoples of Nigeria, including the British Cameroons:

And in consideration of the fact that the peoples of Nigeria, including the British Cameroons, are both financially poor and not fully sensible of their responsibility to give this general elementary education to their children as in duty bound:

And in pursuance of a policy by the Government of Nigeria whereby steps are taken to advance the progress and the welfare of the peoples of Nigeria and the British Cameroons:

Be it resolved:

"That this Council approves of the following:—

"That thirty-three *per centum* of the total revenue
 "of Nigeria, including the British Cameroons, in
 "any one year during the next seven years from
 "1949 to 1955, shall be allowed to accumulate with
 "interests, and shall be set aside exclusively
 "for the establishment or institution of a compulsory and free mass education for every boy and
 "every girl of Nigeria and the British Cameroons
 "from the infant stage up to and including Standard Six, that is to say, from six years of age at
 "least to the age of seventeen years."

I wrote back to say that it was not clear to me as to the reasons or reasons for disallowing this motion, since reference to section 22 quoted had neither enlightened me in any way nor was it relevant to the motion which I was anxious to make. I stated that I had given further thought to the matter and hoped that the motion amended as follows would be adjudged competent. The amendments were: (1) "For 33% substitute 5%" and (2) for "the next seven years from 1949 to 1955" substitute "the next ten years from the 1st of January 1949 to the 31st December 1958", so that the revised version of the motion was as follows:—

"That five *per centum* of the total revenue of Nigeria, including the British Cameroons, in any one year during the next ten years from the 1st of January, 1949, to the 31st of December, 1958, shall be allowed to accumulate with interests,"

I know that people lift up their hands in horror at the mere mention of imposing tax on women, who themselves are ever ready to rise at once in fierce rebellion at any attempt to storm their fortress. This is a different case altogether, however. Reference is being made to the woman citizen who is keenly alive to her responsibilities and is genuinely anxious to see Nigerian children enjoy the amenities which all children of other progressive countries enjoy. If, however, it is considered that they should be left out, then I have no objection whatsoever. The second point refers to our Obas and Emirs, Obons, Ezes and those of their ilk. May be they could come under a separate category, conferring on them the privilege of subscribing—two guineas every year to the fund! Before concluding, Your Excellency, let me make it very clear about the following salient points. (1) I am well aware that Government is doing its best, financially and otherwise, to help further elementary education in Nigeria. I say so because one aspect of the present Educational Policy of Government is to make it possible for every Junior Primary School (that is from ABC to Standard Two), to receive financial assistance, provided such a school conforms to the rules and requirements of the Education Code; and provided also that the people themselves share in the responsibility. (2) I am not ignorant of the fact that Government hopes that in future everything regarding education will be administered entirely by the people of Nigeria through their Local Education Committees, when such committees come into existence. (3) I fully realise that at present there are not enough funds nor trained School Teachers to man all our existing schools. (4) I know full well that building materials are only forthcoming at a very slow space and are also very costly. These two factors appear to make my proposition rather difficult in actual practice. (5) I am sensible of the fact that at present there is no universal system of Birth Registration in Nigeria, so that the age of every child could not be ascertained at any given moment. To that I would reply that it was time Government set up a department to deal with this matter which I consider long overdue in this country. In any case, as my motion advocates long preparation, Government still has ten years to set up such a useful and necessary department.

Against these five points are the following eight points. (1) This resolution is a suggestion in self-help. The funds collected will be the people's money, not Government's Revenue; and it is a measure for which I should like to have Government's sincere support. (2) The adoption of this motion will AID and IMPLEMENT,—not militate against—Government's measures for education. (3) This is a question that affects all Nigeria and the British Cameroons. The idea of this motion is that every Nigerian child and every British Cameroonian child WILL benefit by the proposed scheme. It is not a matter of collecting money for the benefit of a chosen few, nor for the good of one or two sections of the country. In the Government Scholarship Scheme only those who come under the ambit of

“deserving or qualified” may benefit, although the taxpayer is wholly responsible for the Scholarship Fund. In this case, WE ALL subscribe and WE ALL share the benefit equally. (4) This proposition is not for adult mass education. It is for the education of the child. (5) Compulsory and free mass education is practised in the United Kingdom today. (6) So far a Nigerian child has a school career *only when* he or she desires, and I think I am right to say, Sir, that possibly ninety per cent of parents do not care one way or the other. This state of affairs is most harmful to the progress and advancement of Nigeria and her people whichever way one cares to look at it. It is a gloomy outlook. In this connection I submit, Your Excellency, and I do so with all the emphasis at my command, that this country MUST CARE, that Government MUST CARE, as to what happens to those children. I personally DO CARE and that is why I am presenting this motion. In the towns and villages I see and meet boys and girls of school age whiling away precious time doing nothing; I see them in the streets and on the roads, in the railway stations, in the markets and market places, on our beaches and river sides, on the wharves and various other places, engaged in doing other things of less import instead of being at school, which is their right place. Their condition, that is, the condition of not having a school career, spells disaster to Nigeria’s future and happiness, and if nothing is done for them—oh yes, Sir, something *will* be done for them. I say so, Sir, because with Your Excellency as the Head of this Government, assisted by your very fine body of Senior Officers in this Council, all of whom I have reason to believe, are most sincere and anxious for the welfare and future happiness of Nigeria and its people; together with my colleagues, the Honourable Unofficial Members, I cannot see why these millions of our children, and perhaps those yet unborn, should be allowed to go to waste, and Nigeria’s future and potential wealth in men and women thereby lost for ever.

I am urged, therefore, Sir, taking these facts into serious consideration, to humbly and respectfully seek Your Excellency’s wise and fatherly injunction and ruling, with the advice and consent of the Honourable Members of this great Assembly, making it compulsory for Nigeria’s children and those of the British Cameroons to have a free primary school career between the ages of five or six years to fourteen years. (7) The question may be asked as to how the money would be collected. It is to be hoped, Sir, that, all being well, a body or committee appointed by Your Excellency will go into this question and try to solve it. But I think, Sir, that if it has been possible to collect taxes successfully in this country for twenty-one years, it should also be possible to collect this one. (8) Again, Sir, if Government can make us pay taxes, whether we like it or not, because Government *knows* and by its great administration has shown that the funds accruing from such taxation are used wisely for the benefit of the country. Therefore, I do not see any reason or reasons, Your Excellency, why compulsion should not be

imposed upon the people of Nigeria in accordance with this motion, when Government also knows that it is the best service that it can render to our people, most of whom are at present blissfully ignorant of their responsibility, but who have shown loyalty and remained loyal to the British Empire for many years, and have joined issues with her to fight the dark and menacing forces of evil, that would have disrupted all that is right and peaceful on God's earth. Finally, Sir, I must say that I look forward to the whole-hearted support of all sensible Nigerians including British Cameroonians, who have the true welfare and love of their fellow countrymen and women at heart. On the other hand, Sir, I know that I am treading on dangerous ground, and exposing myself to open abuse and being altogether misunderstood. There will assuredly be fingers accusingly and menacingly pointing at me and saying "This is the man who heaped more taxes on our heads". But I shall really take it in good part, since I know the worth of my motion and the abundant blessings which it will, if successful, shower on the children of Nigeria and the British Cameroons and their posterity. In any case it will be the action of some people who may be described as those who do not know what they say. In the long run such people usually come to understand what the noise was all about. For the sake of this section of the community let me quote the following. I do not know its origin and I am not sure if I have got it right, but it suits my cause and this occasion. Some want to know only that they may know—that is base curiosity. Some want to know only that they may be known—that is base vanity. Some want to know only that they may sell—that is base covetousness. And some want to know only to edify others—that is the fundamental principle of knowledge through education. I believe, Sir, that Your Excellency and all the Honourable Members of this august Assembly have known in order to edify others. Your Excellency, I respectfully beg to move.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

Sir, I rise to second.

The Second Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa):

Your Excellency, I would first like to congratulate the Honourable the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces, Sir, for his noble views on the Motion. When he was introducing the Motion, Sir, I found myself in a rather difficult situation, because the members for the Northern Provinces had a separate meeting on all the motions, and we came to the conclusion, Sir, that we would not take a very active part in the debate on the motion in this Council at this stage, because we think, Sir, that compulsory mass and free education is really a big national affair, and its importance is so big, so great that I think all the peoples in the regions should be given time and opportunity to discuss it amongst them-

selves before it is finally brought up for a full debate in this Council. However, Sir, as I say, I find myself in a difficult position, because I have been greatly moved by the speech of the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces. The Northern view is that—it is our suggestion—that the discussions on this very important subject be deferred until the regions and all sections of the community are given time and opportunity to discuss it amongst themselves. But I find, Sir, that I cannot keep away from contributing a little share to the debate on this motion. I am in whole-hearted support of it, although I still stick to the suggestion which I have just made, but I have got some amendments to make, that is in the rate to be paid by the different categories that my Honourable friend has suggested in the first part of the motion. Now, Sir,

- (a) Peasant 1s. I would suggest 1d.
- (b) Tradesmen. Instead of 2s I would suggest 3d.
- (c) Artisans. Instead of 2s 6d I would suggest 3d.
- (d) Salaried and wage earning classes—instead of 5s I would suggest 1s.
- (e) Business men and women—instead of 10s I would suggest 2s.
- (f) Professional classes—instead of 20s I would suggest 5s.

In the second part of the motion, Sir, I would suggest this is more or less entirely a regional affair—compulsory mass and free education of the community, I think, is the responsibility of the community, and it is the responsibility of the regions to decide as to how best they would spend such funds as are collected, and so I think, Your Excellency, my Honourable friend will take the suggestion that this subject be referred to the regions and in fact to all communities for very wide discussion.

His Excellency:

I take it that the Honourable Member is not expressing a formal amendment, but is expressing a view—in your view the rates should be changed?

The Second Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa):

I am afraid, Sir, that the Honourable Member may not wish to take my advice and the debate on the motion will be continued, in which case I suggest the amendment, in case the motion is adopted. But I am only suggesting the amendment, Sir.

His Excellency:

Your main proposal is that the discussion may be deferred until a later meeting after discussion in the regions?

The Second Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa):

Yes, Sir, that is what I am suggesting.

His Excellency :

That is a formal motion.

The Hon. the Director of Education :

Your Excellency, my Honourable friend, the mover of the motion now before the House, has renewed the role which he has played in recent years in this Council of pressing insistently—I might almost say passionately—for free primary education for the children of Nigeria. Universal primary education is indeed one of the major objectives of Government's long-range educational policy since, whatever may be the deficiencies of the schools, they remain the best method of training in the basic skills necessary for modern life. I need hardly remind the House of these deficiencies—lack of trained staff,—the diversion of effort in coping with diseases such as malaria and hookworm, under-nourishment and isolation; all of which combine to prevent that close personal contact which the modern teacher regards as the chief part of education. We have been reminded, Sir, that the schools are inadequate in number. In no African territory (and Nigeria is no exception) can more than a minority of children have any schooling at all, and this state of affairs cannot be rectified by a stroke of the pen. Even if the training centres could turn out sufficient qualified teachers, the country could not at present afford to pay them. Of those children who do attend school large numbers drop out after one or two years in the lowest classes. Now the causes of this wastage are largely economic and social, but no school system can hope to succeed until that wastage is eliminated. For these and other reasons we cannot hope to provide during the next few years even a four year primary course for all (Government's basic objective) still less the eight year course implicit in the motion. The principle limiting factor is the cost of trained teachers. But whatever economies we may effect in the shape of using that trained cadre to the best advantage by dual sessions, by the use of home-made furniture and similar devices, the fundamental acute financial difficulty remains. Nigeria cannot at present afford to provide funds for the extension of primary schools on the scale and at the speed desired by the people and particularly by the Honourable the mover of the motion. The difficulty arises almost entirely from the fact that the salaries of trained teachers, whether Government, Voluntary Agencies or Native Administration, is greatly in excess of the income of the average inhabitant of Nigeria. Now, Sir, the financial gap cannot be closed by assistance from the C.D. & W. Vote, since funds from that source are required for higher education, secondary education, technical education and teacher training. Hence the speed at which primary education can be expanded—and I would emphasise this, Sir,—must depend very largely on the extent to which local communities are prepared to provide finance from their own, admittedly limited, resources.

I am sure that Honourable Members will welcome, as does Government, the service that the Honourable the mover of the motion has done by focussing attention on this intractable problem, not only in this Council, but amongst the wider public who will read his speech. May I invite the attention of Honourable Members, however, to certain factors inherent in the terms of the motion which make it unacceptable to Government in its present form. The Honourable the mover has pointed out that the population of Nigeria is in the region of 25 million. The total number of contributors in the classes listed in the motion who could reasonably be expected to contribute would not exceed 10 million, and although the categories are not mutually exclusive, I should judge that the average contribution would not come to more than two shillings, inasmuch as the great mass of the population of Nigeria are peasant farmers. We may also assume, I think, Sir, that the rate of interest obtainable would be not more than 2½ per cent, or something of that order. On that basis, the total accumulation at the end of the ten year period at compound interest would be about £11 million, and the interest on that sum would be about £330,000—a figure which is only one fifth of the educational grants in aid vote in the draft estimates for 1949-50, and quite inadequate even to support the present educational system, still less to provide free or even reasonably cheap universal primary education for all.

I suggest to my Honourable friend that even if all the difficulties of devising a machinery of collection were to be overcome, the scheme as now presented would not be successful, since it would arouse hopes of (and demands for) free general education on the part of the contributors, which could not possibly be met.

The alternative approach to this problem which is favoured by Government was advanced by my Honourable friend, the Second Member for the Northern Provinces. Briefly that view is that Nigeria should aim at securing the major part of the funds needed for primary education from the local communities concerned through their local Government bodies, whatever these may be, and that grants from central funds should be used to assist the budgets of those local bodies. It is the view of Government, Sir, that discussion of this problem at the regional or even the provincial level, is more likely to produce a scheme with good prospects of success than discussion in this Council, where the varying needs of each region cannot receive such detailed treatment.

May I remind Honourable Members, Sir, that the village school represents a service of limited local benefit, and suggest to the Honourable mover that the use of rating powers, of limited local application for the maintenance of schools would be a powerful instrument for improving and extending primary education and would accord with the spirit of the motion now before the House.

an element of compulsion in it. I feel, Sir, that we cannot just let everything wait until the people are ready. There are certain matters upon which we have got to bring compulsion to bear, only because we know it is right for the country. I am willing therefore, if it is agreeable to the Honourable the Director of Education and perhaps the Honourable the Third Member for the Eastern Provinces and any other Members who might like to offer their services, that we put our heads together and amend the motion and make it acceptable here and now.

His Excellency :

My only anxiety is that if we suspend the meeting for more than a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes we shall come near the time for adjourning, whereas if we carried on with other business now we could resume discussion on this motion in the afternoon. Do you think five or ten minutes would be enough?

Another point is, as I understand the original motion, compulsion would not start until 1959, but you are now considering a different view—that put forward by the Honourable the Third Member for the Eastern Provinces,—that of possible compulsion in some parts of the country.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

Yes.

His Excellency :

Would it be agreeable to the Honourable Member to defer further consideration until we meet this afternoon, and we will go on with other business meantime?

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

Yes, Sir.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

Your Excellency, I beg to move the motion standing in my name in the order of the day which reads:—

“ Be it resolved :

“ That this Council requests the Governor to appoint a
 “ Commission of Inquiry to investigate the brutal
 “ assault committed on some Nigerian workers at
 “ Ikoyi on the 5th of February, 1947, when some
 “ eighty-two peaceful and law abiding workers were
 “ wounded, eight of them fairly seriously out of a
 “ total number of some 2,000; and that the findings
 “ and recommendations of the Commission of
 “ Inquiry be laid on the table for a full dress debate
 “ thereon.”

Briefly, Sir, the facts of the case are as follows. On the 5th of February, 1947 some 2,000 workers had a trade dispute with Taylor Woodrow at Ikoyi and there was a deadlock. The Labour Department was called in and failed to do something in the matter by way of an amicable settlement. The workers were told that they would all be dismissed and new men recruited unless they went back to work. Now, Sir, there was general dissatisfaction among the workers. They protested and threatened to go on strike. Within half an hour, Sir, like pennies from heaven, the police fell on them, with their batons; on the allegation that the lives of the Europeans in the compound were threatened, with the result, Sir, that eighty-two of them were wounded as a result of the police attack, eight of them fairly seriously. Now, Sir, the conditions of those people were so pathetic that the women in Lafiaji district of a portion of "C" Ward who witnessed the casualties, remarked as follows: "Would to heaven men had anything to do with child bearing, they would have been less callous in dealing with their fellow men." Now, Sir, they have particularly requested that this motion should be brought forward before the Council, and we in Lagos are in accord with them. The reasons, Sir, for this motion are as follows. One. To lay the facts of the incident, Sir, before the public. Two. To exonerate or lay blame on the police, or the Labour Department, or the firm of Taylor Woodrow (which is an off-shoot of the United Africa Company), or the workers themselves. Three. To find out, Sir, the relationship between our police forces in this country and the commercial firms, and the readiness with which the services of our police forces have been made available in the past to these firms, particularly the United Africa Company. I refer again to the Burutu incident on which the Honourable the Second Lagos Member brought a motion for an inquiry last year. Four. Sir, to see that in future other means of settling labour disputes are brought into play, instead of police interference with harmful results, as was done in this case.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

Sir, I beg to second.

The Hon. the Commissioner of Labour:

Sir, although the incident referred to by the Honourable the First Lagos Member could hardly be cited as an example of the way in which trade disputes should be handled, it is, as a critic once said of Wagner's music, "not as bad as it sounds". There are in my office very full records of the affair, the events which led up to it, and those which succeeded it. The records show that a Labour Officer actually witnessed the eviction of the men. There were about 800 of them and they had been standing about on the site idling for two days. They were asked to go, or to work; and they refused to do either. The firm invoked the aid of the police in order to get the

men off the premises. After issuing a warning, the police, numbering about 300, advanced towards the men, who began to throw pieces of wood and stones, and in the ensuing scuffle forty-two men were injured, none very seriously. It could not be said that all the injuries were inflicted by the police, some of whom were themselves hurt. I do not think, Sir, that at this distance of time, more than two years after the event, a commission of enquiry would discover more information—or more reliable information—than that already available. Nor, Sir, does it seem that it would serve any useful purpose, and therefore, Sir, Government is opposing the motion.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

I, Sir, would like to add just one word to what the Honourable the Commissioner of Labour has said. An insinuation was made in the speech of the Honourable mover of the motion which I do not think should be allowed to pass. The insinuation was made that the police in these events did not act impartially. I think it should be stated, Sir, in view of what he has said that the insinuation is quite groundless and that the duty of the police, which is well understood by all the police, is to keep the peace, irrespective of any private interest whatsoever. I merely wish to add that to what the Honourable the Member who has spoken before me has said.

His Excellency :

If no other Honourable Member wishes to speak does the Honourable Member wish to reply?

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

Yes, Sir. I don't see, Sir, the reason why Government should oppose this motion. If the hands of the Government were clean in the unwholesome affair, Sir, there is no earthly reason why the Government should be afraid of a Commission of Enquiry. After all, Sir, that is the view of the Government, but the views of the people must be heard. That is why, Sir, I am appealing to the House, that there should be a Commission of Enquiry. I have received instructions, Sir, to bring this motion forward and I am doing so, Sir.

His Excellency :

The question is in the terms of the motion. Will those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The Noes have it.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

I press for a division, Your Excellency.

Council in Division.

<i>For</i>		<i>Against</i>	
4		28	
The Hon. the Third Lagos Member.	The Hon. the Third Member for the Western Provinces.		
The Hon. the Second Lagos Member.	The Hon. the Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces.		

The Hon. the Oba of Benin.
The Hon. the First Lagos
Member.

The Hon. the First Nominated
Member.
The Hon. the Fourth Member for
the Eastern Provinces.
The Hon. the Fourth Member for
the Northern Provinces.
The Hon. the Third Member for
the Northern Provinces.
The Hon. the First Member for
the Northern Provinces.
The Hon. the Emir of Abuja.
The Hon. the Attah of Igbirra.
The Hon. the Oni of Ife.
The Hon. the Emir of Katsina.
The Hon. the Emir of Gwandu.
The Hon. the First Member for
the Western Provinces.
The Hon. the Resident, Ogoja
Province.
The Hon. the Senior Resident,
Kano Province.
The Hon. the Acting Commis-
sioner of the Colony.
The Hon. the Commissioner of
Labour.
The Hon. the Director of Public
Works.
The Hon. the Director of
Agriculture.
The Hon. the Director of
Education.
The Hon. the Development
Secretary.
The Hon. the Director of Medical
Services.
The Hon. the Financial Secretary.
The Hon. the Attorney-General.
His Honour the Chief Commis-
sioner, Eastern Provinces.
His Honour the Chief Commis-
sioner, Northern Provinces.
His Honour the Chief Commis-
sioner, Western Provinces.
The Hon. the Chief Secretary
to the Government.

The Honourable the Fourth Member for the Western Provinces;
the Honourable the Third Member for the Eastern Provinces;
the Honourable the Second Member for the Eastern Provinces;
the Honourable the Second Member for the Northern Provinces;
the Honourable the First Member for the Northern Provinces;
the Honourable the Emir of Abuja and the Honourable the Second
Member for the Western Provinces abstained from voting.

His Excellency :

The voting is Ayes 4, Noes 28, Abstentions 7. The motion is
resolved in the negative.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

Your Excellency, I beg to move the motion standing in my name
on the order of the day which reads as follows :—

“ Be it resolved :

“ That this Council requests the Governor to appoint a
“ Commission of Inquiry to investigate (a) the

“ alleged mutiny of some Nigerian soldiers at Port Said in Egypt on or about December, 1945, on their way home from India; (b) the nature of punishment meted out to them on arrival in Nigeria; (c) why they were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment at Kaduna and Enugu Prisons without trial; and that the findings and recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry be laid on the table for a full dress debate thereon.”

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, if I may rise on a point of explanation, I want to apologise to the First Lagos Member. For some weeks now, Sir, I have had the necessary information for the Honourable Member, in a file regarding this affair, to which he has tabled a motion. It has been my intention every day to give the file to the First Lagos Member, so that he might see the situation for himself, and every day I have forgotten it, so the position is that the Honourable Member is speaking in the dark. If he wishes to continue now, Sir, and if the Honourable Member desires it I can give him such information as I have now, or if he prefers it, I can hand him the file and we can discuss it. I have had it in my mind and if he had reminded me he would have had it long ago. Either I will make a statement now, or he can defer his motion and I will give him the papers.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

Sir, I am very grateful to the Honourable the Attorney-General. The reason for this motion was that the Government made a definite promise to me in 1946 that there would be an enquiry, and I did not know, Sir, that there had been an enquiry since then. Provided I am satisfied, Sir, with all the facts contained in that file, I shall certainly withdraw the motion.

His Excellency :

We can defer consideration until you have had an opportunity of perusing the file.

Motion deferred.

“ WHEREAS the Legal Department was established in order to prosecute any person or persons who offend the Laws of Nigeria, and thus safeguard the integrity of this country :

AND WHEREAS constitutional guarantee of the equality of all, national and alien, before the law, presumes that justice shall be administered without fear or favour, irrespective of race, colour, creed, class, station in life, political belief or attachment, or any other factor likely to defeat the course of justice :

AND WHEREAS delay or evasion in the administration of justice, due to any reason, whether justified or not, is an admission of the existence of privileged persons, and should be deprecated, because it is undemocratic :

AND WHEREAS to deny justice to the citizen because of poverty or any other social condition is to hasten the destruction of the fabric of any democratic society, because it places emphasis on extraneous factors, thus denying justice to the under-privileged classes and those who are politically *persona non grata* :

AND WHEREAS evidence appears to exist to show that, in recent years, there have been violations of the laws of the land, and the Legal Department, for which the tax-payers' money was allocated to maintain, has signally failed to perform its duty :

BE IT RESOLVED by this Honourable House that, the Legal Department should take into serious advisement its *raison d'être* and be less delinquent and be more impartial in the administration of justice in the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria and the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship."

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

Your Excellency, when I drafted the motion standing in my name I assumed the existence of certain facts. In order to prepare my argument I posed certain questions to the Honourable the Chief Secretary, seeking for information. The answers given to me have satisfied me and I am convinced that no useful purpose would be served in pressing the issues involved. I therefore beg leave of the House to withdraw this motion.

Motion withdrawn by leave.

" WHEREAS the Judicial Department was established in order to concern itself with the interpretation of the Laws of Nigeria and adjudicating thereon, for the peace and tranquility of the various communities of this country :

AND WHEREAS judicial analysis of any cause should be approached with an equitable mind, aiming at restoring social equilibrium, rather than being drastic and unreasonable, thus intensifying the ramifications of an already complex society :

AND WHEREAS the judiciary is a creator of the law, since case-law, on the basis of the *stare decisis* doctrine, forms an important adjunct in the legal system of our country for historical reasons :

AND WHEREAS the probity of judicial officers, the dignity of the Bench, and the sacredness of the law presume that the acts of the judiciary should be treated without unfair criticism, suspicion, scandal and contempt :

BE IT RESOLVED by this Honourable House that the Judicial Department should preserve an open mind and be objective in adjudicating any issue before the Bench, irrespective of political beliefs and attachments, and be it further resolved that the Judicial Department should be impervious to the cross-currents of public opinion, and exercise discretion, tact, and sympathy in the administration of justice, especially in criminal causes, in the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria and the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship."

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

Your Excellency, the motion standing in my name was drafted with a view to calling attention to the existence of a situation which might leave a wrong impression about the exercise of judicial powers in this country. I have since made certain interpellations to the Chief Secretary, who has been kind enough to explain the position to me, and to give assurances that His Honour the Chief Justice would investigate the issues concerned and take appropriate action. This is satisfactory to me, Sir, and I do hope that His Honour will also take cognizance that the nature of the complaints in my motion made to him is also applicable to other parts of the country, particularly the Eastern Provinces, where in some cases certain allegations have been made which have been a source of embarrassment to Counsel and other persons. Since His Honour has given this assurance I beg leave to withdraw this motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

“ WHEREAS King’s College, Lagos, was founded in order to make secondary education available and accessible to the children of the tax-payers in the various communities of this country :

AND WHEREAS King’s College, Lagos, in the past, had opened its door to such students, who had intellectual aptitude and good character, without prejudice :

AND WHEREAS King’s College, Lagos, by means of entrance examinations and scholarship awards, thereby encouraged secondary education and the cultivation of a spirit of oneness among the indigenes of this country, irrespective of tribe or station in life :

AND WHEREAS King’s College, Lagos, in recent years, has been the scene of a number of strikes and other embarrassing incidents which tend to create a detour in its educational mission :

AND WHEREAS King’s College, Lagos, is creating an impression on the minds of a section of the tax-payers of this country that, its noble aims are being stultified, due to factors of mal-administration, intensified, by contemporary social forces :

BE IT RESOLVED by this Honourable House that the present administration of King’s College, Lagos, has created a situation in the history of education in this country that, a commission of inquiry should be appointed by His Excellency the Governor in order to investigate the remote and immediate causes of this wave of strikes together with the resultant disciplinary measures, among the student body of that institution, so as to restore confidence in the administration of that college.”

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

In connection with the motion standing in my name I would rather discuss further the issues involved with the Honourable the Director of Education in the light of his answers to my questions

and of those of another Honourable Member on this subject. In the circumstances I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

Your Excellency, before discussing this motion may I ask the permission of the House to delete paragraph 5 thereof.

I rise, Sir, to move the motion standing in my name which reads as follows:

“ WHEREAS certain films which are screened in the various cinemas of this country tend to portray the Negro race in a derogatory and humiliating manner:

AND WHEREAS films which portray the African in a derogatory manner tend to create a spirit of bitterness and embarrass interracial relations in this country:

AND WHEREAS certain films which are screened in the various cinemas of this country depict lawlessness, gangsterism, thereby glorifying crime:

AND WHEREAS these films have a tendency of influencing adversely the minds of the inhabitants of this country;

AND WHEREAS it is claimed that such films have been responsible for producing potential criminals which as a result are claimed to constitute fifteen per cent of the population of the United Kingdom:

BE IT RESOLVED by this Honourable House that censorship of films screened in Nigeria cinemas should be more rigorously done, and that films which are derogatory and humiliating to the Negro race, of which Nigerians are part and parcel, should be banned from Nigeria.”

On March 5th, 1948, at Kaduna, I asked the following questions, to which answers were given.

“ 128. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) Is Government aware that public opinion in this country is becoming hostile to the screening of Hollywood films in local cinema halls which portray people of African descent persistently as clowns, scare-crows, servants, idiots, etc.?

(b) If not, will suitable investigation be made in order to remove the cause of complaint?

(c) Will the Cinematograph Board of Censors bear this in mind in passing films for exhibition in this country, which hurt the feelings of Africans? ”

The answer was:

“ (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The members of the Cinematograph Censorship Board when censoring films invariably consider whether they are likely to injure racial or religious susceptibilities. In cases where persons of African descent are concerned, the Board Committees are guided by its African members."

In the light of these answers, Sir, I feel I should press this motion, because it is clear that the Board of Censors are alive to their responsibility and appreciate the injurious effect of such films on the people of this country. According to the Production Code of the film industry, motion picture is an art, and like other arts its object is to present human thought, emotion, and experience in terms of appeal to the soul through the senses. Since art enters intimately into the lives of human beings, it can be morally good, by lifting men to higher levels, and it can be morally bad in its effect. The motion pictures, which are the most popular of modern arts for the masses, have their moral quality from the intention of the minds which produce them and from their effect on the moral lives and reactions of their audiences. Thus producers of motion pictures have a grave responsibility. There is no doubt that films which are projected on the screens are organs of mass communication, and they are important ingredients of visual education. That being the case, the motion picture industry should place increasing stress on its role as a civic and informational agency, conscious of social attitudes in human relations. By so doing international understanding and inter-racial co-operation can be achieved.

In presenting this motion to this Honourable House, I do not intend to leave an impression that I am a sort of "kill-joy". There is a tendency not only to portray certain races and nationalities in a stereotyped fashion, but the vogue appears to be to lower the moral standards of film fans by the sympathy of the audience being thrown on the side of crime, wrong doing and evil.

In connection with the first tendency, it is becoming habitual for Hollywood, particularly, to ignore the rights, history and feelings of certain races and nationalities by not giving careful consideration and respectful treatment to those concerned. This may be due to the environment of Hollywood as an American community influenced by social factors of race prejudice and discrimination. The portrayal of Negroes on the screen perennially as menials, bell hops, red caps, janitors, stable boys, clowns, eccentric dancers, lazy and happy-go-lucky people may be justified in certain respects, but cannot be used as a yardstick to describe the Negro race to the whole world.

The strange thing about this deliberate distortion of the social behaviour of a long-suffering race, is the anomaly of seeing prominent American Negroes, like Clarence Muse, Nina Mae McKinney, Steppin' Fetchit, Lena Horne, etc., willing to proselytize what cannot be justified scientifically—all for the love

of money! It is, therefore, not uncommon to hear such objectionable epithets used to identify Negroes on the screen: Nigger, Sambo, Smoky Joe, Gawge, Zigaboo, Jig, Coon.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

I rise on a point of order. May I call your attention, Sir, to Order 11, rule 3 of Standing Rules and Orders of this Council regarding reading from notes as follows:—

“ A Member should not read his speech but he may read extracts from written or printed papers in support of his argument and may refresh his memory by reference to notes.”

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

Your Excellency, I am refreshing my memory by referring to my notes.

His Excellency:

Let me say at once that the interpretation of that Standing Order is for the chair. I have interpreted it with considerable leniency throughout the proceedings. The object of the rule is to preserve liveliness in debate. When we come to some unexpected happening, as we did this morning, we get lively and impromptu speeches. For the rest, I am sure that as time goes on we shall all become familiar with the practice of the House, and in the meantime I must be left to judge.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

I thank Your Excellency, Sir, for the ruling.

Among more articulate and influential groups, pressure has been applied in order to compel Hollywood to respect the feelings and susceptibilities of certain races and nationalities, for example:

- (1) Griffith's famous film, *The Birth of a Nation* was vigorously denounced by the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured Peoples, in the United States, on the ground that it portrayed the American Negro in an unfavourable light as servile peoples who prefer slavery to freedom. Public reaction of this nature is bound to have, and it did have, a salutary effect.
- (2) *When Devil's Island* was screened in America, portraying the Government of France in an unfavourable light, that Government threatened to place a ban on all the distributing company's products, if the picture in question was screened anywhere in the world. Naturally, Hollywood refrained from screening same.
- (3) The Government of Italy has successfully protested against the portrayal of Italians as villains and comic characters on the screen.

- (4) British censors have been very punctillious in banning any film showing cruelty to animals or to children.
- (5) *Spain in Flames* was banned in the States of Pennsylvania by the Board of Censors because words like " Fascist ", " Nazi ", " Italian ", " German ", were used in an uncomplimentary fashion. That was before the World War II.
- (6) Epithet of " as thick as flies in a Greek restaurant " brought a chorus of successful protest from the American Society of Greek Restaurateurs.
- (7) *School and Society*, a journal devoted to the teaching profession, protested on August 11, 1945, against the tendency of Hollywood to portray school teachers as " neither animal, nor vegetable, nor mineral " since they are always shown as anaemic and emaciated old maids who are victims of vitamin deficiency.
- (8) The American Bar Association has also protested against the practice of Hollywood to portray lawyers as crooks, shysters and flim flammers.

This motion, Sir, is designed to curb in any feasible way open to us in this country, through our Board of Censors, films which portray the Negro race in a derogatory and humiliating manner, because they tend to create a spirit of resentment and bitterness.

The second part of the motion, Sir, is one which deals with the glorification of crime and sex, and its harmful effect on the mind of Nigerian youth.

Usually the films show " Cow Boy " or " Wild West " pictures and other " Crime " stories depicting conflict with justice, gang warfare, trick methods of concealing crime, murder, brutal killings, justification of revenge, duels, and drunkenness. It is not the screening of these baneful habits and questionable conduct that I am against, but the resultant effect of ridiculing the law, making crime to be heroic, and teaching the technique of theft, robbery, safe-cracking, dynamiting of trains, arson, indiscriminate use of fire-arms, and smuggling. In my humble opinion, such films inspire imitation and teach pliable minds methods of crimes, thus making them potential criminals.

Lastly, I submit, Sir, that certain films have a tendency to desecrate the institution of marriage. Adultery and illicit relations are encouraged. Excessive and lustful kissing, suggestive embraces, semi-nudity with meretricious purpose, and salacious postures—all the stimuli which arouse the baser emotions are emphasised on the screen, more so does Hollywood make prostitution appear attractive.

I do not in the least wish to give the impression that I am a saint, but that should not imply necessarily that I am a devil. But in order to guide the youth of the land, Sir, I submit that

evil should not be made to appear attractive on the screen, but that good should be made to appear more alluring and desirable. For the above reasons, Sir, I beg to move.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama) :

Sir, I beg to second.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Your Excellency, I think there is very little to be said—fortunately at this hour—on the motion before us. There is nothing with which anyone could disagree in the motion as it stands. The Honourable Member who moved the motion has mentioned the fact, to which I referred in answer to a question, that where matters of this kind arise, it is the practice of the Censorship Boards to refer to the Nigerian members of the Boards. They are obviously in the best position to come to a decision on such matters, and the Honourable Member is aware that the Censorship Boards are fully alive to their responsibilities. We have confidence in the Censorship Boards and in agreeing to the motion which has been made it should be clear that there is no lack of confidence in the work which they are doing.

We support the motion, and there is only one point which I might mention before the discussion is concluded. I am glad to note that the Honourable Member asked leave to strike out a section of his resolution, although I believe he has not formally done so. I should like to make one short comment on that section. I was puzzled by the wording of the section which it is now proposed should be omitted. The reference is to "potential criminals". Your Excellency, we are all potential criminals, and it is therefore very difficult to say what percentage of any race is made up of potential criminals—it might well be regarded as 100 per cent. But the Honourable gentleman in this section of the motion has stated that potential criminals are claimed to constitute fifteen per cent of the population of the United Kingdom.

Well, Sir, if you accept my view about who are potential criminals I make no complaint. But if the suggestion is that fifteen per cent of the population of the United Kingdom are criminals, then I think that some protest should be made. I always refer to my friend the Honourable the Financial Secretary when any calculation is involved, and he tells me that on that basis we should conclude that there are 7,650,000 criminals in the United Kingdom. I am glad that the Honourable Member wishes to strike that section out. I always like to attribute the best possible motives to everyone and I can only assume that he included the section by mistake.

Apart from that there is nothing in the motion which we need hesitate to accept.

The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. A. Ikoku) :

On a point of information, Sir, may I ask what is the membership of the Censorship Board?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

I am glad the Honourable Member has raised the question, because there are different censorship boards in different parts of the country. I may say that we are not satisfied with the membership of the existing censorship boards. The membership of the boards in many parts of the country comes up for review this month, and it is proposed, as has been announced in the *Gazette*, to make changes in the membership. I hope that the Honourable Member will not however think that in anything I have said I am casting any reflections on the actions of the existing members of the Board.

The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. A. Ikoku) :

In asking my question, Sir, I had in mind the constitution of the boards, with a view to suggesting, Sir, that a large majority of the members of the boards should be Africans.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

The point is very much in our minds, Sir. It is a change in that direction that we are contemplating.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.) :

Your Excellency, I think that everything that can be said about this motion has been said, but I want to assure the Honourable mover of the motion that we are with him in this particular matter. While I was in England, I can assure you, Sir, that it has been a matter which has ruffled one's pride and national consciousness. I have walked out of an English cinema house for sheer protest, after seeing an African portrayed in a very, very ugly light. I did not like it. If we cannot stop the insult in the United Kingdom, in America, Spain, Italy or any European country, I think we ought to stop it in our own homes.

His Excellency :

If no other Honourable Member wishes to speak I call upon the Honourable Member to reply, if he wishes. Perhaps he will give us the precise wording.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

I ask for leave to delete paragraph 5, Sir.

His Excellency :

Do you wish to reply to the debate?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

There is no need, Sir.

His Excellency:

I take it that the House gives leave to the Honourable Member to strike out paragraph 5. Will those in favour of the motion say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The Ayes have it.

Motion adopted.

His Excellency:

Council will now adjourn until 4 p.m.

Council adjourned at 1.15 p.m.

Council resumed at 4 p.m.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

Your Excellency, I have had time to think over the wording of the motion, and have arrived at something which I hope will be acceptable to the House. With your permission, Sir, I would like to read the whole thing from the beginning:

"In view of the vital need of a general elementary education for the people of Nigeria, including the British Cameroons:

And in consideration of the fact that the people of Nigeria, including the British Cameroons, are both financially poor and not fully sensible of their responsibility to give this general elementary education to their children as in duty bound:

And in pursuance of the policy of the Government of Nigeria whereby steps are taken to advance the progress and welfare of the people of Nigeria and the British Cameroons:

BE IT RESOLVED: That this Council strongly recommends that Regional Houses should give early consideration

- (i) To the encouragement of Local or Native Authorities to introduce Local Education or School Rates in suitable areas with a view to progressive introduction of compulsory primary education in these areas.
- (ii) To the amendment of the Native Authority Ordinance, 1943, so as to allow of Local Education or School Rates being applied to the support of approved Voluntary Agencies' Schools."

His Excellency:

Well, I think first I should ask permission of the House for the Honourable Member to substitute the wording he has read now for the wording he read this morning. Will those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The Ayes have it. The wording is substituted.

The amended motion is before the House.

The Hon. the Director of Education :

Sir, I should just like to say that the amended motion as proposed by the Honourable Member accords with Government's policy as approved by this Council last March and reflects, so far as I may judge, the opinions expressed by Honourable Members during the debate.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

I would like to know, Sir, if the amendment includes what people have said this morning. The Honourable Member for the North tried to adjust some shillings and pence and other things.

His Excellency :

That has disappeared from the motion in its present form. The question is that local rates should be applied.

The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. A. Ikoku) :

Your Excellency, I beg to give the motion and the amendment my warmest support.

His Excellency :

If no other Honourable Member wishes to speak I will put the question. The question is that the motion as amended be adopted. Will those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The Ayes have it. I think we may congratulate the Honourable mover and his collaborators.

Motion adopted.

The Second Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) :

Your Excellency, I rise to move the resolution standing in my name which reads as follows:—

" Be it resolved :

" That, in view of the inability of the Northern Provinces to compete on equal terms with the other Regions of Nigeria in taking advantage of scholarships recommended by the Nigerianisation Commission, this House now requests the Government of Nigeria to set up a special scholarship fund to be administered for the benefit of such suitable Northern candidates as present themselves at any such time."

Sir, although this motion does not suggest regionalisation of the funds which are now provided for scholarships, I must say, that it is the general wish of the Northern Provinces that those funds should be regionalised. I know, Sir, how some of the Honourable Members feel about the regionalisation of such funds, but I hope they will appreciate the special problems and the difficulties

confronting Northern Nigeria today. Sir, I am not ashamed to say that the Northern Provinces of Nigeria are backward in western education in comparison with the other regions of Nigeria. This motion was opposed by Government in the Northern House of Assembly where I first moved it in January last. Today I hope, Sir, that the attitude of Government towards this motion will be one of complete sympathy. I would like to point out that the Northern Provinces did not have any doubts about the good intentions of Government behind the Commission which Your Excellency appointed last year to make recommendations about the recruitment and training of Nigerians for Senior Service posts in the Government service of Nigeria. The Northern Provinces also, Sir, were not unmindful of the problems and difficulties which that Commission had to face in carrying out its task. The Nigerianisation Commission which Your Excellency appointed recommended that the Government of Nigeria should award 385 scholarships in three years, and at the same time that Commission, while making this recommendation, set out clearly in its report the difficulties of obtaining suitable candidates from the Northern Provinces at present. Sir, I hope with your permission to quote from the report of the Commission. This is what the Commission wrote in its report:

“Until the effects of the drive to improve educational facilities in the Northern Provinces begin to be felt the Commission can only recommend that special consideration should be given to the claims of any qualified candidates for scholarship and training courses coming from the Northern Provinces, the aim being to ensure that no Northern candidate who is suitable and qualified should fail to receive an award. By this means, and particularly by awards of training courses to Northern candidates who are not qualified to undergo full degree courses, it is hoped that the disparity between the number of qualified candidates available from the North and the South, which is at present unavoidable, can be to some extent redressed.”

Now, Sir, forty-seven candidates applied for scholarships from the Northern Provinces last year. Of that number fourteen were selected to appear before the Central Selection Board. It is very interesting to know, Sir, that out of fourteen only five were said to be suitable and nearly every one of our five candidates was to have only one year's course in the United Kingdom. Now, Honourable Members can very well remember that recently the Government of Nigeria awarded seventy-two scholarships, and it is out of this number that the Northern Provinces are only given five places. Sir, this is a situation which we cannot bear and also, Sir, we cannot agree to remain behind for ever, and we cannot afford to lose the opportunities which are now being offered by Government. Peoples from other regions of Nigeria, Sir, have been given opportunities by Government for higher education overseas for

many years, and the Northern Provinces only came into the show in 1945, when some four teachers were sent to England for only a year's course in London University. During all the years, Sir, the Northern people were simply given no encouragement, but, however, this is now history which I even hate to remember. The time limit of three years for carrying out the recommendations of the Nigerianisation Commission is too short for the North, and it is very clear that the Northern Provinces cannot produce the suitable candidates within that period. Northern Nigeria today, Sir, as I said in the House of Assembly, is in a very unfortunate position, more especially when one thinks of the tremendous speed at which things move now-a-days. I would like to assure the Honourable Members that I am moving this motion without the slightest intention of creating any idea of Pakistan. It is not only the duty of the Northern Provinces to see that the Northern Provinces march together with other regions of Nigeria, but it is also the duty of the other regions to see that this is so. What I will say is let the other regions help develop the Northern Provinces and by so doing help to strengthen the unity of Nigeria. Now the request we are making Sir, is an urgent one, because, as I said in my budget speech, nobody can tell what next year will be. This does not mean that I have no confidence in the future, but we suffered in the past and we still seem to be suffering. Other regions were developed at our expense, and it appears that they will continue to be developed at our expense. We are now asking, Sir, that the Northern Provinces be given their share of scholarship funds to use when they are able to. If we do not have the candidates today we will have them tomorrow, and if we have our share of scholarship funds in our pockets we need not come to any Council on our knees, Sir, to beg for funds. As I say, Sir, we lost a great deal in the past and I think this is enough to justify our claim. ~~As the truth in this motion is so clear I don't need to spend the~~ time of the Council. Anybody who knows the history of Nigeria since the amalgamation can see, Sir, how that vast region was almost entirely neglected. The Government and the people in other regions did not care, probably, to interest themselves in the affairs of Northern Nigeria. I am very sorry to say this, Sir, because, as I said earlier, all this is history. And Sir, I beg to move.

The Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Yahaya Ilorin):

Sir, I beg to second.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

Your Excellency, I rise to express my sympathy with the mover of this motion. I could well understand his zeal and zest for the North. While the South and the East were yielding to tuition they were sleeping in the North, and now they are waking and we

are thankful for it. But, Sir, what I do not understand is this. Why should it be special scholarship fund? If we were to put the motion before us for all regions, Sir, well and good, but special scholarship funds for the North I think should be re-considered by this House and perhaps not considered. That is my point, Your Excellency.

The Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Yahaya Ilorin):

Your Excellency, this motion has already received the whole-hearted support of all the Unofficial Members of the Northern Regional Council, and I hope it will receive your blessing and the blessing of this august Assembly as well. As I have already stated in my budget speech, the pace of educational progress in the North cannot for some years to come be compared with either the East or the West for reasons better known to Honourable Members. And no doubt if the present method of selection is allowed to continue, the North will derive very little, if any, benefit from the scholarship scheme for at least five years to come, because at the present moment we cannot just produce the deserving candidates. But this, Sir, does not mean that these candidates will not be forthcoming in the course of years, and all that is requested of this House is that the Northern region—to allow the scholarship fund to be shared regionally so that each region can spend its share as it thinks fit. I strongly support the motion.

The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. A. Ikoku):

Your Excellency, I rise to express myself in full sympathy with the Northern Provinces in this matter. I understand the Honourable the Second Member for the North to say that a portion of the scholarship vote should be ear-marked for the North, and possibly the three years term extended to—say ten years—or whatever period he deems fit. I do not understand him to be calling for a special scholarship fund as the motion unfortunately says. I am hoping to correct him, but if he means that a portion of the scholarship vote be ear-marked for the North, I am in complete sympathy with him, because I think that in three years time the Northern Provinces cannot, with their present provision of secondary education, produce candidates in sufficient numbers for open and fair competition. In fact, even in the South we have heard complaints from candidates from various regions as to dissatisfaction with the present method of selection. I know that we cannot evolve a machinery satisfactory to everyone in the country, but when candidates make an allegation which it is difficult to prove, I think it is the duty of the Unofficials to bring the facts to the notice of Government. I do not want to enter into the details of allegations that one has heard, but I do suggest that the Scholarship Selection Board itself should be regionalised and to preserve the same standard there should be the same chairman. By that I mean that the Board sitting for the Colony

should be a Colony Board with the present chairman, and if the Board were sitting in the Western Provinces the same chairman, but Western Provinces members. If the Board were sitting in the Eastern Provinces the same chairman with the Eastern regional group for selection. And candidates should apply to the board of their domicile—place of origin. By that I mean if a Northern candidate happens to be residing for the moment in Lagos, he should forward his application to the Northern Secretariat, and if a Western candidate happens to be residing in the East, his application should be treated by the Western Secretariat. I think there is a fear, Sir, in the minds of everybody in the country, that the region with the best men in the Senior Service will be the region in control. That is the fear reduced to simple language. I think the Second Member from the Northern Provinces used the word "southernization" of the Service. And I think the fear in simple language is that the region with the Attorney-General, the Chief Secretary and so so tomorrow, will be the region in control, and therefore there is a real fear, founded or unfounded, that the scholarships are not being fairly distributed, and we think that the scholarships should be regionalized, and to preserve the same standard the same chairman should preside in every region.

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. H. Buowari Brown):

Sir, I rise to support the last speaker. The complaint has often been made that the Eastern region, with particular reference to my province—the Rivers Province—that the existing selection committee does not take into consideration the rights and the needs of other regions as they do certain other regions. I don't want to make any particular reference to this fault in the Eastern Provinces, and particularly as regards the Rivers Province, but undoubtedly there is a certain amount of discrimination and favouritism in the selection commission, and therefore I agree with the last speaker that the Selection Board should be regionalised with the same chairman, so that we can have better services from the Selection Committee, Sir. I am quite in sympathy with the North, they know their own minds, and I think my friend the Honourable the Third Member for the East has also made out a case. The North want the money ear-marked and set aside, so that when they are ready they can use it for their scholarships.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiyam, O.B.E.):

Your Excellency, much as I sympathise with the Honourable mover of the motion, I must disagree with him in principle. The Commission for the Nigerianisation of the Service recommends that we give 385 scholarships for three years. It means, Sir, that a certain sum of money will have to be voted for this purpose. The idea of scholarships at present in vogue in the country is to give the best boys and the best girls a chance to further their education

and to come back to this country and be of service to the country. The idea of setting aside money to be the share of the people in the North does not quite agree with that policy. We do agree, Sir, that at present it is not all regions that have the facility of gaining scholarships as they might wish. It is hard luck, indeed, if the North at present are unable to compete with those from the Eastern Provinces or the Western Provinces or the South. All the same it is hoped that the idea of scholarships in Nigeria will continue, and that being so the northerners or those in the East who have not risen to the standard required by the Selection Committee will have the opportunity of doing so when they are ready. But I cannot agree with the proposition of setting aside special scholarships money for the people of the North to make use of it when they are ready. I feel that any section of the country which is ready, and has the opportunity, should make use of the scholarship money voted by Nigeria. I am very much in sympathy with the whole idea, but I don't think it is right for us to set this money aside. Sir, I am sorry to oppose this motion.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama) :

Your Excellency, I am in sympathy with the motion as it stands. My difficulty is that I don't quite understand whether the mover of the motion is suggesting that whatever money is voted for the 385 scholarships should be divided into certain proportions and a proportion kept for the North, or whether he is suggesting that some other fund should be created for the North. If he is advocating the first view, that is that the whole amount of the 385 scholarships should be apportioned, I would suggest to him, Sir, that that would not hasten Nigerianisation, on the contrary it would reduce the number of students who could go forward until such a time as the North would be ready to play its full part. Now that certainly would be against the spirit of the Commission's report. I would have thought that in the next few years we hoped to get as many Nigerians as possible without prejudice to any further action which might be taken to assist the Northern Provinces in their rise towards equality with the other regions. If, however, the Honourable Member is advocating the second proposition, that is that a special fund should be created quite independent of the other 385 scholarships, I entirely support the motion.

His Excellency :

Would the Honourable Member agree to clarify the position for one or two members?

The Second Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) :

The Honourable Members, Sir, have left me in an awkward position. I discussed this matter with them before when I told them my intention of moving this motion in Council. Some of them, Sir, suggested that I should ask for the regionalisation of the

fund straight away. Some of them suggested that if I asked for the regionalisation of the funds they would oppose. And now, Sir, to make my stand very clear, I am asking for the regionalisation of the present scholarship fund.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

In that case, Your Excellency, I rise to oppose.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

Your Excellency, I am in entire agreement with the sentiments expressed by the Member from the North. The funds, the administration, and the taking up of duty of the students when they get back to Nigeria should all be regionalised.

The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. Gaius I. Obaseki):

Sir, I beg to support the motion moved by the Second Member for the Northern Provinces that the Scholarship Fund should be regionalised. We have complained again and again that, if it is the intention of Government to give us self-government in the future, opportunity should be given to all regions in Nigeria to benefit from the scholarship funds on equal terms, but if, as suggested by some members, the scholarship fund should not be regionalised, it will mean that those parts of the regions of Nigeria which are ready now to avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by the scholarship scheme will benefit at the expense of the other parts. I therefore support very strongly the motion that the scholarship scheme should be regionalised.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Your Excellency, when I read the debates in the Northern Regional House, and again when I listened to the Honourable the Second Member for the North this afternoon, I remembered a very old story—a story nearly 2,000 years old—of a man who went on a journey. Before he went he gave to each of his three servants a pound. When he returned he called for his servants (the Honourable the Senior Unofficial Member will correct me if I make any slip in detail)—he called for his servants and the first one was able to say that the pound, by his trading, had become ten pounds. The second was able to say that his pound had become five pounds, and then the third servant was called. I always remember very clearly the words which he used—he said, “Behold, here is thy pound which I have kept laid in a napkin, for I feared thee, knowing thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.” Those words, I always think, are the earliest record in literature of the characteristics which we normally expect in a Financial Secretary. We must not follow the analogy too closely, but I believe that what the Honourable Member from the North is, in effect, saying to the Financial Secretary is this, “We fear thee, we know that thou art an austere man, thou

takest up that thou layedst not down and thou reapest that thou didst not sow, and therefore give us our talent so that we may keep it in a napkin." I disagree with that attitude, I think that the attitude is mistaken. But I well understand the reason which led the Honourable Member, and the Northern Regional House, to adopt the attitude they have, and I, like every other Member in the House, sympathise with that view and with their feeling in the matter. I myself feel however that their attitude is a negative approach, and I believe that the approach should be positive.

The Honourable Member read one paragraph of the Report of the Nigerianisation Commission. I should like permission to read the previous paragraph, which showed what we on the Commission thought should be the attitude to the special problem of the Northern Provinces:

"Throughout its enquiry the Commission has been concerned at the small number of qualified candidates for scholarship and training schemes likely to be available from the Northern Provinces (a similar problem exists in certain other Provinces such as the Cameroons and the Ogoja Province)." (I am sorry, Sir, that the example which we took was the Ogoja Province and not the province from which the Honourable the Second Member for the Eastern Provinces comes).

"This state of affairs cannot be remedied until the educational system in the Northern Provinces has been brought more into line with that of the Southern Provinces and it is recognised that a determined effort is now being made in the Northern Provinces to increase the pace of educational advance. It is not for this Commission to advise what further steps can be taken to accelerate this progress but it wishes to record its opinion that there is no more urgent task in Nigeria nor any project which deserves a higher priority in the recruitment of staff and allocation of materials."

What in fact, Sir, we feel, is that every penny we can allocate to educational purposes should be devoted to increasing and expanding the educational facilities which exist, particularly in the Northern Provinces, rather than that money should be set aside without benefit and without profit until a later date. This House, Sir, has always shown special sympathy with the need for more rapid educational advance in the North. In fact, I remember that within a month or two of my arrival in this country, this House willingly voted a very large sum of money in order that the pace could be increased. If there is money to be used, Sir, I believe that it should be used now in increasing the pace of educational advance, so that more qualified candidates can be created, rather than putting the money on one side.

I should like to mention one or two matters which have been raised in relation to the report of the Commission. I was very glad that I waited to speak until one or two other Honourable Members

had spoken; because what they said supported the action that we recommended in the report of the Commission. They said, in effect, Sir, that although some of them did not support the regionalisation of scholarship funds they certainly supported the regionalisation of the system of selection, and that is, in fact, exactly what, in the Nigerianisation Commission, we attempted to achieve. The Regional Public Service Boards already established from the 1st of January this year, are under the chairmanship of the Civil Service Commissioner or his representative—for the very good reason, as one Honourable Member pointed out, that it is necessary to maintain some uniformity of policy and practice. There is a common chairman and he sits with two Unofficial Members who serve in rotation for a year at a time from a panel of six Unofficial Members appointed by each Chief Commissioner. And so the system of selection for scholarships is in the hands principally of unofficials in each region, and a Northern candidate, under the system which came into effect on the 1st of January, makes his application to the Northern Regional Secretariat. He is then seen by a regional board in which there is one official and two Northern unofficials, and his application is then finally considered by the Central Public Service Board on which there is a representative of each region. The point made by my Honourable friend the Third Member for the East is therefore provided for in the report. He shakes his head, but I understood him to say that he wished that the applications should be made regionally and considered regionally: that is exactly the arrangement which has been introduced.

The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. A. Ikoku):

That machinery is exactly what I would want, minus a Central Board. I should like to see the selection in the regions.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

I think, Sir, that that would present some difficulty. If, for instance, in any one year for the whole country an allocation of twenty scholarships in engineering is made, then I think it is very necessary that all the candidates for engineering scholarships, having been considered by the regional boards, should come forward to be considered by one over-all authority before the final awards are made, and I think he would find that very great difficulty would arise if that were not done. You might find that one region had allotted fifteen scholarships for engineering and another had done the same, so that thirty scholarships for engineering had been awarded by two regions, although only twenty could be granted for the whole country in that year. But that, Sir, is a detail which we must not pursue. The point I am making is this. The Honourable the Second Member for the North says that he is disturbed by the selection made last year of the Northerners who came forward. In future the selection will be made primarily by a Northern Board with a majority of Northern Unofficials on the Board.

There is one other more important point than that, and that is that Honourable Members who spoke seemed to suggest that this scholarship scheme is for three years only. That, Sir, is certainly not the case. We thought it was unwise to attempt to look ahead more than three years in the preparation of this scheme, but I think we all recognised that it would not be a matter of slowing down after three years. Surely it will be a matter of acceleration. This is what the Commission said on the point: "The Commission has therefore prepared in outline a scheme of scholarships and training courses for an initial period of three years. It recommends that the position should be reviewed before the end of that period and plans prepared for the next stage".

Now, Sir, I always enjoy listening to the Honourable the Second Member for the North. He is indeed a very skilful debater, and he has that quality of skilful debaters—the capacity to make very difficult and complicated subjects seem simple and easy. Actually the problem before this House is extremely complicated. I am completely opposed, as the Commission was opposed, to the regionalisation of scholarships,—to say that this province and that province must have an equal number of scholarships allotted, irrespective of the standard of candidates coming forward. I should be completely opposed to taking the number of scholarships recommended or the total of funds voted, and dividing them between the three regions, because I think that would be slowing down the pace in Nigeria. I think that would be a wrong principle, and in spite of the explanation given by the Honourable Member, the mover of the motion, we must take the motion as it stands. He does not ask for regionalisation of the amount of roughly a quarter of a million pounds allocated for scholarships on the first three year period. He asks that the Government of Nigeria should set up a special fund, which is surely quite different. I find myself in some embarrassment, Sir, because I intended finally to say that, in spite of the great difficulties and subject to the fact that we shall be examining this year in the constitutional review the extremely difficult and complicated matter of the distribution of revenue to the various regions of the country, the Government will agree in principle to the setting up of a special fund for the North. I very much hope that the Honourable mover of the motion will not take the ground from under my feet and make it impossible for me on behalf of the Government to support the motion which he has brought. We could not possibly agree that part of the funds already allocated for the three year period should be put in the bank in the North and there remain idle, thus reducing the amount of the money available for scholarships in that period. But when the Honourable Member from the North says in effect that he does not grudge advance in the South but wishes at the same time to see acceleration in the North so that the North can catch up and stand on equal terms in these matters, then, Sir, we whole-heartedly support

him. I hope that the Honourable Member will leave his motion as it stands, in which event I can say on behalf of the Government that, with the reservations I have mentioned, we shall support it.

The First Nominated Member (The Hon. P. J. Rogers):

Your Excellency, could the Honourable the mover of this motion make clear the position before we continue with this debate?

The Second Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa):

Sir, I really do not know what to do or what to say. I cannot understand my position. I moved the motion as it is on the order paper. Some people gave me the suggestion to ask for the regionalisation of the fund. Some people suggested that they would support this, some people said they would oppose unless I left the motion as it stands, so really, Sir, I don't know what to do, to have the support of the Government, and the Unofficial side. If I can count on the support of the Council I am ready, Sir, to leave the motion as it stands on the order paper.

The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. A. Soetan):

Your Excellency, I find myself in this difficult position, namely, if, as the Chief Secretary suggests, the motion be left as it is with some reservations for the North, then what is going to happen to the other regions—the East and the West? Would the same reservations apply to them?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

The recommendations of the Nigerianisation Commission have been approved and are being put into effect. It is not proposed to disturb those recommendations, the scheme as approved will proceed. In addition it is proposed by the Honourable the Second Member for the North that a special fund should be set aside to cover scholarships in the Northern Provinces when sufficient suitable candidates are available, and Government supports that proposal, but it is not proposed in any way to interfere with the scheme already approved as recommended by the Nigerianisation Commission.

The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. A. Soetan):

Thank you, Sir. If it will not appear to be partial to the North in setting up a special fund to be operated for them, I think it should be done. I am quite prepared to support that course if Government is willing to allocate a special fund, provided it is not prejudicial to the interests of the other regions. Fingers are not equal and I think we shall still have to be faced with the same difficulty visualized by the Second Member for the East. Therefore in supporting this motion, I do so with the reservation that the interests of the West and the East are not in any way prejudiced.

His Excellency :

I am afraid that could not be done with reservations, it would have to be an amendment.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

If the austere man may say a few words, it is a fact that in the present estimates there is an amount of £70,000 to £80,000 and an undertaking has been given that that amount will be repeated during the next three years. The point of the Honourable the Second Member for the North is really this—that in the years ahead it may be impossible,—I do not think that it will be—but it may be impossible to provide funds for scholarships, and whereas now the funds are available but no bodies, in the future there will be bodies but possibly no funds. I consider that there is a case for this Council putting aside a certain amount of money each year during say the next three years to provide a scholarship fund for the North. It will not affect anybody in the Southern Provinces, and as regards the point made by the Honourable the Fourth Member for the West, it is a fact, I believe, at the present time, that the Western Provinces have their fair share of the scholarships. But this is not a resolution related to the balancing—so much—of the present amount of money, but directed to getting approval in principle from this Council that an additional sum of money over the £80,000 should be put into a fund, and it is that motion with that interpretation which I approve and shall support.

His Excellency :

Does the Honourable mover of the motion wish to reply?

The Second Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) :

Your Excellency, I have nothing further to say.

His Excellency :

The question is in terms of the motion as on the order paper. Will those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

Motion adopted.

The Second Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. T. A. Odotola, O.B.E.) :

Your Excellency, I rise to move the Resolution standing in my name which reads as follows:—

"WHEREAS the system of Indirect Rule on the lines of the principles enunciated in his Political Memoranda was introduced into the Protectorate of Nigeria by the late Lord Lugard :

AND WHEREAS as a result the system of Native Administration was established in the Protectorate of Nigeria :

AND WHEREAS this said system of Native Administration, in the words of the late Sir Donald Cameron in his memorandum of 1934, was designed to adapt for the purposes of local administra-

tion the tribal institutions which the native peoples have evolved for themselves, so that the latter may develop in a constitutional manner from their own past, guided and restrained by the traditions and sanctions which they have inherited, moulded or modified as they may be on the advice of British Officers:

AND WHEREAS the term tribal institution was in the said memorandum by the late Sir Donald Cameron defined as the tribal authority which according to tradition and usage has in the past regulated the affairs of each unit of native society and which the people of today are willing to recognise and obey:

AND WHEREAS it has not been established that the system of Native Administration is administered in the Northern and Western Regions of Nigeria contrary to the principles enunciated in the foregoing, or has ceased to be guided and advised by British Officers:

AND WHEREAS criticisms of this system published recently in the local press are destructive, designed and calculated to undermine the authority of traditional rulers in the Northern and Western Regions of Nigeria and also to incite the indigenous people of these areas against such constituted authorities:

AND WHEREAS certain questions asked at this and previous meetings of this Honourable Council are also designed and calculated to undermine the authority of the traditional rulers in the Northern and Western Regions of Nigeria and to incite the indigenous peoples of these areas against such constituted authorities:

AND WHEREAS in most cases these questions, although inside Standing Rules and Orders of this Council, are malicious and vindictive and are therefore an abuse of the rights and privileges of membership of this Honourable Council:

AND WHEREAS in the Governor's speech to the Legislative Council at the opening of the present session, His Excellency expressed the view that "we can achieve unity at the centre through strength in the Regions" and that "our watchword should be 'Unity through strength'":

AND WHEREAS in the said speech His Excellency also said that it would be a serious mistake for all regions in this country to advance in exactly the same way in the widely varying circumstances of different parts of this country:

AND WHEREAS it is the considered view of this Honourable House that unity is a desideratum to the progress of this country towards self-government but that this unity cannot be achieved in the absence of mutual respect, tolerance and goodwill between the different races of this country:

NOW BE IT RESOLVED by this Honourable Council that, having due regard to the widely varying circumstances in different parts of these Regions, steps be taken at the earliest possible date

to provide by legislation or some other suitable means for the progressive and effective democratisation of local administrations in the Northern and Western Regions, on such lines as may be acceptable to the peoples of the Regions concerned.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that steps be taken at the earliest possible date to introduce for consideration of this Honourable House a suitable legislation making it a criminal offence to publish any article designed and calculated to undermine the authority of a recognised traditional ruler in the proper execution of his official duties and/or to incite the indigenous peoples of his area against such constituted authority.

AND BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that steps be taken at the earliest possible moment to prevent by legislation or some other suitable means, interference by detribalised professional politicians, alien organisations or body in the internal affairs of local administration units set up on democratic basis, or in any reform or re-organisation which the indigenous peoples of such units may deem desirable for the effective administration of the units, as such interference is invariably motivated by a spirit of destruction and confusion rather than that of construction."

Honourable Members will perhaps wonder as to the necessity for the somewhat lengthy preamble to this resolution. But I think, having regard to the important nature of the resolution, it will be generally agreed that there is some justification for this.

As may be noted, the resolution falls clearly into two parts. First, it seeks to vindicate the policy of "Indirect Rule" as instituted by Lord Lugard and followed up by Sir Donald Cameron, and others. Secondly, it aims at affording protection to the natural rulers and or Native Authority against unwarranted and unjustified attack in an equal measure to the protection afforded to the people against oppression and tyranny. Also to prevent interference in the internal affairs of local administrations by other than the indigenous peoples of the unit of such administration.

Before proceeding with my speech, I would crave the indulgence of Your Excellency and Honourable Members of this House to amend the resolution as follows:—

"NOW BE IT RESOLVED by this Honourable Council that, having due regard to the widely varying circumstances in different parts of these Regions steps be taken at the earliest possible date to provide by legislation or some other suitable means for the progressive and effective democratisation of local administrations in the Northern and Western Regions on such lines as may be acceptable to the peoples of the Regions concerned.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, accepting the right of the peoples in the Northern and Western Regions to progressive and effective democratisation of their respective local administration

on lines acceptable to those peoples, the provisions of the existing law, which makes it an offence to conspire against or in any way attempt to undermine the lawful power of statutory authorities engaged in such local administration, be vigorously enforced.

AND BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that while accepting the right of free speech and the right of any person or body of persons to hold particular political views and to advocate the adoption by others of these views when such views are designed to further the peaceful and orderly progress of Nigeria this Council condemns the interference by outside political parties or bodies into the internal affairs and local administrations of the peoples of the Northern and Western Regions when such interference is motivated by a spirit of destruction and confusion rather than that of construction."

The Native Administrations in both the Northern and the Western Regions are the administrative machinery designed for practicalising the policy of Indirect Rule, the essence of which is the government of the people through their natural rulers. And, as the late Lord Lugard summarised it in his Political Memoranda "To maintain and develop all that is best in the indigenous methods and institution of native rule, to avoid as far as possible everything that has a denationalising tendency and to inculcate respect for authority, self respect and a fair treatment of the lower classes, the weak and ignorant."

Sir, as in every human institution, there have no doubt been abuses and mistakes in the carrying out of the aims of this policy. But we in the Western Region, and I believe the same is also true of the Northern Region, where it has been in practice for more than half a century, are satisfied that, on the whole, the system has been a success.

It is true that at one time, due to a mistaken notion of the constitutional position of the natural rulers and/or Native Authorities too much power has been vested in them. But I think it is well known, at least by those who have taken the trouble to follow the trend of recent events, that more and more the natural rulers have evinced a desire to share, and are indeed sharing, this power with the people, a state of things made possible by the fact that the system of "Indirect Rule" permits of natural growth which is admittedly the healthiest form of progress. And it is my firm conviction that a further broadening of the basis of local administration is both possible and practicable under this system.

Here, Sir, let me refer to paragraphs 4 and 5 in the text of the preamble to this Resolution, in view of recent happenings in the Western Region of this country.

They read as follows:—

"And whereas the term tribal institution was in the said Memorandum by the late Sir Donald Cameron defined as the

tribal authority which according to tradition and usage has in the past regulated the affairs of each unit of native society and which the people of today are willing to recognise and obey :

And whereas it has not been established that the system of Native Administration is administered in the Northern and Western Regions of Nigeria, contrary to the principles enunciated in the foregoing, or has ceased to be guided and advised by British Officers."

Now, what I really wish to bring out in these two paragraphs is that the people are still strongly attached to their traditional institutions as represented by the tribal authority, and are ready to recognise, obey and respect them.

The other point I wish to make is that it is an essential feature of the system of " Indirect Rule " that local administrations should be guided and advised by British Officers, and also that the prestige and influence of the tribal authority should be upheld. Indeed both Lord Lugard and Sir Donald Cameron laid strong emphasis on the latter aspect.

I hope I may be forgiven to ask whether there has been a case in which a Native Authority has failed to accept the advice and guidance of British Officers? If so, the same has not to my knowledge been published for public information.

And, now may I state quite frankly, that wherever there has been trouble between the people and their chiefs, an examination of the cause has revealed that such trouble was almost always due to the grafting of foreign features on tribal institutions, without adequate investigation and/or consultation as to whether such reform was suitable or acceptable to the people. A notable instance has been what, in the Western Region, is known as " the sole Native Authority " whereby chiefs have been vested with powers which they never enjoyed prior to the advent of the British.

It is, however, a source of gratification that this system of " Sole Native Authority " is gradually being eliminated in this Region, thereby removing a serious source of friction between the people and their natural rulers. And it is most sincerely hoped that steps will be taken without delay to sweep away whatever still remains of this evil force against peace and harmony, and thus to ensure a rapid democratisation of our local administrations.

Now, Sir, I come to the second part of the resolution, which deals with the protection of traditional institutions from unwarranted attack, and the prevention of interference in the internal affairs of local administrations by other than the indigenous people of such unit of administration.

We, in the Western Region, and I believe the same is also true of the Northern Region, cherish our traditions and time-honoured

institutions. To us our natural rulers and Native Authorities are a symbol of authority and power, and the fountains of law, order and justice. It is our firm conviction that the natural structure of our time-honoured institutions provide, and has the capacity for, the most progressive form which democracy can take without any attempt at violent destruction of the whole system of Indirect Rule as seems to be advocated in certain quarters. And it is because forces of destruction are being engineered from outside by people who are unable or unwilling to understand our way of life that this resolution has been considered necessary.

Sir, I wish to make it quite clear that it is not the intention of this resolution that traditional rulers and/or Native Authorities should be regarded as museum pieces to be tucked away in glass cases and to be kept away from the undoubted benefit of clean and refreshing air. I do, however, hold and I sincerely hope Honourable Members will agree with me, that it would be foolish for us in the Western Region—and also in the Northern Region for that matter—with our love of tradition to stand by and do nothing to afford protection to our time-honoured institutions, which give aim and direction to our best endeavours and which assure us of orderly and natural growth, from the malice, fury and envy of our modern vandals.

Indeed, we shall be failing in our duty, and posterity will condemn us for our failure, if we allowed ourselves to be deflected from taking the necessary steps to do so by such cheap platitude as “the freedom of the press and freedom of speech.”

Your Excellency, nobody has a right to any kind of freedom unless he can exercise such freedom with restraint and good sense. And I would like to know what Honourable Member in this House can conscientiously say that the press in this country, or at least a section of it, has shown any evidence that it appreciates what freedom it now possesses. Has such “freedom” not been converted into a licence for vulgar abuse of, and malicious and vindictive attacks on, those who hold a different view from it? Has this “freedom” not been made the means of deliberate and wilful dissemination of lies for personal ends and the obstruction of the efforts of others, however beneficial such efforts are to the community, if these do not conform to the dictate and wishes of certain newspaper owners.

I believe this is the state of affairs which provoked Your Excellency to administer the rebuke and to make the scathing remarks contained in your address to this House on the opening day of this session and with which every right-minded man in Nigeria should be grateful to you.

It is the duty of this House to follow courageously the lead which Your Excellency has given in your spoken address and to do something to clean up the “augean stable” of our local press, and this resolution is, I think, a step in the right direction.

Your Excellency, the cry of a free press in this country is meaningless and the comparison with the press of United Kingdom which we have heard so often cannot, to my mind, bear any serious examination.

In the United Kingdom, Sir, the damage which an irresponsible newspaper can do is very limited. The people of the United Kingdom by reason of their many years of enlightenment and education, are more critical in their attitude toward newspaper articles and other printed matters generally, unlike Nigeria where the vast number of the people are still illiterate and consequently are apt to regard the contents of newspapers and other printed matters as though they were the ten commandments handed down from Mount Sinai.

Again, can we say that the strong, informed and enlightened public opinion, that great corrective factor of national conduct, which obtains in the United Kingdom in any way exists in Nigeria? It is therefore absolutely necessary and desirable that when comparisons are made between this and other civilised countries, we must make quite sure that the basis of such comparisons is sound.

Sir, not many days ago, I read a publication in a Lagos newspaper, and I know other Honourable Members in this House have perhaps read even worse contributions than the one to which I am referring. Then I said to myself what Editor of a newspaper in the United Kingdom would accept such publication without damning his paper forever. And yet we keep on talking about freedom of the press.

I think all those who understand the working of the Native Administration system will agree that the success of this system has been due in a great measure to the good sense which has always been shown by the natural rulers. They have almost invariably displayed a willing readiness to adjust themselves to changing times and to play their part in working for the interest of their people. And for this I think no small credit is due to them.

Here, in this Chamber, are two notable examples among others. The Honourable the Emir of Katsina, from the Northern Region, and the Honourable the Oni of Ife, from the Western Region. Both may justifiably be said to be leaders of the new spirit who do not wait to be prompted but step forward readily on their own, holding up the torch of progress for their people to follow. And it is sincerely hoped that many more will emulate their example.

Is it too much then to ask that Native Authorities of this calibre should not be left exposed, in the midst of their admittedly most difficult work, to the malicious, vindictive and unscrupulous activities of individuals whose stock in trade is to cause confusion in the minds of the illiterate masses and to fish in the resulting troubled waters for their own ends and self glorification?

Sir, the world has moved a long way today from the days of Lord Lugard. But great minds like that of this former Governor-General, usually carry the truth that serves in every age. The late

Lord Lugard held strongly the view that for the successful application of the Native Administration system it was essential that the influence and prestige of the natural rulers should be upheld.

If this Honourable House is satisfied that, in the Northern and Western Regions, this system has been a success in the past and still holds out the best means of achieving success in the present time, then I hope it will whole-heartedly endorse this resolution.

Sir, I beg to move.

His Excellency:

I take it the Honourable Member has put forward the revised wording which he read out at the beginning. Do you wish leave of the Council to substitute the amendment?

***The Second Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. T. A. Odotola, O.B.E.):**

Yes, Sir.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:

I think I might read it again, Sir. The changes are on page 6 of the Order Paper. The two paragraphs which begin "And be it further resolved:", and "And be it still further resolved:" are amended. The paragraphs will now read:

"AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, accepting the right of the peoples in the Northern and Western Regions to progressive and effective democratisation of their respective local administrations on lines acceptable to those peoples, the provisions of the existing law, which makes it an offence to conspire against or in any way attempt to undermine the lawful power of statutory authorities engaged in such local administration be vigorously enforced."

Then there is the final paragraph which reads:

"AND BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that while accepting the right of free speech and the right of any person or body of persons to hold particular political views and to advocate the adoption by others of these views when such views are designed to further the peaceful and orderly progress of Nigeria this Council condemns the interference by outside political parties or bodies into the internal affairs and local administration of the peoples of the Northern and Western Regions when such interference is motivated by a spirit of destruction and confusion rather than that of construction."

His Excellency:

Will the Council give leave to the Honourable Member to substitute that wording. Will those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The Ayes have it.

The Second Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa):

Sir, I beg to second and in doing so I would like to contribute to the debate on this motion. The motion, Sir, covers a very wide field and one could speak on the subject for days. It will be rather

difficult for anybody taking part in a debate on this motion, Sir, to put aside the past history of the different tribes in this country. It has often been said in the Legislative Council, Sir, that Nigeria is a country which is inhabited by people of different tribes, different languages, customs and traditions, different religions and people who also have got different backgrounds in their history. Now, it is also something which we would like other tribes in Nigeria to know, that any direct attack on our natural rulers or our authorities which are in our locality, we calculate as a direct attack upon the whole community as well. Now, in pre-British days, Sir, as everybody here very well knows, or probably has heard, it was impossible for any commoner to attack a natural ruler directly. But now-a-days, Sir, with the coming of the British and with the British Government in Nigeria, educated young people you find, even some illiterate people, who for one reason or the other were trained by some evil people not to respect authority, not to respect anything which is traditional, I will even go so far, Sir, as to say, not to respect even religion, you find these people doing all sorts of things in the country. Now in the Northern Provinces, Sir, we are now beginning to accuse the Government for allowing such things to continue. And we feel that it is the Government who are shielding these people, and we feel that if we can get the opportunity we can deal with the case ourselves. Sir, there have been many criticisms of the indirect rule system, and I am to say that I am also a critic of that system. I said in the Northern House of Assembly that although I criticise the system of indirect rule, yet I have great support for the system. In the Northern Provinces, Sir, the system has given the people of the North great opportunities. It has given them the opportunity to develop on their own lines, to lay modern developments, political and otherwise, on their own foundations, and it has also given them the opportunity to preserve a lot of the past which is still very good. But in the same way, Sir, I criticise the system when it comes to a question of leaving things for ever as they have been all the time. There must be change, because the world itself is changing, Sir, and the people also must change. I do not mean to say that the Northern Provinces have not changed at all, but when you compare the rate of change in the Northern Provinces with the rate of change in the other regions, everybody, Sir, will admit that we do not change at the rate that we should. It is already Sir, the view of the educated young men in Northern Nigeria that the time has come when we should have really a combination of the two, the old and the new. We do not like to make any artificial advancement as made, probably, by some communities in other parts of Nigeria. We want Northern Nigeria to change, but to change as Northern Nigeria. We have great respect for our rulers and in fact for all authority. And really, Sir, as the mover of the motion said, when he comes back to think of the press attacks on natural rulers and those in authority, he

just cannot understand how or what we expect this country to be like in the future. Probably, Sir, the people who attack authority or who attack individuals, are the same people, I think, who have got the wish or the strong desire to be the masters of the country in the future. Now let me warn them, Sir, that if now they abuse authority, in the same way the people of whom they expect to be masters will abuse their authority in their time. This question, Sir, is a very serious one for Northern Nigeria, because, imagine, Your Excellency, the majority of the people in Northern Nigeria, who are farmers, some of whom are just illiterate in Western fashion, probably they hear stories of newspapers, and imagine the psychological effect that a northern farmer will have in his mind when he receives or he hears that one such and such ordinary commoner in a part of Nigeria is now abusing, say, the Sultan of Sokoto. Imagine, Sir, the psychological effect. In this way that farmer, Sir, is being educated to have no respect for authority. I believe, Sir, it is the duty of any good press in any country to educate the public. Sir, I can only say that so far the Nigerian Press is not educating the Nigerian public on the right lines. It is also, Sir, our general view in Northern Nigeria, seeing how things go now-a-days, pressure from other regions, pressure from Lagos, is making the Government, probably, bringing into the Northern region certain things which we ourselves do not agree with, we just, Sir, begin to accuse the Government. We, Sir, accuse the Government because we see that within a few years the Northern peoples, Sir, will be spoilt. I do not mean that we will be spoilt because of adopting reasonable modern ways. I do not mean that we will be spoiled, Sir, because we will create political parties in the North, but, Sir, I just want to say that if we are spoiled in the North the fault will be with Government, because it appears to me, Sir, that now boys in school are being educated, probably by the press, to go on strike, to have no respect for the masters, and in the community no respect for the elders, no respect for the rulers, and we often ask what is really the aim of the educated young men of Nigeria—what is their aim? What do we want the future of this country to be? Do we want Nigeria at the present time to be a country entirely controlled by a minority group of some young literate people? Do we like to educate our less fortunate brothers to understand the changing conditions of time? Do we really want to move together with the old, or do we really want to condemn anything which is old? It would be unwise, Sir, I will say, if the young people in this country think that Nigeria can be a better country when everything old has departed. Now, my Honourable friend, the mover of the motion, also touched upon the democratization of the Native Administration Council. Now, I can agree with him, and the democratization of the council of the Native Administration, Sir, is one of the things, I think, which will give a solution

to our problem, and in doing so we must not forget the right of the minority. As I say, we need change, because we must change. We do not want any change, Sir, which will make us artificial. Many people, Sir, as I have always said, try to compare Nigeria with the other countries of the world, countries in Asia like India, Japan and Burma, countries in Europe and countries in America. But, Sir, really I do not understand what has blinded the eyes of those people, some of whom have gone to America and to England, and to think that we can grow on the lines that they are suggesting today. Your Excellency, I made a public appeal in the last budget session of this Council at Kaduna. I said—I appealed to all people in Nigeria, European and African alike, to co-operate, to help to educate Nigerians to realise the position, and I am still making that appeal. It would take me very long, Sir, if I just stand to explain how our minds in the North are really working. Seeing all evil influences coming to our region from other parts of the country, Sir, we always feel that something probably more evil is behind. The development of communications, Sir, has made it possible for the peoples of Nigeria to meet together more often, and if nothing is done I am afraid to say, Sir, that the confusion which we foresee is bound to happen. We have now reached the stage, Sir, when Government should make a definite statement of its intentions for the future, that is, does the Government of Nigeria wish to turn the Protectorate of Nigeria into—well I don't know what word to use, Sir, and I would ask the excuse of Lagos people—into Lagos? Is it the Government wish to turn the whole of the Protectorate into a place like Lagos in the future? Does the Government of Nigeria, Sir, want the peoples in the Protectorate to develop in their own lines, or does the Government of Nigeria want the people of other regions to be the masters of the people in another region? I think it is time, Sir, that this Government should make a clear statement, because we really don't understand. Sometimes the Government supports that side, tomorrow they support this side, and the other day support the other side, Sir. It must be made clear. Sometimes we hear of the development of local government bodies, sometimes the development of Native Administration systems, and now really, Sir, I think we have reached the time when this should be made clear to the people, especially the people of the Northern region, and then, Sir, we can also see the stand of Government from this motion which I am now seconding. The Government through this motion can make a clear statement whether it is prepared to support the Northern and the Western regions in trying to put restrictions over the different practice of different sections of the community in setting people against their natural rulers, or whether Government is interested, Sir, in getting those people to do that thing. I think, Sir, this is a very wide subject, and I hope also that Government should make its stand very clear.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

Your Excellency, I have a few remarks to make, Sir, on the first part of the resolution in this motion, on that part which refers to

“ suitable means for the progressive and effective democratization of the local administrations ”

Now we have heard a great deal in this Council, Sir, about substitution. Substitution of public for private ownership, substitution of private for public ownership, of Cable and Wireless for the Posts and Telegraphs Department, and I have noted a steady theme running through these last few weeks of substitution of African for European. But to my mind, Sir, there is no question of substituting, in the Northern Provinces, local government for Native Administration. There may be some change, but it does not come under substitution. Native Administration as we know it in the North today is local government, and it will continue to develop as such. It will be local because it is close to the people and their problems, and it is government because it covers the whole field of administration. The field of administration which the local government today is required to carry out in the North, Sir, covers law and order, finance, land tenure and land usage, welfare; health, taxation, communications, primary education and political development.

In the North, Sir, we often hear it said, and I must say we feel it ourselves, that there is something peculiar, something different about the Northern Provinces, and that is, I think, true. But it is so, Sir, not because we have made it so, but because it is so. I particularly want to try and explain what is the position in the Northern Provinces today in regard to local administration, and the lines on which we are hoping to develop. I should first like to remind you, Sir, that the Northern Provinces is not limited to the great Emirates with a powerful backing of tradition and of ancient civilisation. In the Northern Provinces there is an infinite variety in every form of life, culture and administration, and I think sometimes we are inclined to forget the extraordinary variation that there is in a large part of it; and if you will bear with me I will quote a few figures to emphasise this point. In the Northern Provinces there are 231 Native Authorities and of these 136 are conciliar in character. Of these 231 Native Authorities 121 are Superior Native Authorities and 110 are Subordinate Native Authorities. In the case of 79 of these a Chief is the sole Native Authority, but the remaining 41 are plural Native Authorities. There are 110 Subordinate Native Authorities and of these 15 are sole Authorities and 95 plural. I would emphasise that in the case of sole Native Authorities they are, of course, working in conjunction with a strong and influential Advisory Council. Those are the figures of Native Authorities as organised today, and you can see what a very large number they are. They vary in every sort of

way in accordance with the circumstances of their separate authorities. No single fixed channel of development exists. Each Native Authority is developing along broad lines best suited to its particular needs and background. Thus the lines of approach to the goal of representative local government are extremely diverse and varied, because we are trying to retain what is the best in each individual community. Thus it may be, as has very recently occurred in one district, that a Chief is replaced by a Chief in Council, thus broadening the membership of the Native Authority. On the other hand, as in the Tiv Division, it may well be that the Tribal Council, which is a "member" of the Native Authority, will advance along a line diametrically in contrast to this; that is, the Tribal Council, a Council with an indefinitely large membership, will in probability find it necessary to delegate its powers to a smaller executive body. This policy of encouraging development along general traditional lines and of avoiding the imposition of a uniform and ready made system of democracy imported irrespective of custom and culture—this policy, I am certain, is encouraging the growth of a local government authority as a living thing, growing as part and parcel of the community's existence. It also is providing a large variety in the form of functioning Native Authorities. They vary from sole Chiefs through Councils of Chiefs, Chiefs associated with Councils, Clan and Kindred Councils, to Tribal Councils, to Federated Councils. And within these broad types of constitutions infinite variations occur.

The trend of policy is to build up strong local government bodies, and that means that by federation or association smaller Native Authorities can coalesce to form units which are capable of standing alone. I see very little future for a number of small units unless they do federate, and this trend is being encouraged. I should like to quote two instances—quite remarkable instances—of this coalescence into larger units. One example is that of the Chief and Tiv and Council. Now this is a Native Authority with three subordinate Native Authorities, and two years ago it took the place of the previous organ of local government, which consisted of 57 Native Authorities, which were mainly Clan Councils, so that we now have a central Native Authority in the place of 57 Superior Native Authorities. In the same year the Chief of Idoma and Council was constituted a Native Authority in place of 34 Superior and 40 Subordinate Native Authorities. That, I think, explains my point. We are encouraging the development of local government bodies, but we are very anxious to maintain the efficiency of the governing body. To hasten too fast leads to irresponsible government, but I also admit that to proceed too slowly leads to stagnation. In my view, in these complicated areas we have just been talking about, Sir, great consideration must be given to the state of development and the ability to absorb new ideas, because we must ensure that each advance is consolidated as a part of the community's life.

Now I should like for a few moments to explain how I think advance and progress should be made. I have briefly explained the position as it is today, but there is also the problem. Before going further I should just like to deal with the phrase "progressive and effective democratization", and in this context I should like to say something about the words "democratic" and "democracy". Their meaning has caused a deal of trouble in the councils of the world, Sir, at meetings of the United Nations, and there is great variety of opinion as to what "democracy" and "democratization" mean. When we talk of a democratic system of local government here in Nigeria, we mean, I submit, Sir, "a fully representative and responsible local government". I should like to leave these words as meaning just that—"a fully representative and responsible local government." Now, Sir, the problem as I see it is to hasten the advance towards responsible and representative local government. Generally speaking I think it is true for a variety of reasons, many of them good and excellent reasons, I think it is true that we have in a number of the Provinces of the North tended perhaps to concentrate too much at the centre. In the result we have today in the North, and especially in the Emirates, a reasonably efficient machine at the centre, but the periphery is lagging behind. It is therefore my intention to encourage more delegation at that centre, and I personally feel that they can now take it. We shall thus be able to release hard-pressed administrative staff to assist in development downwards—that is to the districts and villages. We are proceeding to representative local government by building up representative Councils from the bottom—from the vital base. We are building up through Village Councils and District Councils to the centre, which is the main unit. Some Village and District Councils, in fact, are already in existence, and others are being formed. But I would ask you to realise, Sir, that this is a vast and immense task, and the immensity of this task—to build up Village Councils—can be gauged, I think, not only by the figures of Native Authorities which I quoted earlier, but from the fact that in one Emirate alone there can be as many as eight hundred separate village communities, and we have to organise them into Councils—eight hundred in a single Emirate. Time is short, Sir, and the task, as I say, is immense, and yet I have heard it said in this Council, Sir, that it is wrong to bring the administrative staff up to full strength. With that I cannot agree. The administrative staff is already heavily pressed in the Northern Provinces, and if we are to go ahead, as go ahead we must, with the creation of representative Councils at all levels, we cannot possibly afford to tackle this great problem with an under-strength staff. I should have thought it was self-evident that after being forced, as we have been in the Northern Provinces, we have been forced by staff shortage during the last eight years, to run our administration on a care and maintenance basis, an overhaul was now necessary. An overhaul

The Honourable G. L. Howe, K.C.
The Financial Secretary,
The Honourable A. W. L. Savage, C.M.G.
The Director of Medical Services,
Dr the Honourable G. B. Walker, C.B.E.
The Development Secretary

Mar. 30, 1949]

Council Debates

729

is always necessary after a prolonged period of running on a care and maintenance basis. But when the time comes—as it has done now—for an overhaul to take place, surely that is not the moment to encourage staff shortage. In fact, there is an anxiety already in my mind that the administrative machinery may shortly be choked or well nigh choked in this country by the increasing complexity of government unless we press on with some form of administrative development which will ease the pressure.

I know well that it is said that we in the North move too slowly and that progress is infinitesimal, and I concede that “gradually” must no longer mean “slowly”, but at the same time “rapidly” must not and need not necessarily mean “abruptly”. I do not intend here to elaborate on the detail of representative Village Councils and District Councils, but I would like to say this. We have realised that it is a mistake simply to create a chain of debating societies. Councils at all levels must be given some power, so that when they decide what they want they can have it, and they can have it quickly, provided it is reasonable. With this object in view there is being established in the coming financial year district council funds, which will be a step forward in financial devolution from the centre. £70,000 will be set aside for this purpose in 1949-50. The allocation to individual districts will be based on the number of tax-payers in that district, and the rate will vary according to the overall wealth of the Native Administration concerned. These district council funds will be used specifically inside the district on works advocated by those Councils, and that is to my mind a most important step towards avoiding the danger of endless debating societies in those councils.

That, then, Sir, is a very general picture of the way in which we are working in the Northern Provinces.

As I said earlier, I do appreciate that we may have tended to concentrate in recent years rather too much at the centre. But not only is this the case in administration. The same, as I see it, is partly true of education, where we are suffering today because the base is too small, and that also might well be said of development. Development to my mind is not just a series of major works, it is and must be a host of small things building up to a general development, and if we are not frustrated by staff shortages I am confident that we can now, Sir, spread our activities out to the scattered communities.

Now before I close I have one more thing I would like to say, Sir. I should like to refer back to what I said just now over substitution, because I sense a danger that we may well be going to substitute for disease not development and prosperity, but famine. We are rapidly acquiring in this country a great skill in dealing with the *great Leveller* wherever he is at work, whether by way of small pox or malaria or sleeping sickness or cerebro-spinal meningitis. We are ready to deal with him on that level. But

- The Second Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.
- The First Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable I. Olorun-Nimbe.
- The Emir of Gwandu,
The Honourable Yahaya, C.B.E.
- The Emir of Katsina,
Alhaji the Honourable Usuman Nagogo, C.B.E.
- The Oni of Ife,
The Honourable Aderemi I, C.M.G.
- The Oba of Benin,
The Honourable Akenzua II, C.M.G.
- The Atta of Igbirra,
Alhaji the Honourable Ibrahim.
- The Emir of Abuja,
The Honourable Sulemanu.
- The First Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Bello Kano.
- The Second Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.
- The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable H. Buowari Brown.
- The Third Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Iro Katsina.
- The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable A. Ikoku.
- The Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Aliyu, Makaman Bida.
- The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.
- The Second Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe.
- The First Nominated Member,
The Honourable P. J. Rogers.
- The Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Yahaya Ilorin.
- The Third Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.
- The Third Lagos Member,
The Honourable Adeleke Adedoyin.
- The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Soetan.

ABSENT

OFFICIAL MEMBER

- The Resident, Abeokuta Province,
The Honourable J. H. Blair, E.D.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The First Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable C. D. Onyeama.
- The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable N. Essien.
- The Second Nominated Member,
Major the Honourable J. West, M.C.

The Member for Calabar,
The Honourable E. E. E. Anwan.
The Third Nominated Member,
The Honourable N. B. Edwards.

PRAYERS

His Excellency the Governor opened the proceedings of the Council with prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

I notice on page 12, Sir, of the Minutes, that there is an omission which obviously is inadvertent. That is on the Motion of the Second Lagos Member. "Seconded by the First Member for the Eastern Provinces" was left out.

His Excellency:

Could you direct me to the page?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

Page 12, Sir.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:

It should be "Seconded by the First Member for the Eastern Provinces".

His Excellency:

I am obliged to the Honourable Member for bringing this to my notice.

The question is, are the minutes as circulated with that amendment approved?

Minutes as amended approved.

PAPERS LAID

The Hon. the Financial Secretary:

I beg to lay on the Table the three Reports standing in my name in the Order of the Day, which read as follows:—

"Report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council appointed to consider the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to appropriate the sum of thirty-six thousand, nine hundred and seventy pounds to the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and fifty".

"Report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council appointed to consider the Bill entitled "An Ordinance further to amend the Income Tax Ordinance, 1943".

"Report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council on amendments of duties under the Customs Ordinance, 1942, and the Excise Ordinance, 1941".

(iv) How many Europeans were privately treated, stating the figures for Syrians and Lebanese patients for comparison?

(v) How many firms, e.g., Elders Limited, United Africa Company, French Company, etc., pay retainer fees to the Government Dentist every year, and what are the respective value of such retaining fees?

(vi) How much did the Government Dentist pay to the Revenue during the years under review for the use of Government equipments in the private practice of his profession in Public Buildings.

(vii) If private cases were treated by the Government Dentist during official hours, will the Honourable the Director of Medical Services be graciously disposed to tell the Nigerian public through this Honourable House, what are official hours of duty of the Government Dentists, stating the official hours of duty of Government Medical Officers for comparison, not excluding Specialists and Senior Specialists?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

(i) From the Annual Reports for Lagos, the number of patients seen was 2,617 in 1946, 3,532 in 1947 and 3,945 in 1948.

(ii) The numbers of Government Officials and private patients were as follows:—

	1946	1947	1948
Government Officials ...	1,506	1,624	1,956
Private Patients ...	1,111	1,908	1,989

(iii) The numbers of children who received dental treatment were 56 in 1946, 160 in 1947 and 175 in 1948. In addition, 538 children were inspected in 1947 and 265 in 1947.

It is regretted that the records do not allow of the ratio between males and females of school age being calculated.

(iv) The numbers of private patients, Europeans and Syrians and Lebanese, were as follows:—

	1946	1947	1948
European	684	1,044	1,149
Syrian and Lebanese ...	29	86	61

(v) No such retainers are paid. The second part of the question, therefore, does not arise.

(vi) In those cases where private practice is allowed, it is part of the conditions of service of Dental Surgeons that they have the free use of Government equipment and premises for private practice, and the Government Dental Surgeon in Lagos therefore paid nothing to revenue for the use of such facilities during the years under review. For the use of Government stores, however, a sum of £489 7s 1d was paid to revenue over the period 1st January, 1946, to 31st December, 1948, but it should be noted that the officers concerned purchased the greater part of their supplies direct from commercial sources.

(vii) The present official hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with two Dental Officers each working a staggered six hours on duty. These are chairside hours, or operation times or time spent doing rounds in hospital; in addition, patients are seen on Sundays, Public Holidays

and outside normal office hours. Routine office work and organisation have to be carried out outside the hours of normal chairside work. Medical Officers, including Specialists and Senior Specialists, work much the same number of hours, but the Honourable Member, as a Medical Practitioner, will appreciate that the calls upon a doctor's time in the exercise of his profession, at any hours of the day and night, render it difficult to specify any "official hours of duty".

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

76. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

(a) What is the annual death rate of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Nigeria for the past fifteen years?

(b) If he would give a comparative clinical and pathological (Post Mortem) figures in the diagnosis of these cases?

(c) Is Cancer definitely on the increase in Nigeria, stating comparative figures along with that for Tuberculosis?

(d) In view of the fact that Pulmonary Tuberculosis is definitely on the increase, what efforts are being made by the Department for mass Radiography of the population in (a) the large cities, and (b) rural areas of Nigeria, with a view to early diagnosis and effective treatment—prophylactic and curative?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

(a) It is impossible to assess the annual death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis for Nigeria, but the following are the figures for Lagos for the years 1932 to 1947 inclusive:—

Year	Deaths	Estimated Population	Death Rate
1932	131	142,500	%.92
1933	124	145,300	.85
1934	141	148,200	.95
1935	178	150,700	1.1
1936	151	153,300	.98
1937	173	155,900	1.1
1938	146	158,500	.92
1939	148	160,700	.92
1940	169	163,000	1.0
1941	166	165,500	1.0
1942	180	167,600	1.0
1943	235	169,800	1.38
1944	229	172,000	1.32
1945	206	174,200	1.2
1946	175	176,500	.99
1947	183	178,700	1.0

The following table shows the number of cases and deaths reported from Government and Native Administration Hospitals for the years 1932 to 1946 inclusive:—

(d) A Mass Miniature Radiography Unit is now being assembled in Lagos and provision is made in the Estimates now under consideration for the purchase of a mobile unit.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

96. To ask the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony:—

(i) In view of the fact that, while it is not a Government Department, the Lagos Town Council invariably adopts Government measures in matters concerning the Staff and general administrative machinery of the Council, would he explain in some detail why the Council did not comply with the Harragin Recommendations in converting the following officials to their present scale of salaries?—

- (a) The Town Clerk
- (b) The Town Engineer
- (c) The Medical Officer of Health
- (d) The Municipal Treasurer
- (e) The Deputy Municipal Treasurer.

(ii) It is understood that Dr O. A. Ajose, a former Medical Officer of Health for Lagos, who had been specially trained when he was the Assistant Medical Officer of Health by the Department, with a view to becoming the substantive holder of the post, was obliged to relinquish his appointment owing to discriminatory policy by the Department in not converting him to the appropriate scale of salary to which he was entitled by qualification and experience, whereas the Town Clerk, the Town Engineer, and the Municipal Treasurer were over-converted, will the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony confirm or refute these facts?

(iii) Has the Lagos Town Council any principles by which it is always guided? If so, why should the Lagos Town Council re-employ a pensioner to the post of Medical Officer of Health at a salary of £1,500 plus his pension of £380, when the Council would not retain the services of another Medical Officer of Health at £1,300? If the Council follows or adopts Government policy, why should the present Medical Officer of Health not draw the difference between his former salary of £1,200 and his pension of £380?

(iv) It is understood that a former Assistant Town Clerk had been dismissed since 1st July, 1947, he being a Senior Official. Will the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony explain as fully as possible:—

- (a) How many years service had this officer to his credit?
- (b) When last was he promoted on merit before his appointment was determined?
- (c) What were the grievous offences committed by the officer so soon after his increment in salary and why was he not given an opportunity of self defence before the Council?

Answer—

The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony:

(i) The Harragin Report made no recommendations regarding Town Clerks, Town Engineers, Municipal Treasurers or Deputy Municipal Treasurers, although Medical Officers of Health were

placed on Scale " A ". By a unanimous vote the Council decided to grade its Medical Officer of Health in Group " K ", the scale allotted to a Senior Health Officer. The Town Clerk and Town Engineer were placed in Group " M ", the Municipal Treasurer in Group " P " and the Deputy Municipal Treasurer on Scale " A ".

(ii) and (iii) Questions (ii) and (iii) seem clearly to be contrary to the Standing Orders.

(iv) (a) Twenty-eight years.

(b) April 1st, 1944.

(c) Mr J. B. Shogbola was charged with writing an article for the press violently criticising the Lagos Town Council and certain of its officers, with the aid of information which was only accessible to him in his capacity as Assistant Town Clerk.

Mr Shogbola was given an opportunity of submitting a written explanation of the facts and was allowed to make his defence at an Inquiry which was subsequently held by the Acting Town Clerk. After examination of the records of the Inquiry and Mr Shogbola's explanation, the Council unanimously resolved that his appointment should be terminated, and stated that they had no wish to interview Mr Shogbola since he had already submitted a written explanation of his conduct.

Supplementary Question to No. 96 by the First Lagos Member (Dr the Honourable I. Olorun-Nimbe):

(ii) and (iii) My questions have not been answered, Sir, I regret to say.

(iv) (c) three Supplementary Questions to (c):

(i) Will the Commissioner of the Colony give the date of publication and the name of the newspaper in which the alleged article was written indicating Mr Shogbola as the writer?

(ii) Is the Commissioner aware that what was alleged to have been presented to the Council purported to have been Mr Shogbola's explanation, was merely a cyclostyled but mutilated paraphrasing by the Acting Town Clerk?

(iii) Why was the Motion submitted by the Councillor for ' C ' Ward fourteen months ago, and signed by three Councillors, according to Standing Orders of the Lagos Town Council, for his reinstatement not tabled for discussion until the Councillor was away at the Legislative Council meeting at Kaduna twelve months ago.

Answer—

The Hon. the Acting Commissioner of the Colony:

Your Excellency, with regard to the first question—sub-question (c)—the article in question was not published in the newspaper, but the evidence at the enquiry indicated that it was intended to be so published.

As regards the second question. May I ask the Honourable Member to repeat the second question?

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

Is the Commissioner aware that what was alleged to have been presented to the Council purported to have been Mr Shogbola's explanation was merely a cyclostyled but mutilated paraphrasing by the Acting Town Clerk?

The corresponding figure for 1948 is estimated to be £5,464,000. These figures do not include dollar spendings in respect of "invisible imports" such as remittances to the United States by American organizations or individual citizens, educational remittances for students, freights earned by United States vessels and remittances of profits by American companies. Precise figures for 1941 to 1947 are not available but the Exchange Control has compiled the figures for 1948 and these are of the order of £90,000 (excluding American Oil Company profits).

(b) (ii) The purchase from the United Kingdom or any other member of the sterling area of goods which are either in whole or in part of United States origin involves an expenditure of dollars by the sterling area; statistics of all such purchases are not available.

Account must also be taken of the considerable imports into Nigeria of petroleum products which, although not of United States origin, carry a liability for payment or part-payment in dollars, and of purchases from Japan and Germany which carry a contingent dollar liability.

(c) The Government is aware of the inconvenience experienced by traders in Nigeria, in common with traders throughout the world, resulting from the present restrictions on the free international movement of goods and services.

(d) Any hardship experienced by traders in Nigeria resulting from restrictions on purchases from the United States is ameliorated by permitting limited purchases from countries other than the United States which involved payment in hard currencies not earned by Nigeria but made available to Nigeria through its membership of the Sterling Area. It is estimated that such purchases will total some two million pounds in 1949, made up as follows:—

			£
Belgium	...	...	1,861,000
Portugal	...	...	30,000
Switzerland	...	...	111,000
			<hr/>
			£2,002,000

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

163. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

What concrete efforts were made by the Government during the financial year 1948-49 to provide the peoples of the non-self-governing territory of the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trust with:

- (a) A greater measure of participation in the government of their country and the exercise of political responsibility?
- (b) Educational facilities, elementary and secondary?
- (c) Health facilities?
- (d) Water supplies?
- (e) Electric lighting?
- (f) Fire protection?

(g) Metalled roads?

(h) Postal and tele-communications?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

The Honourable Member is referred to the report of the United Nations Trusteeship Council which will be published shortly. A copy will be forwarded to the Honourable Member as soon as it is ready.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

180. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Why was Mallam Abdallah, a Nigerian, refused bail by the Magistrate, in spite of the fact that the Police did not raise any objection and the offence concerned was a minor one?

(b) Is Government aware that Mallam Abdallah had complained that when he was in custody at Okesuna Police Station he was stripped off his clothes, including his shoes, leaving him barefooted and dressed only in his underwears?

(c) If the complaint is true, will assurance be given that such third degree practice will be discontinued?

(d) Is it a fact the Okesuna Police Station is heavily infested with mosquitoes?

(e) Since Mallam Abdallah was ultimately discharged, what was the justification of the Magistrate in acting the way he did in this particular case?

(f) Is Government aware that public opinion in this country regards the alleged action of the Police, if true, as scandalous and unworthy of the finest traditions of our Police Force?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) The arrest was made after the Courts had arisen on Saturday the 13th of November. At the request of the Police the warrant was marked "no bail". The accused was taken before the magistrate on the 15th of November and bail was granted.

(b) I am not aware that any complaint of this kind was made and I am informed by the Police that the accused was treated in the same way as other prisoners.

(c) There is no question of third degree methods being permitted in Nigeria in this case or in any other case.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) See (a) above.

(f) I think that this question is clearly contrary to Standing Rule and Order 10 (9) (b).

Supplementary Question to No. 180 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe):

A supplementary question to (d). In view of the fact that there are swamps in the area would it be correct to say that the Police Station is infested with mosquitoes.

(d) See (b) above.

(e) No, Sir. The date acquired by the seismic survey party will require careful and expert examination which will take some considerable time before it will be possible to estimate whether oil exists in that area, or not. The party is not exploring for minerals other than oil.

(f) See (b) above.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

262. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) In what securities are the surplus funds of the Native Authorities of the Northern Provinces invested and what is the total amount invested in each case?

(b) What is the period of maturity of each investment?

(c) What interest does each investment yield?

(d) What is the grand total of such investments as at December, 1948?

(e) What is the grand total of the interest earned from such securities?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

(a), (b), (c) and (d) The following Schedule provides the required information as at 31st March, 1948, which is the latest date for which figures are available:—

SECURITIES HELD BY NORTHERN PROVINCES NATIVE TREASURIES AT 31ST MARCH, 1948

Description	Face Value			Cost Price		
	£	s	d	£	s	d
Australia 2½%, 1970-75	9,980	16	5	9,908	14	7
Australia 3%, 1955-58	9,935	19	6	9,719	11	7
Australia 3%, 1958-60	15,287	18	6	15,447	10	9
Australia 3½%, 1956-61	5,833	5	5	5,983	7	5
Australia 3½%, 1964-74	19,301	7	4	19,348	12	1
Australia 3½%, 1965-69	12,500	15	4	12,500	15	4
Australia 3½%, 1951-54	1,710	0	6	1,577	10	0
Australia 3½%, 1961-66	8,914	14	6	9,338	14	2
Australia 3½%, 1948-53	24,061	3	7	24,068	14	7
Ayr. 2½%, 1970-75	11,895	1	11	11,976	17	6
Blackburn 2½%, 1960-65	8,600	0	0	8,266	15	0
Bristol 3%, 1958-63	2,500	0	0	2,487	10	0
British Guiana 5%, 1949-69	2,012	11	2	2,027	12	0
Cardiff 3%, 1956-58	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0
Ceylon 3%, 1959-64	124,498	11	1	125,629	10	2
2½%, Defence Bonds	5,000	0	0	5,000	0	0
3%, Defence Bonds (2nd P.O. Issue)	3,000	0	0	3,000	0	0
3½%, Defence Bonds (3rd P.O. Issue)	19,950	0	0	19,950	0	0
3%, Defence Bonds (4th P.O. Issue)	33,000	0	0	33,000	0	0
Dumfries 3%, 1958-63	2,500	0	0	2,487	10	0
Federated Malay States 3%, 1960-70	26,814	6	8	26,989	17	3
Funding 2½%, 1955-61	999	19	8	880	12	3
Funding 2½%, 1956-61	21,652	7	4	19,047	18	1
Carried forward £	370,948	18	11	369,637	12	9

Description	Face Value			Cost Price			
	£	s	d	£	s	d	
Brought forward ..	370,948	18	11	369,637	12	9	
Gold Coast 3%, 1954-59 ..	1,759	11	6	1,850	1	1	
Gold Coast 3%, 1963 ..	1,768	18	11	1,884	18	4	
Gold Coast 4½%, 1956 ..	32,151	16	10	30,012	7	7	
Grenada 3%, 1959-64 ..	5,000	0	0	5,156	5	0	
Hastings 2½%, 1970-75 ..	10,630	9	6	10,703	11	2	
India 3%, 1949-52 ..	7,680	11	2	7,054	9	8	
India 4½%, 1950-55 ..	6,358	8	1	5,826	11	9	
Ipswich 2½%, 1970-75 ..	19,217	9	1	19,349	11	4	
Joint Colonial Fund ..	43,000	0	0	43,000	0	0	
Kenya 2½%, 1971-76 ..	29,093	3	5	28,815	8	7	
Kenya 4½%, 1961-71 ..	2,021	5	6	2,000	0	0	
Kenya 5%, 1948-58 ..	1,000	0	0	1,165	0	0	
Manchester 3%, 1958-63 ..	2,500	0	0	2,496	2	5	
2½% National War Bonds, 1951-53 ..	1,488	13	8	1,500	0	0	
2½% National War Bonds, 1952-54 ..	42,300	10	6	42,723	14	0	
2½% National War Bonds, 1954-56 ..	50,000	0	0	50,375	8	0	
New South Wales 3½%, 1930-50 ..	900	0	0	901	2	6	
New Zealand 3%, 1952-55 ..	6,048	11	2	5,993	7	1	
New Zealand 3½%, 1962-65 ..	38,584	14	6	38,899	8	7	
New Zealand 3½%, 1949-54 ..	24,442	9	6	23,876	7	7	
New Zealand 3½%, 1955-60 ..	8,092	2	0	8,389	14	8	
New Zealand 3½%, 1960-64 ..	9,221	15	2	9,221	15	2	
Nigeria 2½%, 1966-71 ..	17,924	15	8	17,760	17	11	
Nigeria 3%, 1955 ..	18,083	12	10	17,697	16	9	
Nigeria 4%, 1963 ..	73,358	0	0	64,124	5	6	
Nigeria 5%, 1947-57 ..	1,874	7	5	1,886	14	9	
Nigeria 5%, 1950-56 ..	3,000	0	0	2,970	0	0	
Nigeria 5%, 1950-60 ..	70,654	18	5	69,950	18	5	
Nigeria 6%, 1949-79 ..	17,933	4	7	20,464	8	0	
2½% Savings Bonds, 1964-67 ..	140,037	10	11	140,000	0	0	
3% Savings Bonds, 1955-65 ..	8,886	4	3	9,379	4	9	
3% Savings Bonds, 1960-70 ..	307,923	7	5	309,254	14	3	
Sierra Leone 3½%, 1958-63 ..	4,793	8	11	4,745	10	3	
South Africa 3½%, 1953-73 ..	10,164	4	10	9,821	13	9	
Southern Rhodesia 4½%, 1958-68 ..	1,524	15	7	1,500	0	0	
3% Savings Bonds, 1965-75 ..	248,846	14	7	250,316	2	3	
2½% Treasury Stock, 1975 or after ..	3,191	5	6	3,191	5	6	
Trinidad 3½%, 1958-68 ..	4,561	3	4	4,908	19	2	
Uganda 5%, 1951-71 ..	2,596	2	7	2,511	16	11	
War Loan 3%, 1955-59 ..	9,027	9	3	9,060	11	9	
Widnes 3%, 1915-55 ..	756	15	4	754	8	6	
Total ..	£	1,659,347	10	10	1,651,132	5	8
Deposits with Accountant-General ..	£	102,000	0	0	102,000	0	0
Total ..	£	1,761,347	10	10	1,753,132	5	8
Nigerian Government 3½%, Loan 1956-61 ..	£	108,640	0	0	106,467	4	0
Total ..	£	1,869,987	10	10	1,859,599	9	8

(e) Interest on investments including fixed deposits amounting to £778,956 totalled £65,645 during 1947-48.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

277. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total area inhabited by the Yagba-speaking people of Kabba Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular area?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this area and under whose sponsorship?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this area and what is the mileage of metalled roads there?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this area?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this area?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this area? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of the Yagba-speaking people of the Northern Provinces protected in the (i) Provincial Council, (ii) Northern House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

(a) Approximately 1,400 square miles.

(b) (i) None.

(ii) None.

(c) (i) Twenty-eight;

Sudan Interior Mission	16
Community Schools	4
Baptist Mission	3
African Church	2
Roman Catholic Mission	2
Apostolic Mission	1

(ii) None.

(d) By Commercial lorry. The term "metalled roads" is taken to mean "all season" roads as metalled roads are not built in Nigeria. There are 78½ miles of all season and 73 miles of dry season roads in this area.

(e) (i) None.

(ii) None.

(iii) Three: permission has been given to open a fourth but the equipment has not yet arrived.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Public Notices Nos. 142 and 160 of 1946, in which provision is made for representation in (i) the Provincial Meeting (ii) the Northern House of Assembly and (iii) the Legislative Council.

Supplementary Question to No. 277 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe).

I have a supplementary question under (a) and (d), Sir.

"and what is the known population of the Yagba-speaking peoples?"

(d) Is there any road surfaced with bitumen in this area?

Town								Sponsorship	
Aiye-Ekan .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Elementary	R.C.M.
Jebba .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	"
Aran-Orin .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	"
Okerimi .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	"
Ekan Aiyekean .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	"
Offa .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	African Church
Lanwa .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	"
Iyaru-Okin .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	"
Ira .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	"
Erin-Ile .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	"
Jodoma .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	"
Erin-Ile .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	Private
Ilorin .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	"
Ilorin United Committee	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	"
Offa .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	W.M.M.
Ajasse-Po .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	"
Afon .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	"
Igbonna .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	"
Ologbondoroko .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	"
Amodu .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	"
Igboidun .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	"
Ijoku .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	"
Illala .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	"
Osi .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	S.D.A.
Omu Aran .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	"
Oke-Oye .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	"
Irore .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	"
Oda Owa .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	Christ Apostolic

Total for Ilorin Division 110.

(ii) Secondary Schools. One Grammar School at Offa (Private).

(d) The term "metalled roads" is taken to mean "all season" roads as metalled roads are not built in Nigeria.

There are 175½ miles of all-season roads in the Division. The Niger River bounds it on the North. The Nigerian Railway runs through the Division. There is also an Airport at Ilorin.

(e) There are offices with both postal and telegraph facilities at Ilorin, Jebba and Offa. There are Postal Agencies at Bode Sadu, Illa Market, Jodoma, Iggetti, Lanwa, Isanlu, Osi and Alanamu-Ilorin.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Yes, Sir. At Ilorin.

(h) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Public Notices Nos. 142 and 160 of 1946, in which provision is made for representation in the Provincial Meeting and the Legislative Council. Ilorin Division has no representation in the Western House of Assembly.

Supplementary Question to No. 278 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe).

A supplementary Question under (d), Sir. Is there any road surfaced with bitumen in the area concerned?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

There again, Sir, I shall have to ask for notice.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

295. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

I need hardly say, to the Western Provinces. I can speak without any embarrassment whatever because I can assure this House that there is not one single sole Native Authority today in the Western Provinces.

Now the Honourable Mover introduced a note of urgency into the first part of his Motion, and I agree that there is urgency, in fact I am always impressing on those Authorities and their Councils the need for a feeling of urgency, that is not only in the Western Provinces but I imagine throughout Nigeria and possibly throughout the world as well to accelerate the process of modernizing the Native Authorities so that they can meet the needs of today and the needs of tomorrow. I am proposing, as I have already stated, to set up a Committee in the near future to handle this matter, and I am afraid that I shall have to ask the Mover of this Motion if he will be so good as to sit on that Committee because I am sure his wide knowledge of the world and his shrewd intelligence will be of the greatest assistance to us in our deliberations for the modernization of the Native Administration system in the Western Provinces. Of course I would like to draw the attention of the House to one fact which I have previously mentioned and cannot be over-emphasized, and that fact is that the speed of progress depends on the wishes of the people to progress, and if we try to force the machine to go too fast and get ahead of the will of the people, then that machine is going to come to grief. I myself am inclined personally to think that the speed of the machine is a bit on the slow side, but as I have said I am hoping that we can speed it up a bit. But it is an interesting fact that I was talking to an African of modern outlook only yesterday evening—an African who is in close touch with modern ideas and modern African thought, and he said that from conversations he had had with various people, young and old, that he thought that Government should be careful not to try and go too fast. I quote that as a point of view because, as I have said in the past, and I am constantly saying, I think that we tend to go too slowly. But the point I wish to emphasize is that we must take the people with us, otherwise all our efforts at progress are going to be a ghastly failure.

Now, as regards the last two parts of the Motion, they have, with the consent of this House, been reconstructed, and the first one now deals with the provisions of the existing law dealing with conspiracies against or attempts to undermine the lawful power of statutory authorities engaged in such local administration, that the existing law be vigorously enforced. I was brought up as a student and an admirer of the system of indirect rule, and I reached my maturity and graduated in that school in the Western Provinces, having spent the first part of my service in the North and the most recent part in the West. Fundamentally the principles—the application of indirect rule in the Northern Provinces and in the Western Provinces are fundamentally the same but there are, of course, a great many what I shall call minor differences but in

fundamental principles the system of indirect rule as introduced into this country by Lord Lugard, or as expounded by Lord Lugard obtain in the West in the same way as they do in the North. I am a very great believer in that system, and it is inconceivable to me that in the Western Provinces that that system should ever be left or even endangered by any act or failure to act on the part of Government. It is an essential part of the political make-up in the Western Provinces, and if that system failed what system, I wonder, would there be to take its place. Government will continue to support Native Authorities and will see that the law is vigorously enforced; that is to say in supporting Native Authorities in the lawful carrying out of their duties.

The last part of the Motion dealt with condemnation of interference by outside political parties or bodies into the internal affairs and local administration of the peoples of the Northern and Western Regions when such interference is motivated by a spirit of destruction and confusion rather than that of construction. Of course, Government condemns anything, wherever it comes from, which is motivated by a spirit of destruction and confusion rather than that of construction, whether the action, whether that interference comes from outside bodies, inside bodies, political bodies, or the Press. But the point is, of course, the spirit of destruction and confusion which is at the back of those motives, and I would like to add that Government will support and welcomes anything that is done whether by outside bodies or by inside bodies or by the newspaper which is done in a spirit of construction and co-operation. No matter whence that source.

I am sure that in moving this Motion the Honourable the Second Member for the Western Provinces did not wish to introduce a gloomy note. We did get a gloomy note actually or it seems to me to be rather a gloomy note from the Honourable the Second Member for the Northern Provinces when he said something that I have heard before. That is that there is no respect and there is no discipline in amongst the young people of today. Now sitting near me is the oldest Member of this Council, and I am prepared to bet that when he was a small boy his parents told him that he was an ill-disciplined young brat, and nothing like the sort of boy or girl that his parents were in their day. So do not let us be too gloomy about the youngsters of today. No doubt in years to come they will be complaining bitterly about the bad behaviour of their own children. I know that we are going through a difficult period in this part of the world, and the rest of the world is doing exactly the same thing. We are not going to get over our troubles by taking a gloomy view of the future. We are going to get over our troubles by taking a realistic but at the same time optimistic attitude as regards the future. In other words the time has come when all men of good will must pull together for the progress of this country, and then we can leave the men of bad will, and they are few and far between. We can leave them to their own devices

and to their machinations, provided always that their devices and their machinations keep them outside the warm embrace of the Criminal Code.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Your Excellency, I rise with one purpose only this morning—that is to deal with a point raised by the Honourable the Second Member for the North.

He, in the course of his speech, asked that a statement on behalf of the Government should be made on the matters which arise from this Motion. I should have thought that a further statement was scarcely necessary, but as a direct request has been made I think, Sir, that I should, at the risk of wearying the House for a few minutes, go over some of the statements which have already been made on the questions at issue. If I may, Sir, I would read, first of all, a very short extract to an answer made to a question at this meeting of the Council. It was an answer I made to the Second Lagos Member who raised in a question the whole matter of indirect rule. I said, towards the end of my answer " We all recognise the value and strength of those Nigerian institutions which in the words of Sir Donald Cameron have their foundations ' in the hearts and minds and thoughts of the people ' . I do not believe that there need be any conflict between those institutions and the principles of democracy. I am myself confident that we can retain all that is best in those institutions and, again in the words of Sir Donald Cameron guide them ' into lines consonant with modern ideas and higher standards ' so that efficient local administration and representative federal government can both be achieved " . That is the first statement which has been made on behalf of the Government, to which I invite the attention of the Honourable the Second Member for the North. Now, Sir, I should like to turn back to refer to the speech, the first speech which Your Excellency made to this Council in August last year on this question of local administration. Your Excellency then said :

" I regard it as vitally important to ensure that we have a live and progressive system of local government. I well realize that in this country there are many forms of local government and it would, I am sure, be a serious mistake to disregard the best characteristics of each, or to try to advance in exactly the same way in the widely varying circumstances of different parts of the country. I believe however that, whatever the form which local government takes, it is essential that it should not only be increasingly efficient in meeting the exacting demands of modern conditions but that it should also increasingly enlist the active support and participation of the best men. The people themselves should feel that whatever their local government body may be—whether it be a Native Authority or a Municipal Council—it is a body which is working in their interests in the way that they wish."

Your Excellency went on :

“ It is sometimes felt that there may be difference of interest between local and central Governments. I am sure that the contrary should be the case. The stronger and more representative our local authorities are, the stronger and more effective will be the whole structure of government.”

That was the second statement to which I invite attention. Then, Sir, the words of your speech made at the beginning of this Session of the Council are all very fresh in our minds, and it would be unnecessary to refer to them all. But if I could select two sentences from the Speech which Your Excellency made at the opening of this Council :

“ I trust that in each Region all those concerned will join together in working out plans for improvement—the object being to advance in such a way that the best in the existing systems can be retained and at the same time the support of all sections of the people can be won.”

Your Excellency, as the Council will well remember later said :

“ The lesson which we have learnt in the operation of the existing Constitution is that we can achieve unity at the centre through strength in the Regions.”

Those are three statements which have been made on the issues before us, the issues of local administration, and I shall keep the Council no longer in summing up the declared policy of the Government on these matters. We are not out to destroy to attempt to sweep away the systems of local administration which exist at the moment would be an act of political madness. We are out to build on the foundations which the people know and understand. That is the first point.

Secondly, we do not wish to see a single system of local administration imposed in the varying circumstances of the different areas of this great country. It must be largely for the Regions to decide for themselves the method of advance to be followed, always bearing in mind the main principles stated by His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces, yesterday, namely that each system should be representative and responsible.

And finally, Sir, I would say that the best answer to those who seek merely to destroy is not to be drawn into unprofitable personal or fractional wrangles, but to take the people into our confidence, and with them vigorously to pursue a constructive and progressive policy.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

I would like to say a few words with regard to this Motion. I would make reference only to two or three items in the Preamble leading to this Motion, or the Resolution, I should say. The last but one says :

“AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, accepting the right of the peoples in the Northern and Western Regions to progressive and effective democratisation of their respective local administrations on lines acceptable to those peoples, the provisions of the existing law, which makes it an offence to conspire against or in any way attempt to undermine the lawful power of statutory authorities engaged in such local administration, be vigorously enforced”.

What I would like to say here, Sir, is that the idea of democratisation is not only what is desired in the Northern and Western Provinces, but we also desire it in the Eastern Provinces, and any laws that are made to effectively carry out this proposition applies equally to the Eastern Provinces. One thing I would like to remind Council, Sir. That in forming these local administrations I would like to remind Council that while effort is being made to attain co-operation and to do everything that is possible, we must not lose sight of the word “native” in our Statute Books. I am sorry, Sir, to bring this matter again before Council, but it does not seem to me that the Government is taking action in this matter. I said, Sir, that Native Authorities should be changed into appropriate names. The fact is that it is still being used, and I am always told that it is by law and cannot be changed, and that if you use another word it does not signify the existence of such an Authority. If Council adopts a policy I do not think there should be any difficulty in putting it into action. If we say Ibadan Local Authority I am sure, Sir, that it cannot mean any other Authority but Ibadan, and if we say Kano Local Authority it cannot mean anything but Kano. In the Debate about this matter the Members of the Northern Provinces, or one Member, I should say, said that the word “native” did not connote anything to him—it did not denote an inferiority complex at all. But I beg to say, Sir, that that was why the word was used from the beginning. It was to differentiate that this particular administration belonged to that area, and if it does belong to that area then why not call it against the name of the area?

The next point I would like to say, Sir, is that this Motion in effect tells us that people resent the idea of criticism or trying to delve into matters which do not directly concern them. I do not agree, Sir. I think this country should accept criticism, both the Government, and the individual or any administration. Where we differ is that criticism should be constructive and not made in such a way as to bring about annoyance or for purposes of bringing about disharmony and spite. If Government, as one Honourable Member says, sits tight and does nothing about these matters, then some of us in this country are at a loss as to what we should do. The point I should like to make, Sir, is that sometimes the Government likes to pander to people or to any community that makes a lot of noise and if you do not make any noise it means you do not want anything. Government is always ready to try and do some-

thing to appease the town that makes some noise. I would like to point out that I personally do not like this attitude of the Government, and I would like Government to take cognizance of every part of the country. If a small village does not make a noise it does not mean that that village does not need proper water supply, or schools or hospitals. On the contrary, most people are peace-loving, and would like Government to consider every village, every town and every community in equal lights. I certainly, Sir, would like to see the Northern and Western Provinces brought in line so that everybody in the community will have a chance to take part in the administration of their local governments.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

Your Excellency, in associating my views with the sentiments expressed by the Honourable the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces, may I say that the Motion, as amended, is a vindication of the efficacy of press criticism, and I am taking this opportunity to congratulate the Honourable Mover for respecting public opinion without which no legislator can truthfully fulfil his function, unless one prefers to be a stubborn stooge. In spite of the arrant nonsense usually expressed by certain people against the press—and it is becoming fashionable nowadays for any scoundrel to abuse the press—it is obvious that between the time the Honourable Mover handed his Motion to the Clerk of this House and when the Motion was presented, certain phenomenal changes had taken place, forcing him to amend his Motion to such an extent as to reduce what is now before us to nothingness.

Frankly, after extracting all the teeth from his Motion, I cannot appreciate why it was necessary for him to attempt to bite, knowing that his gums must suffer grievous injury. Surely nobody can object to the Motion as it now stands, and I am glad that he has so amended it as to excise what should have brought condemnation not only in this House but also throughout the whole country. As it now stands the Motion would be acceptable to any responsible individual. Unfortunately, it has given opportunity for gas-bags to explode, for political geese to cackle, for social climbers to awake from hibernation, and for opportunists to angle for favours.

I wish to impress upon this House, Sir, that I hold the Kings or Chiefs of this country—by whatever names they are called—Obi, Oba, Obong, Onogie, Emir, Atta—in high esteem and respect. Some of them confide in me and some of them regard me as a faithful ally in the crusade for human freedom in this country. Personally, I am no alien to royalty, because I am related by blood to two reigning houses of my nativelyland, Onitsha-on-the-Niger, to wit: my great-grandmother is a daughter of the King of Onitsha, my mother is a daughter of one of the Ndichie Chiefs of Onitsha, my wife is a daughter of one of the Ndichie Chiefs of Onitsha, and the present reigning monarch, Okosi II, the Obi of Onitsha, is a member of our family. Consequently, I cannot but appreciate

the importance of those who have been privileged to guide the destinies of their fellow man. Nevertheless, I am, like Count Mirabeau, a foe of reaction, oppression, and other evidences of man's inhumanity to man, no matter from whatever source, regal or otherwise.

The Honourable Mover left this House under the impression that he was expressing the feelings of the people of the Western Provinces when he tabled his Motion. I will not go into details on this since he amended the Motion which would have proved that he was not speaking with the authority, knowledge and consent of the people of the Western Provinces. In his speech he did give that impression, and I am offering him a fair challenge when he winds up to prove that, before tabling this Motion, he had consulted with, and obtained mandate from, the people of Ijebu Ode, his constituency, not to mention the other Yoruba elements of the Western Provinces, as well as other non-Yoruba elements, which form the Western Region. The Honourable the Second Member for the Northern Provinces again told this House of his authority for so doing; I am also challenging him to say if before speaking on this Motion he had consulted the people of Bauchi and received their mandate before coming here to make his statement. We all represent Nigeria, and what affects any part of Nigeria affects all of us, but the present Constitution makes representation anomalous and so we witness a spectacle of each group trying to plan merely for its Region, forgetting that we are all part and parcel of the same whole.

There are six reasons why I should offer criticisms to this Motion, and I will make clear these criticisms without any ill-will, without any hard feelings: Firstly, I feel that to an extent certain portions of the Motion violate the Standing Orders of this House. Secondly, certain parts of this Motion would be unconstitutional so far as Native law and custom are concerned. Thirdly, certain portions of this Motion are extra-legal and give an impression, according to the speech of the Honourable Mover, to create the existence of a privileged class beyond the ambit of the law. Fourthly, certain portions of the Motion appear to be contradictory in that it overlooks the fact that having accepted Unofficial Membership on the Legislative Council, Chiefs have had their status subverted, of their own volition. Fifthly, certain portions of the Motion, that is the preamble—are couched in general and loose terms, which admit of no definition for purposes of logical argument in accordance with the rules of dialectics. Lastly, certain portions of the Motion give an impression of a tendency to re-introduce into this country the discredited theory of the "divine right of kings".

I shall now examine these points *seriatim*:

The seventh and eighth preambles of this Motion insinuate the impropriety and inadmissibility of certain questions asked at the meetings of this House, alleging that the questions were "designed

destroy, make or unmake at his pleasure, to give life or send death, to judge all and to be judged nor accountable to none, to raise low things and to make high things low at his pleasure, and to God are both soul and body due. And the like power have kings: they make and unmake their subjects. they have

and calculated to undermine the authority of the traditional rulers in the Northern and Western Regions and to incite the indigenous peoples of these areas against such constituted authorities". I submit, Sir, that these two statements are in violation of Standing Orders No. 10, which reads: "The President shall be the sole judge of the propriety and admissibility of a question, and he may disallow any question which, in his opinion, does not conform with the rules set forth in Paragraph (9) of this Order or is otherwise an abuse of the right to ask questions, and further he may disallow a question on the ground that the answer thereto would disclose matter which it would be contrary to public policy to disclose." Again, Sir, the eighth preamble of the Motion is a violation of Standing Orders No. 11 (7) in that it imputes improper motives to any Member asking questions, which had received Your Excellency's approval before they were incorporated in the Order Paper. The Standing Rule concerned says: "No member shall impute improper motives to any other Member."

The third and fourth preambles refer to tribal institutions which the native peoples have evolved for themselves. According to Yoruba law and custom—and this is equally true of the customary laws of the Ijaw, Edo, Urhobo, Itsekiri, Etsakor, Ibo, Ishan and other tribal units of the Western Provinces—traditional rulers are not absolute, but constitutional, monarchs. They rule by virtue of their obedience to the will of the people. In the Yoruba State, particularly, any monarch who entertains absolutist intentions or seeks to place himself above the pale of the law, is usually asked either by the King-Makers or Ogboni to commit *hara kiri*. In Yoruba parlance, *Nwon ani ki Oba lo shigba*. The purport of this Motion, Sir, should not be to stultify traditional institutions and to vest in traditional rulers absolutist powers which were undreamt of, before the coming of the British.

Paragraph 13 of the Motion has been amended in the light of the opportune, constructive, desirable, and justifiable press criticism, but what is left of this badly mutilated paragraph still gives an impression of an attempt, directly or indirectly, to create the existence of a privileged class, beyond the ambit of the law. I hope this is not the case, hence the need to clarify what is meant by "conspire against or in any way attempt to undermine the lawful power of statutory authorities".

Traditional rulers and Native Authorities are now Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council. By so doing, they exercise equal rights with other legislators, and are addressed in the same way as any other legislator. Personally, I feel that this should not have been the case, because it is a stand-down for traditional rulers, and it is thus subversive and derogatory to their status. But since they had weighed all the factors and accepted to mix with legislators on a common ground, the propriety of this Motion must be questioned. It will be remembered that at one of the meetings of this legislature, the Honourable the Oba of Benin justified

of the Western Region; (3) because the Motion, to all intents and purposes, seeks to create in an extra-legal fashion the existence of an autocratic monarchy and an unbridled oligarchy; (4) because traditional rulers by accepting membership in this Legislative Council have virtually shown their willingness to strip themselves of all the vestiges of an unconstitutional monarchy; and (5) because the Motion is couched in loose terms.

Just one parting shot, Sir. I have in my hand a telegram which was delivered to me yesterday afternoon which, with Your Excellency's permission, I shall read:—

“ Omo Ibile Ife affiliated National Council of Nigeria and Cameroons and Democratic Party Ife community desires questions posed in council re indiscriminate arrests Ife nationalists. Authorities attempting extirpation Ibile Ife. Some wealthy anti-nationalists supporting rule of terror threatening gagging press and speech freedom. Independent commission enquiry demanded. Political prisoners live in danger. Matter already Ife property and District Officer. Please help.”

I do not propose to make any comments on this telegram, or to say that the allegations therein are correct or false, but I submit, Sir, that it is an indication of what is alleged to be happening in the Western Provinces without any positive evidence. I am not saying that this Motion justifies or does not justify the telegram, but what I am saying, Sir, is that I will not anticipate the Honourable Mover by telling this House what adjectives he will use to describe the telegram just read, if it had been published in the press. I hope the Honourable Mover of this Motion will bear in mind the impression which his Motion originally created, and which had the salutary effect of forcing him to make the changes he has made. With these few remarks I have no hesitation whatever in supporting the Motion.

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. H. Buowari Brown):

Your Excellency, I am very pleased to observe that this Motion did not mention anything about the Eastern Provinces, and that must be taken as a fact that the Eastern Provinces are working very democratically. From time immemorial the Eastern Provinces have been working on a democratic basis in that our Rulers, our Kings, and our Amayanabos and others who have ruled over the people were always constitutional. A King, an Oba, or any one who tries to be despotic was removed by the peoples, so that we have always been democratic, and that is why this Motion did not refer to us. I would like Your Excellency and everyone to know that in the Eastern Provinces we are democratic in every way.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

Your Excellency, I rise to support this Motion, and if Your Excellency will permit me to say that if I had known that the Standing Order 11, clause 3, which I referred to yesterday, had been

suspended, at least for some time, I would have prepared my speech in writing, cyclostyled it, and had it passed round to Honourable Members. It would have saved a lot of time!

It is really an embarrassing situation, when you come to an Assembly like this, and find that different sections do not understand the other sections, and if they do they still will not respect the culture and the traditions of the other sections. You have dealt today, as far as the Honourable Members of this House are concerned, with the subject of discourtesy in this House. But outside the House it has been found to be the general rule for people who know nothing about a Region to make the world believe that they are experts. These rascals, these mischievous people would manufacture lies and resolutions. Non-existing persons, clubs, societies, associations and institutions grow like mushroom in a section of our newspapers and pass fantastic resolutions. It's all false. I remember recently, whilst we were in this Council, I read in the newspapers that the Akarigbo had been asked by his people to abdicate—that is my father—in the *Pilot*. I was surprised. "So my father has gone, eh?" I later found it was all false, and I also found it was all engineered by a Lagos demagogue who knows nothing about that part of the country, and as regards the question of the Press being public opinion, I dare say that the Press of Nigeria, today probably with some reservations, is no public opinion at all.

Another thing we hear a lot about in this House, is the question of Mandate. I want the Honorable Gentlemen here sitting to know that we represent the whole of Nigeria whenever we come here. I do not know of any Member here who having drafted his Motions, prepared all his Questions, submitted them to his constituency before those Questions and Motions are sent to the Clerk of the Council.

I remember some time ago I read in the newspapers that certain Members did not receive the mandate of their constituency, this means that there ought to have been an instruction received from each Member's constituency before any Motion is made, before any Question is asked, and probably before a vote is taken. But unfortunately this can not be practicable; so that anybody, any Member, who claims to be given such Mandate is a Master, perfect deceiver. We can talk in this House, we can shout, we can fume and rant, but the only thing that is required is sense. I do not for a moment agree that the principle of sole Native Authority in Nigeria is something at least in the Western Provinces or Yoruba-speaking area, homogeneous to the people, but we are really very happy that it has become a thing of the past. Our Obas have not just become Obas without a certain historical and traditional background. I was reading a certain recommendation of a Commission of Enquiry about a particular area in Yorubaland—Ijebu Remo. It said that that particular area has been in existence with the usual evolution some time before 2,000 B.C. Well, if we have been

nursing a certain culture and a certain tradition for so many years, should we, by a stroke of the pen or by stuffing the heads of the youth and adolescents who are incapable of examining things in their proper perspective, destroy all these things simply because certain part of Nigeria has no such culture or tradition. It is wicked. I believe in changes, and changes for the better, but not by way of revolution but by way of evolution. I also had the opportunity of hearing the official side in this matter, and I am happy indeed that the Government is doing everything that lies in its power to democratize our local administrations. I say "local" and not "native" administrations in deference to the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces. The present Local Authority is another sole Authority. For goodness sake I beg your Excellency to remove those foreign Local Authorities that are created in some particular townships all over Nigeria. The conception is alien to our traditional institutions, and I think you will agree with me that they should be scrapped. They should be given their proper name. The Motion as it is, Sir, is asking the Government to wake up from its lethargy to see that those people in authority are protected. The law protects Judges and Magistrates, and these people are not less in position and rank than Magistrates and Judges, and I see no reason why we should not enact or enforce law to protect them. With your permission, Your Excellency, I will just refresh the memory of the House with what actually took place some time ago—last year at Kaduna in connection with this matter as regards the East, the West, the North. We are of the same strength, the same tradition. I quote one instance here, Sir. First Member for the Eastern Provinces said this. It's on page 543 of 1948 Debates and took place on March 11th, 1948.

"Your Excellency, just one last point. Our respected friends of the West and North have spoken at considerable length on the question of traditions and culture and respect for natural rulers. We in the East, Sir, are not confronted with the same problem in that connection. I would like to read the speech made by our Chief Commissioner. Unfortunately, I have not a copy of the Hansard of the Eastern House of Assembly, so I will read the extract contained in Your Excellency's Printed Address of 2nd March, at page 13, reporting on the Eastern Provinces. "Regarding the development of local development in the Eastern Provinces, His Honour the Chief Commissioner, in his Address to the House of Assembly in December, summed up the achievement of the year 1947 as follows:—

"The development of Native Administration or, perhaps more correctly, the development of local government in the Eastern Provinces, remains a matter of the greatest importance and urgency. I am aware of the desire of a number of Members, if not all Members, of this House to

see a greater element of democracy brought into the system of local Government. Not that I can agree that the present system is not democratic, but I fully realize that there is, in a number of cases, insufficient scope for the progressive and educated elements. It is my intention to provide this scope as early as possible, but you will realize that reform must inevitably be slow, for in accordance with democratic principles, the people themselves must be consulted."

" I think, Sir, that that properly puts the case for the Eastern Provinces. In the Eastern Provinces, Sir, we have no big Chiefs. The loyalty of an individual is limited in many cases to his family head, with the result that you found in the Eastern Provinces about three years ago before the reforms set in, about 300 Native Authorities. Now, Sir, we have come to this House on a political platform to represent the Eastern Provinces. We meet our friends from the North and the West. They have their traditions and their culture. We respect their right to stick to their traditions and their culture, but we would remind them, Sir, that we have not the same culture and not the same traditions and that we are as different from them as a Chinaman is from an Eskimo. The only thing in common between an Easterner and a Northerner is the fact that they belong to the same racial group. They do not speak the same language, they have not the same religion, they have not the same educational background, and they have not the same history. Now, Sir, the same applies to a great extent to the Western Provinces."

This, Sir, is the exact position. Any person who reads and understands this clearly will never believe or tolerate any Easterner from the East coming to the West or the North and saying " This is what you should do here." Sheer impudence. The same thing applies to the Eastern Provinces. Only the aborigines of a region could understand and should apply the tradition and culture of that region. So that I say, Sir, that this Motion is very very timely and is acceptable to a lot of people in Nigeria with the exception of only those who have an axe to grind. I support the Motion entirely.

The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. A. Soetan):

I should not have been in a position to support this Motion but for the amendment. The Motion as it now stands receives my support. The democratisation of local administration is already in vogue. Your Excellency spoke so much about it in your speech and, Sir, the Chief Commissioners of Northern and Western Regions yesterday and today have defended their respective Regions. I agree with the mover of this Motion that the pace of democratisation should be quickened, but all the same I am inclined to heed

the caution—the note of warning—sounded by the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces. More haste less speed, and although it may be said that Government is moving too slowly, yet Government should not move too fast so as to be able to carry the people with it. Sir, I referred to the same point in my maiden speech before this August Assembly on the 15th of this month. I said, “Every effort is being made to encourage the people of Nigeria to take their full share of responsibility in the affairs of their country. There is a rapid expansion of local government. Intelligent men and women are being drafted into several boards and committees, both advisory and executive as well as Legislative Council.”

I uttered those words on the 15th of March and I am still of the same opinion, that democratisation of local administration is already in existence, but in order to hasten the time of attaining responsible self-government, the Government should do all in its power to quicken its pace. Sir, I quite agree with the Chief Commissioner, Western Region that steps are already being taken to improve and federate all small units and every effort is being made to hasten this step. I therefore have no quarrel with the opinion of the mover in simply urging on the Government to accelerate the steps.

Now, Sir, as regards the other points in this Motion, I am glad that the mover himself admits that there are already existing laws to cope with the situation so that in my opinion it is not necessary for him to ask that new laws be made to curb people from expressing certain opinions. Your Excellency, adequate provisions have been made in our local laws to satisfy that point and anybody who goes contrary to the law will soon find himself, or herself, within the clutches of the law. I think that is what the mover of the Motion thought over before he amended his original Motion, and the point that this Council should condemn certain unwholesome attitude or manifestations of some sections of the press or the people is quite desirable. It has already been expressed by Your Excellency in your opening speech. There is no doubt, Sir, that the press is a powerful weapon which can be used for good or for evil among the people of any race. It should be used for the good and not for the destruction of the race, and therefore no one can sound that note too often by reminding those who are engaged in educating public opinion through the press to be very careful. The standard of the people should be taken into consideration. The minds of the people and the state of their development. There is no doubt, Sir, that it will be a woeful day for the country when the press is gagged. There should be freedom of speech for the individual as well as liberty of expression for the press. Anyone who transcends that liberty will find himself in the warm embrace of the law. Sir, I warmly support the Motion.

The Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Aliyu, Makaman Bida):

I rise to support the Motion and I support it from the bottom of

my heart. The Honourable Members of this House may probably be aware that I am one of those whose natural ruler has been the victim of abuses in the press. Certain sections of the people have been incited. I am referring to an article published in the *Pilot* of 29th November, 1948. Well, that section, Sir, if you will allow me to explain was composed of those whom I will term disgruntled ex-Native Authority employees who lost their jobs through their own fault and those who call themselves enlightened and would not therefore pay their due share of the tax. Now it has become the practice in the Northern Provinces, Sir, that as soon as a Native Authority employee or official loses his job he becomes the enemy of that Native Authority and the next thing that he does is to join the squad. He will just find others and start to abuse the Native Authority unnecessarily and then he will start to write all sorts of nonsenses in the papers, knowing that he is protected by the word "democracy". Now, coming back to that instance which happened in my town when an article was written in the *Pilot* impairing the dignity of my ruler, I can assure you, Sir, that the indigenous people and the public, the whole public, were very much disappointed, and they looked forward to some disciplinary action to be taken in accordance with the traditional custom of dealing with malicious abuses about either the Native Authority or the rulers. But the Native Authority could not act in that way because those methods are said to be against the wishes of democracy.

Now, I am well aware that we are under Britain whose Government is democratic, but I would say, Sir, that in a country like the Northern Region where it can be virtually said that the people are illiterate and where very strong customs and traditions have long been established based on a religion which the people have strongly believed, the greatest care and precaution must be taken in putting democratic ideas into practice, otherwise there will be everlasting confusion and no construction if the public are going to be thrown into confusion.

We all know, Sir, how false rumours start—how quickly they grow, how hard they are to curb and what in fact they can do. I can say, Sir, there is nothing that starts rumours in the Northern Provinces today more than these false articles written about the Native Authorities' activities in the papers. Therefore, Sir, owing to those prevailing conditions and circumstances now peculiar to the Northern Provinces, I quite agree that, at this stage of the standard of civilisation of the people there, it is necessary that a legislature should be framed to safeguard the dignity of the rulers and the integrity of the Native Authority. I believe such legislation will be for the interest of the Native Authority, the ruler and the public, as well as for the agitators themselves, because tension may get so high among the public who are loyal to their ruler, and then there may be very awkward results. It should be remembered that one cannot go on tolerating the intolerant.

The First Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. A. Obisesan, O.B.E.):

I had decided not to say anything at all after His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces, but I would like to bring the following before this Honourable House. My duty, Your Excellency, on this Motion moved by the Honourable the Second Member for the Western Provinces, is to bring home forcibly to Your Excellency the cause of this trouble. I, Sir, as one of the surviving children of the Richards' Constitution of 1945 remember the agitation over the passing of it. If I am convinced, Your Excellency, that the Motion before this Honourable House is a desire to protect the interests of certain rulers, I would not have said a word about it knowing fully well that for the past sixty years the Government has been doing its best to humanise the system of our Native Administration.

Now, Sir, what is at the back of the trouble? We who passed the Constitution are no fools; we discussed it carefully for nearly three weeks and in the end we came to the conclusion that it is the best for the Country in its present stage of development. Immediately after its passing a number of people, mostly pressmen and their friends, gathered themselves together and took a vow that it would be their aim to work for the abrogation of Chieftaincies in Nigeria and since, they have been working consistently to that end. And must we as Members of this House, who have pride in our chieftaincies and value greatly what they represent—sit down complacently and say nothing while all these sorts of things are going on? One of the Members, amongst the questions he asked during this Session, called for information from the Government if it was true that certain people wanted Oni of Ife to leave his stool; assuming that such thing took place is it not the duty of a responsible citizen to make an independent inquiry and satisfy himself to the correct state of affair before posing a question like that? This particular Member also went to Northern Nigeria to ask questions in the same way. Anybody who has a sense of proportion and responsibility would do nothing in that way. Therefore, if Your Excellency will allow this Motion to go unheeded or take no notice of it, well it would make people who have confidence in the Government to loose it—it is a saying in certain responsible quarters that the Government of Nigeria is growing weak day by day. Your Excellency is regarded as the guardian of our chiefs and if by taking your advice, they are losing, it would mean that those who take dictation from the press are the ones who will be safe. What we say is that we feel that the press has gone beyond its bounds. It is Your Excellency's duty to put a stop to it. The people in this country are feeling badly over this question and in ten years' time the Government, it may be that the administrative machinery of this country, will go out of gear. Your Excellency, I support the resolution wholeheartedly.

His Excellency:

If no other Honourable Member wishes to speak I will call upon the Mover to reply to the debate.

The Second Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.):

Your Excellency, rising to reply to what my other Honourable Friends have said about this Motion, I would like first to thank those Members who have given the Motion their whole-hearted support, particularly the Chief Commissioners, Western and Northern Regions, for telling this House what has already taken place in their Regions and also for giving us the news as to what extent our local Administrations both in the Northern and Western Regions have been democratised. I am happy also to hear from my Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces, that the last of this so-called Sole Native Authority evil has already disappeared in his own area. Just as I had anticipated, Sir, objection to this Motion, or whatever might be said against it, has come from quarters where the Native Administration system as we know it in the West and North does not operate. I should have been unhappy if there had been any objections from the Western and Northern representatives of this House. However, much we may wish to secure to ourselves the right to criticise all public institutions and public figures, it is surely not to the interest of this country that evil-minded persons should be at liberty to indulge, at their sweet will, in any form of slander and calumny against our cherished institutions.

Your Excellency, perhaps you will pardon my making reference to some angry letters written not so long ago to Government asking for official action to be taken against a certain newspaper which was said to have sinned because it criticised the Federal President of a local organisation. I well remember that in that letter Government was threatened with riots and other disorders in the country if something was not done about it. If such protection could be claimed for an individual who happens to be the head merely of a political organisation, how much greater the claims of heads of institutions which time has made sacred in the hearts of millions of people.

In reply to my Honourable friend the Second Lagos Member's challenge as to whether mandate was given by the people of Ijebu-Ode or the people of Western Provinces of this country before this Motion was tabled, I would like to remind my Honourable friend that local Administrations in the West and North of this country are the only competent representatives of the people of those Regions, and if he had listened very carefully to the debates on the Motion, he would agree that the warm support which the representatives of the Western and Northern Regions gave the Motion before this House is a sure proof that the mover has the mandate of the people in bringing the Motion. Sir, I am very happy for the kind reception which the Motion on the whole, as amended, has received

from the House. Democratisation to be useful and effective must be introduced gradually into our institutions. Every step must be carefully tested and I think it is felt we can make another stride and there can be no better evidence of success of the policy of gradualness than that the Chiefs themselves without waiting for outside pressure are helping to carry out the principles of democratisation. All the stronger reason for the second part of the Motion, that the Chiefs having shown that they can be trusted to move with the times should be accorded the protection which is sought for in this Motion.

Before I take my seat, Sir, I should like to refer to the point raised by my Honourable Friend the Third Lagos Member. As he very rightly said, it is very easy in theory for a man to sit down in his office, take his pen and plan how a country like Nigeria should be ruled, but it is another matter to put it into practice. Nigeria is not a small country to be considered in terms of a man's house. It is a very big country with a vast population. Customs in the West are quite different from those in the East, those in the North are also different from those in the East and as one of my Honourable friends from the East has said, each Region should be allowed or made to develop in its own way. If we want this country to progress in the right way, those who are claiming to be the leaders of the country and those who are seeking the right to be its leaders, when dealing with matters in areas where they have no knowledge of the customs of the people should try to learn from those who know, or keep away. I agree that we can have one Nigeria, but I do not agree that we can have one Nigeria without unity through strength in the Region. If anybody should think that he could introduce his own form of Government into Nigeria without any consideration for the customs of each Region in the country, he is bound to fail.

Your Excellency, I thank all the members of this House for giving my Motion a warm reception.

His Excellency :

The question is in terms of the Motion as amended yesterday.

The Ayes have it.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

I suggest that we might possibly take a short break now before we proceed.

His Excellency :

The Council will recess for about ten minutes.

Council adjourned at 10.45 a.m.

Council resumed at 11.20 a.m.

His Excellency :

Honourable Members, before we resume there is one part of our business this morning to which I wish to make reference.

During questions, the Honourable the First Lagos Member asked a number of supplementary questions. His usual clear diction of speech was slightly impaired by a cold and I myself am slightly deaf. I did not hear his opening words. I now find from the

record that they took the form of a supplementary question which was not answered. The supplementary question was clearly out of order, and had I heard it I should have immediately so ruled. (The President quoted the wording of the question).

Had I heard it I should have at once ruled it out of order. As I did not comment at the time I propose, if the House agrees, to have it omitted from the record.

The Ayes have it and directions will be given accordingly.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

I rise to move a resolution which stands in my name in the Order of the Day which reads as follows:—

“ Be it resolved :

“ That the Land Law of this country should be urgently
“ amended in such a way that non-Nigerians shall
“ have no freehold estate in land anywhere in
“ Nigeria.”

First and foremost I would like to crave the indulgence of Your Excellency and this Honourable House to make a small but important amendment, by asking you, Sir, to permit me to delete the compound word “ Non-Nigerians ” and to substitute therefor the word “ Aliens ”.

His Excellency :

Perhaps I might just ascertain the wishes of the Council on that.

The Ayes have it. Then we will take it as amended.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

Your Excellency, going through the laws of Nigeria one could see that those portions of the law that concern our land everywhere in Nigeria could be grouped under the following Ordinances and Chapters of the Laws of Nigeria. I am quoting from Volume I of the Laws of Nigeria. Chapter 84 deals with Crown Lands. Chapter 85 deals with land and Native Rights. Chapter 88 deals Public Lands Acquisition, and Chapter 89 deals with Native Lands Acquisition. There is another section of the Law which is Chapter 87 of the Laws of Nigeria, Land Registration Ordinance, but that does not relate and is not of much material use to my argument this morning. It has been found, Sir, that all these Ordinances have been made at one time or another to protect the interest of the Nigerians and for that every Nigerian must be grateful to the Government that thought it wise to enact these Ordinances. The Crown Lands Ordinance at page 843 of the Laws of Nigeria clearly defines Crown Land as “ All Public Lands in Nigeria which are for the time being subject to the control of His Majesty by virtue of any treaty, cession, convention or agreement, or by virtue of His Majesty’s protectorate, and all lands which have been or may hereafter be acquired by or on behalf of His Majesty for any public purpose or otherwise, howsoever, but does not include lands subject

to the Land and Native Rights Ordinance." It was also amended by Order No. 5 of 1945 to include land acquired under the provisions of the Public Land Acquisition Ordinance. Now what is that Public Land Acquisition Ordinance? That is also referred to at page 893 of this book. Section 3 of that Ordinance reads thus; Sub-section I, "The Governor may acquire any land required for any public purpose for an estate in fee simple or for a term of years as he may think proper, paying such consideration or compensation as may be agreed upon or determined under the provisions of the Ordinance.

Those two Ordinances deal with the lands acquired by the Government. There has been a lot of confusion in the minds of the people when you see the word "Crown". It is generally assumed or thought that the King of England is claiming an estate in land in Nigeria, but I hope that the Honourable Attorney-General will agree with me that if no other suitable word could be found to substitute that particular word "Crown", he would assure us that when the time comes for the government of Nigeria to be by the Nigerians such land will automatically revert to the Nigerian Government of the day, and I believe that is the true position. I think the arrangement by which these pieces of land should be in possession of the Government is a very wise one.

Now the other two Ordinances that I am very much concerned about are the Land and Native Rights Ordinance which is Chapter 85 of the Laws of Nigeria, and at page 855 of this Volume I of the Laws of Nigeria. This in effect is the provision of that Ordinance—it is an Ordinance to define and regulate the tenure of land within the Northern Provinces of the Protectorate and the British Cameroons. It gives power to His Excellency the Governor to see that the native rights, interests and claims in land are not interfered with unnecessarily by any alien people. Section 4 of that Ordinance reads:—

"All native lands, and all rights over the same, are hereby declared to be under the control and subject to the disposition of the Governor, and shall be held and administered for the use and common benefit of the natives: and no title to the occupation and use of any such lands shall be valid without the consent of the Governor."

From information that I gathered it does not appear that His Excellency the Governor has ever exercised the right to give any portion of the land in the Northern Provinces to any alien. Similarly in the Southern Provinces the Native Land Acquisition Ordinance is at page 907 of the same volume of the Laws of Nigeria and its provision is very clearly stated at section 3.

It reads:—

"No alien shall acquire any interest or right in or over any lands within the Protectorate from a native except under

an instrument which has received the approval in writing of the Governor. terms thereof."

Section 3 goes further and says:

"Any instrument which has not received the approval of the Governor as required shall be null and void."

That also is another Ordinance which protects the interests, claims and the rights of the natives. I use the word 'native' in the general sense and not in the derogative form and the word 'alien' has also been very properly defined at section 2 of the Ordinance in Chapter 89 which is the Native Lands Acquisition Ordinance:

"'Alien' means any person who is not a native of Nigeria.' It is in view of the definition of the word alien that I got here that I changed the word 'non-Nigerians' to 'aliens' in the Motion, and I am grateful to Your Excellency for allowing me to withdraw it and substitute the word 'aliens'.

Now looking round the whole laws of Nigeria—I do not see anywhere that provision is made to protect the interests of the people of Lagos in the same way as the interests of the people of the Protectorate have been provided for, and that is why I believe we have what is called freehold estate in land in Lagos. I am not sure that the same condition is not obtaining in the area around Lagos known as the Colony District. But the word 'freehold' is really an alien word and term to Nigeria in this particular instance and it is the root of the evil that we are experiencing in Lagos at this time when the land of the family and the land of the individual are just getting far and away into the hands of aliens. This state of affairs should not be allowed to go on like that until every Nigerian in Lagos will be sidled either into the lagoon or the sea or else find roofage in the Eastern, Western or Northern Regions.

Now generally speaking in the whole of Nigeria from what we could see there is no individual ownership of land; all lands are communal lands. It does not necessarily mean that we who lead communal lives believe in communism—communism and communalism are two distinct things altogether. When we see that our land is just going away so rapidly in Lagos in particular we wonder whether one day if a stop is not put to it we shall not depart to the Provinces. There have been land cases in court in Ibadan here between natives and natives, and sooner or later we shall get cases about land between the indigenous people of Nigeria and aliens, and we feel that the time has come when the Governor should do something to protect the Lagosians. Your Excellency should do something to extricate us from the hands of these land-grabbing aliens who have invaded unprotected Lagos in particular.

A lot of people may not know what land means. Apart from the fact that we get our food mostly from land, build our houses on the land; our cocoa crops, groundnuts, cotton seed, cotton itself, benni-seed, and all these things which are sources of wealth to us, are

from the land, and when the land goes all these privileges, all these things that are good, will just go with it, and that is why we are vigorously guarding against any slightest encroachment on our land. But it will be out of place for me to be telling you what is land and what is not land. I think many of you here know much more about land than I do, but I would say that in law there are many more things than anyone thinks about land which you may not know. Land in the legal sense of the word includes water, it includes mines and minerals. From water you get fish: from mines we get gold, diamonds and all those things that are used for jewellery, and in time to come we will have our own gold reserve in Nigeria. But it even goes further than that. The empty space on the land to the highest height possible is also part of land so that whenever the land goes all these things must go with the land.

I would refer, Sir, to Your Excellency's speech, page 6 thereof, where you said that:

“ In the Colony of Lagos, where land can be held under freehold, uneasiness has been expressed about the transfer of land to aliens and regarding the acquisition of land for town planning purposes. Criticisms have been made against certain of the provisions of the Public Lands Acquisition Ordinance, and where these criticisms are constructive and informed, as some of them are, changes in the law will be proposed.”

That is really very heartening to us and when the changes proposed are to be effected, these, Sir, are what we have in mind; these are what we want to be incorporated in that proposal in due course. Any person would say—“ Look at these people, they do not want freehold estate in their land to pass to anybody, they just want to stick to their land.” Yes. I know that though economically it will be very much to our interest, but all the same, at the moment we can see very clearly, that the prices of land and the value of land are both rising *pari passu* with the cost of living. I say, Sir, that any piece of land that we sell for £200 to-day, will probably in five years' time fetch £500. But then it would have gone. I will say further, Sir, that this matter is a vexed question, it is a sort of crisis in Lagos, and that was why some time last month Your Excellency kindly received a delegation of the people of Lagos, and you promised to see that something was done and we are very, very happy to hear in the speech from the throne that you have included Lagos land problem among other priorities. But I have been requested to put this matter before the House with a view to making the opinion of the people of Lagos known on this particular matter so that when the amendment does come up this view will be considered and incorporated in the new provisions.

And with these few remarks, Your Excellency, I would have taken my seat, but I have just remembered something more. It is this kind of discrimination against Lagos in the question of protection

of the land and rights of the natives that some ungrateful sojourners have got eventually the discourtesy to say openly, even in the press, that Lagos is no man's land. We have been wondering whenever land acquisition takes place why compensation is not claimed or paid to these sojourners. The case of the acquisition of Apapa land for which compensation was paid to Chief Oluwa and nobody else, the acquisition of land in Ikoyi for which compensation was paid by the Government to Chief Onikoyi, and recently in the case of the acquisition of Iru land for which compensation of so many thousand pounds was paid to Chief Oniru? Then you leave Lagos as no-man's land and let it go in the way it is going, and with the few remarks, Sir, I beg to move.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

I rise to second.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:

It is with great pleasure that I find myself in agreement with the Honourable the Third Lagos Member. It was with great pleasure that we heard him recite to this House the various Ordinances which have in the past been enacted in order to protect the land of Nigerians in Nigeria. He was completely correct in his references to the Law.

For many years Government has protected the interests of the Nigerian land-owner, and done its best to make it as difficult as possible for him to get rid of his land to anybody but a Nigerian, and I do not think it has been sufficiently recognized what good work Government has done in this way, Sir. We have, however, as the Honourable Member says, in the Lagos and Colony, a very different state of affairs. In Lagos a concept of freehold ownership has grown up. It has grown up over the years of the life of Lagos. I think it was originally an alien concept—it has however become almost part of land transactions, land values and land tenures in Lagos. As the Member rightly says the Colony is little affected. The question then to my mind is purely a Lagos problem. It is a problem that requires attention. It is a problem at which we in Lagos may not rush because every landowner whether he holds under an alien concept or his own natural way of holding land is appreciative of land value and if we rush into legislation limiting the scope of land transactions in Lagos which has not been limited in the past, we may reach the stage where we shall depreciate land values to such an extent that the reverse of what the Honourable the Third Member says takes place, and instead of a piece of land worth about £200 now being worth about £500 next year, a piece of land worth £500 now will be worth £200 in five year's time. It is a proposal we must approach slowly and with caution and watch every step we take.

The Honourable the Third Member did refer to matters mentioned by His Excellency at an interview. That is quite true and

progress is going on now. Discussions are being opened in Lagos on this very point—the question of land tenure and land values, and this concept of freehold in Lagos. I say, Sir, that this is a problem on which it would not be right to ask this House and the Regions to give an answer yes or no now. I think we must go through the exploratory stages of these discussions before we know definitely the legislation we shall ask this House to make, or what proposals we can put forward to this House by way of legislation. I would therefore suggest to my learned Friend the Honourable Member that if he would defer this Motion until after these discussions, the way would then be clear for him in his own mind as to what he thinks ought to be done and the people in Lagos—and we must not forget the people in Lagos who did hold land—will have the opportunity of saying how they think the valuable asset they have in their hands ought to be dealt with. If my Honourable Friend will agree to defer this it can be put back until discussions have taken place, and we will then be in a very much better position to tell the House what we have done, but I think it is a good thing that the Honourable Member has brought this Motion because it has raised before this House the difficulties we are finding ourselves in Lagos, although from the compensation paid to two landowners mentioned by the Honourable the Third Member, the old adage has changed and it is the streets of Lagos which are paved with gold at the moment.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

Your Excellency, in view of the facts brought to my notice and to the notice of this august Assembly, I have no hesitation in agreeing to a deferment but not a withdrawal of this Motion, pending the recommendations of the Committee that will investigate the situation, but I certainly would say this Sir, that if the recommendations do not go as far as to take away freehold estate in land from aliens in Lagos, I shall come back here and probably more greatly fortified, not with atomic bombs that time, but with facts which will definitely earn the sympathy of everybody in this House to the extent that all members shall agree with us that something should be done in the same way as it has been done in the case of other parts of Nigeria. I beg to defer this Motion to the next Session—I cannot just ask it to be deferred indefinitely.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:

The Honourable Member will be able to re-table his Motion whenever he wants to because it has not been withdrawn.

His Excellency:

Is it your pleasure that leave be given to the Honourable Member to defer this Motion. The Ayes have it. Next time the Council meets the Honourable Member may raise it. The Motion has not been disposed of and it will be there whenever he wishes to raise it.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. and Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

May it please Your Excellency, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name which reads as follows:—

“ Be it resolved:

“ That the speech of His Excellency, the Governor and President of the Legislative Council of Nigeria delivered to this Honourable House on Tuesday the 8th of March 1949, be translated into all vernacular languages in Nigeria for the information and education of the illiterate mass by free and wide distribution.

“ That the salient paragraph in the Budget Address of the Honourable the Financial Secretary about the source of financial administration of Nigeria should also be translated into vernacular languages of Nigeria and distributed freely and widely among the illiterate mass for their edification.”

The Motion is of a two-fold nature and is self-explanatory. I only want to give my personal experience in commending the Motion to this Honourable House. In 1912 when I visited Palestine and Egypt one of the things that impressed me most was the way and manner that newspapers and books were being published for the people in those parts in their own native tongue. I saw Jews reading papers in Hebrew; Greeks reading papers in Greek, and Arabs reading papers in Arabic. Seldom did I see any of them reading English papers or books, and I was told that even in India, Persia and Iraq, there was the same system of publication in their own language, and hence they were very much more advanced than we were here, and I believe it because it is very difficult for a man to think as effectively as he would in his own mother tongue. I even myself whenever I want to take action and think seriously about a thing I cannot think in the English way or the English language. I must think in my own language first and foremost, and indeed my own brain is more effective in my own language than in English and that is why I feel that the time has come that publication of papers and literature in our own language would be of great service to us. It will be remembered that almost every year I was calling the attention of the Public Relations Officer at Lagos to it that they should give us vernacular literature. Well they promised almost now and again that they were going to do it, but nothing has been done up to now.

Last year when we went to Kaduna I was greatly impressed to see the paper being published “Gaskiya ta fi Kwabo”—how it was edifying the people, and I could see that the people in the North, boys and girls, were getting more in advance of us than those of us down here, because any place I reached I found a circle of Hausas squatting on the floor in their usual way reading

"Gaskiya ta fi Kwabo" in their own language, so that when some of them came to me at my car and asked who I was, they said "You are the man we read about". That was only a few days after I left Kaduna. Well they were kept well informed. As I pointed out some time ago publication in the English Language is by some interpreted upside down. That is very important indeed. That is why I am advocating for publishing things in the vernacular and when you publish it then you know the school boy read it and the people will take in all that is said to them.

Now, Sir, this Motion—it was your very powerful address which we can never forget that compels me to bring this Motion forward. I think every boy, every girl, every illiterate person in Nigeria, should have the opportunity of having that address read to him or her in the vernacular language. It would be a great help and also the part mentioned by our very good and Honourable Friend the Financial Secretary. By the way, Sir, I hope he will show Your Excellency the letter which I presented to him, I mean the Financial Secretary,—yes, we want it published. I mean that part of it where he stresses the point and everyone should know it that the money with which Nigeria is being administered is not money brought from England, but money raised in Nigeria. When once such is known by our people and impressed upon them more and more, there will be less trouble about increments in salary, this and that because it would mean more taxation. These people do not care for that.

When in the year 1947 I was privileged to go to Liberia and I asked about the salaries being paid to the President, judges and all that; I was told, and compared with ours I asked one of them—well, why are you taking such a small amount? "Well—it is our money and we do not want to get into debt, although we are in debt." The idea that they felt that they were doing it with their own money and the money raised from the country led them to be quite satisfied with the money they were being given, but no clerk out here could take that, and therefore Your Excellency I have great pleasure in moving this Motion and I hope I shall have the support of this Honourable House.

The First Nominated Member (The Hon. P. J. Rogers):

I beg to second.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

On behalf of the Government I welcome this Motion with one reservation. I think it will be difficult for translation to be made into all the vernacular languages. I do not know how many there are but their number must run into hundreds. But translation into the principal vernacular languages—certainly that would be done.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. and Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

In all the written vernacular languages as known to us—Yoruba, Hausa and Ibo,

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Very well, Sir, that certainly can be done. There are, of course, very many others.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

I hope, Sir, that you will not forget to add the Efik language.

His Excellency :

The question is in terms of the Motion. The Ayes have it.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin) :

Your Excellency, I rise to move the Motion which stands in my name which reads as follows:—

“ Be it resolved :

“ that this Honourable House views with very great
“ concern the general and continual inefficiency and
“ unsatisfactoriness in all branches of the Posts
“ and Telegraphs Department of the Government
“ and recommends that a Commission of Inquiry
“ be instituted without delay to investigate the
“ administration and general workings of the
“ Department and to recommend ways and means
“ of having efficient and satisfactory Posts and
“ Telecommunication services in Nigeria.”

I am happy, Sir, to report that this subject will not be as dry as the one that I dealt with a few minutes ago. It is a chronic disease in that Department which requires a drastic cure, but before it can be cured at all a doctor has got to have a good diagnosis of the disease, and that is why for the diagnosis I am putting up this Motion for the favourable consideration of this Honourable House. It is not for me to tell Your Excellency what I mean by the inefficiency or the unsatisfactoriness of the workings of that Department. We vote every year some two million pounds under general and development schemes Estimates for that particular department, and we have not had satisfaction for this money which has been expended continuously from year to year. I am not going to ask you whether you have had satisfaction in your telephone services, in your telegraph services, in your letters in post either to you or sent by you. I would only quote one instance, and that is of a friend of mine here in Ibadan who had the greatest shock of his life when a friend of his who had wired him from Aba that he was coming down on a business, received that same telegram after he had arrived in Ibadan two days later. He handed it to his host to confirm that he actually wired him. The host read the telegram—it was the telegram sent by that man, but that is not the most pathetic part of the story. This friend, after sending the telegram, left Aba and got to Ibadan, it was a rainy night; he did not know anybody in Ibadan; he had to sleep in the Railway station until

be disastrous and unfair to say to those men in this Department or in such a Department as the Electricity Department, (where I know even more by personal experience the tremendous pressure on the few men who have to carry the principal responsibility in the Department) to say to them, "You must hold up the work which you are carrying out urgently at high pressure: you must delay the work in order to answer at the tribunal of a Commission of Enquiry." To do that would, I believe, operate in exactly the opposite direction to that which the Honourable Member wishes. Therefore, Sir, I would suggest to this Council that; recognising as we do past failures we should seek to help the Department to speed the progress which it hopes to achieve. We believe that it would be wrong to interfere with that progress by the holding of an Enquiry. Therefore, Sir, on behalf of the Government I hope that this Motion should not be proceeded with. If it is, the Official Members will oppose it.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

On a point of information, Sir, I would like to know what impression Government seeks to create when, before the Unofficial Members have expressed their views one way or the other on any Motion, Government proceeds to clarify its stand by dangling the sword of Damocles on the head of the Mover.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

If I rightly understand, the Honourable Member is asking whether it is right that Government should make its attitude clear.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

I asked what impression it seeks to create—what impression does Government seek to create when, before the Unofficial Members have expressed their views one way or the other on any Motion, Government proceeds to clarify its stand by dangling the sword of Damocles on the head of the Honourable Mover.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

It seems to me that it is of the greatest assistance to the Council to know what the attitude of Government is to an Unofficial Motion, and in this case I thought that it would be useful if the Council could know what Government's attitude is at the beginning of the discussion rather than later.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

Your Excellency, may I reply?

His Excellency:

- If no other Honourable Member wishes to speak.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

I should have liked to agree to the suggestion that the Motion be withdrawn, but I disagree with the Honourable Gentleman entirely, Your Excellency.

All the complaints about the Department have been admitted. Whether the Government vote in favour or not does not interest me. The Posts and Telegraphs is a Department of the Government, and so I have no doubt as to what side the Government will be taking—I was aware of that fact from the word go—I am speaking now on behalf of the people as against a certain branch of the administration of the Government, and so I will not withdraw it, and I will not defer it either, and I shall ask for a debate and vote on it through Your Excellency, so that everybody can express opinion in this important matter of communication and I should like to know what everybody thinks about it, and then if I am defeated I shall be able to tell the people that I have done my duty.

The Second Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa):

Your Excellency, the Department of Posts and Telegraphs is very much criticized by the Honourable Members of this House.

When the Honourable the Third Lagos Member gave notice of this Motion, Sir, we had a meeting—that is the Honourable Members from the Northern Provinces—to discuss the details of all the Motions before the Legislative Council. Now we have seen, Sir, that although the Department has been too much criticized yet we do not think that it is right for the Council to ask for a Commission of Enquiry to investigate what are bad in the Department because if this Council allows such Commissions of Enquiry into Departments of Government we do not know how many Commissions of Enquiry will be required in the future. It may mean that very soon the Council will ask for a Commission of Enquiry on every Government Department which has been too much criticized either by people outside or by the Honourable Members of this Council, and so, Sir, on this point, I am afraid to say that the Northern Provinces will oppose the Motion.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

Your Excellency, if I may be permitted to offer an opinion. One Honourable Member has asked the Honourable the Chief Secretary what impression he means to convey to the other Members of this Council when an Unofficial Member moves his Motion and the Government forthwith makes clear its stand in the case. What I feel, Sir, is that when Government states its case before giving the Members of Legislative Council a chance to air their views in regard to any one Motion—what happens is, that the Mover himself feels that he has no ground to stand on or that if he proceeded with his Motion it would be defeated. The second thing is that I feel that Members themselves feel that it is difficult for them to get up and say their views in regard to that Motion having regard to what Government has already said in the matter, and I would like to suggest, Sir, that we do welcome suggestions and advice from indi-

vidual members, officials and unofficials alike. Out of Council the Government has every right to give advice to Movers of Motions as to the probable merits of their Motions. In open Council, however and before the debate has begun, I do not think that it is quite right. You might intimidate other Members of Council to state their views in regard to any one Motion, and although I believe Government wants to save time in open Council so that there might not be a Debate on such a case, I feel, Sir, that any Member here should have the right, and should feel that he ought to express himself in any matter if Government, at the conclusion of a Debate, states its case, and then I think everybody will know where he stands.

In the matter of the Posts and Telegraphs it is rather a difficult thing. It is certain that most Members have criticized this Department in very stringent terms. We had the privilege of having the Director of Posts and Telegraphs before the Select Committee, and the Honourable Gentleman did state his case squarely. I do not know, Sir, but it is rather difficult to start wanting to get into the matter all over again. Those of us in the Legislative Council have sized the position, and we see the difficulties here, and there, as the Honourable Gentleman tried to tell us, and I feel, Sir, we are satisfied that the Gentleman has made efforts and the onus is not entirely on him. I do agree, Sir, that when a job is properly done all the applause goes over to the head of the Department, and also when things go bad, certainly the people associate him with inefficiency. Since we have aired our views here and have made our stand clear before the Honourable Gentleman, I feel, Sir, that we might leave it at that. I shall vote against it.

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. H. Buowari Brown):

I shall also vote against this Motion on the following grounds: The Honourable the Chief Secretary has explained to us what it would mean if a Commission of Enquiry were held to investigate complaints about this Department. It means quite a number of the staff would have to be brought before this Commission from various parts of the country, and that would perhaps add more to our troubles, and so in this respect I think we should devise some other means than a Commission of Enquiry by which the affairs of this much discussed Department can be put right. We had the Director of Posts and Telegraphs with us in Finance Committee and I must say, Your Excellency, that I almost pitied him; he was bombarded with questions from every side and he answered questions until I think he got tired. He did all he could at the time to satisfy us that there was no intention on the part of his Department to be so unsatisfactory and inefficient, but owing to the use of out-of-date instruments and other causes, the Department has not succeeded in giving the country satisfaction. He admitted, Sir, that the criticisms on the Department were quite justified and promised to do

what he could to remedy the situation, and therefore, Your Excellency, I agree with the Honourable the Chief Secretary that a Commission of Enquiry be not appointed to deal with this matter.

The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. A. Soetan):

I disagree with my Honourable Friend the Second Member for the Western Provinces—I mean the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces.

His Excellency:

Which Member are you disagreeing with?

The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. A. Soetan):

Your Excellency, it is my Honourable Friend the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces.

I disagree with my Honourable Friend the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces. When the Government clarifies its position as regards a Motion, I think, Sir, that it is an indication to every Honourable Member—to know the exact position of the Government, and it is then for the Mover to consider in the light of such information whether to defer or withdraw his Motion, or if necessary press that the Motion should go ahead. Sir, since we know what the result will be before we start, why should we waste tax-payers' money in instituting a Commission of Enquiry.

The Honourable the Chief Secretary informs us that from the rigorous cross-examination of the Head of Department, it is obvious every Member of this House admits that there is a failure in Posts and Telegraphs Department to cope with their work. The Honourable the Chief Secretary has told us that the Posts and Telegraphs Department has undertaken more than it can efficiently cope with. That, Sir, would be the result of any Commission of Enquiry. I think the Honourable the Chief Secretary must have come to that conclusion from the facts available, and those are the facts to be put before the Honourable Members of the Commission, if any Commission of Enquiry is ordered. Since there is this assurance by the Honourable the Chief Secretary that materials are coming forward more readily now and that we shall soon see the results of measures that are being taken. I think, Sir, rather than press for a Commission of Enquiry, we should be satisfied with the explanation of the Honourable the Chief Secretary and await the results. The Honourable the Chief Secretary has told us that great pressure, tremendous pressure, is being put on the few that are at present doing the job, and there is no doubt that Government will make necessary adjustments and see that this Department that has come in for such justifiable condemnation and rigorous criticism, will endeavour to better its position and give satisfaction to the taxpayers.

Sir, I vote against the Motion.

The First Nominated Member (The Hon. P. J. Rogers):

Your Excellency, I should also like to refer to the question as to whether Government should give their opinion or make clear their stand on any particular Motion or Bill, because I consider it raises rather serious matters and principles.

Now, I would not like you, Sir, to think that I enjoy sitting on the fence or waiting to see which way the cat jumps, if I may so describe our distinguished administrators, but I consider we Honourable Members should have the opportunity on many occasions of having the technical advice of Government. For instance, in this House, we very frequently discuss educational matters and medical matters, and, I personally, before I feel like giving my opinion on these or voting, I always like to hear what the technical experts on the Government side think about them. As for influencing Honourable Members, which has been suggested, if Government give their opinion and make clear their stand before the Unofficials speak, I would suggest that there should be no fear of this. We should have our own minds quite clear on the subject when we have heard both sides of every question and, like the Honourable the Financial Secretary, some of us on occasions are not averse to voting against Government.

Now as regards this vexed question of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, I admit, as we must all admit, I am afraid, that at the present time they are a very dismal institution, in fact one might almost describe them as "up the pole", but I also agree with the Honourable the Financial Secretary that they have very much to contend with, and I know from my own experience that electrical equipment is harder to come by than anything else these days. I feel that the majority of the officers in this Department are doing their best, and, as other Members have said, that we should leave them in peace and see whether they can maintain the improvement which has been a small one, but in my opinion there has been a small improvement, during the last six months. I shall, therefore, oppose the Motion.

The First Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. A. Obisesan, O.B.E.):

I rise to oppose this Motion, not because it is a Motion moved against an officer of the Government, but because the Postmaster-General, or the Director of Posts and Telegraphs has done his best to explain things as they are to members during the Committee sittings—we all listened attentively to all he had to tell us. There were a lot of criticisms and I believe that he is a man who will see that every improvement is made in years to come. I also believe, Sir, that the Government cannot fool the Honourable Members of this House by making a promise that the Department will make improvements in years to come. I had thought, Your Excellency, that we have heard the last word about the working of the Post Office and that as such we will forgive and forget, but when I saw

... and inefficient, but owing to the use of out-of-date instruments and other causes, the Department has not succeeded in giving the country satisfaction. He admitted, Sir, that the criticisms on the Department were quite justified and promised to do

the Motion, I said to myself—"What is this?" We have already disposed of this matter in Select Committee, and I feel that we should not do anything further, but here we are Sir, we feel that a Commission of Enquiry should be appointed. If we found, Sir, that the Postmaster-General had been guilty of fraud or inefficiency, I would be the first man to support any Motion against that Department, but in this case I cannot, so I feel, Your Excellency, that this Motion is unnecessary and I would therefore appeal to my Honourable Friends to forgive, forget and drop the Motion, Your Excellency.

The Second Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. T. A. Odotola, O.B.E.):

Your Excellency, I am entirely in sympathy with the Mover of this Motion, and I am sure there is no single Unofficial Member, and I extend it to the Official side of the House, who does not realise that the way the business of Posts and Telegraphs Department is transacted in this country is unsatisfactory.

I have to congratulate the Government for owning the blame which the Unofficial side of the House put on them. I remember, there was a time when Government would put up a well sugar-coated reply in their defence when such criticism was levelled at them. I want my Honourable friend the Mover of this Motion to understand that those other Unofficial Members who spoke before, did not say that they opposed the Motion because it was not good, but because Government had already given an undertaking that the present condition will be improved.

As my Friend the First Member for the Western Provinces has said, I would appeal to the Mover of the Motion to withdraw it, and wait and see what Government will do to implement their promises in seeing that the Department works to justify the money voted for it this year.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

Your Excellency, in supporting my Honourable Friend the Second Member for the Western Provinces, I am happy that the Honourable Official Spokesman has owned the mistakes committed by Government. It is very encouraging indeed, because it gives hope to those of us who criticise not necessarily for the fun of criticising. When I asked a question a few minutes ago and the reply was given, I was not quite satisfied, but I felt that in the case of a Motion as distinct from a Bill, in fairness to the Honourable Mover all sections of the House should be given the opportunity to air their views before the Government make their views known. I do not impute motives but I feel that in order not to prejudice any issue before the House it should be discussed by the Unofficial Members before the attitude of Government is known. In the case of a Bill that is different; it is better for Government to state its views on a Bill because it might save the time of the House.

Sir, I beg to move.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

Sir, I beg to second.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:

Your Excellency, I am speaking at this stage because there are only two Honourable Members in this House who have any personal experience of this dispute, that is my Honourable Friend the Second Member for the Eastern Provinces, and myself. I do not think, Sir, that this Honourable House need spend much time over this Motion. It can be said, Sir, that the principle of appointing a Commission of Enquiry is acceptable. Indeed, any suggestion which could assist in bringing this deplorable dispute to an end would be welcome. As it happens this suggestion of a Commission of Enquiry has already been made by my Honourable Friend the Second Member for the Eastern Provinces, who has, Sir, in the last three months, devoted a great deal of his time and energy in endeavouring to settle this dispute. I have, Sir, discussed the suggestion with my Honourable Friend the Attorney-General. He informs me that he is of the opinion that a Commission of Enquiry would be of practical assistance towards resolving the various questions which are in dispute between these two clans. That being so, Sir, the suggestion, as I have already said, is welcomed.

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. H. Buowari Brown):

I need not say very much on this subject as I know Your Excellency is aware of the efforts I have made within the past few months trying to bring this lamentable feud to an end. One thing I would like to point out is that whereas I appreciate very much the Motion brought before the House by the Third Lagos Member, it is not quite correct for him to say that he had consulted me and had my approval to bring this Motion. On the other hand I asked him why he undertook to interfere from the Lagos side when he could have got all the necessary information from me, and he said that he acted on the representations of some people from Okrika. From this Your Excellency and the Honourable Members of this House will see that he heard only one side of the story. They are just some representations made to him, and as a result of that he brought this Motion.

The fact of the case is that this feud has been going on for a long time: it is not a new thing at all. The first case in connection with this dispute was taken into consideration in the year 1912, and from that time a series of actions have been taken in the Supreme Court whereby lawyers filled their pockets with the spoils while the areas continue to suffer. I have here, Your Excellency, in this bag all that has gone through the Courts in connection with this matter. I have here a copy of the agreement which we effected to enable both parties to be law-abiding and peaceful until the crux of the matter was settled and that was whether Okrika should pay

tribute or rate to the Kalabari Chiefs, because Okrika admitted Kalabari's title and ownership of the lands in question. The dispute is not over the river where Okrikans were fishing but the lands where the fishermen squat to dry and cure their fish, but definitely refused to pay any tribute or rate for occupying these areas. That is the whole trouble. During the past few months I have endeavoured to try and bring them together. Two Bonny Chiefs went to try and persuade them to keep the peace and some Chiefs came all the way from Brass for the same purpose and Mr Harcourt tried to get them to come to an agreement, but all these efforts failed. Eventually the two District Officers asked me, as Representative of the Rivers Province and a Member of the same tribe, to intervene and see what I could do, Sir. I did take up the job, which was not a very pleasant one. I had to tell them some bitter truths, and beg them, almost on my knees. I really was very much ashamed that at this stage in Nigeria's advance, peoples of the Rivers Province, who have been in contact with European ways of life since the 14th century, should now continue to display such barbarism amongst themselves. I begged them, and as a result of my persuasive talks, they eventually agreed to make this agreement. I do not know if Your Excellency would like me to read it?

His Excellency :

I am in your hands. It is perfectly in order.

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. H. Buowari Brown) :

This was after every effort had almost failed and I had been obliged to call for aid of His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces all the way from Enugu. He came down and assisted, and so we were able to effect this peace agreement:—

“ We the undersigned Chiefs of the Kalabari and Okrika Clans, on behalf of our people hereby bind ourselves to do all in our power jointly and severally to keep the peace between our two Clans and to prevent all acts of violence or aggression from being perpetrated by our people against each other, more particularly in the rivers and the fishing ports.

Secondly, we Okrika Chiefs will order our people not to set foot in any of the abandoned fishing ports and villages on the right bank of the Bonny River going downstream, or to the West of it, pending the Chief Commissioner's relation of his instructions forbidding reoccupation of these places which are referred to in an attachment to the judgment of the Full Court dated 11th April, 1914.

Thirdly, we the Okrika Chiefs will deposit the sum of £500 (five hundred pounds) without prejudice in respect of any payments of tribute which may subsequently be ordered by judgment in the Supreme Court, and thereafter the Okrika fishermen shall be entitled to temporary occupation which existed up to the time of this recent dispute.

His Excellency :

The question is that the Motion be withdrawn.

The Ayes have it.

The Motion is by leave withdrawn.

I would like at this stage to get the views of Honourable Members as to whether we press on and finish now or adjourn and finish this afternoon.

The Ayes have it.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Your Excellency, I beg to report from the Select Committee the amendments of duties under the Customs Ordinance, 1942, set out in the Customs (Increase of Duties—Tobacco—and Export Duties), Order in Council, 1949, and the amendments of duties of excise under the Excise Ordinance, 1941, set out in the Excise Tariff (Cigarettes) Order in Council, 1949, and to move the adoption of the Customs (Increase of Duties—Spirits and Tobacco—and Export Duties) Resolution, 1949, as set out in the Order Paper.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

I beg to second.

His Excellency :

The question is in terms of the Resolution.

The Ayes have it.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

I rise to move the second Resolution standing in my name at the bottom of page 2 of the Order Paper. Sir, I beg to move the adoption of the Excise Tariff (Cigarettes) Resolution, 1949.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

I beg to second.

His Excellency :

The question is in terms of the Resolution.

The Ayes have it.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

I beg to move the adoption of the Excise (Duty on Beer) Resolution, 1949, which is set down at the bottom of page 3 and the top of page 4 of the Order Paper.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

I beg to second.

His Excellency :

The question is in terms of the Resolution.

The Ayes have it.

Thirty-six Million, Fifty-six Thousand, Nine-hundred and seventy pounds" be deleted and substituted by the words "Thirty-seven Million, Four hundred and thirty-nine Thousand, Seven hundred and sixty pounds".

Title as amended.

Mar. 31, 1949]

Council Debates

803

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on page 4, of the Order Paper.

This expenditure is that recommended by the Select Committee on the Estimates, the Report of which was tabled today, for that part of the Ten-Year Plan of Development and Welfare which is to be met in due course from the proceeds of the loan which has already been authorised but is not yet raised. Pending the raising of the loan we propose to provide the money from surplus balances as heretofore.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

His Excellency :

The question is in terms of the Motion.

The Ayes have it.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Your Excellency, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name at the bottom of page 4 and the top of page 5 of the Order Paper.

At the Budget Meeting of this Council in 1948, it was resolved that an extension should be made to the Apapa Wharf and that pending the raising of a loan to defray the cost, expenditure necessarily incurred on the project should be charged to advances. The proceeds of the Development Loan already authorised by the Development Loan Ordinance, 1945, are fully committed and it is necessary to defray from further loans not only the cost of the Apapa Wharf extension but other development projects. The Select Committee on the 1949-50 Estimates has recommended the expenditure from advances pending the raising of such a loan of the money required to carry out the plan for the re-organisation of the Government collieries at Enugu which was recommended by the Powell Duffryn Technical Services, Ltd. Provision was, therefore, made in Part 2 of Appendix I to the Draft Estimates for this purpose and for certain other improvements to the collieries properly to be treated in the same manner. A Resolution of this Council is now required to give formal sanction for this expenditure.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

His Excellency :

The question is in terms of the Motion.

The Ayes have it.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

I move that Clause 11 be re-numbered Clause 13; Clause 12 be re-numbered Clause 14; Clause 13 be re-numbered Clause 15; Clause 14 be re-numbered Clause 16; and Clause 15 be re-numbered Clause 17.

Clause 13 as amended.

Clause 14 as amended.

Clause 15 as amended.

Clause 16 as amended.

Clause 17 as amended.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

I move that in the Third Schedule referred to in Clause 17 the words " seven shillings and six pence " shall be deleted and the words " nine shillings " shall be substituted.

Clause 17 as amended.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Your Excellency, I beg to report the Bill from Committee with various amendments. Sir, I beg to move that the Bill as amended be now read a third time and passed.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

His Excellency :

I must congratulate the Honourable Members on getting through so much business so expeditiously.

Council will now adjourn *sine die*.

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned sine die at 1.45 p.m.

INDEX

	<i>Page</i>
ADEDOYIN, ADELEKE	
Notice of Questions	390
1949-50 Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	474-480
Financial Secretary and the Budget Speech	474
Posts and Telegraphs Department	474-475
Development Department	475
Income Tax Commissioner at Accra	475
Medical Department	475
Education Department	475
Printing Department	475
Conditions of Service of Prison Warders <i>vis a vis</i> Police Rank and file	475
Expenditure on Marine Launches	476
Recruitment of Secretaries and Treasurers for Local administrations in preference to Administrative Staff	476
Public Relations Department	476
Removal of Wartime restrictions, <i>e.g.</i> , Import and Export Control	476
Textile Industry	476
Setting up of factories for extraction locally of oil seeds	476-477
Marketing Ordinances, <i>i.e.</i> , Groundnut, Oil Palm Produce and Cotton	477
Judicial Department	477
Administrative Officers, with special reference to their multifarious functions	477
Railway Department	478
Review of the Constitution	478-479
Technical Experts (Heads of Departments) and their functions	479
His Excellency's Speech	480
Notice of Motion (Commission of Enquiry into Posts and Telegraphs Department)	487
Notice of Motion (Okrika-Kalabari Dispute in the Rivers Province)	587-588
The Periodicals and Publications Ordinance (2nd Reading)	653-654
Motion (Commission of Inquiry into Ikoyi Labour Incident)	691
Motion (Film Censorship)	699
Motion (Setting up of special scholarship fund for the Northern Provinces)	710
Motion (Democratisation of Native Administrations and enforcement of the law about conspiracy against or attempt to undermine the lawful power of statutory authorities)	766-769
Motion (Land Law of Nigeria)	775-779; 780
Motion (Commission of Inquiry into Posts and Telegraphs Department)	783-784 786 793 794
Motion (Okrika-Kalabari Dispute in the Rivers Province)	796-798 800-801
ANWAN, E. E. E.	
1949-50 Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	426-428
His Excellency's Speech, in relation to the Budget and Self-Government	426-427
Criticism of the present Constitution	427
Self-Government	427-428
Local Government Reforms	428
ADEREMI I, Oni of Ife	
Motion (Membership of Motor Transport Licensing Board)	796
ALIYU, MAKAMAN BIDA	
Motion (Democratisation of Native Administrations and enforcement of the law about conspiracy against or attempt to undermine the lawful power of Statutory authorities)	770-771
ATTORNEY-GENERAL	
Resolution on Select Committee on method of Constitutional Review	583
The Periodicals and Publications Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	660 661-662 669
Motion (Peace Preservation Ordinance)	672
Motion (Commission of Inquiry into alleged mutiny by Nigerian soldiers)	694

Motion (Democratisation of Native Administrations and enforcement of the law about conspiracy against or attempt to undermine the lawful power of statutory authorities)	.. .. .	722
Confirmation of Minutes	.. .. .	733
Motion (Land Law of Nigeria)	.. .. .	779-780
Motion (Commission of Enquiry into Posts and Telegraphs Department)	.. .. .	794

AZIKIWE, DR NNAMDI

Notice of Questions	.. .. .	487 555 588
Question No. 15	.. .. .	488
Question No. 160	.. .. .	495
Question No. 168	.. .. .	496
Question Nos. 173,174	.. .. .	497
Question Nos. 176,182	.. .. .	498
Supplementary Question to No. 182	.. .. .	499
Question No. 183	.. .. .	499
Supplementary Question to No. 183	.. .. .	500
Question No. 185	.. .. .	500
Question No. 187	.. .. .	501
Supplementary Question to No. 187	.. .. .	504
Question No. 193	.. .. .	504
Question No. 195	.. .. .	505-506
Question Nos. 196,201	.. .. .	506
Question Nos. 202,207,208	.. .. .	507
Question No. 222	.. .. .	507-508
Question Nos. 223-226	.. .. .	508
Question No. 227	.. .. .	508-509
Question Nos. 228-231	.. .. .	509
Question No. 232	.. .. .	509-510
Question Nos. 233-236	.. .. .	510
Question Nos. 242,243	.. .. .	512
Question No. 259	.. .. .	513
Question Nos. 267,272	.. .. .	514
Question No. 274	.. .. .	514-515
Question Nos. 280,290	.. .. .	516
Supplementary Question to No. 290	.. .. .	516
Question No. 294	.. .. .	516-517
Supplementary Question to No. 294	.. .. .	517
Question No. 297	.. .. .	517
Question No. 315	.. .. .	517-518
Question No. 359	.. .. .	518
Question No. 360	.. .. .	519
Supplementary Question to No. 360	.. .. .	519
Question No. 375	.. .. .	519
Question Nos. 382,383	.. .. .	520
Supplementary Question to No. 383	.. .. .	520
Question No. 9	.. .. .	588
Question No. 143	.. .. .	597
Question No. 154	.. .. .	598
Question Nos. 156,164	.. .. .	599
Supplementary Question to No. 164	.. .. .	600
Question No. 166	.. .. .	600
Question Nos. 203,204,205	.. .. .	601
Question Nos. 206,209	.. .. .	602
Question No. 210	.. .. .	602-603
Supplementary Question to No. 210	.. .. .	603
Question Nos. 211,212	.. .. .	603
Question Nos. 213,214,215,216	.. .. .	604
Question No. 217	.. .. .	604-605
Question Nos. 218,219,220	.. .. .	605
Question No. 221	.. .. .	605-606
Question No. 237	.. .. .	607
Question No. 239	.. .. .	607-608
Question No. 240	.. .. .	608
Supplementary Question to No. 240	.. .. .	609
Question Nos. 241,248	.. .. .	609
Question Nos. 249,250	.. .. .	610
Supplementary Question to No. 250	.. .. .	611

	<i>Page</i>
Question No. 254	611
Question No. 257	612
Question No. 258	612-613
Supplementary Question to No. 258	614
Question Nos. 260, 263	614
Question No. 264	617
Question No. 269	618-619
Question Nos. 270, 271	619
Question Nos. 279, 281	620
Supplementary Question to No. 281	621
Question No. 284	621
Question No. 285	622
Question Nos. 286, 287, 288	623
Question Nos. 289, 291	624
Question No. 296	624-625
Question No. 298	625
Question No. 301	625-626
Question No. 302	626-627
Question No. 304	627
Question No. 305	627-628
Question No. 307	628
Question Nos. 308, 309	629
Supplementary Question to No. 309	630
Question No. 310	630
Question Nos. 311, 316, 321	631
Question Nos. 322, 323	632
Question No. 327	633
Question No. 352	634
Question Nos. 362, 363	636
Question No. 367	637
Supplementary Question to No. 367	637
Question No. 377	637
Question No. 379	638
Question Nos. 380, 381	639
Question No. 386	639-640
Question No. 387	640
Question No. 388	640-641
Question No. 389	642
Supplementary Question to No. 389	643
1949-50 Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	450-460
Time Limit of Speeches	450
Criticism of the Financial Secretary's Budget Speech	451-452
Planning of the public finance of Nigeria	452-454
Taxation	454
Labour problems, with special reference to stabilisation of wages and working hours	454-455
Nigerianisation of the Nigeria Regiment	455
Establishment of a Nigeria Trade Commissioner's Office in London	456
Harmful effect of monopolies and combines on our national economy	456
Nationalisation of Industry	456-457
Press criticisms, with special reference to the growing feeling of suspicion and distrust	457-458
Review of the Constitution	459-460
The Periodicals and Publications Ordinance, (2nd Reading)	652 656 657 659 663 664-668 669
Motion (Legal Department)	694-695
Motion (Judicial Department)	695-696
Motion (King's College)	696-697
Motion (Film Censorship)	697-701
Confirmation of Minutes	733
Question No. 150	743
Question No. 163	744
Question No. 180	745
Supplementary Question to No. 180	745-746
Question Nos. 191 and 200	746-747
Question No. 251	747
Question No. 262	748
Question No. 277	749-750
Supplementary Question to No. 277	750

	Pag
Administrative Staff	561
Local Government reforms in the Western Provinces	561-562
Regional Public Relations Staff	562
Posts and Telegraphs	562-563
Statesmen <i>vis a vis</i> Politicians	563
Answers to Question Nos. 203, 204	601
Answers to Question Nos. 205, 206, 209	602
Answer to Question No. 210	602-603
Answer to Supplementary Question to No. 210	603
Answer to Question No. 211	603
Answers to Question Nos. 212-221	606
Answer to Question No. 240	608
Answer to Supplementary Question to No. 240	609
Answer to Question No. 248	609-610
Answer to Question No. 263	614-616
Answer to Question No. 271	619
Answer to Question No. 285	622
Answers to Question Nos. 286, 287	623
Answer to Question No. 288	623-624
Answers to Question Nos. 289, 291	624
Answer to Question No. 301	626
Answer to Question No. 327	633-634
Answer to Question No. 200	747
Motion (Democratisation of Native Administrations and enforcement of the law about conspiracy against or attempt to undermine the lawful power of statutory authorities)	755-758

CHIEF SECRETARY

Papers Laid	449 583
Answer to Question No. 15	488
Answer to Question No. 60	488-489
Answer to Question No. 102	490-492
Answer to Question No. 128	495
Answer to Question No. 168	496-497
Answer to Question No. 173	497
Answers to Question Nos. 174,176	498
Answer to Question No. 243	512-513
Answer to Question No. 297	517
Answer to Question No. 399	521-522
Answer to Question No. 409	522-523
Answers to Question Nos. 423,428	525
Answer to Question No. 438	526-527
Answer to Question No. 440	527
Answer to Question No. 443	528
Answers to Question Nos. 446,450	528
Answer to Supplementary Question to No. 450	529
Answer to Question No. 451	529
Answer to Question No. 453	529-530
Answer to Question No. 454	530
1949-50 Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	563-574
Nigeria Civil Service	563-565
Courtesy on the part of Government Officials	565
Government Organisation, with special reference to Boards and Corporations	566-568
Functions of the Administrative Service in relation to Corporations	569
Local Governments with special reference to its relation to the Government Service	569-570
Administrative Service	570-571
Trade Union Policy as it affects the Government Service	572-573
Constitutional Review	573
The end of the present Constitution	573-574
Resolution (Select Committee on method of Constitutional Review)	583
Answer to Question No. 9	588-589
Answer to Question No. 42	589-590
Answer to Supplementary Question to No. 42	590
Answer to Question No. 61	590-591
Answers to Question Nos. 143,154	598
Answer to Question No. 156	599

	<i>Page</i>
Answer to Question No. 258	613-614
Answer to Supplementary Question to No. 258	614
Answer to Question No. 279	620
Answer to Question No. 321	632
Answer to Question No. 362	636
Answer to Question No. 393	644
Answers to Question Nos. 400 and 401	646
Answer to Question No. 426	647
Answers to Question Nos. 427,429,430	648
Answer to Question No. 439	649
Answer to Supplementary Question to No. 439	649
Answer to Question No. 442	649-650
Answers to Question Nos. 445,448,449	650
Answers to Question Nos. 452,455	651
Proposal for Variation of the sequence of the Order of the Day	652 754
The Periodicals and Publications Ordinance (2nd Reading) 654 656 657	658 659
Motion (Free and Compulsory general elementary education)	689
Motion (Commission of Inquiry into Ikoyi Labour Incident)	692
Motion (Film Censorship)	701 702
Motion (Setting up of special scholarship fund for the Northern Provinces) 710-712	712-714
Adjournment	730 774
Answer to Question No. 97	742
Answer to Question No. 180	745
Answer to Supplementary Question to No. 180	746
Motion (Democratisation of Native Administrations and enforcement of the law about conspiracy against or attempt to undermine the lawful power of statutory authorities)	758-759
Motion (Printing of His Excellency's Opening Address and Financial Secretary's Budget Speech)	782
Motion (Commission of Inquiry into Posts and Telegraphs Department) 784-786	792 793
COMMISSIONER OF THE COLONY	
Answer to Question No. 242	512
Answer to Question No. 272	514
Answer to Question No. 352	634-636
Answer to Question No. 391	643
Answer to Question No. 96	740-741
Answer to Supplementary Question to No. 96	741-742
COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR	
Answer to Question No. 456	651-652
Motion (Commission of Inquiry into the Ikoyi Labour incident)	691-692
DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY	
Answer to Question No. 160	496
1949-50 Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	548-551
General Statement on progress under the Development Plan	548
Technical Education	548
Textile Development	548-549
Development of Social Services <i>vis a vis</i> economic development	549
Marketing Boards	549
Improved methods of Agriculture with a view to raising of the standard of living	550
Visit by missions of Experts	550
Shortage of Supply	550-551
Motion (Duties under the Customs Ordinance, 1942)	556
Answer to Question No. 377	637-638
Motion (Customs—Increase of Duties—Tobacco—and Export Duties—Order-in-Council, 1949)	802
Motion (Excise Tariff—Cigarettes—Resolution, 1949)	802
Motion (Excise—Duty on Beer—Resolution, 1949)	802
Motion (Expenditure on Development Schemes)	803
Motion (Expenditure on Colliery Improvements and Marine Department)	803
1949-50 Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 (Committee Stage and Third Reading) 805	805
Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (Committee Stage and Third Reading)	808

GOVERNOR

Prayers	389	449	487	555	583	587
Warning to visitors in the public galleries						411
Adjournment	424	445	484	552	579	583 670 703 730 774 808
Calling attention to Standing Rule and Order No. 13—Time limit for speeches				439	468	562 571
1949-50 Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 (Second Reading)	449	463	479	579		
Proposal for the variation of the sequence of the Order of the Day				652	754	
The Periodicals and Publications Ordinance (Second Reading)		656	658	659		
	660	661	663	664	668	669 670
Motion (Peace Preservation Ordinance)						672 673
Motion (Free and compulsory general elementary education)	685	686	689	690		703 704
Motion (Commission of Inquiry into Ikoyi labour Incident)						692 693
Motion (Commission of Inquiry into alleged mutiny by Nigerian Soldiers)						694 802
Motion (Film Censorship)						702 703
Motion (Setting up of special scholarship fund for the Northern Provinces)						709 715
Motion (Democratisation of Native Administrations and enforcement of the law about conspiracy against or attempt to undermine the lawful power of statutory authorities)					722	773 774
Confirmation of Minutes						733
Announcement						774
Motion (Land Law of Nigeria)						775 780
Motion (Printing of His Excellency's Opening Address and Financial Secretary's Budget Speech)						783
Motion (Commission of Inquiry into Posts and Telegraphs Department)					786	789
					792	793 794
Motion (Membership of Motor Transport Licensing Board)						796
Motion (Okrika-Kalabari Dispute in the Rivers Province)						799 801
Motion (Customs—Increase of Duties—Tobacco—and Export Duties—Order-in-Council, 1949)						802
Motion (Excise Tariff—Cigarettes—Resolution, 1949)						802
Motion (Excise—Duty on Beer—Resolution, 1949)						802
Motion (Expenditure on Development Schemes)						803
Motion (Expenditure on Colliery Improvements and Marine Department)						803
1949-50 Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 (Committee Stage and Third Reading)						804
Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (Committee Stage and Third Reading)						806 807

IBIAM, DR F. A.

1949-50 Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 (Second Reading)	410-416
Financial Secretary and the Budget Speech	410
Regional Development Boards	410
Increase in Import Duties	410-411
Foreign investment in Nigeria by Big Business Organisations	412
Establishment of a Nigeria Trade Commissioner's Office in London	412
Public Works Department	412
Labour Department	412-413
Posts and Telegraphs Department	413
Education Department	413
Medical Department	413
Nigerian Students in the United Kingdom	414
Review of the Constitution	414-415
Strikes and demands by workers for increased wages	415-416
Motion (Free and Compulsory provision of general elementary education)	673-684
	689 690 703
Motion (Film Censorship)	702
Motion (Setting up of special scholarship fund for the Northern Provinces)	708-709
Motion (Democratisation of Native Administrations and enforcement of the law about conspiracy against or attempt to undermine the lawful power of statutory authorities)	759-761
Motion (Printing of His Excellency's Opening Address and Financial Secretary's Budget Speech)	783
Motion (Commission of Inquiry into Posts and Telegraphs Department)	787-788

IBRAHIMA, ATTAH OF IGBIRRA

Question No. 428	525
Question Nos. 426, 427	647

IKOKU, A.

1949-50 Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 (Second Reading) ..	405-409
Financial Observations	405-406
Implementation of the undertaking in new Education grants-in-aid Regulations	406-407
Observations on economic policy	407
Education Department	407-408
Senior Service Cadre for Voluntary Agency Teachers and Educational administrators	408
Public Works Department	408-409
Posts and Telegraphs	409
Agriculture and Forestry	409
The Periodicals and Publications Ordinance (Second Reading)	662-663 669
Motion (Peace Preservation Ordinance)	672
Motion (Free and Compulsory general elementary education) ..	688-689 704
Motion (Film Censorship)	702
Motion (Setting up of special scholarship fund for the Northern Provinces)	707-708
	712

ILORIN, YAHAYA

1949-50 Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 (Second Reading) ..	428-431
Appreciation of His Excellency's activities since assuming the administration of Nigeria	428
Development Schemes, with special reference to Ilorin Province ..	428-429
Technical Schools, with special reference to the Veterinary School at Vom	429
Agriculture, with special reference to erosion and bush burning ..	429-430
Education	430
Application of the Nigerianisation policy to the Northern Provinces ..	431
Motion (Setting up of special scholarship fund for the Northern Provinces)	706 707

KATSINA, IRO

1949-50 Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 (Second Reading) ..	416-417
His Excellency's Printed Address	416
Agricultural Department	416
Education Department	417
Medical Department	417
Public Works Department	417
Financial Secretary and the Budget Speech	417

NAGOGO, EMIR OF KATSINA

Question Nos. 429, 430	648
--------------------------------	-----

OBASEKI, GAIUS I.

Question No. 419	524
Question Nos. 400, 401	645
Motion (Setting up of special scholarship fund for Northern Provinces)	710

OBISESAN, A.

Motion (Democratisation of Native Administrations and enforcement of the law about conspiracy against or attempt to undermine the lawful power of statutory authorities)	772
Motion (Commission of Inquiry into Posts and Telegraphs Department)	790-791

ODUTOLA, T. A.

1949-50 Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 (Second Reading) ..	480-484
Appreciation of His Excellency's Speech	480
Marketing Boards	480
Observations on the activities of certain sections of the local press ..	480-481
Staggering size of the country's expenditure	481
Incidence of taxation in Nigeria in relation to the standard of social services provided	481
Uncertainty of continuation of existing high prices for produce	481
Setting up of a Public Expenditure Committee in addition to Standing Finance Committee	481-482
Ijora Saw Mill	482-483

	<i>Page</i>
Palm Oil Mills	394
Co-operation between the producer, the administration and the legislature ..	394
Motion (Setting up of special scholarship fund for the Northern Provinces) ..	714
Motion (Printing of His Excellency's Opening Address and Financial Secretary's Budget Speech)	782
Motion (Commission of Inquiry into Posts and Telegraphs Department) ..	790

SOETAN, A.

1949-50 Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	397-405
Composition of the present Legislative Council	397
His Excellency's printed Address	397
Expression of congratulations on the expeditious completion of the Hall of the Western House of Assembly	397-398
Political situation in Abeokuta	398
The Budget	398
Select Committee on Constitutional Review	399
Economic Development with special emphasis on improved agricultural method and introduction of new crops	399-400
Industry	400-401
Co-operative Department	401
Internal and External Trade	401
Nigerianisation of the Civil Service	401
Education	401-402
Technical Education	402-403
Health Measures	403
Government Land Policy, with special reference to Boundary disputes and Land Acquisition Ordinance	403-405
Motion (Setting up of special scholarship fund for the Northern Provinces) ..	714
Motion (Democratisation of Native Administrations and enforcement of the law about conspiracy against or attempt to undermine the lawful power of statutory authorities)	769-770
Motion (Commission of Inquiry into Posts and Telegraphs Department) ..	789

SULEMANU, EMIR OF ABUJA

1949-50 Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 (Second Reading)	441-445
Greetings and thanks for welcome and hospitality received at Ibadan	441
Reference to Kaduna Speech concerning preference in the Northern Region for Education over Politics	441-442
Review of Constitution, with special reference to local Government reforms ..	442-443
Need of European Technical Officers in the Northern Region in relation to the proposed increase in administrative Staff	443-444
Indexing of Hansard	444
Provision of books and pamphlets in Hausa, both as aid to Mass Education and for the ordinary reading population	444-445
Prices of economic crops	445
Federated States of Nigeria	445

YAHAYA, EMIR OF GWANDU

Question Nos. 420, 422	524
Question No. 423	525

WEST, J.

1949-50 Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	394-397
Financial Secretary and the Budget Speech	394
Taxation	395
Enactment of Government Regulations, etc.	395-396
Railway Department, with special reference to shortage of wagons and "go-slow" policy on the Eastern line	396-397





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Legislative Council Debates

THIRD SESSION

21st and 22nd November, 1949



Sessional Paper No. 24 of 1949—Annual Report on the Department of Labour and on the Resettlement of Ex-servicemen, 1948.

Sessional Paper No. 27 of 1949.—Statement of Policy proposed by the Government for future Regulation of Grants-in-Aid of the Medical and Health Services provided by Voluntary Agencies in Nigeria.

Sessional Paper No. 28 of 1949—Statement of Conclusion of the Government on the Report of the Commission on the Private Practice of Medicine and Surgery by Officers of the Department of Medical Services, Nigeria.

Report on Private Domestic Servants.

An Outline of Nigerian Vegetation.

Report of an enquiry on the possibility of returning Government Scholars to Nigeria on completion of their courses.

Annual Report of the Cameroons Development Corporation for the year 1948.

Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Finance of the Northern Regional Council in respect of the period January, 1949 to August, 1949.

Report of the Standing Committee on Finance of the Western House of Assembly for the period December, 1948 to September, 1949.

Report of the Standing Committee on Finance of the Legislative Council of Nigeria in respect of the period 1st February to 30th September, 1949.

Orders-in-Council Nos. 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36 of 1949 made under the Diplomatic Privileges (Extension) Ordinance, 1947 (No. 25 of 1947).

Subsidiary Legislations made since the last meeting of the Council.

Resolutions under section 53 (1) of the Nigeria (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1946, adopted by:—

1. The Northern House of Chiefs.
2. The Northern House of Assembly.
3. The Western House of Assembly.
4. The Eastern House of Assembly.

Certificates of formality and urgency under section 53 (3) of the Nigeria (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1946 and Rule 23 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Council of Nigeria in respect of the following Bills:—

“ An Ordinance to make provision for the imposition of penalties for Offences and the imposition and recovery of fees under the British Nationality Act, 1948 ”.

“ An Ordinance to provide that the break in service in the case of certain Railway Servants of the Station Staff arising out of a strike which occurred in the month of July in the year one thousand, nine hundred and forty-nine, may be

PRAYERS

His Excellency the Governor opened the proceedings of the Council with prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 31st of March, 1949, having been printed and circulated to the Honourable Members, were taken as read and confirmed.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS

His Honour E. K. Featherstone, C.M.G., Acting Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces; the Honourable E. Himsworth, Financial Secretary; the Honourable G. Plummer, O.B.E., Acting Director of Education; the Honourable A. McDonald, Acting Director of Public Works; the Honourable C. R. Niven, M.C., Senior Resident, Bornu Province; and the Honourable P. V. Main, Senior Resident, Oyo Province, took the Oath as Members of the Council.

PAPERS LAID**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :**

Your Excellency, I beg to lay on the table of the House, the following papers:—

- White Paper on the proposed Scheme to provide Pensions for Widows and Orphans of African Officers.
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted on the 10th of December, 1948, by the General Assembly of the United Nations.
- Sessional Paper No. 11 of 1949—Annual Report of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies for the year 1947-48.
- Sessional Paper No. 12 of 1949—Annual Report on the Agricultural Department for the year 1947.
- Sessional Paper No. 13 of 1949—Annual Report on the Public Relations Department for the year 1948.
- Sessional Paper No. 14 of 1949—Annual Report on the Department of Chemistry for the year 1948.
- Sessional Paper No. 15 of 1949—Annual Report on the Nigerian Post Office Savings Bank for the year ended 31st March, 1948.
- Sessional Paper No. 16 of 1949—Annual Report on the Geological Survey Department for the year 1948.
- Sessional Paper No. 19 of 1949—Annual Report of the Survey Department for the year 1948-49.
- Sessional Paper No. 20 of 1949—Annual Report on the General Progress of Development and Welfare Schemes 1948-49.
- Sessional Paper No. 21 of 1949—Annual Report on the Nigeria Police Force for the year 1947.
- Sessional Paper No. 23 of 1949—Report by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship for the year 1948.

Debates in the Legislative Council of Nigeria

Monday, 21st November, 1949

Pursuant to notice the Honourable the Members of the
Legislative Council met in the Council Chamber, Lagos,
at 10 a.m. on Monday, the 21st of November, 1949.

PRESENT

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- His Excellency the Governor,
Sir John S. Macpherson, K.C.M.G.
- The Chief Secretary to the Government,
The Honourable H. M. Foot, C.M.G., O.B.E.
- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,
His Honour T. C. Hoskyns-Abrahall, C.M.G.
- The Acting Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces,
His Honour E. K. Featherstone, C.M.G.
- The Attorney-General,
The Honourable Sir Gerard Howe, K.C.
- The Financial Secretary,
The Honourable E. Himsworth.
- The Director of Medical Services,
Dr the Honourable G. B. Walker, C.B.E.
- The Development Secretary,
The Honourable C. J. Pleass,
- The Acting Director of Education,
The Honourable G. Plummer, O.B.E.
- The Director of Agriculture,
The Honourable A. G. Beattie.
- The Acting Director of Public Works,
The Honourable A. McDonald.
- The Commissioner of Labour,
The Honourable A. H. Couzens.
- The Commissioner of the Colony,
The Honourable E. A. Carr.
- The Senior Resident, Bornu Province,
The Honourable C. R. Niven, M.C.
- The Senior Resident, Oyo Province,
The Honourable P. V. Main.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Member for the Colony,
The Rev. and Honourable T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.
- The First Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Obisesan, O.B.E.
- The Second Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable T. A. Odotola, O.B.E.
- The First Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable I. Olorun-Nimbe.
- The Emir of Gwandu,
The Honourable Yahaya, C.B.E.

- The Emir of Katsina,
Alhaji the Honourable Usuman Nagogo, C.B.E.
- The Oni of Ife,
The Honourable Aderemi I, C.M.G.
- The Atta of Igbirra,
Alhaji the Honourable Ibrahimia.
- The Emir of Abuja,
The Honourable Sulemanu.
- The First Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Bello Kano.
- The First Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable C. D. Onyeama.
- The Second Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.
- The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable H. Buowari Brown, O.B.E.
- The Third Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Iro Katsina.
- The First Nominated Member,
The Honourable P. J. Rogers.
- The Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Aliyu, Makaman Bida.
- The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.
- The Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Yahaya Ilorin.
- The Third Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.
- The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable N. Essien.
- The Third Lagos Member,
The Honourable Adeleke Adedoyin.
- The Member for Calabar,
The Honourable E. E. E. Anwan.
- The Second Nominated Member,
Major the Honourable J. West, M.C., E.D.
- The Third Nominated Member,
The Honourable N. B. Edwards.
- The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Soetan.

ABSENT

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,
His Honour Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, C.M.G., R.N.
- The Secretary, Eastern Provinces,
Commander the Honourable S. E. Johnson, R.N.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Oba of Benin,
The Honourable Akenzua II, C.M.G.
- The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable A. Ikoku, O.B.E.
- The Second Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe.

disregarded and that such period may be counted for continuity of service under the provisions of the Pensions Law ”.

“ An Ordinance to provide for the preparation and publication of a Supplement to the Revised Edition of the Laws of Nigeria ”.

QUESTIONS

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

55. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

What is the controlled price of cement in Lagos? Give the figures for Abeokuta, Ibadan, Zaria, Offa, Ilorin, Kano, Maiduguri, Port Harcourt and Victoria for comparison.

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Adequate supplies of cement are now arriving in Nigeria. Control of the price of cement has therefore been withdrawn as from 6th April, 1949.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

122. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

For the controlled price of corrugated Iron Sheets in Lagos?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

The controlled prices of Corrugated Iron Sheets in Lagos are as follows:—

6' × 8/3 × 36 gauge:—

			s	d
U.K. origin	...	...	6	6 per sheet
Belgian origin	...	...	10	8 per sheet

Prices are not fixed for other sizes because they are not in popular demand and the cost prices vary so much that it is not possible to arrive at an average price.

Supplementary Question to No. 122 by the Third Lagos Member (The Honourable Adeleke Adedoyin):

Sir, is it not true that the control of the price of corrugated iron sheets has been removed?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

I will make enquiries. The Honourable Member may be right. This answer was prepared some little time before this meeting took place and it may be that some action has been taken since that answer was put down. I will certainly make enquiries and let the House know.

Supplementary Question to No. 164 by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe):

(a) Will His Honour be surprised to learn that during my visit to Onitsha last December certain landowners and fishing folk

brought such information to my notice? Will he investigate accordingly?

(d) Will His Honour be disposed to consult Chief Obiozo Onyah on this point, since he gave me the information?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

(a) The source of the Honourable Member's information is not questioned. Enquiry from the Roman Catholic Mission at Onitsha has established that the Mission does not claim or attempt to exercise any fishing rights in the River Niger. It does, however, claim ownership rights over certain land adjoining the River, which claim includes the foreshore. By virtue of this claim the Mission imposes restrictions on access to the land for the purpose of using it for fishing and disposing of catches. It is understood that the agreements in respect of this land were put to proof and duly proved in the Supreme Court at Onitsha on August 20th, 1910.

(d) In view of the answer to supplementary question 164 (a) above it is considered that little purpose would be served in seeking further information from Chief Obiozo Onyah.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

192. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services :—

(a) How many hospitals and dispensaries were built in Nigeria during 1948-49?

(b) Where are they located?

(c) How many hospitals and dispensaries will be built in Nigeria during 1949-50?

(d) Where will they be located?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

(a) Three extensions to hospitals, two Rural Health Centres and fifty-one Dispensaries and Health or Maternity Centres.

(b) HOSPITALS :

Gusau Extension
Akure Extension
Abakaliki Extension

RURAL HEALTH CENTRES :

Auchi
Ilaro

DISPENSARIES :

Eastern Region

Degema
Opobo
Umuahia
Ikot Ekpene
Calabar
Obubra
Abakalik
Ogoja

Northern Region

Badeggi
Danko
Wawa
Giade
Shenkape
Anka
Maru
Nungadi

Western Region

Igbanke
Oghada
Ewulu
Ilobu
Opuku
Ijebu-Ijesha
Ijede
Ikorodu
Odolagaiye

Northern Region—contd

Guduf
Jakusko
Nangare
Gombi
Gembu
Karkana
Langtang
Abakpa
Ngakon
Udegi Beki

HEALTH CENTRES :

Kaita
Bama

MATERNITY CENTRES :

Offa
Malete Okeode
Azare
Bauchi
Katsina
Gombaru
Kano City

(c) Eight new hospitals, and extensions to eleven hospitals, are in hand; ninety-nine dispensaries or health centres are expected to be constructed.

(d) HOSPITALS AT :

Birnin Kebbi
Akure
Maiduguri
Wamba
Mubi
Warri
Onitsha
Shagamu

EXTENSIONS TO HOSPITALS AT :

Offa
Yola
Minna
Kafanchan
Sokoto
Kano City
Aba
Owerri
Ijebu-Ode
Oshogbo
Abakaliki

DISPENSARIES AND HEALTH CENTRES AT :

<i>Place</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Province</i>
Obong	Calabar	Gwaram	Kano
Mbiabong	"	Kanya	"
Ikono East	"	Rogo	"
Ikpe Ikot Okon	"	Kibiya	"

Place	Province	Place	Province
Ikpe Annang ..	Calabar	Mallam Maduri ..	Kano
Obohia	Owerri	Balangu	"
Oguta Town ..	Owerri	Dan Zoma	"
Alike Edda Centre	Ogoja	Karlahi	Adamawa
Umulokpa	Onitsha	Toungo	Adamawa
Atani	Onitsha	Madagali	Adamawa
Ifetedo	Oyo	Kukuiiri	Bornu
Alders Town ..	Warri	Ngale	"
Koko	Warri	Dogabari	"
Jesse	Warri	Mallam Maje ..	"
Akokwe	Benin	Kala	"
Ekpon	Benin	Damboa	"
Opoji	Benin	Dapchi	"
Ilugun	Abeokuta	Gwong	Plateau
Obafemi	Abeokuta	Jigindi	"
Dangara	Niger	Tumkus	"
Jimanle	"	Bong	"
Kutiriko	"	Labim	"
Gulu	"	Mani	Katsina
Paiko	"	Dutsi	"
Keffin	"	Batsari	"
Kagara	"	Dan Musa	"
Sara	Bauchi	Ingawa	"
Sade	"	Faskari	"
Burra	"	Mashi	"
Nafada	"	Baure	"
Pindiga	"	Utomkon	Benue
Sokwa	"	Ngenev	"
Itas	"	Nyiev	"
Zumtum	Zaria	Mbataange	"
Kaura	Zaria	Ugondo	"
Egain	Kabba	Gombe Mbashaya	"
Abajikolo	"	Umaisha	"
Ekerin	"	Kokona	"
Okeri	"	Pauda	"
Wuno	Sokoto	Batanji	"
Yabo	"	Gayama	"
Gwandu Town ..	"	Kasimbila	"
Gulma	"	Doma	"
Paize	Ilorin	Keana	"
Oke-Ode	"	Ibeshe	Lagos and Colony
Osi	"	Irewe	"
Shonga	"	Pota	"
Okuta	"	Oto Janikin	"
Wawa	"	Igbagbele	"

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

273. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 45,261 Western Ijaw people living in an area of 2,055 square miles?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular area?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this area and under whose sponsorship?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this area?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this area?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this area, in spite of its abundant water supply?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this area? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of the Western Ijaw Division protected in the (i) Provincial Council, (ii) Western House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

275. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 130,826 people living in an area of 1,176 square miles in Asaba Division of Benin Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular area?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this area and under whose sponsorship?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this area and what is the mileage of metalled roads there?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this area?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this area, in spite of fire hazard?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this area? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of Asaba Division protected in the (i) Provincial Council, (ii) Western House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

276. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 157,744 people living in an area of 1,153 square miles in Aboh Division of Warri Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular area?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this area and under whose sponsorship?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this area?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this area?

(f) How is the interest of Aboh Division protected in the (i) Provincial Council, (ii) Western House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

333. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(h) How is the interest of Ishan Division of Benin Province protected in the (i) Provincial Council, (ii) Western House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

338. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 305,898 people living in an area of 2,456 square miles in Ijebu Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular Province? In what towns?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this Province and under whose sponsorship? In what towns?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this Province and what is the mileage of metalled roads there?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this Province? In what towns?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this Province, in spite of fire hazard?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this Province? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of Ijebu Province protected in the (i) Provincial Council, (ii) Western House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

351. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 1,339,609 people living in an area of 14,216 square miles in Ibadan, Ife, Ilesha and Oyo Divisions of Oyo Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular Province? In what towns?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this Province and under whose sponsorship? In what towns?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this Province and what is the mileage of metalled roads there?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this Province? In what towns?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this Province, in spite of fire hazard?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this Province? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of Ibadan, Ife, Ilesha and Oyo Divisions of Oyo Province protected in the (i) Provincial Council, (ii) Western House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

292. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

(a) Will a statement be made in respect of grants-in-aid made to secondary schools in (i) the Colony, (ii) the Western Provinces, (iii) the Northern Provinces, (iv) the Eastern Provinces, and (v) the Cameroons, during the financial year 1948-49?

(b) What secondary schools were benefited and what sums were made available to each of them?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education:

(a) The following amounts were paid during 1948-49:—

	£	s	d
(i) Colony	19,412	15	1
(ii) Western Provinces	26,316	12	3
(iii) Northern Provinces	2,567	18	11
(iv) Eastern Provinces	26,754	12	6
(v) Cameroons	703	5	0
Total	£75,755	3	9

(b) (i) *Colony*

	£	s	d
St. Gregory's College, Lagos	1,834	0	0
Igbobi College, Yaba	2,850	5	0
C.M.S. Grammar, Lagos	2,340	3	2
Baptist Academy, Lagos	2,786	1	11
Eko Boys' High, Lagos	1,757	5	8
Methodist Boys' High, Lagos	3,012	16	0
Methodist Girls' High, Lagos	2,350	8	8
C.M.S. Girls', Lagos	2,481	14	8
Total	£19,412	15	1

(ii) *Western Provinces*

	£	s	d
Abeokuta Grammar	4,737	19	1
Abeokuta Baptist Boys' High	2,067	9	10
St. Patrick's R.C.M., Asaba	701	0	0
C.M.S. Sabongida Ora Grammar	200	0	0
Ijebu Ode Grammar	2,577	7	10
Ijebu Remo Secondary	1,670	6	8
Christ School, Ado Ekiti	2,028	15	1
Ondo Boys' High	1,355	9	4
Imade College, Owo	1,066	15	8
Ibadan Grammar	3,258	4	7
Ilesha Grammar	1,572	18	4
Oduduwa College, Ife	2,197	5	10
St. Theresa's College, Ibadan	2,100	0	0
Baptist Boys' High, Oyo	783	0	0
Total	£26,316	12	3

(iii) Northern Provinces

	£	s	d
Boys' R.C.M., Kaduna	500	0	0
Girls' R.C.M., Kaduna	2,067	18	11
Total	£2,567	18	11

(iv) Eastern Provinces

	£	s	d
Methodist Boys' High, Oron ...	1,037	0	0
Holy Family College, Abak ...	49	0	0
Cornelia Connelly College, Uyo ...	489	0	0
St. Patrick's College, Ikot Ansa ...	2,165	17	6
Etinan Institute	545	15	0
Hope Waddell Institute, Calabar	2,956	15	0
Duke Town (Secondary), Calabar	2,056	5	0
Union Secondary School, Calabar	1,438	0	0
Aggrey Memorial College, Aro- chuku	3,783	5	0
Dennis Memorial Grammar, Onitsha	2,452	10	0
College of Immaculate Conception, Enugu	215	10	0
Queen of the Rosary College, Onitsha	131	0	0
Christ the King College, Onitsha	4,071	15	0
Methodist College, Uzuakoli ...	1,197	0	0
St. Augustine's College, Nkwerre	615	0	0
Okrika Grammar	1,719	15	0
Archdeacon Crowther Memorial, Elelenwa	1,831	5	0
Total	£26,754	12	6

(v) Cameroons

St. Joseph's College, Sasse ...	£703	5	0
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The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

306. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) Why did the Onitsha Township Native Authority increase the market stallage by 400 per cent per annum, regardless of the protest of the market women of Onitsha?

(b) Is it not a fact that the stallage rate at Onitsha is the highest in the country?

(c) Is Onitsha market any different from the other leading markets of Nigeria and Cameroons?

(d) If so, will the difference which justified such an exorbitant and unreasonable increase be clarified?

(e) Is it not significant that the rate of market stallage at Onitsha, in recent years, has taken an upward trend, regardless of the rising costs of living and the increased prices of imported goods?

(f) Does Government know that the administration of the Onitsha market is alleged to be very irregular and unbusinesslike, because stall owners are reported to be at the mercy of certain unscrupulous elements whose hands are said to be unclean and are steeped in corruption?

(g) Will an impartial commission of inquiry be instituted in order to investigate the administration of the Onitsha markets, with particular reference to the abnormal increase of stallages in recent years?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

(a) Onitsha Town Native Authority has not increased stallage fees by 400 per cent; the stallage rates were doubled as from the 1st of February, 1948. A few market women protested but the majority of the Onitsha Town market women deprecated the protest and supported the increase as necessary for the future development of the market.

(b) It would take time to compare the rates with those of every market in the country but it is possible that the Onitsha rates are the highest. A fair standard of comparison would have to take into account the volume of trade conducted in the market and consequently the annual profits derived by each stall holder.

(c) Onitsha Market is controlled by the Native Authority. It is the largest in the Eastern Provinces and the value of goods on sale in any one day is held to exceed £12,000.

(d) The increase of stall fees in a Native Authority market is a matter for the Native Authority to decide in accordance with its own financial position and the ability of the stall holders to pay without hardship.

(e) No, Sir. It is a normal consequence of a period of comparative prosperity that some parts of the enhanced profits of the trading community should be deflected into public revenues.

(f) Rumours of this nature have been current. An enquiry was held by an Administrative Officer in Onitsha in 1948. As a result no *prima facie* case was made out for prosecution but all complainants were informed that the police would act on receipt of reliable information. The only prosecution which has been made resulted in an acquittal.

(g) In view of the answers given to previous questions, it is not considered that an enquiry would serve any useful purpose.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

329. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 726,233 people living in an area of 7,624 square miles, in Abakaliki, Afikpo, Ikom, Obubra and Ogoja Divisions of Ogoja Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular Province? In what towns?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this Province and under whose sponsorship? In what towns?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this Province and what is the mileage of metalled roads there?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this Province? In what towns?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this Province, in spite of fire hazard?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this Province? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of Ogoja Province protected in the (i) Provincial Council, (ii) Eastern House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

330. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 382,501 people living in an area of 16,581 square miles in Bamenda, Mamfe, Kumba and Victoria Divisions of Cameroons Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular Province? In what towns?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this Province and under whose sponsorship? In what towns?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this Province and what is the mileage of metalled roads there?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this Province? In what towns?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this Province, in spite of fire hazard?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this Province? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of Cameroons Province protected in the (i) Provincial Council, (ii) Eastern House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

331. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 248,731 people living in an area of 1,185 square miles in Nsukka Division of Onitsha Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular area? In what towns?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this area and under whose sponsorship? In what towns?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this area and what is the mileage of metalled roads there?

(e) How many (i) Post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this area? In what towns?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this area, in spite of fire hazard?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this area? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of Nsukka Division of Onitsha Province protected in the (i) Provincial Council, (ii) Eastern House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

332. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 264,063 people living in an area of 1,318 square miles in Udi Division of Onitsha Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular area? In what towns?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this area and under whose sponsorship? In what towns?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this area and what is the mileage of metalled roads there?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this area? In what towns?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this area, in spite of fire hazard?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this area? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of Udi Division of Onitsha Province protected in the (i) Provincial Council, (ii) Eastern House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

339. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 91,165 people living in an area of 785 square miles in Enyong (Itu) Division of Calabar Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular area? In what towns?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this area and under whose sponsorship? In what towns?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this area and what is the mileage of metalled roads there?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this area? In what towns?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this area, in spite of fire hazard?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this area? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of Enyong (Itu) Division of Calabar Province protected in the (i) Provincial Council, (ii) Eastern House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

353. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the people who live in the newly constituted Rivers Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular Province? In what towns?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this Province and under whose sponsorship? In what towns?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this Province?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this Province? In what towns?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this Province, in spite of its abundant water supply?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this Province? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of the newly-constituted Rivers Province protected in the (i) Provincial Council, (ii) Eastern House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

354. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 116,722 people living in an area of 781 square miles in Eket Division of Calabar Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular area? In what towns?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this area and under whose sponsorship? In what towns?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this area and what is the mileage of metalled roads there?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this area? In what towns?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this area, in spite of fire hazard?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this area? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of Eket Division of Calabar Province protected in the (i) Provincial Council, (ii) Eastern House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

a, a- ia, i, ia, i, b, b, rt l- a.	Yes, in Port Har- court	Port Harcourt enjoys pipe-borne water supply.	The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question 355 (h) which also applies to this <i>mutatis mutandis</i> .
y, t n d	Nil	Nil	The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question 355 (h) which also applies to this <i>mutatis mutandis</i> .

(f)	(g)	(h) (i) (ii) and (iii)
Nil	There is no pipe-borne water supply yet, but the development of a supply at Abakaliki has reached the planning stage and the same is the case in respect of that proposed for Afikpo Government Secondary School and its environs.	The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question 355 (h) which also applies to this <i>mutatis mutandis</i> .
Nil	Victoria, Buea and Bamenda enjoy pipe-borne water supply.	The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question 355 (h) which also applies to this <i>mutatis mutandis</i> .
Nil	Nil	The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question 355 (h) which also applies to this <i>mutatis mutandis</i> .
Nil	Enugu and Udi enjoy pipe-borne water supply.	The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question 355 (h) which also applies to this <i>mutatis mutandis</i> .
Nil	Nil	The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question 355 (h) which also applies to this <i>mutatis mutandis</i> .
a, - ia, i, ia, i, b,	Yes, in Port Harcourt Port Harcourt enjoys pipe-borne water supply.	The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question 355 (h) which also applies to this <i>mutatis mutandis</i> .

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

340. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 986,525 people living in an area of 29,318 square miles in Benue Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular Province? In what towns?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this Province and under whose sponsorship? In what towns?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this Province and what is the mileage of metalled roads there?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this Province? In what towns?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this Province, in spite of fire hazard?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this Province? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of Benue Province protected in the (i) House of Chiefs, (ii) Northern House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

(a) Figures for Government Revenue are not available. The total estimated Native Administration Revenue for the year 1948-49 derived from the 1,200,280 people living in 29,448 square miles of Benue Province is £180,296.

(b) (i) Two General Hospitals at Makurdi and Wukari.

(ii) Twenty-eight Dispensaries situated at Oturkpo, Adoka, Egedde, Igumale, Orakamu, Obokolo, Bopo, Abakpa, Bagaji, Nassarawa, Loko, Toto, Udegi, Umaisha, Keffi, Karhi, Lafia, Awe, Ibi, Abinsi, Igbor, Donga, Takum, Katsina-Ala, Gboko, Akwarra, Ihugh and Mbakon. (All N.A.)

(c) (i) Primary Schools:

<i>Town</i>						<i>Sponsorship</i>
Katsina Ala Middlé .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	N.A.
Awe Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
Donga Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
Gadabuke Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
Gboko Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
Gurku Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
Keffi Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
Nassarawa Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
Ikurav (Ngibo) Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
Takum Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
Ugondon (Ugba) Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
Wukari Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
Mbagbara Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
Mbaduhu Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
Mbati Clan Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
Kpav Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
Lafia Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
Mbara Clan Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"

Town	Sponsorship
Ihugh Elementary	R.C.M
Nyiaka Elementary	"
Kyado Elementary	"
Nyajo Elementary	"
Oketta Ojalli Elementary	"
Mbape Elementary	"
Abuyol Elementary	"
Abuul Elementary	"
Ihindan Elementary	"
Dari Elementary..	"
Awukpa Elementary	"
Wanaka Elementary	"
Agbatse Elementary	"
Agidi Elementary	"
Jov Elementary ..	"
Ondo Elementary	"
Nwaba Agida Elementary	"
Ajegba Elementary	"
Aokpe Obokolo Elementary	"
Ogblega Eke Elementary	"
Otobi Emeju Elementary	"
Olai-Anyega Elementary	"
Oturkpo Elementary	"
Ayam Elementary	"
Ebu Agadaba Elementary	"
Oturkpo (T.T.C.)	"
Alaghahu Ogbewu Elementary ..	"
Amoda Elementary	"
Opidilo Ameju Elementary	"
Okonobo Edumoga Elementary	"
Tser Elementary ..	"
Mhambe Elementary	"
Dzungwe Elementary	"
Gbagbongwu Elementary	"
Ko Elementary ..	"
Dagba Elementary	"
Abijam Ijigbong Elementary	"
Iga Elementary ..	"
Ogbulokuta Elementary ..	"
Adiko Elementary	"
Efeyi Boju Elementary	"
Idabe Oglewu Elementary	"
Mbabanshi Elementary ..	"
Ivaal Njiev Elementary ..	"
Sokoto Mbagbaabó Elementary	"
Wukari Town Elementary	"
Ajeve Uge Mbagwa Elementary	"
Ikpoikpo Mbapoa Elementary	"
Omalonye Boju Elementary ..	"
Mbaadzagu Mbagon Elementary	"
Odega Yangedda Elementary	"
Odugbo Ocheke Elementary	"
Keffi Elementary ..	Baptist Mission
Makurdi Elementary	C.M.S.
Agyaragu Elementary	"
Keffi Elementary ..	"
Barakin Abdullahi Elementary ..	"
Makurdi Elementary	"
Udei Elementary ..	"
Oboko Elementary	"
Umaisha Elementary	Q.I.M.
Shafan Abakwa Elementary	"
Ugya Elementary	"
Toto Elementary ..	"

Total, Benue Province 213.

(ii) Secondary Schools.—NIL.

(d) The term "metalled roads" is taken to mean "all season" roads as metalled roads are not built in Nigeria.

There are 887 miles of all season and 139 miles of dry season roads in the Province.

There is an Airport at Makurdi and the Benue River and Nigerian Railway runs through the Province.

(e) There are offices with both Postal and Telegraph facilities at Makurdi, Ibi and Oturkpo. There are eleven Postal Agencies in the following places: Igumale, Moi-Igbo, Otobi, Taraku, Utonkon, Agyaragu, Lafia, Makurdi North, Makurdi South, Udei and Wukari.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Yes, Sir: at Makurdi.

(h) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Public Notice No. 158 of 1946, and No. 160 of 1946 (as amended by No 13 of 1949) and to Public Notice No. 142 of 1946, in which provision is made for representation in:

(i) the Northern House of Assembly,

(ii) the House of Chiefs, and

(iii) the Legislative Council.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

341. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 103,564 people living in an area of 13,555 square miles in Borgu and Pategi-Lafiagi Divisions of Ilorin Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular Province? In what towns?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this Province and under whose sponsorship? In what towns?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this Province and what is the mileage of metalled roads there?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this Province? In what towns?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this Province, in spite of fire hazard?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this Province? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of Borgu and Pategi-Lafiagi Divisions of Ilorin Province protected in the (i) House of Chiefs, (ii) Northern House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

(a) Figures for Government Revenue are not available. The total estimated Native Administration Revenue for the year 1948-49 derived from the 110,882 people living in 13,197 square miles of Lafiagi-Pategi and Borgu Divisions of the Ilorin Province is £21,132.

- (b) (i) Two General Hospitals at Ilorin and Offa.
(ii) Eight Native Administration Dispensaries at Kaiwa, Bussa, Ilorin Town, Oke Ode, Lafagi, Balla and Pategi.
(c) (i) Primary Schools:

Town	Sponsorship
Ilorin Middle	N.A.
Ilorin D.S.C.	"
Offa D.S.C.	"
Ballah Elementary	"
Malete Elementary	"
Offa Elementary	"
Oke-Suna Elementary	"
Oke-Ode Elementary	"
Omu Elementary	"
Pakata Elementary	"
Share Elementary	"
Shonga Elementary	"
Paiye Elementary	"
Afon Elementary	"
Bode Sadu Elementary	"
Baboko Elementary	"
Alapa Elementary	"
Ejidogari Elementary	"
Oke-Oyi Elementary	"
Oro-Agor Elementary	S.I.M.
Oke-Oyan Elementary	"
Igbaja Elementary	"
Eruku Elementary	"
Ikoru Elementary	"
Oke-Odde Elementary	"
Odo-Eku Elementary	"
Iwo Elementary	"
Igbaja Elementary	"
Oro-Agor Town Elementary	"
Ora Elementary	"
Oke-Igbala Elementary	"
Lalenka Elementary	"
Kajola Elementary	"
Elesin-Metta Elementary	"
Oko Elementary	"
Oko Elementary	"
Omo Aran Elementary	"
Babaloma Elementary	"
Share (Yoruba) Elementary	"
Jebba Elementary	"
Share (Nupe) Elementary	"
Ijagbo Elementary	Baptist
Igosun Elementary	"
Ipee Elementary	"
Offa Elementary	"
Ijara Elementary	"
Ilorin Elementary	"
Illah Elementary	"
Isanlu-Iyaye Elementary	"
Igbaja Elementary	"
Grin-Ile Elementary	"
Pamo Elementary	"
Ilorin Elementary	C.M.S.
Esie Elementary	"
Oke-Opin Elementary	"
Offa Elementary	"
Hudun Elementary	"
Edidi Elementary	"
Bode Sadu Elementary	"

Town	Sponsorship
Edidi Oga Elementary	C.M.S.
Ijan Elementary	"
Agbamu Elementary	"
Agbonda Elementary	"
Ilofa Elementary	"
Oke-Ongbin Elementary	"
Omu-Aran Elementary	"
Ijomu Elementary	"
Isapa Elementary	"
New Obo-Aiyegunle Elementary	"
Etan-Ekiti Elementary	"
Omu-po Elementary	"
Idofinhan Elementary	"
Idofin Elementary	"
Arandun Elementary	"
Ayo-Ekon Elementary	"
Old Obo Elementary	"
Ilale Elementary	"
Ikotun Elementary	"
Offa Elementary	R.C.M.
Ilorin Elementary	"
Ono Elementary	"
Aiye-Ekan Elementary	"
Eruku Elementary	"
Aiye-Ekan Elementary	"
Jebba Elementary	"
Aran-Orun Elementary	"
Okerimi Elementary	"
Ekan Ayekan Elementary	"
Offa Elementary	African Church
Lanwa Elementary	"
Iyeru-Okin Elementary	"
Ira Elementary	"
Erin-Ile Elementary	"
Jodoma Elementary	"
Erin-Ile Elementary	Private
Ilorin United Committee	Private
Offa Elementary	W.M.M.
Ajasse-po Elementary	"
Afon Elementary	"
Igbonna Elementary	"
Ologbodoroko Elementary	"
Amodu Elementary	"
Igboidun Elementary	"
Ijoku Elementary	"
Illala Elementary	"
Osi Elementary	S.D.A.
Omu Aran Elementary	"
Oke-Oye Elementary	"
Irore Elementary	"
Oda Owa Elementary	Christ Apostolic
Bussa Elementary	N.A.
Kaiama Elementary	"
Lafagi Elementary	"
Pategi Elementary	"
Pategi Elementary	S.I.M.
Oke-Daba Elementary	"
Owu Elementary	"
Ola-Ode-Omi Elementary	"
Ababe Elementary	"
Kpada Elementary	"
Patigi Elementary	"
Suku Elementary	"
Ijeaha-Ibariba Elementary	Baptist

Total for Ilorin Province 123,

(ii) Secondary Schools.—One, Offa Grammar School (Private).
 (d) The term “metalled roads” is taken to mean “all season” roads as metalled roads are not built in Nigeria.

There are 587½ miles of all season and 203½ miles of dry season roads in the Province. The Nigerian Railway runs through the Province. The Niger River bounds it on the North. There is also an Airport at Ilorin.

(e) There are offices with both postal and telegraph facilities at Ilorin, Jebba and Offa. There are Postal Agencies at Bode Sadu, Illa Market, Jadomo, Igbetti, Lanwa, Isanlu, Osi, Alanamu-Ilerin and Kaiama.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Yes, Sir. At Ilorin.

(h) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Public Notices Nos. 142, 158 and 160 of 1946, in which provision is made for representation in the Northern House of Assembly, the House of Chiefs and the Legislative Council.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

342. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 463,531 people living in an area of 10,953 square miles in Kabba Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular Province? In what towns?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this Province and under whose sponsorship? In what towns?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this Province and what is the mileage of metalled roads there?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this Province? In what towns?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this Province, in spite of fire hazard?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this Province? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of Kabba Province protected in the (i) House of Chiefs, (ii) Northern House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

(a) Figures for Government Revenue are not available. The total estimated Native Administration Revenue for the year 1948-49 derived from 565,051 people living in 10,953 square miles of Kabba Province is £129,719.

(b) (i) Two General Hospitals at Idah, and Lokoja; also Lokoja Rest House,

(ii) Thirteen Native Administration Dispensaries situated at Koton Karifi, Budon, Ankpa, Dekina, Ogugu, Adoru, Ibaji Oguma, Kabba, Okene, Ogori, Ajaokuta and Lokoja.

(c) (i) Primary Schools :

<i>Town</i>					<i>Sponsorship</i>
Kabba Province Middle..	..	..	..	..	N.A.
Okene D.S.C. ..	..	..	..	..	"
Abugi Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Ajaokuta Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Obangede Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Dekina Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Koton Karifi Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Kuroko Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Kabba Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Okene Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Ebiya Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Abaji Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Oguma Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Abocho Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Okene E.T.C. Practising ..	..	..	..	..	"
Lokoja Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Ankpa Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Ajaka Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Budon Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Gerinya Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Ogojeju Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Ofugo Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Ofante Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Odu Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Olia Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Okaba Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Eujemma Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Abaji Kolo Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Ogugu Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Iyale Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Ogwodu Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Gaminana Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Ayeregaga Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	C.M.S.
Agonyin Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Akabe Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Lokoja Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Emibochi Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Ogori Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Okene Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Emiaibe Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Emigbagun Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Emiobajemu Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Kpata Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Ikwehi Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Kabba Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Ikirun Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Ogidi Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Egbida Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Dzamadza Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Lupa Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Odoape Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Ega Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Obajana Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Magogo Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Agbaja Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Okenwen Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Odo-Ape Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Ogboroke Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Echau Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"
Akabe (Girls' Hostel) ..	..	..	..	..	"
Ohede Aiyetoro Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	"

Town	Sponsorship
Adugbe Elementary	C.M.S.
Ogale Elementary	"
Egumbe Elementary	"
Kpata-Kpate Elementary	"
Okebukun Elementary	"
Gbebe Elementary	"
Lokoja Elementary	R.C.M.
Okene Elementary	"
Kábbá Elementary	"
Mopa Elementary	"
Anyankpa Elementary	"
Idah Elementary	"
Ankpa Elementary	"
Imani Elementary	"
Akpanya Elementary	"
Ojoko Elementary	"
Lafia Elementary	"
Dekina Elementary	"
Ogidi Elementary	"
Magogo Elementary	"
Ikenekpo Elementary	"
Ogbumu Elementary	"
Ogori Elementary	"
Awo-Akpali Elementary	"
O'Gaminana Elementary	"
Eggo Elementary	"
Ogale Elementary	"
Ola Elementary	"
Isanlu Makutu Elementary	S.I.M.
Egbe Elementary	"
Mopa Elementary	"
Kpanyan Elementary	"
Oga Elementary	"
Ejiba Elementary	"
Ijai Elementary	"
Ode Ere Elementary	"
Tawari Elementary	"
Ogbe Elementary	"
Okagi Elementary	"
Gwalawo Elementary	Q.I.M.
Adoru Elementary	"
Ahi Elementary	"
Ajaha Elementary	"
Okaku Elementary	"
Iga Elementary	"
Onale Elementary	"
Ankpa Elementary	"
Idah Elementary	"
Egumale Elementary	"
Akpanya Elementary	"
Etobi Elementary	"
Ogbabu Elementary	"
Alu Iyagba Elementary	W.M.M.
Ejuku Elementary	"
Jege Elementary	"
Kabba Elementary	United Missions
Ekinrin Elementary	United Missions
Ife Yagba Community Elementary	Independent
Ankpa N.A. Community Elementary	"
Ojoku N.A. Community Elementary	"
Ajaka N.A. Community Elementary	"
Efo Elementary	Apostolic
Mopa Elementary	Baptist
Isanlu Makutu Elementary	"
Oda Gbade Elementary	"
Oqokoro Elementary	"

Town	Sponsorship
Agbagede Elementary	Baptist
Iluhe Elementary	"
Iluke Elementary	"
Ekinrin Elementary	"
Ayeteju-Ade Elementary	"
Iya Elementary	Moslem

Total, Kabba Province 133.

(ii) Secondary Schools.—NIL.

(d) The term "metalled roads" is taken to mean "all season" roads as metalled roads are not built in Nigeria.

There are 460½ miles of all season and 150 miles of dry season roads in the Province. The Niger and Benue Rivers flow through this Province. There is an Airport at Lokoja.

(e) There is an office with both Postal and Telegraph facilities at Lokoja, Post offices only at Kabba and Idah and Postal Agencies at Okene, Mopa, Ogori and Egbe.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Yes, Sir: at Kabba and Okene.

(h) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Public Notices Nos. 142, 158 and 160 of 1946, in which provision is made for representation in the Northern House of Assembly, the House of Chiefs and the Legislative Council.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

343. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 461,208 people living in an area of 25,178 square miles in Abuja, Bida, Kontagora and Kuta Divisions of Niger Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular Province? In what towns?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this Province and under whose sponsorship? In what towns?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this Province and what is the mileage of metalled roads there?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this Province? In what towns?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this Province, in spite of fire hazard?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this Province? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of Abuja, Bida, Kontagora and Kuta Divisions of Niger Province protected in the (i) House of Chiefs, (ii) Northern House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

(a) Figures for Government Revenue are not available. The total estimated Native Administration Revenue for the year 1948-49 derived from the 588,277 people living in 28,666 square miles of Abuja, Bida, Minna and Kontagora Divisions of Niger Province is £135,494.

Kuta Division does not exist.

(b) (i) Two Government Hospitals at Minna and Bida.

(ii) Fifteen Native Administration Dispensaries situated at Abuja Town, Clinic, Abuja Town, Bwari, Gariki, Kwali, Bida Town, Lemu, Katcha, Kutigi, Agaie Town, Kuta, Kontagora, Rijau and Zuru Town.

(c) (i) Primary Schools:

<i>Town</i>	<i>Sponsorship</i>
Bida Middle	N.A.
Agaie Elementary	"
Badegge-Lapai Elementary	"
Abuja Elementary	"
Bida (East Ward) Elementary	"
Bida (South Ward) Elementary	"
Bwari Elementary	"
Doko Elementary	"
Kagara Elementary	"
Kaca Elementary	"
Kontagora Elementary	"
Kutigi Elementary	"
Kwali Elementary	"
Lemu Elementary	"
Mokwa Elementary	"
Minna Elementary	"
Rijau Elementary	"
Wushishi Elementary	"
Zuru Elementary	"
Ibeto Elementary	"
Fnagi Elementary	"
Badeggi Elementary	"
Kuta Elementary	"
Bida (West Ward) Elementary	"
Babba Elementary	"
Edozhizi Elementary	"
Jebba Elementary	"
Etsugaie Elementary	"
Loguma Elementary	"
Garki Elementary	"
Gwacipe Elementary	"
Inuye Elementary	"
Gulu Elementary	"
Auna Elementary	"
Wasagu Elementary	"
Paiko Elementary	"
Jiwa Elementary	"
Paiko Elementary	S.I.M.
Kuta Elementary	"
Wushishi Elementary	"
Izom Elementary	"
Minna Elementary	"
Bosso Elementary	"
Diko Elementary	"
Ija Elementary	"
Garam Elementary	"
Minna Elementary	C.M.S. (Anglican)
Zungeru Elementary	"
Bida Elementary	"
Agaie Elementary	"
Doko Elementary	"
Jebba Elementary	U.M.S.
Mokwa Elementary	"
Salka Elementary	"
Zuru Elementary	"
Minna Elementary	R.C.M.

Town	Sponsorship
Nikuchi Elementary	R.C.M.
Gawu Elementary	"
Bwari Elementary	"
Gasakpa Elementary	"
Adunu Elementary	"
Tachiko Elementary	"
Kabogi Elementary	"
Matene Elementary	"
Chogwa Elementary	"
Ukata Elementary	"
Shaku Elementary	"
Kwakuti Elementary	"
Zuba Elementary	"
Safo Elementary..	"
Paiko Elementary	"
Tuna Elementary	"
Duma Elementary	"
Zago Elementary..	"
Kutara Elementary	"
Kilemkwa Elementary	"
Ghimi Elementary	"
Gwi Elementary..	"
Sungigi Elementary	"
Lafiagi Elementary	"
Egwa Elementary	"
Jere Elementary..	"
Sheta Elementary	"
Tundun Wada Elementary	"
Guni Elementary	"
Isgogo Elementary	"
Gwan Elementary	"
Fakai Elementary	"
Dabai Elementary	"
Chimi Elementary	"
Gawu Elementary	"
Beri Elementary..	"
Dukku Elementary	"
Mahuta Elementary	"
Masuga Elementary	"
Iddo-Hassan Elementary	"
Macheri Elementary	"
Kafin Elementary	"
Markendi Elementary	"
Ashara Elementary	"
Donko Elementary	"
Fwege Elementary	"
Damagara Elementary	"
Gbasha Elementary	"
Gusoso Elementary	"
Zungeru Elementary	Baptist
Minna Elementary	"
Bida Elementary..	"
Katcha Elementary	"
Kutiwengi Elementary	"
Tungan Bako Elementary	Nigerian Faith Mission
Urige Elementary	Nigerian Faith Mission
Ureggi Elementary	Missionaries to Un-evangelized Tribes

Total in Niger Province 114.

(ii) Secondary Schools.—NIL.

(d) The term "metalled roads" is taken to mean "all season" roads as metalled roads are not built in Nigeria.

Town						Sponsorship
Gudi Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	R.C.M.
Tsamiya Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Ungwar Rima Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Piapun Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Ampan Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Aso Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Asake Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Baltop Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Doka Maikasuwa Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Agungi Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Kwabzak Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Yit Laar Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Wusel Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Longvel Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Godo-Godo Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Fori Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Jabyam Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Kwon Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Wamba Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Kwong Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Wulko Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Hoss Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Gigiring Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Kaduna Vom Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Tudun Wada Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Dhu Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Kagoma Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Bwal Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Gidan Madaiki Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Daffo Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Fier Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Alizaga Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Umme Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Wakama Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Dampar Rimi Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Gyel Nyap Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Gomit Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Abome Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Miket Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Turgna Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Lardang Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Tim Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Kwapfogham Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Hoss Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Kafanchan (Indg.) Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Mada Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Ajikamai Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Kwa Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Mampirini Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Jos (Girls') Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Gigira Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Gidan Kudu Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Alogani Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Ungwan Dadi Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Kedang Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Jagindi Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Richa Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Lankan Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Dies Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Dawaki Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Bwfuma Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Kogun-River Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Mbal Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Kefiyir Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Kwapkuluk Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"
Lalin Elementary	..	..	..	..	..	"

<i>Town</i>					<i>Sponsorship</i>
Pership Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	R.C.M.
Amper Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	S.U.M.
Dú Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Forum Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Garkawa Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Kabwir Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Kerang Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Langtang Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Mbang Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Panyam Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Pil Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Tokkos Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Wana Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Katanga Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Gindiri Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Kurra Falls Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Tim Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Mpang Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Kwanka Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Gindiri Town Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Anzeri Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Mupum Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Kuru Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Ganawuri Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Nafan Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Mbam Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Ngubi Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Rundum Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Jiblik Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Pumbush Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Durka Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Wazhe Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Ngubi Farms Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Wamba Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Tolon Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Jos (St. Luke's) Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	C.M.S.
Jos (St. Paul's) Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Ropp Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Kafanchan Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Bukuru Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Rayfield Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Gudi Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Kurra Falls Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Wamba Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Kuru Station Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Dorowa Babuje Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Kogum River Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Ex-Lands Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Godo-Godo Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Jagindi Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Barakin-Ladi Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Jengre Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	S.D.A.
Kafanchan Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	S.I.M.
Reya Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Tumu Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Zabolo Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Fadan-Kagoma Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Ungwan-Pere Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Uyo Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Jos Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	Baptist
Kafanchan Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Dorowa Babuje Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Fori Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Bukuru Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Gindi Akwati Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"
Mongu Elementary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	"

<i>Town</i>	<i>Sponsorship</i>
Jos (Hillcrest) Elementary	C.B.M.
Jos Elementary	Methodist
Ropp-Gana Elementary.. .. .	A.T.M.N.

Total for Plateau Province 192.

(ii) Secondary Schools.—NIL.

(d) The term "metalled roads" is taken to mean "all season" roads as metalled roads are not built in Nigeria.

There are 646½ miles of all season and 207 miles of dry season roads in the Province. There is an Airport at Jos and the Railway passes through the Province.

(e) There are offices with both Postal and Telegraph facilities at Jos, Kafanchan, Barakin Ladi, Bukuru and Gudi. There are Postal Agencies at Jos Town, Kafanchan Town, Mada, Keffi, Jagindi, Zonkwo, Wamba, Vom and Pankshin.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Yes, Sir: at Jos.

(h) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Public Notices Nos. 142, 158 and 160 of 1946, in which provision is made for representation in the Northern House of Assembly, the House of Chiefs and the Legislative Council.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

345. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 1,869,160 people living in an area of 39,965 square miles in Argungu, Gwandu and Sokoto Divisions of Sokoto Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular Province? In what towns?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this Province and under whose sponsorship? In what towns?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this Province and what is the mileage of metalled roads there?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this Province? In what towns?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this Province, in spite of fire hazard?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this Province? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of Argungu, Gwandu and Sokoto Divisions of Sokoto Province protected in the (i) House of Chiefs, (ii) Northern House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

(a) Figures for Government Revenue are not available. The total estimated Native Administration Revenue for the year 1948-49 derived from the 2,068,032 people living in 36,477 square miles of Argungu, Gwandu and Sokoto Divisions of Sokoto Province is £390,904.

- (b) (i) Three General Hospitals at Sokoto, Birnin Kebbi and Gusau.
- (ii) Sixteen Native Administration Dispensaries situated at Kaura Namoda, Talata Mafara, Tambawal, Sokoto City, (Women and Children's Clinic), Sokoto City (Town Infirmary). Anka, Maru, Yabo, Gwadabawa, Jega, Illo Koko, Kamba, Argungu, Yelwa and Dugu-tsofo.
- (c) (i) Primary Schools:

<i>Town</i>	<i>Sponsorship</i>
Sokoto Middle	N.A.
Birnin Kebbi Elementary	"
Sokoto (Girls') Elementary	"
Argungu (Girls') Elementary	"
Argungu Elementary	"
Anka Elementary	"
Altine Ward Elementary	"
Angi Elementary	"
Bodinga Elementary	"
Bunza Elementary	"
Bogudu Elementary	"
Dange Elementary	"
Dakingari Elementary	"
Gummi Elementary	"
Gusau Elementary	"
Godabawa Elementary	"
Gulma Elementary	"
Gwandu Elementary	"
Illo Elementary	"
Isa Elementary	"
Jega Elementary	"
Kaoje Elementary	"
Kamba Elementary	"
Kangiwa Elementary	"
Koko Elementary	"
Kalgo Elementary	"
Kaura Namoda Elementary	"
Nawaurno Ward Elementary	"
Rabah Elementary	"
Sabon Birni Elementary	"
Shinkafi Elementary	"
Sokoto Elementary	"
Tambawal Elementary	"
Talata Mafara Elementary	"
Wurno Elementary	"
Yelwa Elementary	"
Yabo Elementary	"
Ambursa Elementary	"
Birnin Kebbi Town Elementary	"
Dugu Tsofo Elementary	"
Wara Elementary	"
Yaldu Elementary	"
Sultan Ward Elementary	"
Waziri Ward Elementary	"
Mogaji Ward Elementary	"
Kwara Elementary	"
Maru Elementary	"
Chafe Elementary	"
Kotarkoshi Elementary	"
Nasarawa Elementary	"
Laima Elementary	R.C.M.
Bui Elementary	R.C.M.
Gusau Elementary	R.C.M.

Town	Sponsorship
Mikali Elementary	R.C.M.
Yeldu Elementary	"
Zagabu Elementary	"
Jaja Dawa Elementary	"
Turenki Elementary	"
Socowbie Arewa Gabas Elementary	"
Sokoto Elementary	"
Zuru Elementary	U.M.S.
Sokoto Elementary	Societe des Mission African Lyons
Gusau Elementary	C.M.S.
Chafe Elementary	C.M.S.
Sokoto Elementary	C.M.S.
Kaura Namoda Elementary	C.M.S.
Gusau Elementary	Ibo Union (Private)
Amanawa Leper Settlement Elementary	S.I.M.

Total for Sokoto Province 69.

(ii) Secondary Schools.—NIL.

(d) The term "metalled roads" is taken to mean "all season" roads as metalled roads are not built in Nigeria.

There are 715½ miles of all season and 1,104 miles of dry season roads in the Province. There are Aerodromes at Sokoto and Gusau and the Niger River runs through the Province. A branch of Nigerian Railways from Zaria runs through the Province and ends in Kaura Namoda.

(e) There are offices with both Postal and Telegraph facilities at Sokoto, Gusau, Birnin Kebbi, Yelwa and Kaura Namoda. There are six Postal Agencies situated in Argungu, Jega Mai Inshi, Sokoto Town, Talata Mafara and Chafe.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Yes, Sir: under construction at Sokoto.

(h) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Public Notices Nos. 142, 158 and 160 of 1946, in which provision is made for representation in the Northern House of Assembly, the House of Chiefs and the Legislative Council.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

346. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 1,039,109 people living in an area of 9,466 square miles in Katsina Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular Province? In what towns?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this Province and under whose sponsorship? In what towns?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this Province and what is the mileage of metalled roads there?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this Province? In what towns?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this Province, in spite of fire hazard?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this Province? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of Katsina Province protected in (i) House of Chiefs, (ii) Northern House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

(a) Figures for Government Revenue are not available. The total estimated Native Administration Revenue for the year 1948-49 derived from the 1,193,786 people living in 9,466 square miles of Katsina Province is £271,249.

(b) (i) One Hospital at Katsina.

(ii) Fourteen Native Administration Dispensaries situated at Jibiya (Health Centre), Kaita (Health Centre), Mani, Ingawa (Health Centre), Kankiya, Dutsin-Ma, Musawa, Malumfashi (Health Centre), Daudawa, Faskari, Kafinsoli, Katsina (Ante Natal Welfare Clinic), Daura (Health Centre) and Funtua (Health Centre).

(c) (i) Primary Schools:

Town	Sponsorship
Katsina Middle	N.A.
Bakori Elementary	"
Baure Elementary	"
Daura Elementary	"
Dutsin Ma Elementary	"
Faskari Elementary	"
Jibiya Elementary	"
Ingawa Elementary	"
Funtuwa Elementary	"
Kaita Elementary	"
Kankara Elementary	"
Kankiya Elementary	"
Katsina Elementary	"
Katsina (Girls') Elementary	"
Mallumfashi Elementary	"
Mani Elementary	"
Ruma Elementary	"
Mai-Aduwa Elementary	"
Musawa Elementary	"
Rafindadi Elementary	"
Rimi Elementary	"
Zango Elementary	"
Bindawa Elementary	"
Marshi Elementary	"
Sanamu Elementary	"
Tsagere Elementary	"
Dandana Elementary	"
Dankama Elementary	"
Dan Ja Elementary	"
Batagarawa Elementary	"
Branci Elementary	"
Kafur Elementary	"
Gafai Elementary	"
Gobarau Elementary	"
Dutsi Elementary	"
Kayalwa Elementary	"
Safana Elementary	"
Funtua Elementary	C.M.S.
Maska Elementary	C.M.S.
Katsina Elementary	C.M.S.
Funtua Elementary	R.C.M.

Total for Katsina Province 41.

(ii) Secondary Schools—NIL.

(d) The term "metalled roads" is taken to mean "all season" roads as metalled roads are not built in Nigeria.

There are 515½ miles of all season and 310 miles of dry season roads in the Province.

There is an Airport at Katsina. The Branch Railway line from Zaria passes through Funtua in the Province.

(e) There are offices with both Postal and Telegraph facilities at Katsina and Funtua. There are no Postal Agencies.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Public Notices Nos. 142, 158 and 160 of 1946, in which provision is made for representation in the Northern House of Assembly, the House of Chiefs and the Legislative Council.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

347. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 278,730 people living in an area of 3,925 square miles in Northern Division of Kano Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular area? In what towns?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this area and under whose sponsorship? In what towns?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this area and what is the mileage of metalled roads there?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this area? In what towns?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this area, in spite of fire hazard?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this area? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of Northern Division of Kano Province protected in the (i) House of Chiefs, (ii) Northern House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

(a) Figures for Government Revenue are not available. The total estimated Native Administration Revenue for the year 1948-49 derived from the 328,414 people living in 3,925 square miles of Northern Division of Kano Province is £59,140.

(b) (i) One General Hospital at Hadeija.

(ii) Five Native Administration Dispensaries situated at Keffin Hausa, Gumel, Sule, Tankarkar and Maigateri.

(c) (i) Primary Schools;

Town	Sponsorship
Auyo Elementary	N.A.
Birniwa Elementary
Gumel Elementary
Hadeija Elementary
Maigatari Elementary
Kafin Hausa Elementary
Mallam Maduri Elementary

(ii) Secondary Schools—NIL.

(d) The term "metalled roads" is taken to mean "all season" roads as metalled roads are not built in Nigeria.

There are 288 miles of dry season roads in this area. The Railway passes through this area.

(e) There is an office with both Postal and Telegraph facilities at Mallam Maduri and a Postal Agency at Gagarawa.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Public Notices Nos. 142, 158 and 160 of 1946, in which provision is made for representation in the Northern House of Assembly, the House of Chiefs and the Legislative Council.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

348. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 657,976 people living in an area of 33,765 square miles in Adamawa, Muri and Numan Divisions of Adamawa Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular Province? In what towns?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this Province and under whose sponsorship? In what towns?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this Province and what is the mileage of metalled roads there?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this Province? In what towns?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this Province, in spite of fire hazard?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this Province? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of Adamawa, Muri and Numan Divisions of Adamawa Province protected in the (i) House of Chiefs, (ii) Northern House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

(a) Figures for Government Revenue are not available. The total estimated Native Administration Revenue for the year 1948-49 derived from the 793,519 people living in 31,786 square miles of Adamawa, Muri and Numan Divisions of Adamawa Province is £189,856.

(b) (i) One General Hospital at Yola.

(ii) Fourteen Native Administration Dispensaries situated at Yola, Mubi, Song, Mayo-Belwa, Jada, Girei, Uba, Hong, Mayo-Daga, Little Gombe, Gembu, Jalingo, Lau and Gassol.

(c) (i) Primary Schools:

Town	Sponsorship
Yola Middle	N.A.
Mubi, Pegan Class, etc...	"
Belel Elementary	"
Bakundi Elementary	"
Furore Elementary	"
Girei Elementary	"
Gurin Elementary	"
Hong Elementary	"
Jalingo Elementary	"
Jimeta Elementary	"
Lamorde Elementary	"
Mayobalwa Elementary	"
Michika Elementary	"
Mubi Elementary	"
Mutum Biu Elementary	"
Numan Elementary	"
Song Elementary	"
Yola Town Elementary	"
Gombi Elementary	"
Alba Elementary	"
Shellen Elementary	"
Madagali Elementary	"
Jada Elementary	"
Toungo Elementary	"
Sawa Elementary	"
Lassa Elementary	C.B.M.
Girkida Elementary	"
Garkida Leper Settlement	"
Gulak Elementary	"
Numan (Boarding Boys)	S.U.M.
Numan (Boarding Girls)	"
Numan Town Elementary	"
Lamurde Elementary	"
Pella Elementary	"
Dungwa Elementary	"
Zinna Elementary	"
Guyok Elementary	"
Gurum Elementary	"
Kerum Elementary	"
Bambur Elementary	"
Bambuka Elementary	"
Njoboliyo Elementary	"
Banshika Elementary	"
Gamakiya Elementary	"
Dilli Elementary	"
Banjeram Elementary	"
Sugu Elementary	R.C.M.
Jimeta Elementary	"
Mapeo Elementary	"
Jauroinu Elementary	"
Kona Elementary	"
Bare Elementary	"
Gulak Elementary	"
Lau Elementary	"

Total for Adamawa Province 54.

(ii) Secondary Schools.—NIL.

(d) The term "metalled roads" is taken to mean "all season" roads as metalled roads are not built in Nigeria.

There are 527 miles of all season and 717 miles of dry season roads in the Province. The Benue River runs through the Province and there is an Aerodrome at Yola.

(e) There are offices with both Postal and Telegraph facilities at Yola, Numan and Lau. There are two Postal Agencies at Garkida and Mubi.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Yes, Sir: at Jimeta.

(h) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Public Notice No. 158 of 1946, and No. 160 of 1946 and to Public Notice No. 142 of 1946 in which provision is made for representation in (i) the Northern House of Assembly, (ii) the House of Chiefs and (iii) the Legislative Council.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

349. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 984,757 people living in an area of 25,977 square miles in Bauchi, Gombe, Katagum in Bauchi Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular Province? In what towns?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this Province and under whose sponsorship? In what towns?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this Province and what is the mileage of metalled roads there?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this Province? In what towns?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this Province, in spite of fire hazard?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this Province? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of Bauchi, Gombe, Katagum in Bauchi Province protected in the (i) House of Chiefs, (ii) Northern House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

(a) Figures for Government Revenue are not available. The total estimated Native Administration Revenue for the year 1948-49 derived from the 1,099,765 people living in 26,120 square miles of Bauchi, Gombe and Katagum Divisions of Bauchi Province is £286,555.

(b) (i) Two General Hospitals at Azare and Bauchi.

(ii) Nineteen Native Administration Dispensaries situated at Misau, Jama'are, Shira, Dambam, Chinade, Giade, Bauchi, Toro, Darazo, Alkaleri, Kaffin Madaki, Ningi, Gombe, Bajoga, Dukku, Dadin Kowa, Billir, Tula and Tallase.

(c) (i) Primary Schools:

Town	Sponsorship
Bauchi Middle	N.A.
Alkaleri Elementary	"
Azare Elementary	"
Akwiam Elementary	"
Bauchi Town Elementary	"
Bara Elementary	"
Bogoro Elementary	"
Bajoga Elementary	"
Bununu (Dass) Elementary	"
Dagu (Ningi) Elementary	"
Dajim Elementary	"
Dambam Elementary	"
Darazo Elementary	"
Deba Habe Elementary	"
Dukku Elementary	"
Fobur Elementary	"
Ganawa Elementary	"
Gital Elementary	"
Gombe Town Elementary	"
Guda (Ningi) Elementary	"
Gwani Elementary	"
Himna Elementary	"
Jalam Elementary	"
Jama'are Elementary	"
Jarawan Kogi Elementary	"
Kafin Madaki Elementary	"
Kangere Elementary	"
Katagum Elementary	"
Kumbo Elementary	"
Lame Elementary	"
Liman Katagum Elementary	"
Missau Elementary	"
Miyá Elementary	"
Nafada Elementary	"
Ningi Sabuwa Elementary	"
Ribina (Practical)	"
Shal Elementary	"
Sade Elementary	"
Shira Elementary	"
Tafawa Balewa Elementary	"
Tula Elementary	"
Wandi (Dass) Elementary	"
Zwol Elementary	"
Cinade Elementary	"
Bojude Elementary	"
Zaranda Elementary	"
Itas (Katagum) Elementary	"
Pindiga (Kurno) Elementary	"
Kaltungo (Tangale Waja) Elementary	"
Burunu Kasa Elementary	"
Biliri Pagan Elementary	"
Tongo Elementary	"
Giade Elementary	"
Talase Elementary	"
Itas Elementary	"
Tilden Fulani Elementary	"
Daganda Elementary	"
Kwankiyal Elementary	"
Paraza Elementary	"
Skekal Elementary	"
Futuk Elementary	"
Nasaru Elementary	"
Disina Elementary	"
Kwudom Elementary	"
Hardawa Elementary	"
Çam Elementary	"

Town	Sponsorship
Filiya Elementary	S.U.M.
Zande Damashin Elementary	"
Damshin Zande Elementary	"
Boi Elementary	"
Hardawa Elementary	"
Fobur Elementary	"
Mwari Elementary	"
Biliri Elementary	S.I.M.
Shongwam Elementary	"
Kaltungo Elementary	"
Gelengu Elementary	"
Nyuwan Elementary	"
Zambuk Elementary	"
Gar Elementary	"
Talang Elementary	"
Bangale Elementary	"
Tal Elementary	"
Tula Wange Elementary	"
Bununu Elementary	"
Ture Elementary	"
Kulane Elementary	"
Kuleto Elementary	"
Kalmal Elementary	"
Dadiya Elementary	"
Katanga Elementary	"
Tiffi (Afawa) Elementary	"
Lubo Elementary	"
Biliri Elementary	"
Bwalu Elementary	"
Gengeliti Elementary	"
Kulgul Elementary	"
Kukawa Elementary	"
Pokwugli Elementary	"
Sokonsoka Elementary	"
Tambe Elementary	"
Gar Elementary	"
Bauchi Elementary	R.C.M.
Sara Elementary	R.C.M.
Bauchi Elementary	Anglican

Total for Bauchi Province 107.

(ii) Secondary Schools.—NIL.

(d) The term "metalled roads" is taken to mean "all season" roads as metalled roads are not built in Nigeria.

There are 791½ miles of all season and 951 miles of dry season roads in the Province. There are aerodromes at Bauchi and Azare.

(e) There is an office with both Postal and Telegraph facilities at Bauchi, one with postal facilities only at Gombe and a Postal Agency at Azare.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Public Notices Nos. 142, 158 and 160 of 1946, in which provision is made for representation in the Northern House of Assembly, the House of Chiefs and the Legislative Council.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

350. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces;—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 1,044,632 people living in an area of 45,900 square miles in Biu, Bornu, Dikwa and Potiskum Divisions of Bornu Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular Province? In what towns?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this Province and under whose sponsorship? In what towns?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this Province and what is the mileage of metalled roads there?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this Province? In what towns?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this Province, in spite of fire hazard?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this Province? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of Biu, Bornu, Dikwa and Potiskum Divisions of Bornu Province protected in the (i) House of Chiefs, (ii) Northern House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

(a) Figures for Government Revenue are not available. The total estimated Native Administration Revenue for the year 1948-49 derived from the 1,204,937 people living in 45,733 square miles of Bedde, Biu, Bornu, Dikwa and Potiskum Divisions of the Bornu Province is £311,627.

(b) (i) One General Hospital and one Nursing Home both at Maiduguri.

(ii) Twenty Native Administration Dispensaries situated at Nguru, Geidam, Mongonu, Damaturu, Gambaru, Bama, Dikwa, Ngala, Kaza, Hambagda, Guduf, Askira, Kwaya Tera, Potiskum, Fika, Nangare, Gashua and Gorgoram.

(c) (i) Primary Schools:

Town					Sponsorship
Maiduguri Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	N.A.
Askira Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	..
Bama Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	..
Beni Sheikh Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	..
Bui Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	..
Damaturu Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	..
Dikwa Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	..
Dumboa Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	..
Fika Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	..
Gashua Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	..
Geidam Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	..
Gorgoram Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	..
Golumba Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	..
Ngashe Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	..
Guduf Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	..
Gujiba Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	..
Hambagda Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	..
Kida Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	..
Kukawa Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	..
Kukuiri Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	..
Kwaya Tera Elementary ..	..	..	..	..	..

Town	Sponsorship
Kwaya Bura Elementary	N.A.
Mongonu Elementary	"
Ngala Elementary	"
Nguru Elementary	"
Potiskum Elementary	"
Shani Elementary	"
Warabe Elementary	"
Yerwa Elementary	"
Dapehi Elementary	"
Miroga Elementary	"
Gambaru Elementary	"
Kala Balge Elementary	"
Hansari Elementary	"
Yurufari Elementary	"
Kumshe Elementary	"
Ndori Elementary	"
Konduga Elementary	"
Nangere Elementary	"
Gubiyo Elementary	"
Damasak Elementary	"
Marte Elementary	"
Old Boma Elementary	"
Ammos Elementary	"
Kwejaffa Elementary	"
Marama Elementary	C.B.M.
Kwajafa Elementary	C.B.M.
Ghibbok Elementary	C.B.M.
Kuka Gadu Elementary	S.I.M.
Nguru Elementary	C.M.S.
Potiskum Elementary	Baptist
Maiduguri Elementary	Private

Total for Bornu Province 52.

(ii) Secondary Schools.—NIL.

(d) The term "metalled roads" is taken to mean "all season" roads as metalled roads are not built in Nigeria.

There are 524 miles of all season and 2,020 miles of dry season roads in the Province. There are Airports at Nguru, Potiskum and Maiduguri.

(e) There are offices with both Postal and Telegraph facilities at Maiduguri, Damaturu, Potiskum and Nguru. There are Postal Agencies at Biu, Bama and Yerwa Town.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Yes, Sir: at Maiduguri.

(h) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Public Notices Nos. 142, 158 and 160 of 1946, in which provision is made for representation in the Northern House of Assembly, the House of Chiefs and the Legislative Council.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

355. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) What is the total revenue derived as at December, 1948, from the 1,477,143 people living in an area of 5,705 square miles in Aba, Ahoada, Bende, Okigwi and Owerri Divisions of Owerri Province?

(b) How many (i) hospitals and (ii) dispensaries are in this particular Province? In what towns?

(c) How many (i) elementary and (ii) secondary schools are in this Province and under whose sponsorship? In what towns?

(d) What are the facilities for transport in this Province and what is the mileage of metalled roads there?

(e) How many (i) post offices, (ii) telegraph offices, and (iii) postal agencies are in this Province? In what towns?

(f) Is there any fire brigade in this Province, in spite of fire hazard?

(g) Is there any pipe-borne water supply in this Province? In what towns?

(h) How is the interest of Aba, Ahoada, Bende, Okigwi and Owerri Divisions of Owerri Province protected in the (i) Provincial Council, (ii) Eastern House of Assembly, (iii) Legislative Council of Nigeria?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :

(a) It is not clear what the Honourable Member means by this part of the question. If it refers to the revenue received during the period 1st April, 1948, to 31st December, 1948, the total tax paid in the Owerri Province during that period was £102,726 and other revenue collected by Native Treasuries for the same period was £32,204.

(b) (i) There are eight hospitals in Owerri Province. Four are run by Government at Aba, Okigwi, Owerri and Umuahia, one by the Methodist Mission at Mmachara, one by the Roman Catholic Mission at Emekuku, one by the Church of Scotland Mission at Abiriba, and there is a private Nursing Home in Aba called St. Luke's.

(ii) There are thirty-six dispensaries in the Province run by Native Authorities at the following places:—

Ohoba; Ogwa; Amakohia; Obudi; Ife; Obohia; Ngor; Oguta; Owerinta; Umuaro; Nsulu; Mboko; Ndiokala; Ugwanabgo; Asa; Ugwati; Azumini; Omuma; Okpuala; Umuahia; Ohafia; Oloko; Itan; Igbo; Bende; Amakohia (Ikeduru); Umuduru; Amakohia; Isuikwato; Isuochi; Nkwerre; Orlu; Akokwa; Orsu; Mbidi; Umuaka.

There is also the Windsor Clinic at Aba.

(c) (i) There are 1,244 Elementary Schools. Most of them are run by Voluntary Agencies with assistance from Government. The number is too great for details to be given.

(ii) Eight Secondary Schools as follows:—

Government School, Owerri; Roman Catholic Mission, Owerri; Non-denominational (Mr Eronini) Owerri; Government College, Umuahia; Methodist College, Uzuakoli; Roman Catholic Mission, Orlu; Church Missionary Society, Nkwerre; Non-denominational (Mr Nzimiro) Oguta.

(d) The railway passes through the Province. There are many miles of road and there are also rivers. There are no metalled roads but 29½ miles of tarmac roads.

(e) (i) There are eight Post Offices at the following places:—

Aba; Bende; Oguta; Okigwi; Orlu; Owerri; Umuahia; Uzuakoli.

(ii) There are eight telegraph offices at the places mentioned in part (i) of this answer.

(iii) There are thirty-eight Postal Agencies at the following places:—

Aba Town; Akwete; Azumini; Ahiara; Aji; Amakohia; Abala; Abiriba; Abam; Angara; Ife Ezinihitte; Itu Ezinihitte; Isieknesi; Ikeduru; Item; Ihiagwa; Mbieri; Ngor; Nbawsi; Nkwerre; Ndizuogu; Nwangele; Nkwogwu; Otampa; Oboro; Ohafia; Omoba; Owerinta; Orsu; Ozuitem; Qyim; Okwelli; Old Umuahia Town; Ogwe; Umuduru; Urualla; Umuahia Town; Ubakala.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Yes, Sir. One in Aba Township.

(h) (i) and (ii) The Honourable Member is referred to the Directions given by His Excellency the Governor touching the number and selection of Provincial Members of the Eastern House of Assembly and published as Public Notice No. 155 of 1946.

(iii) Owerri Province is not directly represented in Legislative Council. The Province is, however, represented in the Eastern House of Assembly and is represented indirectly in Legislative Council through the five Unofficial Members selected by the Members of the House from among their own number.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

364. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) Will he affirm or deny the allegation made by the Ibibio State Union that during the investigation of the "Leopard" murders, the Police were involved in organized robbery, rape, and wholesale destruction?

(b) Will a commission of inquiry be constituted in order to investigate these serious allegations?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:

(a) The allegation is denied.

(b) No, Sir.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

369. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) Is Government satisfied that the Kaduna township is administered efficiently?

(b) Will Kaduna not be more efficiently administered if it follows the footsteps of Lagos and Port Harcourt?

(c) Are the allegations that Pito brewers "are unduly penalized" and that "the method of granting the licences is open to abuse and corruption" true in substance?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir: Kaduna does not compare in size, administrative complexity or commercial importance with Lagos and Port Harcourt, and as a self-contained Local Government Unit would be financially quite incapable of maintaining the necessary staff and public services.

(c) No, Sir, nor have any specific complaints of abuse or corruption in the granting of brewing licences in Kaduna been received by the authorities.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

373. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

(a) Why is Owerri Government Middle School not yet raised to a full-fledged secondary school?

(b) Is it a fact that a promise to raise the status of the said Middle School along with that of Edo was made by the late Sir Bernard Bourdillon, Governor of Nigeria?

(c) How many Assisted and Unassisted Schools are in the Owerri Division and what is the annual pass-out of pupils?

(d) Will Government consider the desirability of opening secondary schools in the Division?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education :

(a) Owerri Government "Middle" School has not been raised to full secondary status because, in planning the extension of the secondary school system in the Eastern Provinces, Government considered that the funds and staff likely to be available could best be employed by converting its existing school at Umuahia into a double-stream school serving the whole Region and in erecting a new secondary school in the Northern part of the Region, at Afikpo.

It had originally been intended to convert the "Middle" School at Owerri into a Teacher Training Centre, using the existing primary classes as a practising school and translating the two Middle classes to a Government School elsewhere. As a result, however, of representations made recently to the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces, by the people of the area concerned, it has been decided to retain the two "Middle" classes of the school pending a new survey recommended by the Eastern Regional Board of Education to consider the needs of the Eastern Provinces as a whole in regard to Secondary education.

(b) I am not aware that any such promise was made by the late Sir Bernard Bourdillon.

(c) Available records indicate that in 1948 there were in Owerri Division nineteen assisted and 300 unassisted schools. Under the revised systems approved by this Council at its last meeting, 183 schools in the Division are grant aided. The extent of "wastage" is not known but the number of pupils in the Division who completed the primary phase of education in 1948 was approximately 1,500.

(d) Yes, Sir. This will be taken into consideration in the survey referred to in the reply to part (a) of this question.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

374. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

What is the allocation of Government hospitals, dispensaries, maternity homes and ambulances in the Owerri Division and how far are they apart from each other?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

There is one Government hospital in the Owerri Division which includes a dispensary, an ante-natal clinic and maternity wards. There are eight Native Administration Dispensaries, approximately twelve miles apart, which are supervised by the Government Medical Officer and which are regularly visited by him. There is no ambulance at present; but a new one for Owerri has arrived in Lagos and awaits shipment to Owerri.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

385. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

(a) What, in brief, is the story of the founding of the Mayang School at Sumbe, Mamfe, Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship?

(b) Is it a fact that the founder is an ex-serviceman who had seen active service in the Middle East on other theatres during the World War II?

(c) Is it a fact that when he had more children than the school could provide for, in view of the limited educational facilities there, an application was made for the school to be raised beyond the primary grades?

(d) Is it a fact that the Education Department observed that the progress of the school had been quicker, contrary to official policy, and so declined to approve that the school be advanced even up to Standard III?

(e) Is it a fact that the people and the Mbang Group Council of Sumbe petitioned the Local Education Authority (of which the District Officer, Mamfe, is Chairman) and the Chief Inspector of Education, Enugu, respectively, to reconsider the matter and grant the request contained in (c) above?

(f) If (b), (c), (d) and (e) are true, substantially, why was the application refused?

(g) Will my Honourable friend agree that the nearest non-denominational school, which can provide the facility requested in (c) above is located at Tali, eleven miles away, which is considered too long a distance for little children to walk?

(h) Will my Honourable friend agree that the nearest Basel Mission School is three miles away, which is considered quite a distance for little children to walk, not to mention the prejudice of parents against having their children educated by that particular Mission School?

(i) Has the Mayang School not an efficient staff and equipment?

(j) Is it not desirable that encouragement should be given ex-servicemen of good character to earn an honest living, in appreciation of their gallantry, valour and patriotism, and is this act of the Education Department consistent with such an idea?

(k) Is refusal to extend educational facilities in any part of the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trust not a violation of (i) the Trusteeship Agreement and (ii) the Charter of the United Nations?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education :

(a) The facts are that a certain Mr Ayuk applied to open a school at Sumbe early in 1946. The layout plan he submitted would have flattered a Government College, but the dimensions of the classrooms were such that only about ten pupils could have been accommodated in each. For this reason and since it was ascertained that Mr Ayuk's capital amounted to little over £50, the Provincial Education Officer suggested to him that he should start the school in a more modest way with one class only, and add one new class in each subsequent year. This he agreed to do, and the school was opened in February, 1947.

(b) Yes, Sir. Mr Ayuk was an Army Schoolmaster and saw service in the Middle East.

(c) Mr Ayuk submitted an application of the nature suggested without having regard to the standard attained by his pupils, or to the resources of the school for providing such facilities. Existing facilities for education of this nature are adequate at present, having regard to the number of boys in the area who have completed the junior primary phase of schooling.

(d) In accordance with existing policy, the scholastic requirements of each area are assessed by the Local Education Committee for that area. In the case of Sumbe, the Committee is the Divisional Education Committee, and this has made a survey of the educational requirements of the Division, having regard to existing school facilities and child population. In July, 1948, the Visiting Teacher visited Sumbe and revealed that there was already a full Junior School in existence. He also reported that there was no physical training at Mr Ayuk's school because as yet there was no playground, that the infant classes had no readers, and that the sanitary arrangements were not satisfactory. It was apparent therefore that Mr Ayuk was attempting to "run before he could walk", and the Provincial Education Officer, having pointed out to him the shortcomings of his school, informed him that permission to add Senior Primary Classes was not yet approved.

(e) Letters to this effect were received by the Chief Inspector of Education and the District Officer, signed by members of Mbang Group Council.

(f) The application was refused because it is the policy of Government, as stated in Sessional Paper No. 20 of 1947, for such matters to be decided by Local Education Committees, which are conversant with the needs of their areas, and not by individuals. The Regional Board of the Eastern Provinces has been invited to review all the circumstances of this case and to advise thereon.

(g) Yes, Sir, the nearest non-denominational school which can at present provide the facility requested at (c) is at Tali, which is eleven miles away, but it is not considered that that distance is too far for Senior Primary School pupils, for whom boarding facilities on a weekly basis are provided.

(h) Yes, Sir, it is agreed that the nearest Basel Mission School is three miles away.

(i) In 1948 the staff consisted of two probationary teachers, an uncertificated teacher, namely, the Manager, and one Elementary Certificated teacher who was once in Government Service, had an increment deferred for inefficiency in 1944, subsequently became mentally deranged and finally resigned when Government contemplated invaliding him from the service. Such a staff can hardly be regarded as efficient but, in existing circumstances, is permissible in a Junior Primary School. If Mr Ayuk has rectified the defects in equipment pointed out to him by the Visiting Teacher on the occasion of his last visit the equipment would now be average.

(j) Yes, Sir.

(k) Yes, Sir, it is; but there has been no refusal to extend educational facilities in any part of the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship.

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. H. Buowari Brown, O.B.E.):

407. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Whether Government is fully aware of the heartaches and dissatisfaction being caused the Port Harcourt community in respect of the vexed question of one-third coverage on plots now being allotted to people in this new Municipal Township?

(b) Is it a fact that the new Coverage system was recommended to Government and introduced without the prior consent and approval of the Port Harcourt Township Advisory Board, the Resident, Rivers Province, and His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces, and that the people have made repeated appeals to Government for reconsideration of the system which is sure to aggravate the existing housing problems in the Town?

(c) Will Government please cause some proper investigations to be made about this matter in view of certain recent Press publications regarding the unsatisfactory way and manner the subject was dealt with by the Port Harcourt Advisory Board or Local Authorities?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) Government is aware that there has been opposition to the coverage clauses in the Port Harcourt Creek Road and Hospital Road Planning Schemes prepared under the Town and Country Planning Ordinance (No. 44 of 1946).

(b) The Schemes were passed by a majority of the members of the Port Harcourt Town Planning Authority and, before being approved by His Excellency in Council, had the support of the Resident, Rivers Province, and the Chief Commissioner. The Port Harcourt Township Advisory Board, as such, was not concerned though certain members of the Board are also members of the Planning Authority. Various persons and bodies have protested to Government about the approved coverage clauses and the matter is now receiving renewed consideration.

(c) Does not arise in view of the answer to question (b) above.

The Third Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. G. I. Obaseki):

414. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

(a) Whether Government is aware of the fact that the Urhobo people of Agbassa near Warri are averse to the present administrative arrangement whereby they are grouped with the Itsekiri Native Administration?

(b) Is it a fact that the Agbassa people have for many years now been petitioning the Government against such grouping and requesting that they be separated from the Itsekiri Native Administration and re-grouped with the Western Urhobo Native Administration?

(c) Does the Government believe that as Urhobo, the Agbassa people will be better administered, and consequently happier, if grouped with their kith and kin in the Western Urhobo Native Administration, especially so, as this is their serious desire?

(d) If the answers to (a), (b) and (c) are in the affirmative, to ask for a statement as to the reason or reasons why the separation has not hitherto been effected?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:

(a) Yes, Sir. There is evidence that certain sections of the Agbassa people dislike the present arrangement.

(b) In a recent petition to His Excellency by the leading members of the Agbassa Community a request was made for a separate independent Native Authority, not for transfer to the Western Urhobo or Urhobo Native Administration. It is open to doubt whether either proposal enjoys much public support.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Most of the Agbassa people live within the boundaries of the Warri Township. The remainder are not sufficient in number to form an efficient independent local government unit.

The Third Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. G. I. Obaseki):

416. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

(a) Whether it is a fact that in 1941 the Government School at Issele Uku was handed over to the Roman Catholic Mission, and that no Government School now exists in this place?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, to ask what is the decision to the repeated requests of the inhabitants of Issele Uku and adjoining towns for the opening of a Government Secondary School in the area?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education :

(a) It is a fact, Sir.

(b) It is not proposed at present to open any more Government Secondary Schools for boys in the Western Provinces in view of the large grants from Development Loan Funds to Voluntary Agencies.

The Atta of Igbirra (Alhaji the Hon. Ibrahim) :

425. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) How many cases from the Native Courts have been reviewed by the Resident, Kabba Province, in 1946, 1947, 1948 and 1949, year by year?

(b) How many appeals have been made to the Resident, Kabba Province, in 1946, 1947, 1948 and 1949, year by year?

(c) How many cases from the Native Courts have been reviewed by the District Officer in charge Igbirra Division in 1946, 1947, 1948 and 1949, year by year?

(d) Having regard to the Rule (Fees—Amendment) made under section 45 of the Native Courts Ordinance, 1933, by the Governor, as published in *Gazette* No. 12 of 20th February, 1948, pages 196-98, how much fees have been collected by the Resident, Kabba Province, and the District Officer, Igbirra Division, during the periods in (a), (b) and (c) above, year by year?

(e) If no fees have been collected, why not? If not, are the Resident and the District Officer trying to induce the litigants to appeal to them?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

(a) In 1946 three; in 1947 ten; in 1948 nine; and in 1949 none.

(b) None, Sir.

(c) In 1946 seventeen; in 1947 sixty-one; in 1948 one hundred and eighteen; and in 1949 thirty-two up to March 2nd.

(d) None, Sir.

(e) The law does not provide for the payment of fees on review. Some appeals to the District Officer have been allowed without payment of fee in furtherance of the principle that individual litigants should not be put to unnecessary expense as the result of inefficiency or miscarriage of justice on the part of a court. Litigants are not improperly encouraged to appeal either to the Resident or to the District Officer.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

431. Having regard to the incontrovertible fact that two African Accountants—employees of the Lagos Town Council—were made to refund 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent of monies lost in the conscientious discharge of their duties some years ago;

To ask the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony:—

What was the difficulty of the present Council in not following already established precedent by demanding 33½ per cent of the lost money amounting to £1,913 from the Municipal Treasurer?

Answer—

The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony :

The case of loss to which the Honourable Member refers, in which a surcharge was exacted, is one which occurred in 1930, when an Accounts Clerk was prosecuted to conviction and his immediate superior, the Accountant in Charge, was held by the Town Council to have been guilty of negligence, and was required by Resolution of the Council to refund one-third of the total sum of £33 0s 1d involved.

In the case of the loss of £1,913 sustained by the Council in 1946, no pecuniary penalty was exacted, since the Committee of Enquiry appointed by the Council reported that it did not attribute the loss of cash directly to any negligence or omission on the part of any member of the Town Council's staff. The report of the Committee was accepted by the Council.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

433. To ask the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony:—

(a) What are the qualifications of the Town Clerk, Lagos Town Council, and by what yardstick was his salary of £1,350, exclusive of expatriation allowance determined?

(b) How many Engineers are employed by the Lagos Town Council? How many of them possess British qualifications—Honours or Ordinary Degrees or Diploma, and what emoluments do they enjoy?

(c) How many Foremen have been promoted Engineers and why? Indicate, briefly, the normal minimum qualifications for Foremen for Expatriate Officers and non-expatriate Officers?

Answer—

The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony :

(a) The Town Clerk is on leave and full information about his qualifications cannot be obtained in his absence. At the meeting of the Lagos Town Council held in September, 1937, the Council appointed Mr C. Martin as Secretary, Lagos Town Council, *vice* Mr Rumens retired. The salary of the Secretary, who later become known as the Town Clerk, is £1,150, exclusive of expatriation allowance, and not £1,350 as stated in the question. This rate of salary was fixed by resolution of the Council at its meeting held on the 6th May, 1947, which was attended by the Honourable Member.

(b) Six. Four of these possess British qualifications. The emoluments enjoyed by these are as follows:—

Town Engineer. Group " M ". £1,150 + £350 Expatriation Allowance.

Deputy Town Engineer. Scale " A " £720-30-960, £1,000.

Assistant Engineer (Expatriate). Scale " A " £510-30-660; £720-30-960, £1,000.

Assistant Engineer (Non-expatriate). Scale "A" £510-30-660; £720-30-960, £1,000.

(c) None, but if the Honourable Member is referring to Inspectors of Works the answer is—one. No specific qualifications are laid down.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

434. To ask the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony:—

In view of the impending 'voluntary' retirement of the Town Engineer, and in order to implement the recommendations of the Nigerianization Commission, will any Nigerian be considered for the post of Town Engineer, *caeteris paribus*?

Will the vacant post be very widely advertised?

Answer—

The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony:

The Town Engineer is retiring on attainment of the normally accepted age-limit. As the Honourable Member is aware, the Council resolved on the 20th January, 1949:—

- (i) That the Council forthwith take steps to engage two experienced persons to act as Deputy Engineers until the retirement of Mr Rycroft, the more suitable of whom should be given an undertaking that he will be offered the post of Town Engineer as soon as it becomes vacant; and
- (ii) That Mr E. S. Ajayi be given every opportunity to study administration so that he may, if he proves suitable, be considered for the post of Deputy Town Engineer when any future vacancy arises.

The post will as usual be widely advertised and all applicants with suitable qualifications will of course be eligible for consideration.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

435. To ask the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) Whether it was correct that a 2nd Class Clerk in the Provincial Administration was summarily dismissed in or about the year 1945 at Yola, for being in possession of illicit gin?

Will His Honour be graciously disposed to give a detailed explanation of the circumstances surrounding this interesting case?

(b) If he would give the names of Europeans and Africans who have been fined for similar offences and who have not been dismissed from the Service?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

The Honourable the Second Lagos Member has presented a petition to this Council about this case. A reply will be made by the Government to that petition and circulated to all Honourable Members of this Council.

Supplementary Question to No. 435 by the First Lagos Member (Dr the Honourable I. Olorun-Nimbe):

I am afraid I do not understand the answer to this question, Sir. If the petition has been addressed to the Council, Sir, I should have thought that the Council would make a reply or a decision instead of Government replying and just informing the Council.

His Excellency:

Could the Honourable Member put it in the form of a Supplementary Question?

Supplementary Question to No. 435 by the Third Lagos Member (The Honourable Adeleke Adedoyin):

Will this Council have the opportunity of considering the said petition?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

I should like to add a word of explanation. I am subject to correction and I shall need to refer to Standing Orders. I believe that when a petition is presented to this House, there are two actions which can be taken or proposed by the person who supports the petition: either he can move for it to be taken to Select Committee or he can move for it to be laid on the table of the House. My recollection is that it was moved that it should be laid on the table of the House. It was open to the Honourable Member who brought the petition to move that it should have gone to Select Committee, in which case it could have been discussed in Select Committee, subject to reference to Standing Orders. That would have provided the opportunity for discussing which the Honourable the First Lagos Member feels has been omitted.

The Second Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. T. A. Odotola, O.B.E.):

441. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Whether it is a fact that certain groups of non-Africans are proposing to set up industries in Nigeria such as Textiles, Tiles and Bricks?

(b) If so what is the Government attitude towards such project?

(c) In the event of Africans undertaking to establish similar industries, whether Government would discourage competition by outside competitors?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) and (b) The only projects of the type referred to of which Government is aware are those in which it is proposed that Government itself should participate.

(c) While the policy of Government is to encourage capital investment from overseas for industrial development, the Government provides, as the Honourable Member knows, special facilities by way of expert assistance and loans to encourage the establishment of industries by Africans.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

459. To ask the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony:—

(a) Whether it is true that the Oba and people of Imota in the Colony Area have been protesting strongly and unceasingly against the administrative arrangements whereby they are incorporated in the Ikosi Native Authority of the Epe District?

(b) Whether it is true that they have petitioned several times and asked for their incorporation in the Ijebu Remo Native Authority or in the alternative in the Ikorodu Native Authority?

(c) If (a) and (b) above be answered in the affirmative, what step is the Government taking in this long-standing matter?

Answer—

The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony:

(a) Between November, 1945, and September, 1947, petitions were received from the Ranodu and associate chiefs of Imota requesting separation from other communities represented in the Ikosi Native Authority.

(b) No, Sir. No request has been received from the Imota people for incorporation in the Ijebu Remo Native Authority. Brief reference was however made in one petition to a desire to be placed under the supervision of the Administrative Officer in charge at Ikorodu.

(c) None, Sir, as apart from a small number of persons, the people of Imota have now expressed their satisfaction with the existing arrangement.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

462. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Will the Government consider the desirability of having:

(i) A stationary Magistrate for Ibadan town in addition to an itinerant one; the latter to be in charge of the present Ibadan Magisterial Area excluding Ibadan town?

(ii) A separate Magisterial Area to comprise the whole of the Ijebu Province plus the Epe and the Ikorodu Districts of the Colony?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

His Honour the Chief Justice has under consideration the distribution of the work of the Magistrates' Courts in the Oyo, Abeokuta, and Ijebu Provinces, and in Epe and Badagry but shortage of staff makes it unlikely that any early change can be made.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

465. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Whether Government does not think it necessary to have a strong Police Detachment stationed at Shagamu for the Ijebu Remo District?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

It is proposed to station a detachment of 24 Rank and File at Shagamu and approval has been given for the inclusion of this

proposal in the Advance Proposals for the 1950-51 Estimates of the Western Region.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

467. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

To give the names, qualifications, nationalities and stations of

- (a) Registered Medical Practitioners.
- (b) Dentists.
- (c) Dispensers.
- (d) Chemists and Druggists.

Please show respective tribes of Nigerians.

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

The information required by the Honourable Member is too bulky to publish as an answer to a question and is in any event available in the Gazette. Up-to-date lists have been supplied to the Honourable Member.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

469. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

To give the number of African Staff drafted from the Department of Commerce and Industries to the Department of Marketing and Exports). Please show their respective tribes, and the tribe of the Administrative Assistant of the Department (of Marketing and Exports).

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) The total number of African staff transferred from the Department of Commerce and Industries to the Department of Marketing and Exports was thirty-four.

(b) The following is an analysis by tribe of the staff so transferred:—

(i) Ibo ...	...	...	...	...	10
(ii) Yoruba ...	...	...	...	...	17
(iii) Itsekeri ...	...	...	...	...	2
(iv) Benin ...	...	...	...	...	1
(v) Ijaw ...	...	...	...	...	1
(vi) Hausa ...	...	...	...	...	1
(vii) Non-Nigerian ...	...	...	...	...	2

(c) The Administrative Assistant of the Department of Marketing and Exports is an Ibo.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

470. To ask the Honourable the Director of Public Works:—

When will the second half of the Ilesha-Oshogbo Road be tarred?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:

It is proposed to put in hand the tarring of the remainder of the Ilesha-Oshogbo road during the financial year 1952-53 as part of the Development Programme.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

471. To ask the Honourable the Director of Public Works:—

(a) What will be the distance from Lagos to Ibadan by the new

road that passes through Ikorodu and Shagamu?

(b) When will the construction of the road be completed?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Public Works :

(a) The distance from Lagos to Ibadan by the new road through Ikorodu and Shagamu will be approximately 89 miles.

(b) The actual construction of the road is scheduled for completion in August, 1950, but owing to the most difficult underground condition in these swampy areas there may be delays.

Bituminous surfacing should be completed during 1951-52.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin) :

472. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

When will telegraph and telephone services be extended from Ijebu-Ode to Shagamu?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

This work was authorised in the approved estimates for the current financial year and indents for material were forwarded in May, 1949. It is improbable that the material will be delivered until 1950 or that the work can be completed earlier than 1951.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin) :

473. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How much (approximately) does the Cashier of the Electricity Department, Lagos, handle every month?

(b) What is the Grade and Salary of the Cashier?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) The cashiers of the Lagos Electricity Undertaking handle approximately £13,800 per month, the greater part of it in cheques.

(b) Two clerks are employed as Cashiers, one is a 2nd Class Clerk on £152 per annum in Scale F 1 and the other a 3rd Class Clerk on £84 per annum in Scale F 1.

The Third Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. Gaius I. Obaseki) :

474. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the crew of the Sapele Ferry (Marine) work forty-eight hours a week, and, if so, what Overtime fees are paid to them?

(b) Is it true that applications for bookings of the Ferry Service must now be made in advance to the District Officer, Sapele; instead of to the Marine Clerk there as was formerly the practice?

(c) Whether Government is aware that this new arrangement is causing a lot of inconvenience to travellers owing to the limited time the District Officer, Sapele, is able to spare for this service, and more particularly as the ferry works from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily?

(d) In view of (c) above, how soon will Government revert to the former arrangement so that applications for bookings could be made to the Marine Clerk, Sapele?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) No, Sir. The two crews work 40 hours and 42 hours in alternative weeks. If, in abnormal circumstances, they are required to work more than 45 hours a week they are paid overtime at the approved rates.

(b) No, Sir. The ferry can no longer be booked. Cars are ferried across the river as they arrive or as soon after as is practicable.

(c) Government is not aware that the present system has caused inconvenience to travellers.

(d) As the new system has been found to be more satisfactory to the general public than the old, Government does not propose to revert to a system of booking.

The Third Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. Gaius I. Obaseki) :

475. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Is Government aware that a great majority of people in the Provinces, who must comply with the legal procedure relating to the administration of Estates, are generally put to great inconveniences and hardships, in various forms, by having to travel to Lagos with the main object of making personal visits to the office of Administrator-General and Curator of Intestate Estates?

(b) Will Government establish branch offices at all Provincial Headquarters throughout Nigeria of the Administrator-General's Department in view of the hardships experienced by peoples from the Provinces in Lagos?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) Government is aware that people in the Provinces travel to Lagos to make personal visits to the office of the Administrator-General in connection with the administration of estates but emphasises that such visits are not necessary. Any such business which the public in the Provinces may have with the Administrator-General's Department can be transacted by post, and illiterates and others who wish to have advice on the completion of forms, submission of claims, etc., may apply to the nearest District Officer who, in addition to acting as the Administrator-General's agent in appropriate cases, also acts in an advisory capacity to the public. Swearing affidavits and execution of formal documents may be carried out in the Provinces before Magistrates, Justices of the Peace or Commissioner for Oaths.

(b) No, Sir. It is not at present proposed to establish branches of the Administrator-General's Department at all Provincial Headquarters throughout Nigeria. The administration of estates is closely bound up with the work of the Probate Registry and His Honour the Chief Justice does not consider that his Department is in a position at present to set up and maintain District Probate Registries.

The Third Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. Gaius I. Obaseki) :

476. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Why is the "Inland Revenue" Department so designated since

its branches are established in very few provinces to deal with the collection of Income Tax from certain classes of people only?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

The Inland Revenue Department was created in 1937 as the outcome of a special Colony Tax Committee which recommended that an Inland Revenue Office be established to assess, receive and account for all direct tax payable in Lagos. Since then by successive ordinances, the scope of the department has considerably widened, it now being solely responsible for the administration of the Income Tax Ordinance, 1948, in respect of all classes of persons liable thereunder. The title of the department corresponds to that accorded to the department in the United Kingdom charged with similar duties.

The functions of the department are confined to Income Tax proper—*i.e.*, tax levied under the Income Tax Ordinance—and it is at present in no way concerned with tax levied under the provisions of the Direct Taxation Ordinance, 1940, which is implemented through the agency of the Native Authorities.

The Third Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. Gaius I. Obaseki) :

477. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) When were the two most senior Clerks in each of the First and Second Class Grades, respectively, of the Posts and Telegraphs Department appointed to the Government Service?

(b) How long have they been on the maximum salary of their respective grade?

(c) How many European Officers of the Posts and Telegraphs Department have been on the maximum salaries of their grades for eight years without being promoted, and why?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) *Date of Appointment*

(b) *Period on maximum salary of respective grades.*

FIRST CLASS CLERKS

1.	11.3.1920	..	..	Three months.
2.	23.7.1926	..	..	Not yet reached maximum.

SECOND CLASS CLERKS

1.	28.5.1920	..	..	Ten years.
2.	9.5.1925	..	..	Two years.

(c) One. There is no suitable post to which the officer could be promoted.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

478. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

How soon shall the Medical Students at Ibadan be able to take the Second Professional M.B., B.S. Degree Examination of the University of London in Nigeria?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

It is understood that the first examination will be held in Nigeria in July, 1950.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

479. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

How did Government come to the possession of the land on which the Glover Memorial Hall was built, before "freely giving it to the people of Lagos"?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Part of the site of the present Glover Hall and Queen's Gardens was occupied by the old Customs House, the date of erection of which is not ascertainable, but which certainly existed in 1866. This portion was occupied by virtue of the terms of the Treaty of Cession.

The remaining, and far larger portion, of the site was bought by Government on the 2nd of June, 1866 from one J. J. Lumpkin.

The whole site was conveyed to the then named "Glover Memorial Committee" by a Crown Grant dated 30th August, 1887.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

480. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

How did Government come to the possession of Aro Quarry in Abeokuta Province?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Aro Quarry in Abeokuta Province originally came into the possession of the Nigerian Government under an agreement entered into with the Egba United Government in 1907 for a term of twenty-one years. In 1915 this agreement was replaced by a lease for 999 years commencing on the 15th May, 1915. The lease is registered as No. 6 at page 16 in Volume 91 in the Land Registry at Lagos. Its validity, in so far as the quarry is concerned, was tested in a High Court action in 1940, and the Nigerian Government's title was upheld.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

481. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Could the details of the certain rights and privileges of Members of the Legislative Council be given?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

The privileges at present enjoyed by Honourable Members of Legislative Council are limited to the payment of allowances and transport expenses as set out in a Circular letter No. 11522 of the 2nd of June together with certain other facilities regarding postal and telegraph services, purchase of petrol at official rates, issue of Government publications and precedence at public functions.

In some other Colonial territories special legislation has been introduced conferring privileges regarding speeches made in the Council, arrest and civil actions and if the Honourable Member so wishes I shall be glad to show him copies of such legislation. I hope that it will be possible to introduce legislation on similar lines

in Nigeria but in view of the heavy legislative programme on which we are at present engaged I think that consideration of that question might best be postponed until the forthcoming constitutional changes have been made.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

482. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

What are the "special relationship" now existing between the University of London and Ibadan University College and for how long?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education:

As pointed out in the reply which was given to Question No. 54 the special relationship existing between the University College Ibadan and the University of London is discussed in detail in Chapter IX of the Report of the Commission on Higher Education in the Colonies (Comd. 6647). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to that Command Paper. The relationship derives from the successful termination of negotiations entered into by the Commission with the University of London. The University has stipulated that the Colonial Colleges which participate in the scheme must have reached a certain stage in development. In order to participate, a College must, for example, have an adequate staff whose control of academic work is constitutionally established; it must be adequately equipped and must have satisfactory standards of entrance requirements. The degrees awarded to the students of the participating colleges will be those of London and will therefore carry with them the reputation which those degrees possess. The final word in the determination of the standards of the examination and the syllabuses prescribed for them, and in the appointment of examiners, must lie with the London Senate. The decisions taken by the Senate, however, aim at the removal of the special disadvantages of the external system to which the Honourable Member's attention was drawn in the reply to Question No. 54. In particular the special committee of the Senate which has been set up in accordance with the scheme has the following aims prominently in mind:—

- (i) the establishment of direct and easy co-operation between the Academic Boards of the Colonial Colleges and the Senate of the University;
- (ii) the institution of a regular system of consultation between the authorities of the University and the staffs of the colleges upon questions of syllabus and examination requirements;
- (iii) the promotion of personal contact between the external examiners appointed by the University and the teachers in the colleges, in part by visits of the examiners to the colleges;
- (iv) the participation of members of the staffs of the colleges in the actual work of examining their own students.

With regard to the latter part of the question, the "special relationship" is an interim arrangement pending the grant of degree-giving powers to the Ibadan College. The process of development to full university status under the scheme has already begun but the interval before it is complete is dependent on the

fulfilment of three conditions. The staff must have had a few years' experience of university work in the Colonial institutions; their conditions of work must be of a nature to permit the active prosecution of research; and there must have been already a substantial number of students who have completed satisfactory courses for degrees. The students, moreover, should show some variety in academic training since a reasonably well balanced academic background is essential in a University. Where these conditions have been met by the Ibadan College—a matter concerning which the Inter-University Council will be able to express an opinion—the transfer to full university status will be sought by making an application for an appropriate charter.

The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):

485. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) How many non-Nigerians (*i.e.* Europeans) are living in Shendam?

(b) What is the nature of their business activities in that area?

(c) Is farming undertaken by any of them? If so, what proportion of these are farmers?

(d) Is there any regular transport to Shendam? If so, what is the nature of such transport?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

It is assumed that the question refers to Shendam Division, not to Shendam District or Shendam Town. If this is so, the answers are as follows:—

(a) Eleven. There is a District Officer, a Development Officer, two married Missionaries of the Sudan United Mission, each with his wife, and five Roman Catholic Priests.

(b) None pursue any business activities.

(c) The Development Officer supervises farming in the Shendam Agricultural Development Scheme but has no farm of his own. The Mission Schools at Shendam, Langtang, Kwande and Kwa have small educational farms for their pupils, supervised by the Missionaries.

(d) None, but privately owned lorries run between Pankshin and Shendam.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

486. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Will Government agree to take no action on the Phillipson's Reports for the present as I whole-heartedly endorse all that my worthy friend and colleague Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiam had said about the Medical Department, with special reference to Private Practice by Government Doctors and Sir Sydney Phillipson's Reports?

As Medical experts on the Unofficial side, we are preparing a Memorandum for submission to Government as representing the unanimous or the great preponderance of the considered opinion of the Honourable the Unofficial Members of this House.

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

No, Sir. The report was published early in February of this year, and in a public announcement at that time, the Government stated that they were anxious to consider any representations regarding recommendations made by the Commission. No representations have been received and Government has, therefore, taken decisions on the recommendations in the Report, which decisions are set out in Sessional Paper No. 28 of 1949, which has been published and laid on the Table of the House.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama) :

487. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

At the Oji River Leper Colony the higher rate of pension was not paid to the Ex-Servicemen's Union. Why not?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

The Honourable Member has been misinformed. All lepers at the Oji Leper Colony who are Ex-Servicemen and pensioners have been paid at the higher rate of pension since the 1st April, 1948.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin) :

488. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many times since 1st January, 1948, has the Government corrected false and misleading news of public interest in each of the daily newspapers printed and published in Lagos?

(b) Is Government not aware that mere corrections of such false and misleading news is not the surest way or effective means of checking such wilful public deceit and public menace?

(c) Will the Government not introduce some punitive measures against any persistently or wilfully inaccurate or misleading newspaper reports and the persons concerned therein without necessarily interfering with the Freedom of the Press?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) Since the beginning of this year the Public Relations Department has issued well over one hundred corrections of false and misleading news in the daily newspapers.

(b) The second and third questions asked by the Honourable Member raise most important questions of policy. It is quite true that when a false or misleading report is published the harm done is not by any means fully removed by a subsequently published correction and it may be noted that no means exist to enforce publication of a correction. It is also quite impossible to correct all the false and misleading statements which the newspapers publish. Moreover the harm done by false and misleading reports is undoubtedly very great. The Honourable Member appears to suggest that the problem might be dealt with by new legislation and although there are great practical difficulties in dealing effectively with such matters by legislation the Government will be glad to consider any proposals which he or other Honourable Members may put forward in this respect.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

489. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

- (a) What is ceremonial allowance?
- (b) How many officers, have been paid this allowance in the last five years?
- (c) Of such officers, if any, how many were Europeans and how many were Africans?
- (d) What is the total cost to the revenue in the last five years of this allowance?
- (e) What is the need for the allowance?
- (f) Will Government consider discontinuing it forthwith?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) Ceremonial Allowance is an allowance of £25 payable once only during the career of any officer who, on or after the 1st of January, 1946, is appointed, transferred or promoted to a post which entitles him for the first time in his service (either in Nigeria or elsewhere) to wear Civil Service Uniform. The allowance is paid to assist an officer to buy a uniform and results from the recommendation in paragraph 82 of the report of the Harragin Commission.

(b), (c) and (d) Payments of Ceremonial Allowance are debited to the vote for Outfit Allowances and no separate records of amounts paid in Ceremonial Allowance or to whom it is paid are kept.

(e) I think that it is reasonable to assist officers to meet the exceptional expense involved in obtaining official uniform.

(f) No, Sir.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

492. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

How many officers have been recruited from ex-Palestine Officers since April 1, 1949?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Two officers.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

493. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Is it a fact that prisoners are locked in their sleeping places at about 4.30 p.m. each day?

(b) If not, when are prisoners locked in for the night?

(c) If they are locked in before 7 p.m. does Government not consider that this is unnecessary mental cruelty?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) and (b) Most prisoners are locked up between 4.30 p.m. and 5 p.m. but those participating in the Earning Scheme (about 900) are allowed out in association until 6.15 p.m. during which period they are permitted to smoke and take part in recreation facilities. Educational evening classes for good conduct prisoners are now being arranged.

(c) The present system can certainly be improved and improvements are being introduced on the lines which I have indicated. I have discussed the whole matter with the Prison authorities who are doing their best to increase facilities for evening education and recreation but no immediate over-all change in lock-up hours could be introduced without construction of additional accommodation and an increase in Prison staff.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

495. To ask the Honourable the Financial Secretary:—

(a) What effect will the devaluation of the pound sterling in relation to the dollar have on remittances to Nigerian students in America?

(b) Does Government propose to increase the amount which may be remitted to a Nigerian student in America to ensure adequate allowances for fees and necessaries under the present exchange rates?

(c) If the answer to the preceding question is in the affirmative will Government state what percentage increase will be allowed?

Answer—

The Hon. the Financial Secretary:

(a) The variation in the dollar-sterling exchange rate results in the necessity for the amount of sterling annually remitted to a student in the United States of America before the variation to be increased by forty-four per cent to produce the same dollar equivalent.

(b) Yes, Sir, subject to a maximum normally of £600 *per annum*.

(c) Where the expenses in dollars of a student in the United States remain unchanged after the date of variation in the rate of exchange, permission will be given for an increase of forty-four per cent in the amount of sterling annually remittable before the variation.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

496. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Is it a fact that catering on limited trains is no longer in the hands of the Nigeria Caterers Limited a subsidiary company of the U.A.C.?

(b) If so, in whose hands is it?

(c) What is the position as regards continuity of employment of the persons previously employed by Nigeria Caterers Limited on the trains?

(d) What profits or losses were declared by the Nigeria Caterers Limited in 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1948 in connexion with catering on the railway and in railway hotels?

(e) What is the total amount which the Railway has had to pay to this Company in the last ten years (1939-1948) to cover losses?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) The catering on limited trains remains in the hands of N.R. Caterers Ltd., a company in which the United Africa Co. Ltd. holds the majority of the shares.

(b) It is intended that the shares in N.R. Caterers Ltd., shall be acquired on behalf of the Nigerian Railway.

(c) The projected change in ownership of the shares in N.R. Caterers Ltd., involves no break in the company's corporate existence and the company will continue to employ its staff on the trains as heretofore.

(d) N.R. Caterers Ltd., is a private company and is not required by law to publish its profits and losses; nor does its contract with the Nigerian Railway require that it should declare its overall profits or losses incurred in catering on the railway and in railway hotels: but it is known that there was a loss of £2,903 on the company's operations for the year ended the 31st of August, 1948.

(e) £500. This amount was paid in 1947, in respect of the year ended the 31st of August, 1946, during which the company lost £3,394 in respect of catering on limited trains.

The Second Nominated Member (Major the Hon. J. West, M.C., E.D.):

497. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Why the Nigerian Railway altered the time table of various main line trains without giving the public due notice?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

The Honourable Member is doubtless referring to the alterations to the passenger train services that came into effect on the 10th of October, 1949. Particulars of the new services were published in the *Nigeria Gazette* for the 29th of September, and between that date and the 10th of October further notice was given by posters at Railway Stations and announcements in the Press and over the radio diffusion services.

The Second Nominated Member (Major the Hon. J. West, M.C., E.D.):

498. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) If Government realises the financial loss to Nigeria and Mining Companies caused by the inability of the Nigerian Railway to transport valuable machinery from Port Harcourt to its destination within a reasonable period, delays of four and five months being common?

(b) Also if it realised that such machinery, which is difficult to obtain, frequently paid for in dollars and necessary for the development of the mineral resources of the country, deteriorates very rapidly in the saline atmosphere?

(c) If the answers to questions (a) and (b) are as they should be, in the affirmative, can Government expedite the dispatch of such machinery, thus relieving the present congestion, or, failing this, provide suitable covered storage to give the necessary protection against the elements?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) While it is known that there have been delays to traffic landed at Port Harcourt for Jos, the Railway Administration is unaware of delays in respect of machinery extending up to four to five months. If the Honourable Member would supply details of the specific cases of delay they will be fully investigated.

(b) I am not sure that the atmosphere at Port Harcourt could properly be described as saline but no one would dispute that machinery deteriorates if kept in a damp climate without being properly looked after.

(c) Every effort is being made to handle traffic at Port Harcourt with as little delay as possible, but with the very great increase in import traffic it is regretted that some delays are unavoidable.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. and Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

501. To ask the Honourable the Director of Public Works:—

(a) When will the buildings for the Administrator-General for which a large sum of money was voted some years ago be taken in hand and finished?

(b) How many public buildings for which votes have been similarly passed are still unconstructed?

(c) Cause or causes of delay in constructing them please?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:

(a) The sum of £12,500 was included in the 1945-46 Estimates under Head 39, Item 29 for the building of new offices for the Administrator-General. This project was not given a high priority and was not put in hand during that financial year. It was removed to Appendix T of the Estimates in 1946-47 and is still included in that Appendix. It is desirable that the Administrator-General's offices should be near the Supreme Court and a site has been allocated near the site of the new Supreme Court building, but removal to that site before the Supreme Court building is erected would cause inconvenience. It is therefore hoped to house the Administrator-General's Department temporarily in offices in Broad Street when these are erected.

(b) All the public buildings in the Colony for which specific provision has been made during the last three financial years have either been completed or are in hand. Projects which are included in Appendix T are put in hand in accordance with priorities allocated by the Commissioner of the Colony as funds become available for release and as the capacity of the Public Works Department permits.

(c) Does not arise.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. and Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

506. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

(a) How many Scholarships have been awarded to students in Nigeria to pursue further studies in England for the past two years with a comparison of those given five years ago?

(b) Were there any granted tenable in American, European continental or Russian Colleges or Universities?

(c) What proportion of Government European Officials in Nigeria were products of Scholarships?

(d) Was award of Scholarships instituted to relieve parents in Nigeria who could afford it from sending their children to England for professional education?

(e) Is it a fact that no students can be admitted into Universities or Colleges in England or Ireland unless he has the blessing and backing of Nigerian Government?

(f) What percentage of Government Scholars have returned and with what results?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Education :

(a) The Honourable Member is referred to page 7 of the Report of the Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor to make recommendations about the recruitment and training of Nigerians for Senior Posts in the Government Service of Nigeria, which shows that eleven scholarships were awarded in 1943-44 and twenty-five in 1944-45. Government Notice No. 1424 of the 14th of October, which was published in the Official Gazette for October 20th, 1949, shows that sixty-two bursaries to University College, Ibadan, and 124 scholarships and training courses to the United Kingdom have been awarded since the adoption in 1948 of the Report mentioned above. The Report also indicates on page 7 that forty scholarships were awarded in 1947-48. The total for the past two years is therefore sixty-two bursaries and 164 scholarships.

(b) No, Sir, but the attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to Government Notice No. 1458 of the 20th of October which states, *inter alia*, that Government has under consideration the award of a number of scholarships to institutions in the United States of America.

(c) It is regretted that the information is not available but it is known that many Government European Officers in Nigeria have won University or State Scholarships which are given on competitive examination.

(d) No, Sir. The principal object in instituting a system of Government Scholarships is stated in the Policy Section (pages 16-17) of the Report of the Commission referred to above. It is to assist in the recruitment and training of Nigerians for Senior Posts in the Government Service of Nigeria.

(e) No, Sir, though the majority of Universities and Colleges in England and some in Ireland prefer to have the recommendation of the Nigerian Government before accepting a student.

(f) As far as is known all Government scholars who have successfully completed their courses have returned to Nigeria. Reports on their work, subsequent to their return, are, in general, encouraging.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

510. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Is it a fact that Government has acquired greater parts of Victoria Beach known as Oniru Settlement, and Apapa?

(b) For what public service have they been acquired?

(c) How many African applicants has Government had for the past two years since the invitation for allotment of plots?

(d) On what terms were these granted allotments?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) An area of 1,089 acres lying between Victoria Beach and Five Cowrie Creek was acquired in 1944. Prior to that date 428 acres in the same district were acquired by Government between 1900 and 1912. As regards Apapa some 1,200 acres were acquired by Government between 1900 and 1928.

(b) As was stated in reply to Question No. 102 asked at the Third Session of the Council in March, 1949, the area of waste land at Victoria Beach has been acquired with a view to its reclamation and subsequent development under a planning scheme. The area at Apapa which was originally acquired for public purposes has now, owing to subsequent events, become available for development by the Lagos Executive Development Board in accordance with a planning scheme.

(c) Invitations for applications for plots at Victoria Beach or at Apapa have not yet been invited. When the schemes are sufficiently advanced to invite applications public notice will be given.

(d) Does not arise.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

516. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) When is it intended to regionalise the Scholarship Selection Board for Government Scholarships?

(b) Is Government aware that there is considerable dissatisfaction in all the Regions as to the number of scholarships awarded annually in each Region?

(c) If Regionalisation of the Selection Board is not immediately contemplated, what does Government intend to do in the matter?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) Regional Public Service Boards already exist, and representatives of the Regional Boards sit on the Central Public Service Board.

(b) There may be dissatisfaction in each Region regarding the number of scholarships awarded to candidates from each Region but selection is made on the basis of merit and suitability for further training, and not on the basis of the Regions from which the candidates come. We want the best men to be selected and I

explained to the Honourable Member at the Ibadan meeting of this Council why the Government is opposed to allocation of scholarships to particular areas. If that system were adopted it would almost certainly mean that the best men were not selected.

(c) I have said that Regional Public Service Boards already exist. If the Honourable Member means that the total number of scholarships to be awarded annually should be divided in advance of selection amongst the Regions, I must reply that the Government is opposed to such an arrangement for the reasons which I have already stated.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

519. To ask the Honourable the Director of Public Works:—

(a) When is it intended to tar Trunk Road from Enugu in the Onitsha Province to Obudu in the Ogoja Province?

(b) What is the census of vehicular traffic on this road?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:

(a) The relative priorities in the Road Tarring Programme are decided by the Regional Authorities, but the Enugu-Abakaliki road is not included in the present programme.

(b) Between Enugu and Abakaliki the average daily number of vehicles is fifty; and between Abakaliki and Ogoja the average is about thirty. It is not usually considered necessary to tar a road until the average daily number of vehicles is approaching 100.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

522. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

When will the Church of Scotland Mission Hospital, Itu, in the Calabar Province, be given the status of a Training School for General Nursing?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

When the Nursing Council is satisfied that the hospital has the requisite number of beds (minimum sixty).

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

523. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

(a) When will the proposed general Nursing Council of Nigeria come into actual existence?

(b) When is it proposed to institute a common examination for all Nigerian Nurses, Government or non-Government, as is envisaged by the Nursing Council of Nigeria mentioned in (a) above?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

(a) The General Nursing Council of Nigeria came into existence on 1st August, 1947—Government Notice No. 990, *Gazette* No. 41 of 1947, refers.

(b) The matter is under active consideration, but it is not yet possible to give a firm date.

MOTIONS

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I rise to move the following Motion standing in my name :—

“ Be it resolved :

“ That the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance
“ which was laid on the table today be adopted.”

This report, Sir, relates to the meetings of the Standing Committee on Finance held in the months of February, April, May, June, August and September of this year. There is only one matter of importance that was dealt with at these meetings that is not recorded in the Report. That concerns the Resolution on Pensions taken in the February meeting; and that was recorded in the previous Finance Committee Report that was laid before this House on March the 10th last. Apart from this the Report sets out all the matters of importance that were considered by the Finance Committee at the meetings held from February last to September. The supplementary expenditure approved by the Committee and the other decisions taken by the Committee are set out in detail in the Report and I do not think it is necessary for me to elaborate further in any way.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.) :

Sir, I beg to second.

Motion adopted.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Sir, I have the honour to move the Motion standing in my name which reads as follows :—

“ With reference to the report of the Select Committee
“ on the review of the Constitution adopted at the meeting of
“ this Council on the 23rd of March, 1949 :

“ Be it resolved :

“ That a Select Committee of this House be appointed
“ to make recommendation to the Legislative
“ Council regarding the place and date for the
“ meeting of the General Constitutional
“ Conference.”

Honourable Members will remember that we approved in this Council a unanimous report from a Select Committee which was set up to make recommendations on the method of the review of the Constitution. In that Select Committee we recommended and this Council approved that the time and place should be selected by this Council. The time has now come when we must consider together where the general Constitutional Conference should meet and on what date. I suggest, Sir, that the best way of arriving at a

conclusion will be to discuss it in Select Committee and then we could bring that recommendation from Select Committee to this Council which can be debated. The Government has, Sir, in the interval acquired what information it has been possible to acquire to help Members to decide what is the best place for this Conference, and Unofficial Members may well be able to give some advice about the time. Naturally the time for the general conference must be fitted in with the work of the Regional Houses and Legislative Council. It appears that the most suitable time is some time in January. The question of the place and the date is one for this Council. The proposal therefore is that we should in Select Committee consider the matter and make recommendations to full Council.

Sir, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

I rise to second.

Motion adopted.

His Excellency :

I shall announce the composition of the Select Committee before we adjourn this morning.

BILLS

(First Readings)

THE MANDATED AND TRUST TERRITORIES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Your Excellency, I rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled :

“ An Ordinance to make provision as to the application and modification of Written Laws in relation to Mandates of the League of Nations and the Trusteeship System of the United Nations.”

This is a purely formal Bill. Under the old constitution of the League of Nations our Trusteeship Territory was called the Cameroons under British Mandate and under that title appears in many of the laws of this country. Under the United Nations Charter the title is changed and it is now the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship, and this formal Bill, Sir, is merely to make provision for this change of name throughout the written laws of Nigeria.

Sir, I beg to move.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

THE EXCISE (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled :

“ An Ordinance to amend the Excise Ordinance, 1941.”

This Bill, Sir, is of a formal character and is designed to bring section 13 of the Excise Ordinance, 1941, into conformity with the present Constitution. Honourable Members will recall that under the previous Constitution matters dealt with under section 13 of the Ordinance by resolution of the Legislative Council applied only to the Colony and the Southern Provinces. The previous procedure was that the Governor would, where relevant, then apply the substance of the resolution to the Northern Provinces by Order. Under the new Constitution this procedure no longer obtains and resolutions of the Legislative Council apply to the country as a whole. This Bill, Sir, is therefore merely to make provision in the Ordinance for the revised procedure.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

THE COCOA MARKETING BOARD (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled :

“ An Ordinance further to amend the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board Ordinance, 1947 ”.

The Bill seeks to make two amendments, the object of both of which is to bring the Cocoa Marketing Board Ordinance into line with the Marketing Board Ordinances which were enacted at the March Session, and the desirability of which has become apparent as the result of experience gained since the enactment of the Cocoa Marketing Board Ordinance.

The first is the amendment to sub-section 2 of section 13 of the principal Ordinance by deleting the words “ all the provisions ”, and substituting therefor the words “ the provisions of sections 26 and 43 ”. Those two sections of the Income Tax Ordinance are the

charging section and the section which provides for the submission of the return of income. Nothing in these amendments will affect the exemption of the income of the Board from tax.

Under the Ordinance as it is at the moment the Board is exempt from all the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance, for example, that section which requires the Board to give information as to the salaries of its staff. There are obvious disadvantages to this.

The second amendment involves the insertion of a new section after section 24 which makes it lawful for the Board to make loans to Government; any agreement for a loan must, however, be approved by the Legislative Council by resolution. The object of this amendment is to extend to the Cocoa Marketing Board the same facilities as have been extended to the other Marketing Boards to permit it to invest money from its surplus balances by way of loans to the Government of Nigeria. This is in accord with the view which has often been expressed that as large a proportion as possible of such balances should be invested within Nigeria.

Sir, I beg to move.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

THE 1947-48 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled :—

“ An Ordinance to make supplementary provision for the service of Nigeria for the year ending the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and forty-eight ”.

Sir, this Bill is intended to provide, upon enactment, for final legislative sanction of expenditure which this Council has already approved either by legislation approving the appropriation of a specific sum or by the adoption of the several reports of the Standing Committee on Finance.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

THE NATIVE COURTS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Your Excellency, I rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled :
“ An Ordinance to amend the Native Courts Ordinance, 1948 ”.

Honourable Members will have seen that this is a purely formal Bill: it concerns punctuation. Honourable Members will realise that even in the most efficient office and with the most skilled draftsmen an odd comma may creep in which ought not to be there and this little Bill will remove one comma and delete one semi-colon.

Sir, I beg to move.

His Honour the Acting Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

THE BRITISH NATIONALITY (FEES AND PENALTIES) ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled :

“ An Ordinance to make provisions for the imposition of penalties for offences and the imposition and recovery of fees under the British Nationality Act, 1948 ”.

Honourable Members are probably aware that the Citizenship Act has altered the system whereby one gains nationality. Under the present system under the 1948 Act, one now gets nationality through citizenship: that is to say, as far as British nationality is concerned. The Home Act applies to this country. Unfortunately, that part of the Home Act which creates and applies penalties under the Act and offences under the Act and which empowers Government to charge fees for the necessary documents for citizenship does not apply and we have to implement here the principles of the Home Act by this Bill, which provides for offences and penalties and for permission to recover fees for work done in connection with nationality.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

THE NON-EUROPEAN OFFICERS' PENSIONS (1949 STRIKE)
ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Sir, I rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled :

“ An Ordinance to provide that the break in service in the case of certain Railway Servants of the Station Staff arising out of a strike which occurred in the month of July in the year one thousand, nine hundred and forty-nine, may be disregarded and that such period may be counted for continuity of service under the provisions of the Pensions Law ”.

The Bills which we have before us this morning are perhaps mainly formal and will not, I expect, give rise to very much comment or debate; but that is not the case with the Bill which I now move for the first time. This Bill does, I believe, raise important points of principle which have an effect far beyond the particular incident which is referred to in the title of the Bill. The facts which gave rise to this proposed legislation are fresh in all our minds. The facts only date back to July of this year, and I think it is unnecessary for me to attempt, in introducing this Bill, to recount in detail the circumstances which led to it. I am of course anxious on the second reading of the Bill to comment on any questions or doubts or criticisms which may come from Honourable Members.

For the present purpose of introducing the Bill at its first reading I think it is sufficient for me to say that on the 17th July last a strike took place amongst the Railway station staff, bringing the whole Railway of Nigeria to a standstill. The strike was a sudden one, an unexpected one and the Government had to consider on that day following the declaration of the strike what action should be taken. The Government considered that the men had, many of them, failed to appreciate the issues involved. We thought it was probable that many of them had been misled. The Government bore in mind that an enquiry ordered by the Commissioner of Labour was, in fact, still in progress when the strike was called and consequently the Government decided that the best course would be to give the men three days to get back to work so that discussion of the points at issue might continue and the investigation might proceed. The greatest care was taken to see that notices of the Government's decision were widely distributed. Printed notices were issued on that first day of the strike and the text of the announcement was sent to every part of Nigeria by wireless. We made quite sure that the men concerned were all aware of the Government's call for a return to work within three days. I am glad to say that the strike did not continue and work was duly resumed. During the three days of the strike discussions took place between representatives of the Unions and the Government and in view of the call to return within three days the Government gave an assurance that if the men answered the call and returned within the stipulated period an endeavour would be made to restore their pension rights.

I need hardly emphasize here—though it sometimes appears to be forgotten—that pensionable status carries obligations as well as benefits. One of the obligations, perhaps the principal obligation, is that a man who holds a pensionable post cannot leave his employment or refuse to carry out his duties without just cause. Therefore, when pensionable officers of the Station Staff Union refused to carry out their duties, by their own act they forfeited their pension rights—by their own act, not by any act of Governments. But in the circumstances which I have briefly described, and which I am prepared to describe more fully, if necessary, on the second reading, the Government considered that it was right that an undertaking should be given that if the men answered the call to return to work within the stipulated period of three days legislation would be proposed to restore their pension rights. That was the decision taken at the time; it was taken on my responsibility and it was, I think, the right decision to take.

There is however one all important qualification to what I have just said, and that is that no person has the authority to restore pensionable rights, when a break of service takes place, except this Legislative Council. It is a matter outside the authority of the Executive. It was, therefore, made absolutely clear to the men that we could give no promise that their pension rights would be restored. All that we could promise was that we would make recommendations, with the full backing of this Government, to this Council that the Council should pass the necessary legislation to restore the rights. The promise was given that we would, as a Government measure, at the first opportunity bring this Bill to this Council; and in fulfilment of that undertaking I now move that the Bill be read a first time.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

I do not know if it will be in order for me to ask the Chief Secretary to the Government whether in view of the importance of the matter of principle involved in this Bill, he would not consider the Bill being first discussed at Regional level, because this Bill has not been before any of the Houses of Assembly or the House of Chiefs. I myself would not know what to say on this Bill because whatever I said on second reading would only represent my viewpoint. I would like to know first of all what the Eastern Regional House thought about this Bill.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

It is of course usual that all legislation which comes to the Legislative Council should first have been referred to the Regional Houses. This Bill is brought here today on a certificate of urgency and I think I should explain why it was thought desirable to deal with the Bill in that way. The undertaking was given in July that this Bill would be drafted as soon as possible and brought to the Legislative Council on the first possible occasion. I must admit

that at that time I had it in mind that it would be possible for all the Regional Houses to consider this Bill before this meeting of the Council, although we had not fixed the dates for meetings of the Regional Houses at that time. Unfortunately all Regional Houses have not met since that undertaking was given and it would not have been wise or proper, I believe, that the Bill should be taken to one or two of the Regional Houses and not to all, and therefore in view of the undertaking given we thought that the Bill should be brought to this Council under a certificate of urgency on this occasion. It is of course open to Honourable Members, possibly at this stage and possibly at the second reading, to move deferment for further consideration. I suggest that if deferment is requested the proposal should be made on the second reading.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

I would like to move now that this Bill be deferred until consideration by all Regional Houses and House of Chiefs.

The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. Nyong Essien):

I beg to second.

His Excellency:

It has been proposed and seconded that consideration of this Bill be deferred until after consideration by the Regional Houses. If no one wishes to speak I will put the question.

First reading of Bill was by leave of Council accordingly deferred.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

I should like to make one important comment. I should like, if I may, to say at this stage that the Government will give its full support to the provisions of the Bill when it returns to this Council. I do not want there to be any misunderstanding on this point. The Government has given an undertaking that it will back this Bill and when it returns to this Council it will most certainly do so.

THE 1948-49 SUPPLEMENT TO THE LAWS ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Attorney-General:

Sir, I rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled:—

“An Ordinance to provide for the preparation and publication of a supplement to the Revised Edition of the Laws of Nigeria.”

Honourable Members may be aware that Mr Justice Brooke has undertaken the revised edition of the Laws of Nigeria, a task that was last performed in 1923. He has now completed, or practically completed, the work of revision and tomorrow I will, with the consent of this House, lay the revised edition on the table and move a resolution that they be adopted as the Laws of Nigeria from now

on. That will be roughly twelve volumes of Law up-to-date instead of twenty-four volumes of Law incorrectly amended. This revised edition will bring the Laws up to 1947, leaving the two years 1948 and this year 1949 without any revision, and the Bill which I now move is to enable Mr Justice Brooke to prepare another volume which will bring the Law up-to-date to 1949; so that I hope on the 1st of January, 1950 all the Laws of Nigeria, however bad they may be, will be contained in neat volumes on your desks.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a first time.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I beg to give notice that at a later date during this meeting I will move the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

I think it is usual, at the end of the proceedings of the first day, to make proposals for the future business of the Council and I suggest that we might meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow and that we should be prepared to sit tomorrow afternoon. It may be a matter on which Honourable Members will wish to express their views. My suggestion is that we should meet at ten and then again at three in order that we may complete consideration of the Bills before us.

His Excellency :

Do these proposals meet with the convenience of Honourable Members?

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

I do not know whether in the light of past experience and having regard to the type of climate we have just now in Lagos whether it will be convenient or advisable to meet in the afternoon. If we could meet earlier in the morning, say at 9 o'clock, and continue until 1 o'clock, I think that would be better.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

The only point is that we cannot take the second reading of the Bill tomorrow.

His Excellency :

The Honourable Member's suggestion was that we should not sit in the afternoon at all.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :

I am not in favour of sitting in the afternoon at all.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

I find myself in agreement.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

We might meet the Honourable Member half way by assembling rather earlier, say at 9.30.

His Excellency :

It appears to meet the convenience of Honourable Members that we should meet at 9.30 and see what progress we make.

Before we adjourn, I announce the composition of the Select Committee to consider the place and dates of the General Constitution Conference. It will be:—

The Chief Secretary—Chairman

The Attorney-General

The Chief Commissioners, Northern and Western Provinces
and all Unofficial Members.

The Council will now adjourn until 9.30 tomorrow morning.

Council adjourned at 11.5 a.m.

Debates in the Legislative Council of Nigeria

Tuesday, 22nd November, 1949

Pursuant to notice the Honourable the Members of the Legislative Council met in the Council Chamber, Lagos, at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, the 22nd of November, 1949.

PRESENT

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- His Excellency the Governor,
Sir John S. Macpherson, K.C.M.G.
- The Chief Secretary to the Government,
The Honourable H. M. Foot, C.M.G., O.B.E.
- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,
His Honour T. C. Hoskyns-Abrahall, C.M.G.
- The Acting Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces,
His Honour E. K. Featherstone, C.M.G.
- The Attorney-General,
The Honourable Sir Gerard Howe, K.C.
- The Financial Secretary,
The Honourable E. Himsworth.
- The Director of Medical Services,
Dr the Honourable G. B. Walker, C.B.E.
- The Development Secretary,
The Honourable C. J. Pleass.
- The Acting Director of Education,
The Honourable G. Plummer, O.B.E.
- The Director of Agriculture,
The Honourable A. G. Beattie.
- The Acting Director of Public Works,
The Honourable A. McDonald.
- The Commissioner of Labour,
The Honourable A. H. Couzens.
- The Commissioner of the Colony,
The Honourable E. A. Carr.
- The Senior Resident, Bornu Province,
The Honourable C. R. Niven, M.C.
- The Senior Resident, Oyo Province,
The Honourable P. V. Main.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Member for the Colony,
The Rev. and Honourable T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, o.B.E.
- The First Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Obisesan, o.B.E.
- The Second Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable T. A. Odutola, o.B.E.
- The First Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable I. Olorun-Nimbe.
- The Emir of Gwandu,
The Honourable Yahaya, c.B.E.
- The Emir of Katsina,
Alhaji the Honourable Usuman Nagogo, c.B.E.
- The Oni of Ife,
The Honourable Aderemi I, c.M.G.
- The Atta of Igbirra,
Alhaji the Honourable Ibrahim.
- The Emir of Abuja,
The Honourable Sulemanu.
- The First Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Bello Kano.
- The First Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable C. D. Onyeama.
- The Second Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.
- The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable H. Buowari Brown, o.B.E.
- The Third Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Iro Katsina.
- The First Nominated Member,
The Honourable P. J. Rogers.
- The Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Aliyu, Makaman Bida.
- The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiam, o.B.E.
- The Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces,
The Honourable Yahaya Ilorin.
- The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable N. Essien.
- The Third Lagos Member,
The Honourable Adeleke Adedoyin.
- The Member for Calabar,
The Honourable E. E. E. Anwan.
- The Second Nominated Member,
Major the Honourable J. West, m.c., e.D.
- The Third Nominated Member,
The Honourable N. B. Edwards.
- The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable A. Soetan.

ABSENT

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,
His Honour Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, C.M.G., R.N.
The Secretary, Eastern Provinces,
Commander the Honourable S. E. Johnson, R.N.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Oba of Benin,
The Honourable Akenzua II, C.M.G.
The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces,
The Honourable A. Ikoju, O.B.E.
The Second Lagos Member,
Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe.
The Third Member for the Western Provinces,
The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.

PRAYERS

His Excellency the Governor opened the proceedings of the Council with prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 21st of November, 1949, having been printed and circulated to the Honourable Members, were taken as read.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Your Excellency might permit me to consult the Honourable the Attorney-General on a small matter of wording arising from the minutes.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama) :

May I point out a small mistake?

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

If my Honourable Friend from the East might come over and join us we will probably find that we are talking about the same point.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

There might be a slight pause while we discuss this. The first point is a question of fact. I should like to make sure who was the seconder to the First Member for the Eastern Provinces' motion—I am not sure whether it was an Honourable Member for the West or an Honourable Member for the East. It is recorded in the minutes that it was an Honourable Member from the East.

The Second Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.) :

It was from the West,

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

Then may the name of the Honourable T. A. Odutola be substituted for that of the Honourable N. Essien?

His Excellency :

Two Honourable Members rose at the same time.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

The second point is this—the wording as recorded in the same paragraph indicates that the First Member for the East moved an amendment that the first reading of the Bill be deferred and then the record goes on that the amended motion was adopted. I think it would be preferable, as this was not an amendment to the Bill, if the wording might be as follows :

“ The Honourable the First Member for the Eastern Provinces moved that the first reading of the Bill be deferred pending consideration of the Regional Houses. The motion was adopted and the first reading of the Bill was deferred accordingly.”

His Excellency :

The question is that the minutes be amended in the form proposed by the Honourable the Chief Secretary.

Minutes as circulated and amended in two particulars confirmed.

MOTION**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :**

May I now propose for the consideration of the council a variation in the order of business before us today? The proposal I wish to put to the Council is that the order should be varied in this way—that we should take announcements, petitions, questions and notices of questions first, that then, Sir, with your permission, we should go into Select Committee on the time and place for the General Constitutional Conference, that the Committee should then report back to the whole Council and that we should then proceed with the other items on the Agenda. There are various reasons for this proposal. I think that the House will probably agree that it will be wise to dispose of the bills first. We might then have an opportunity of going into Select Committee and reporting back to full Council. I do not know that I need explain the reasons for the proposed change. The proposal I make is that we should take all items on the Order Paper in the order as stated except that papers laid and motions should be taken last and that an opportunity for the Select Committee might be given before those two subjects are taken.

His Excellency :

Is it the wish of Honourable Members that the order of business be varied as proposed?

Council in agreement.

QUESTIONS

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

463. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Is it a fact that it will take some time before the third Judge of the West African Court of Appeal is appointed? If so, why so?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

This is a matter for all the West African Governments: it is understood that the President of the West African Court of Appeal will shortly be submitting proposals about this and other matters in connection with the Court of Appeal.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

466. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Is the Government not aware that mile 45½ Lagos-Abeokuta Road (Railway Level Crossing) is very dangerous and many lives are perishing there every year?

(b) What measure is the Government taking to remove or avoid this death trap?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

There have been eleven accidents—none fatal—at this level crossing during the past three years, two in 1947, eight in 1948 and one to date in 1949.

The Director of Public Works is considering whether any additional safety measures beyond those already being taken are possible.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

484. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

1. Is it a fact that for messengers to qualify for scale K3 by long service they must have put in twenty-five years' service?

2. Is this not an inordinately long time to serve for a commencing salary of £6 a month and a maximum salary after a further term of four years, of £7 a month?

3. What are the particular qualifications required and referred to in paragraph 1 of the Chief Secretary's Circular No. 90/1947 (M.P. 27799) to entitle messengers to this "special" grade of K3?

4. In view of the low salary grade of messengers will Government consider providing them with quarters, or giving them allowances in lieu thereof?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(1) Yes, Sir.

(2) This matter has been discussed in the Junior Whitley Council " B " where the Staff Side proposed that the Scale for Messengers should be K 2-K 5 (£42-120). The Official Side were unable to agree that the responsibilities of the post justified this very considerable upgrading, but they did consider that for a career grade a scale with a span of only six years was too short and put forward the alternative proposal that all Messengers should be able to proceed to K 3 after a halt of three years on the maximum of K 2. This would mean that the salary of a Messenger would be:—

£42; £45; £48; £52; £56; £60; £64; £64; £64; £72; £76;
£80; £84.

No agreement was reached, but the Government proposes to ask the Standing Committee on Finance at its next meeting to approve the proposal put forward by the Official Side.

(3) No qualifications have been prescribed; each case for advancement being considered on its merits.

(4) No, Sir. Members of the Junior Service have no claim to free quarters—except those who are required to live institutionally.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

490. To ask the Honourable the Development Secretary:—

(a) How many limited liability companies are carrying on Mining operations in Nigeria, and how are they distributed among the various minerals?

(b) How much is the annual royalty paid by each such company for the years 1945-1949 inclusive?

(c) How much profit less tax, was declared by each such company in the same period?

(d) Has Government considered nationalising all the mines of this country?

(e) If Government has considered it, what has been decided?

(f) If the Government has decided not to nationalise, what reason exists for such a decision?

Answer—

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

(a) On the 31st of August, 1949, forty-one limited liability companies were carrying on mining operations in Nigeria. Distribution amongst the various minerals was as follows:—
CASSITERITE

1. Abu Mining Company Ltd.
2. Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria Ltd.

3. Amari Mines Ltd.
4. Bisichi Tin Co. Ltd.
5. Daffo (N.N.) Tin Mines Ltd.
6. East Africa Explorers Ltd.
7. Egba Mining Syndicate.
8. Ex-Lands Nigeria Ltd.
9. Filani (N) Tin Mining Co. Ltd.
10. Fobra Tin Ltd.
11. Gold and Base Metal Mines of Nigeria Ltd.
12. Jantar Nigeria Co. Ltd.
13. Gold Coast Consolidated Lands Ltd.
14. Jos Tin Area (N) Ltd.
15. Kaduna Prospectors Ltd.
16. Kaduna Syndicate Ltd.
17. Keffi Tin Co. Ltd.
18. Kuma Tin Co. Ltd.
19. Lisabi Mining Association.
20. Minerals Research Syndicate.
21. Naraguta Extended Areas Ltd.
22. Naraguta Karama Areas Ltd.
23. Naraguta Tin Mines Ltd.
24. Nigerian Alluvials Ltd.
25. Nigerian Consolidated Mines Ltd.
26. Nigerian Minerals Development Co. Ltd.
27. Nigerian Tin and Exploration Co. Ltd.
28. North Maroc Ltd.
29. Northern Nigeria (Bauchi) Tin Mines Ltd.
30. Northern Nigeria Transport and Trading Co. Ltd.
31. Odegi Syndicate Ltd.
32. Ribon Valley Tinfields Ltd.
33. Rukuba Tin Mines Ltd.
34. South Bukeru Areas Ltd.
35. Tin and Columbite Ltd.
36. Tin Fields of Nigeria Ltd.
37. United Tin Areas of Nigeria Ltd.
38. Urhobo Syndicate.
39. Zelau Mining Co. Ltd.

COLUMBITE

1. Abu Mining Co. Ltd.
2. Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria Ltd.
3. Bisichi Tin Co. Ltd.
4. Filani (N) Tin Co. Ltd.
5. Fobra Tin Ltd.
6. Gold and Base Metal Mines of Nigeria Ltd.
7. Gold Coast Consolidated Lands Ltd.
8. Jantar Nigeria Co. Ltd.
9. Keffi Tin Co. Ltd.
10. Minerals Research Syndicate Ltd.
11. Naraguta Tin Mines Ltd.

12. Nigerian Alluvials Ltd.
13. South Bukuru Areas Ltd.
14. Tin and Columbite Ltd.
15. United Tin Areas of Nigeria Ltd.
16. Zelau Mining Co. Ltd.

GOLD

1. Consolidated Mines (W.A.) Ltd.
2. Lisabi Mining Association.
3. Nigerian Alluvials Ltd.

WOLFRAMITE

1. Nigerian Tin and Exploration Co. Ltd.
2. Tin and Columbite Ltd.

LEAD-SILVER-ZINC.

1. Mines Development Syndicate (W.A.) Ltd.

(b) It is regretted that details of the amounts paid in royalties by each Company during the years 1945-1949 inclusive are not available. The total amounts which accrued to the Revenues of Nigeria during the period concerned were as follows:—

Financial year	Tin	Gold	Columbite	Wolfram	Silver	Lead	Zinc
	£	£	£	£			
1944-45 ..	259,645	4,222	11,696	544	—	—	—
1945-46 ..	242,847	4,517	7,803	172	—	—	—
1946-47 ..	264,146	4,415	7,094	18	—	—	—
1947-48 ..	428,192	2,023	7,308	63	—	—	—
1948-49 ..	400,600	2,700	6,000	10	450	500	—

(c) Section 4 (1) of the Income Tax Ordinance, No. 29 of 1943, enjoins Income Tax officials and employees to regard and deal with the matters specified therein as secret and confidential and subsection (2) makes disclosure an offence except when the disclosure is for the purpose of the Ordinance or when some person is specifically authorised by the Governor to receive such information. Section 4 of the Ordinance gives an assurance to the public that all Income Tax information and returns, etc. shall be kept secret and confidential and therefore, although Government is not bound by the Ordinance, it would, be contrary to public policy for Government to communicate publicly any such information.

Only public Companies are required to file an annual Balance Sheet at the Company's Registry; private Companies are not required to do so and the amount of their profit is not disclosed. The Balance Sheets of public Companies are open to inspection by the public.

(d) (e) (f) For Government to take over and "nationalise" all mining enterprises in the country is hardly a practicable proposition: on the one hand Government could not find the necessary capital or recruit the large expert staff required; on the other, much of the mining, being speculative, is more suitable for private than public enterprise. In planning the development of future

mineral discoveries Government will continue to bear in mind the possibility of public operation, whether directly through a Government Department, or by creation of a public utility Corporation, or in partnership with the Colonial Development Corporation or other interests. But for the reasons given above, the development of mineral resources must to a large extent continue to depend on private enterprise firms and individuals, Nigerian as well as overseas, who command the necessary capital and professional skill.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

494. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Is Government aware that on the 27th of January, 1949, the President of the United States of America (Harry S. Truman) stated that certain American Government Departments concerned with Economic Co-operation Administration were formulating plans for aid to underdeveloped areas of the world?

(b) Does not Government consider Nigeria an underdeveloped area of the world?

(c) If the answer to the preceding question is in the affirmative will Government state what steps have been taken to benefit Nigeria from the plans formulated?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

In his inaugural speech to Congress on the 20th of January, 1949, President Truman called for a "bold new programme" for making American technological resources available for development of underdeveloped areas. At a press conference on the 27th of January the President made further reference to this "fourth point" in his speech of the 20th of January. He said, among other things, that suggestions to implement the idea would be studied by the State Department together with other Government agencies and he noted that part of the Economic Co-operation Administration's efforts to assist European recovery under the Marshall Plan involves fostering the fuller use of technological experience and resources.

This Government was of course keenly interested in the statement by the President of the United States, to which the Honourable Member refers, and will warmly welcome any assistance which the United States can give in schemes for the benefit of Nigeria. At the present time such assistance is available only through facilities offered by the Economic Co-operation Administration and financed from funds made available under the European Recovery Programme. Preliminary consideration has been given by this Government to the use which could be made of Economic Co-operation Administration assistance and, under arrangements made by the Secretary of State, we have already had discussions with representatives of that Administration about the possibilities of obtaining the services of American experts and American equipment to help us in research schemes, particularly in questions of agriculture and health. Further discussions with representatives

of the Economic Co-operation Administration and examination of other projects in which that Administration's assistance might be sought are proceeding.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

509. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

- (a) How does Ikoyi compare with Lagos in size and population?
- (b) How many non-official Europeans are resident there, as representative of Firms or other foreign Departments?
- (c) Can African or Lebanese be permitted to put up buildings there to live in?
- (d) If the reply is in the affirmative on what terms, if in the negative why not?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) The area of Ikoyi Island east of Macgregor Canal is 2,260 acres of which 540 acres approximately is swamp and unfit for building. No census has been taken since 1931 but at that time the total population of Ikoyi Island was 3,953 of whom 266 were non-African. If, however, the Honourable Member is referring to the Ikoyi Residential Area, which contains 1,550 acres of which some 500 acres is swamp the population in 1931 was 908 of whom 234 were non-Africans.

The area of Lagos Island is 1,090 acres and the census of 1931 gave a population of 90,193.

Accurate up-to-date figures are not available but the populations of all the areas referred to have considerably increased: for example the non-African population of the Ikoyi Residential Area is now believed to be about 780.

(b) The approximate number of non-Africans who are not in Government service and who live in the Ikoyi Residential Area is 300.

(c) Yes, Sir, subject to the availability of plots, and not many spare plots now remain.

(d) On the same terms as any other persons who are not Government servants.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

513. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Will Government make a statement regarding its attitude to Trade Unionism in Government Departments?

(b) What efforts have Government made to train and educate Trade Union leaders of Government Departments?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) It is the declared policy of Government to foster and encourage the growth of responsible trade unionism and this policy applies equally to Trade Unions in Government Departments,

(b) The advice of the Labour Department is always available to Trade Unions and the Department has on its staff two Trade Union Officers whose special duty it is to advise and train Nigerian trade unionists including those in Government Departments. Of the six trade unionists provisionally selected to undergo a course of training in the United Kingdom next year, four are officers of Trade Unions of Government employees.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

514. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Which Government Departments have consultative committees?

(b) What is the general composition of such consultative committees?

(c) Are Trade Union Secretaries, paid or honorary, the right of place in these committees?

(d) If not, why may they not?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) Departmental Consultative Committees exist in most departments, including the Departments of the Accountant-General, Administrator-General, Customs, Inland Revenue, Medical, Meteorological Service, Posts and Telegraphs, Railway, Geological Survey, Statistics and Veterinary. Consideration is being given to the possibility of the establishment of such committees in other Departments.

(b) Departmental Consultative Committees are composed of representatives of the Head of the Department and of the Junior Service Staff.

(c) In the past, apart from one or two of the larger Departments the usual practice has been to limit membership of the committees to serving members of the Departments concerned but the general question whether paid Union Secretaries who are not Government employees may attend meeting of the committees has recently been raised and this question is now being considered.

(d) Does not arise.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

515. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Why are there so many vacancies in the various Departments of Government as shown in the Staff List of April, 1949, when there are surely many capable members of the Junior Service Staff who merit promotion to the Senior Service?

(b) Will the wise filling of these posts not help to accelerate the Nigerianisation of the Service?

(c) Why is there not also a Staff List for the Junior Service?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) and (b) Most of the vacancies in the Senior Service to which the Honourable Member refers can be filled only by candidates with special qualifications and there are few Nigerians at present who possess such qualifications. For instance there are 126 vacancies for Engineers in Government Departments and very few Nigerians have qualified as Engineers. At the same time it is the policy of the Government, as the Honourable Member knows, to ensure that no non-Nigerian should be recruited for any Government post except where no suitable and qualified Nigerian is available and to appoint Nigerians to posts in the Government Senior Service as fast as suitable candidates with the necessary qualifications come forward. As the Honourable Member also knows, Public Service Boards and Departmental Selection Boards have been set up to make recommendations for appointment and promotion to the Senior Service and to recommend candidates for training schemes which will fit them for promotion. In the past three years there have been over 170 promotions of Nigerians from the Junior to the Senior Service and the Public Service Boards and Departmental Selection Boards are doing excellent work in giving effect to the declared Government policy.

(c) There are more than 40,000 Junior Service Officers holding established posts and the preparation of a Junior Service Staff List would entail a great deal of work which I do not think would be justified.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiyam, O.B.E.):

517. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many Non-Expatriate officers in the (i) Nigerian Secretariat, Lagos; (ii) Eastern Provinces Secretariat, Enugu; (iii) Northern Provinces Secretariat, Kaduna; (iv) Western Provinces Secretariat, Ibadan; who are potentially or nominally Administrative Officers, under the following categories, Classes IV, III, II, and I?

(b) If there are such officers, why does Government not post them to Field or District work from time to time as is the case with Expatriate Officers?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV
(a) (i) Nigerian Secretariat	—	—	1	13*
(ii) Eastern Provinces Secretariat, Enugu ..	—	—	—	3
(iii) Northern Provinces Secretariat, Kaduna ..	—	—	—	3
(iv) Western Provinces Secretariat, Ibadan ..	—	—	—	2

(b) These Nigerian officers gained their promotion after experience of Secretariat duties: they have not had the normal training for the duties involved in District Administration, but there are of course other Nigerian Administrative Officers who are employed in the District Administration.

* Three on study leave. Two appointed as Establishment Officers. Two serving in the Civil Service Commission as Establishment Officers.

Supplementary Question to No. 517 by the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

Would Government consider the provision of facilities for the training of the Officers mentioned in duties involved in district administration, such training to be undertaken in Nigeria?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

As stated in the reply to his question, there are, of course, Nigerians who are at the moment serving in the provincial administration. Those Nigerians have been selected and trained in exactly the same way as any other administrative officer. They undergo at the moment a First Course in London with other members of the Administrative Service and then take up their duties in Nigeria. The present arrangement is that, after a gap of a few years, there is a Second Course where administrative officers undergo further training. The question that the Honourable Member raises of whether the training of such officers might be undertaken in Nigeria rather than in London is certainly one which could be considered, but it is, as he will appreciate, a major new question of which I think he will agree we will require notice.

Supplementary Question to No. 517 by the Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Honourable H. Buowari Brown, O.B.E.):

Has Government any objection to Native Authorities training members of their staff for scholarship—overseas or otherwise?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

No, Sir, on the contrary. Where Native Authorities themselves have the funds to grant scholarships for training in local government overseas or in Nigeria, then any proposal to grant such scholarships will have the full sympathy and support of the Government. Government is itself planning schemes for the training of local government officers both overseas and in this country.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

518. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many South African Nationals (whites) are in the Nigerian Civil Service?

(b) If any, where are they posted?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

The Honourable Member is referred to the replies to Question No. 354 and the Supplementary Question thereto at the August 1948 Meeting of this Council.

The Atta of Igbirra (Alhaji the Hon. Ibrahim):

526. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many N.A. employees have been awarded Government Scholarships to study Overseas for Diploma Course in Public

Administration from the Northern, Western and Eastern Regions respectively?

(b) How many Government employees have been awarded Government Scholarships as at (a) above?

(c) For how long will employees in (b) above serve before they are recommended for such scholarships?

(d) If the reply to (a) is nil is Government aware that that is a sort of discouragement on the part of the Native Administration employees, if they see that their partners with same qualifications under Government are given this facility and they are not?

(e) What immediate steps Government will take to reconcile the conditions as this will obviously mean that Native Administration will be drained of their best employees?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

(a) One, Sir; an employee of a Native Administration in the Northern Region.

(b) Two.

(c) There is no prescribed age-limit or qualifying period of service, but it is naturally preferable that candidates selected should be of an age to obtain the maximum benefit from the course and to serve Nigeria on their return for as long a period as possible.

(d) I can assure the Honourable Member that the Government is most anxious to assist in schemes for training Native Administration employees.

(e) I am afraid that no estimate can be made of the likely proportion of future awards as between Native Administration employees and Government servants, but the claims of the Native Administration employees will be given sympathetic consideration and a number of proposals are already under consideration for providing improved and additional training for local Government officers.

BILLS

(Second and Third Readings)

THE MANDATED AND TRUST TERRITORIES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled :—

“ An Ordinance to make provision as to the application and modification of Written Laws in relation to Mandates of the League of Nations and the Trusteeship System of the United Nations.”

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Title.

Council resumed.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee without amendment. I beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE EXCISE (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled:—
“ An Ordinance to amend the Excise Ordinance, 1941 ”.

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1 and 2.

Title.

Council resumed.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee without amendment. I beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE COCOA MARKETING BOARD (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled:—
“ An Ordinance further to amend the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board Ordinance, 1947 ”.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1, 2 and 3.

Title.

Council resumed.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee without amendment. I beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE 1947-48 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled:—

“ An Ordinance to make Supplementary Provision for the service of Nigeria for the year ending the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and forty-eight ”.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1 and 2.

First Schedule.

Second Schedule.

Third Schedule.

Preamble.

Title.

Council resumed.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee without amendment. I beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE NATIVE COURTS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled:—

“ An Ordinance to amend the Native Courts Ordinance, 1948 ”.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1 and 2.

Title.

Council resumed.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee without amendment.

I beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE BRITISH NATIONALITY (FEES AND PENALTIES) ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled:—

“ An Ordinance to make Provision for the imposition of penalties for Offences and the imposition and recovery of fees under the British Nationality Act, 1948 ”.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1, 2 and 3.

Title.

Council resumed.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee without amendment.

I beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE 1948-49 SUPPLEMENT TO THE LAWS ORDINANCE, 1949

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled:—

“ An Ordinance to provide for the preparation and publication of a supplement to the revised edition of the Laws of Nigeria ”.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Preamble.

Title.

Council resumed.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee without amendment. I beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Your Excellency, I propose with your permission that we should go into Select Committee on the time and place of the General Constitutional Conference and complete the business of the Council when that Select Committee has reported back.

His Excellency:

The Council adjourns for the purpose of going into Select Committee.

Council adjourned 9.45 a.m.

Council resumed 10.40 a.m.

PAPERS LAID**The Hon. the Attorney-General:**

Your Excellency, I beg to lay on the table the following papers:—
Volumes I-XI of the Revised Edition of the Laws of Nigeria.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Your Excellency, I have the honour to report back to the Council on the time and place of the General Constitutional Conference and to lay on the table of the Council the report of that Select Committee. The report is short and reads as follows:—

“ The Select Committee appointed to consider the time and place of the General Constitutional Conference recommends to the Legislative Council that the Conference should meet in Ibadan on the 9th of January, 1950 ”.

I might mention that it was the original intention of this Council that the Conference should not take place in either Lagos or any one of the Regional capitals. In the Select Committee we discussed

that point. We considered that the Council is clearly free to alter its own previous decision, and for various reasons with which I need not detain the Council we consider that the arrangement now proposed will be the best.

Report adopted.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Your Excellency, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name in the Order of the Day which reads as follows :—

“ In exercise of the powers conferred by section 10 of the Customs Ordinance, 1942, it is hereby resolved by the Legislative Council as follows :—

1. This Resolution may be cited as the Customs (Amendment of Exemptions from Export Duties) Resolution, 1949.
2. The footnote to Part II of the First Schedule to the Customs Ordinance, 1942, is hereby amended by the deletion therefrom of the figures 2, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 and the substitution therefor of the figures 3, 5, 10, 11, 14 and 16 ”.

The Resolution, Sir, is designed to rectify an oversight which occurred when the Customs (Increase of Duties—Tobacco—and Export Duties) Order in Council (No. 11 of 1949) was passed and which was repeated in the confirmatory Resolution No. 3 of 1949 made by this Council on the 31st of March, 1949. Honourable Members will recall that this Resolution provided for export duties on certain new items with consequential alterations in the numbering of the various items contained in Part II of the First Schedule to the Customs Ordinance, 1942. The footnote to this Schedule provides for exemptions from Export Duties for certain classes of produce when exported direct across the frontier between that portion of the Cameroons under United Kingdom trusteeship and that portion under French trusteeship. The footnote referred to indicates the items affected by numbers. When therefore the numbers in the body of the Schedule were altered the numbers given in the footnote should have been correspondingly altered. By an oversight in drafting, this amendment to the numbers in the footnote was omitted and the purpose of the present Resolution is merely to rectify that omission.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

His Excellency :

The question is that the Motion before the House should be adopted.

Motion adopted.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Your Excellency, I beg to move the following Resolution standing in my name, which reads as follows :—

“ WHEREAS by Resolution of the Legislative Council on the 20th day of March, 1947, it was resolved that pending the enactment of legislation to give full legal effect to the proposals contained in Government Circulars Nos. 12 and 13 of 1947, the Council authorised the payment *ex-gratia* to all officers in the service of Nigeria who elected to serve under the new conditions of service, formulated in consequence of the Report of the Harragin Commission, of pensions, gratuities and allowances determined as if the relevant provisions of the European Officers' Pensions Ordinance and the Non-European Officers' Pensions Ordinance had been duly amended to accord with the proposals; and that each such payment of pension, gratuity and other allowance would be as valid and effectual for all purposes as if it had been the subject of a specific resolution of the Council.

AND WHEREAS the rule for the voluntary or compulsory retirement of officers at or after the age of 45 years as set out in paragraph 6 of Circular No. 12 of 1947 (Junior Service) and paragraph 6 of Circular No. 13 of 1947 (Senior Service) has now been adopted, with the approval of the Secretary of State as a permanent condition of service (hereinafter called the new condition of service).

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that effect be given forthwith to the new condition of service.

AND WHEREAS it is not possible to enact forthwith the legislation necessary to give full legal effect to the new condition of service.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED : that pending the enactment of legislation to give full legal effect to the new condition of service, this Council do authorise the payment *ex-gratia* to all officers in the service of Nigeria who elect to serve under the conditions of service formulated in consequence of the Report of the Harragin Commission of pensions, gratuities and allowances determined as if the relevant provisions of the European Officers' Pensions Ordinance and the Non-European Officers' Pensions Ordinance had been duly amended to accord with the new condition of service; and that each such payment of pension, gratuity or other allowance shall be as valid and effectual for all purposes as if it were the subject of a specific resolution of this Council.”

Sir, at the meeting of Legislative Council in 1947 a Resolution somewhat similar in terms to that which I have just read was adopted to provide, pending the necessary amendment of the

Pensions Laws of Nigeria, for officers who opted for the revised conditions of service that followed the Harragin Report.

These revised conditions included the temporary scheme for the voluntary and compulsory retirement of officers at the age of forty-five which expires on the 31st of December of this year, whereafter it will be replaced by the permanent scheme referred to in the second paragraph of the Resolution that I have just moved. It is therefore necessary to extend the original Resolution of 1947 to take account of the change from a temporary to a permanent scheme, pending the consolidated amendment of the Pensions Laws.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Development Secretary :

Sir, I beg to second.

Motion adopted.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

Your Excellency, I rise to move the resolution standing in my name which reads as follows:—

“ WHEREAS the Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance, provided for the preparation, printing and publication of a revised edition of the Laws of Nigeria :

AND WHEREAS the said revised edition of the laws has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the said Ordinance :

AND WHEREAS certain parts of the said revised edition of the laws, being volumes one to eleven thereof inclusive, have now been printed and transmitted to the Governor :

AND WHEREAS sub-section (3) of the said Ordinance provides that the Governor may, upon the passing of a resolution of the Legislative Council authorising him so to do, by proclamation, bring into force such part or parts of the revised edition of the laws as may be completed from time to time and published :

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:—

1. This Resolution may be cited as the Revised Edition of the Laws Resolution, 1949.
2. The Governor is hereby authorised to order by proclamation, that those parts of the revised edition of the laws of Nigeria, being volumes one to eleven thereof inclusive, prepared under the authority of the Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance, 1947, shall come into force from such date as he may think fit.”

The resolution is formal, Sir, and the revised edition has now been prepared. There are eleven volumes on the table: there will be a twelfth volume which is the index but it has not been possible to

complete it in time. What this resolution asks this House to do is, Sir, to authorize you to bring these new laws into force on such date as you may think fit. Normally, Sir, that date, if I may give advice now, would be the 1st January, 1950, the beginning of the New Year. The laws here are revised up to the end of 1947. This House this morning passed the Ordinance for the supplement for the year 1948 and 1949, so that by the 1st January, 1950, the entire revised edition, together with the supplement to bring the laws up to date to the end of 1949 will be in existence. It is I think, Sir, your wish and the wish of this House that Members of this House should receive a copy of the Laws of Nigeria but unfortunately until this House passed this Resolution adopting them we have not been able to give individual members a copy.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Sir, I beg to second.

The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):

Your Excellency, I do not know if it is out of place for me to say that we should express our appreciation of the work done by whoever was responsible to give us all these volumes and those who assisted them. I think we should have something on record to show that we appreciate it and to thank them for the good work they have done for Government.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

If I may say something on the Law. It is this. That in the past we have been singularly unfortunate in many cases of not having annual volumes of the law. That is to say in 1945 we had the last printed volume of the laws bearing the year 1943, leaving two years in between. I sincerely hope, Sir, that in future we will be more up to date as time goes on.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

In associating myself with the sentiment expressed by my Honourable Friend the Member for the Colony Division I would say, Sir, that not only the compilers of the volumes of the law books are to be congratulated but also the printers, and it has come to our notice the difficulties that the Government Printer had. It was necessary for him to get expatriate officers from England to come and get this work done in a way that will compare favourably with any other publication in any other part of the world. I join in the thanks which my Honourable Friend has expressed.

The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. A. Soetan):

I rise to associate myself with the words of my Honourable Friend. The volumes as they appear, Sir, compare very favourably with

the volumes of the Halsbury's Laws of England and the Laws of Nigeria as they now stand speak so much for the industry and assiduity of the printers and the compilers. We hope very good use will be made of them as has been made of other law books.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

While we are on this matter and talking about big issues like the volumes before us, may I mention, Sir, that it is very desirable that we keep copies of draft legislation as we have it in this form when they are finally passed by the Legislative Council because in due course one might like to amend a portion or any part of the law, and one would like to have a copy of the principal Bill in this form for easy reference. I find that it is usually very difficult after a year or two to be able to get copies of that nature.

The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. Nyong Essien):

I rise to associate myself with the expression of appreciation of the services done by the compilers of these volumes. About a year or two ago the Government relieved us of the burden of manillas and this year we have been relieved of the burden of the volumes of the Laws of Nigeria like this. So that as our manillas have been made portable by the Government the volumes of the laws have been made portable by the Government. I feel very very grateful and I admire the services that have made this possible.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:

I am very grateful for the appreciation on the revised edition and I hope that the inside lives up to the outside! In reply to my Friend/our Friend, the oldest Member, Sir, I would like to say that it was Mr Justice Neville Brooke who compiled this edition, and I think that to him the main credit should go.

As regards the point raised by my Honourable Friend from the East about keeping the supplementary volumes up to date, that will be so in future. That was not possible during the war period to which he referred owing to the heavy demands on the Government Printer, the impossibility of getting new printing presses, and the appalling shortage of staff. I think that position is now remedied. I think, Sir, that it is possible for some short Bills to be printed from the original documents, but I am sure that if the point is mentioned to the Government Printer something can be done. I hope not too many Members may wish to introduce amendments to the laws of this country.

And finally, Sir, I thank my Honourable Member from the East who likes these volumes because they are portable—well, I hope he also finds them potable!

Motion adopted.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary :

Your Excellency, I rise to move the Resolution standing in my name which reads as follows:

“ WHEREAS sub-section (1) of section 24A of the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board Ordinance, 1947 (hereinafter referred to as the Ordinance), provides that it shall be lawful for the Board to make and for the Government to receive loans out of moneys standing to the credit of the Board upon such terms as may be agreed by and between the Board and the Government:

AND WHEREAS sub-section (2) of section 24A of the Ordinance provides that an agreement for a loan made pursuant to the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 24A shall be of no force or effect whatsoever until the terms thereof have been approved by the Legislative Council by resolution:

AND WHEREAS pursuant to the provisions of the said sub-section (1) of section 24A the Board has agreed to make and the Government has agreed to receive a loan of the sum of £2,700,000, upon the following terms—

- (a) The Board will pay the sum of £2,700,000 to the credit of the account of Government of Nigeria with the Crown Agents for the Colonies, London, on the 1st January, 1950;
- (b) The amount of £2,700,000 will be repaid to the Board in London as it may direct with interest at the rate of $2\frac{7}{8}$ per cent per annum, in eighty equated half-yearly instalments in arrear, the first payment to be on the 1st of July, 1950;
- (c) The Board reserves the right to call in any amount of the outstanding portion of the loan on giving twelve months' notice but it undertakes not to exercise such right unless and until all its marketable securities have been realised;
- (d) Government and the Board will be at liberty to approach each other at any time and in mutual consultation and agreement arrange for the transaction to be modified or brought to an end.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council approves the loan to Government by the Board of the sum of £2,700,000 upon the terms set forth aforesaid.”

Sir, Honourable Members will recall that my predecessor circulated to the Members of the Standing Committee on Finance a Memorandum outlining the future loan policy of the Government. The Committee considered this Memorandum at its meeting of February, 1949, and approved the general policy therein outlined. It is part of that policy that the Government and the Produce

Marketing Boards should link their respective borrowing and investment programmes to the mutual benefit of both parties. The loan of £2,700,000 which is the subject of the Resolution presently before the House was mentioned in that Memorandum as one of the proposals which, as I have indicated, has already received the approval of Honourable Members. The proceeds of this loan will be used in furtherance of capital expenditure on development and amounts to only a small part of the total borrowing envisaged for that purpose. As to the terms of the loan, these are self-explanatory and do not call for any special comment. I need only add that in my opinion the terms are extremely fair to both parties and I submit the Resolution to the Council for its approval accordingly.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Hon. the Development Secretary:

Sir, I beg to second.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

On a point of information, Sir. I would like to know why it is that the Board cannot call in any outstanding portion unless and until all its marketable securities have been realized. I would have thought, Sir, that the point was adequately met in (d) which allows both parties to meet together in consultation to modify the transaction.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary:

Sir, this is a clause which was introduced for the benefit of the Government of Nigeria. It would be most unfortunate if the Board called in its loans at very short notice. That would mean that for the outstanding amount of the loan the Government would be forced to go into the investment market and raise its loan on such terms as might be then existing. The terms might be very onerous to the Government. This sub-section (c) means that there would be a delaying period before the Government were sent into the open money market and it would give us some time to re-examine proposals for example whether we should borrow on conditions of short term or long term. It is a genuine advantage to the Government to have this clause included although as the Honourable Member has pointed out it is almost equally well covered by sub-section (d).

Motion adopted.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

Your Excellency, may I point out that the Resolution has omitted a line preceding the main resolution. It should start "In consequence of the following Motion:—" If you will permit me, Sir, I will read it accordingly that way.

"In consequence of the following Motion

Be it resolved :

That this Council approves the deletion of the words NATIVE from the statute books, official records and documents, and other kindred and relevant papers pertaining to the business and administration of the Government of Nigeria, and that the words AFRICAN or NIGERIAN be substituted therefor where appropriate.

“ And further, be it resolved :

That the word NATIVE be no longer used in the statute books, official records and documents, and other kindred and relevant papers pertaining to the business and administration of the Government of Nigeria, and that the peoples of Nigeria be correctly designated NIGERIANS or AFRICANS, and such other proper nomenclatures which do not savour of or imply degradation.”

which was unanimously adopted by the Legislative Council at its meeting in August, 1948;

“ Now be it resolved :

That the Native Children (Custody and Reformation) Ordinance (Chapter 82), hereinafter to be called the principal Ordinance, shall be amended so that the word “ NATIVE ” wheresoever it occurs in this Ordinance shall be deleted and the word “ AFRICAN ” substituted therefor.

And further, be it resolved :

That the word “ NATIVE ” wheresoever it occurs in the amendment or amendments to the principal Ordinance shall be deleted and the word “ AFRICAN ” substituted therefor.”

Your Excellency, I hope that you will give me your kind indulgence in my short exposition of this Motion. And I hope, Sir, that you will not think that I am making a fuss about nothing. It is only a small matter certainly but its significance is monumental nevertheless. I am fighting for a principle, Sir, and I look forward also to the assistance and support of the Honourable the Attorney-General. The principal Ordinance reads as follows:—

“ An Ordinance to make provision for the custody and reformation of native children.”

The Ordinance first became law on the 5th of July, 1917, when the late Lord (then Sir Frederick J.) Lugard was Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria. Since then the Ordinance has been amended here and there as evidenced in Nos. 35 of 1928, 14 of 1932, 21 of 1932 and also 14 of 1934, and according to Chapter 82 of the Laws of Nigeria, it came into force on the 1st of January, 1923. During this present session

I was thinking that it was coming up for discussion in this Legislative Council because we had discussed this amendment in the Regional Houses. In my humble opinion, Your Excellency, the title of this Ordinance and its amendment is ambiguous. The phrase "native children" can be interpreted to mean any children in the whole world. But of course we are dealing with the Laws of Nigeria and therefore it is the children of Nigeria that we are dealing with or alluding to. Why not be specific then, and say "African" children or "Nigerian" children. In the year 1917, that is to say, thirty-two years ago, the word "native" might, I lay emphasis on the word might, might have been all right but I humbly submit, Sir, that is all wrong today in the sense in which it is used. If reference is made to my Motion on this matter which was discussed at this Legislative Council last year August, on the 21st of that month, my reasons are clearly stated therein. Frankly, Sir, I admire the principles which underly this Ordinance. It seeks to protect children who are delinquent or neglected or ill-treated and to provide for children who happen to be orphans. If I may read Clauses 2 and 3 of this Ordinance, or if I read the definition of a child:

" "Child" means a native boy or girl who is, in the opinion of the medical officer, at the time when a first mandate under this Ordinance relating to such boy or girl has been issued, not over 15 years of age."

And then in Clause 3 it gives cases in which such mandate could be issued.

" A mandate under this Ordinance may be issued in regard to any child who comes within any of the following descriptions:—

- (a) A child who has been convicted of any offence punishable with imprisonment whether committed before or after the commencement of this Ordinance.
- (b) Any child who is an orphan or who has been deserted by his relatives.
- (c) Any child who has been neglected or ill-treated by the person having the charge or custody of such child.
- (d) Any child in relation to whom an offence under section 369 of the Criminal Code has been committed or attempted.
- (e) Any child born or brought within the Protectorate who would, but for the provisions of the law relating to the Legal Status of Slavery, be a slave."

It means that the Government was not and is not unmindful of the plight of destitute children. It is a condition which can happen in any part of the world and the steps taken by this Government to ameliorate the condition of such children are also steps which any other Government which is conscientious can take. Indeed it is incumbent upon any wise Government so to do. We in Nigeria

are most grateful for this Ordinance. I am only wishing and asking that the title of the Ordinance and its amendments be changed, and the deletion of the word "native" and the substitution of the word "African" therefor. The word "Nigerian" may be used as a substitute or the definite article "the" placed before the word "children" and then deleting the word "native". The title will then read as follows:—"An Ordinance to make provision for the custody and reformation of African children", or "An Ordinance to make provision for the custody and reformation of Nigerian children", or "The Children's Custody and Reformation Ordinance". I have the assurance of Government in this respect that this word "native" will no longer be wrongly used in Nigerian administrative documents or if already so used would be deleted and an appropriate word substituted. I refer to a speech of the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government which he made when I proposed this Motion before this Council last year. When the amendment to this Ordinance, as I said before, came before the Regional House in the East, I suggested that the word "native" might be deleted and the word "Nigerian" substituted, I was told that I could not do so then because we were then not considering the principal Ordinance but its amendment. That is why, Sir, I am making this Motion and asking that Your Excellency might favourably agree to the deletion of this word and an appropriate word used instead.

Your Excellency, I beg to move.

The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. Nyong Essien):

I rise to second, and to add, Sir, that in the two terms used either one or the other used will not be very definite or specific. One term of word should be used—that is Nigerian instead of African, for after all, who is a Nigerian? A Nigerian is any inhabitant of Nigeria in the meaning of this saying, that my country is not where I was born but where I live. Therefore, any inhabitant of Nigeria whether white or black is a Nigerian, but in this sense of the law it refers specifically to the children of Nigerians—that is, coloured inhabitants of Nigeria. Therefore, the word "Nigerian" should be preferred to the word "African".

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

I rise to speak in full sympathy with the motion, but I have one or two difficulties myself. They are technical difficulties which do not affect the merits of the motion. I myself would have thought, Sir, that the motion should have been one recommending an amendment of the Ordinance itself. I say this because I do not think we can pass a resolution altering the terms of an Ordinance; that can only be done by another Ordinance, and possibly the Honourable Member might so amend his motion so that it would be one asking that this House recommends that the Ordinance be amended by

another Ordinance or some Ordinance be introduced to amend this Ordinance. I fully agree with the change in title from Native to African or Nigerian, or whatever else is most suitable, but I would have thought that as the motion stands now it would possibly not be in order.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

I may be able to help on this point. I am, of course, as my Honourable Friend suggested prepared to support the Honourable Member in his motion, but I think that the First Member for the East is correct and the motion will have to be altered. If the mover of this motion will agree to amend his motion to read as follows:—

“ That a Bill may be introduced to amend the Native Children (Custody and Reformation) Ordinance (Chapter 82), hereinafter to be called the principal Ordinance so that the word “ native ” wheresoever it occurs in the Ordinance shall be deleted and a suitable alternative phrase substituted.”

and I would like to add too, Sir, that it is not always possible to substitute one word for Nigerian or African for what is intended in the Ordinance. The legal definition of those words appears in the Interpretation Ordinance and they both have a wider meaning than the meaning placed upon them by the Honourable Member from the East and if the Honourable Mover would accept my amendment wherever these words occur, the words be deleted and that an alternative appropriate phrase be substituted—I myself will undertake to bring a Bill in on these lines.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

Yes, Sir.

The Hon. the Attorney-General :

I would add, Sir, that I fully sympathise with the Honourable Mover, but so long as I live, Sir, I shall be proud to be a native of the down-trodden country of Ireland, and it gives me great satisfaction to know that if the Honourable Member were in London, or if he and I were to walk through the streets of New York, we would both be Britishers and the local inhabitants be natives.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :

If there is an amendment before the House, I beg to second it.

His Excellency :

The question is that the motion be amended in the terms proposed by the Honourable the Attorney-General.

Motion amended.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):

I have nothing else to add, but I was going to say that there were two amendments. I think that the Honourable the Attorney-General suggested an amendment that my motion should be so worded in order that an enabling draft could be made and an amending word could be used.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:

Yes, that is so.

His Excellency:

I will now put the original motion as amended. The question is that the original motion, as amended, be adopted.

Motion, as amended, adopted.

The Second Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa):

When this motion was moved in the House of Chiefs I asked a question which I think is rather a technical question and to which I got no answer, and that is, what will be the legal implications in the change which we accepted last time and which we are accepting now. Probably, Sir, the Honourable the Attorney-General will be able to inform the House.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Have we not accepted the amended motion? It has been put to the vote, and the Honourable Member appears to be raising question after the passing of the motion before the House.

The Second Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa):

I did not know the motion was passed.

His Excellency:

I am afraid there is no question before the House at the moment. The Honourable Member is at liberty to raise the matter on a subsequent occasion.

That concludes the business of the House today. The House will now adjourn without a date fixed.

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned sine die at 11.30 a.m.

INDEX

	<i>Page</i>
ADEDOYIN, ADELEKE	
Supplementary Question to No. 122	5
Supplementary Question to No. 435	58
Question No. 459	59
Question Nos. 462, 465	59
Question Nos. 467, 469, 470	60
Question Nos. 471, 472, 473	61
Question No. 488	67
Question Nos. 463, 466	89
Revised Edition of the Laws—expression of appreciation to compilers and printers	106
ATTORNEY-GENERAL	
Motion — (Report of the Select Committee on the review of the Constitution) ..	76
The Mandated and Trust Territories (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	76
The Mandated and Trust Territories (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949—Notice of 2nd Reading	77
The Native Courts (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	79
The Native Courts (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949—Notice of 2nd Reading ..	79
The British Nationality (Fees and Penalties) Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading) ..	79
The British Nationality (Fees and Penalties) Ordinance, 1949—Notice of 2nd Reading)	79
The 1948-49 Supplement to the Laws Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	82-83
The 1948-49 Supplement to the Laws Ordinance, 1949—Notice of 2nd Reading ..	84
Amendment of Minutes	87
The Mandated and Trust Territories (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	98
The Mandated and Trust Territories (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (3rd Reading)	99
The Native Courts (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	100
The Native Courts (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (3rd Reading)	101
The British Nationality (Fees and Penalties) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	101
The 1948-49 Supplement to the Laws Ordinance, 1949 (2nd Reading)	101
Papers Laid — (Volumes 1-11 of Revised Edition of Laws)	102
Resolution — (Revised Edition of the Laws)	105-106
Motion — (The Native Children (Custody and Reformation) Ordinance (Cap. 82))	113 114
AZIKIWE, DR NNAMDI	
Supplementary Question to No. 164	5-6
Question No. 192	6
Question No. 273	8-9
Question Nos. 275, 276	9
Question No. 333	9-10
Question No. 334	10
Question No. 335	10-11
Question No. 336	11
Question No. 337	11-12
Question Nos. 338, 351	12
Question No. 292	13
Question No. 306	14-15
Question No. 329	15-16
Question No. 330	16
Question No. 331	16-17
Question No. 332	17
Question No. 339	17-18
Question Nos. 353, 354	18

DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE

The Excise (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	77
The Excise (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	99

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Reply to Question No. 292	13-14
Reply to Question No. 373	50
Reply to Question No. 385	52-53
Reply to Question No. 416	55
Reply to Question No. 482	65-66
Reply to Question No. 506	72

DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES

Reply to Question No. 192	6-8
Reply to Question No. 374	51
Reply to Question No. 467	60
Reply to Question No. 478	63
Reply to Question No. 487	67
Reply to Question Nos. 522, 523	74

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Reply to Question No. 470	60
Reply to Question No. 471	61
Reply to Question No. 501	71
Reply to Question No. 519	74

ESSIEN, N.

The Non-European Officers' Pensions (1949 Strike) Ordinance, 1949 — deferment of for further consideration in Regional Houses	82
Revised Edition of the Laws — (expression of appreciation to compilers)	107
Motion — The Native Children (Custody and Reformation Ordinance) (Cap. 82)	112

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Reply to Question No. 495	69
Motion — (Report of the Standing Committee on Finance)	75
The Excise (Amendment) Ordinance (1st Reading)	77
The Excise (Amendment) Ordinance — Notice for 2nd Reading	77
The 1947-48 Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	78
The 1947-48 Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 — Notice for 2nd Reading	78
The British Nationality (Fees and Penalties) Ordinance, 1949 (1st Reading)	79
The Excise (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	99
The 1947-48 Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	100
The British Nationality (Fees and Penalties) Ordinance, 1949 (2nd and 3rd Readings)	101
Motion — (Customs (Amendment of Exemptions from Export Duties) Resolutions, 1949)	103
Resolution — (Payment of pension, gratuity or other allowance under Harragin Revision of Salaries)	104-105
Resolution — (Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board Ordinance, 1947)	108-109

GOVERNOR

Prayers	3	87
Reply to Supplementary Question to No. 435	58	
Announcement in connection with the General Constitutional Conference	76	
The Non-European Officers' Pensions (1949 Strike) Ordinance, 1949	82	88
Programme of business of the Council	83	
Announcement of the composition of the Select Committee to consider the place and time of the General Constitutional Conference	84	84
Adjournment of Council	84	102 114
Amendment of minutes	88	
Motion — (Variation in the order of business of the Council)	88	
Motion — (The Native Children (Custody and Reformation) Ordinance (Cap. 82))	113	114

BIAM, DR F. A.

Question No. 516	73
Question Nos. 519, 522, 523	74
Question No. 513	94
Question Nos. 514, 515	95

1867/65