

- The Acting Postmaster-General,  
The Honourable Mr. G. I. Righton.
- The Third Lagos Member,  
The Honourable Dr. C. C. Adeniyi-Jones.
- The Member for the Colony Division,  
The Honourable Mr. Kitoyi Ajasa, O.B.E.
- The Member for Shipping,  
The Honourable Mr. L. A. Archer.
- The Member for Calabar,  
The Honourable Mr. K. Ata-Amonu.
- The Banking Member,  
The Honourable Mr. W. F. Becker.
- The Mining Member,  
The Honourable Mr. A. L. Butler.
- The Commercial Member for Kano,  
The Honourable Mr. J. W. Speer.
- The Commercial Member for Port Harcourt,  
The Honourable Mr. J. B. Jones.
- The Member for the Ibo Division,  
The Honourable Mr. I. O. Mba.
- The Second Lagos Member,  
The Honourable Mr. E. O. Moore.
- The Member representing the Niger African Traders,  
The Honourable Mr. S. C. Obianwu.
- The Commercial Member for Lagos (Provisional),  
The Honourable Mr. J. T. Wagstaffe.
- The Commercial Member for Calabar,  
The Honourable Mr. G. Graham Paul.
- The Member for the Egba Division,  
The Honourable Mr. S. H. Pearse.
- The Member for the Rivers Division,  
The Honourable Mr. Mark Pepple Jaja.
- The First Lagos Member,  
The Honourable Mr. J. E. Shyngle.
- The Member for the Oyo Division,  
The Honourable Mr. E. H. Oke.
- Extraordinary Member,  
The Honourable S. M. Grier (Director of Education,  
Southern Provinces).

ABSENT :—

- The Senior Resident, Cameroons Province,  
The Senior Resident, Owerri Province,  
The Senior Resident, Kano Province,  
The Senior Resident, Sokoto Province,  
The Senior Resident, Munshi Province,  
The Senior Resident, Bauchi Province,  
The Senior Resident, Bornu Province.

OATHS.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Northern Provinces, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces, the Commandant, the Acting Secretary, Northern Provinces, the Honourable Mr. S. M. Grier, the Commercial Member for Lagos (Provisional), took the Oath as Members of the Council together with the Clerk of the Council.

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Meeting of the 21st day of October, 1925 having been printed and circulated to Honourable Members, were taken as read, and confirmed.

## ADDRESS.

His Excellency the Governor addressed the Honourable Members of the Council as follows :—

## HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL,

In addressing you in this Council for the first time, it is advisable to state what form my address will take. Being a new-comer myself, it is impossible for me to speak with that detailed knowledge which I should like and I propose to confine my remarks on this occasion to a brief summary of the activities of the various departments and when possible an indication of the future policy of the administration.

## FINANCE.

At the end of 1924 it was anticipated that the financial year 1924-25 would close with a surplus of £3,518,151, but the actual surplus was £3,871,068.

To this should be added a sum of £367,772, advanced from revenue in 1924-25 for Loan Works, to be recovered from the second instalment of the 1923 Loan when raised, making a true surplus of £4,238,840.

The revised Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1924-25, exclusive of expenditure on Loan Works, were £6,329,250 and £5,874,434, respectively. The actual amounts, however, were £6,944,220 and £5,768,715 respectively; an excess of £614,970 over the revised revenue figures and a saving of £105,719 on the revised expenditure figures.

The revised Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1925-26, exclusive of expenditure on Loan Works, are £7,798,447 and £6,777,868 respectively, thus showing an estimated surplus on the year's working of about £1,020,000.

As compared with the original estimates, these figures show an excess of £1,393,746 over the anticipated revenue and an excess of £269,483 over the anticipated expenditure.

The large increase in revenue occurs in Customs, £787,555 and Railway, £399,000.

The increase of £269,403 in expenditure is mainly under Railway—Recurrent and Capital Works. £150,000 is provided for a Renewals Fund and the balance, £119,403, has already been authorised by the Legislative Council—one item being £79,400 for twelve new locomotives.

The financial position on the 1st April, 1926, is expected to be as follows :—

	£
True Surplus at 31st March, 1925 ... ..	4,238,840
Revised Estimates of Revenue for 1925-26 ... ..	7,798,447
	<hr/>
	£12,037,287
Revised Estimates of Expenditure for 1925-26 ... ..	6,777,868
	<hr/>
Estimated Surplus on 31st March, 1926 ... ..	£5,259,419
	<hr/>

It was thought that the second instalment of the 1923 Loan would be required in 1925, but owing to the general improvement in trade and the consequent increase in revenue, coupled with the unattractive state of the money market in London, the raising of this Loan has been postponed and advances continue to be made from revenue and surplus balances on account of the Loan Works in progress.

Up to the end of March, 1925, £367,772 was so advanced and it is anticipated that £1,554,444 more will be advanced during 1925-26.

The total sum of £1,922,216 therefore, should be deducted from the estimated true surplus of £5,259,419, leaving an estimated cash surplus of about £3,337,000 at 31st March, 1926.

It is to be noticed that the Budget for 1926-27 at present shows a deficit of £248,623, due to the fact that a new item appears of £300,000, Railway Renewals Fund. Our balance at the end of 1927 is estimated to be £5,010,796, but by that time advances from surplus revenue in respect of Loan Works will have amounted to an estimated figure of £3,862,052, (including £1,939,836 to be advanced during 1926-27) so that our liquid balance will be £1,148,744 only. This can at any time be brought up to our estimated true balance of £5,010,796 by raising the second instalment of the Loan.

I would refer Honourable Members to the memorandum on the draft Estimates which is before you for further details of our financial position. As far as we can see our position is sound but it behoves us to exercise the greatest economy in view of the very large programme of arrears accumulated during the war and the period of trade depression which followed and the urgent need for developing our transport services and improving our sanitary conditions.

#### LOAN WORKS.

As the first half of the 1923 Loan, amounting to £4,855,326, was exhausted in 1924 and the second half has not yet been raised, expenditure on the remaining works of the loan schedule is now being met from current revenue and surplus balances.

It is estimated that at 31st March, 1926, £1,922,216 will have been so advanced, and an additional £1,939,836 during 1926-27.

The appropriations in the schedule to the 1923 Loan Ordinance (No. 1 of 1923) have recently been revised in accordance with the latest estimates.

A Bill to legalise these revised appropriations will be submitted to you at this meeting of the Council.

I invite the attention of Honourable Members to Head 45 and Appendix A in the draft Estimates for further details of the Loan position.

#### CURRENCY.

The position in regard to Currency is satisfactory.

Silver coin to the value of £381,630 was withdrawn from circulation during the year 1925, of which £349,998 was shipped to the United Kingdom to be melted down.

Alloy coin to the value of £1,164,826 was imported during the same period.

The demand for nickel increased considerably during the year and coin to the value of £22,457 was imported and circulated.

The Currency in circulation in Nigeria on 31st December, 1925, may be taken as:—

	£
Silver ... ..	1,026,000
Alloy ... ..	5,987,000
Nickel ... ..	339,000
Currency Notes ... ..	347,000
	£7,699,000

This shows an increase of £905,404 as compared with the figure for 1924 which was £6,793,596.

#### LEGAL.

Twenty Ordinances were passed during the year, twenty-seven Orders, twenty-three Regulations and six Rules under the Townships Ordinance.

#### CUSTOMS, TRADE AND SHIPPING.

The Import duties collected during 1925 amounted to £2,732,944 as against £2,038,016 in 1924, and the export duties to £702,413 as against £678,781—the total being £3,435,357, as against £2,716,797 in 1924 and constituting a record, the previous record being £3,116,716 collected in 1920 an exceptional year. Cotton goods, when the accounts are finally completed, will have yielded more than £500,000, tobacco, £450,000, cigarettes, which yielded £24,693 in 1913 with a less duty, are expected to realise £170,000 in 1925. Provisions should yield slightly more than £130,000, and salt about £100,000.

Export duties, £702,413, shew an increase of £23,632 over 1924, in spite of certain reductions in the tariff of export duties.

The quantity of palm oil exported in 1925 was not much over that of 1924, but the total of 127,848 tons is the highest reached so far, prices ranging from £19 to £29 per ton.

Kernels amounted to 272,631 tons, an increase of 20,000 tons over 1924, and again a record, prices varying from £9 5s. to £16 10s. per ton.

Cocoa to the extent of 41,089 tons was exported, being 3,885 tons more than 1924, prices ranging from £14 to £32 per ton.

Groundnuts increased by 50% and amounted to 127,224 tons; prices varying between £12 2s. 6d. and £14 10s. per ton.

Cotton lint, yielding 132,724 cwt. was exported, the previous best total being 114,426 cwt. in 1921.

Tin to the value of £1,738,935, weighing 9,204 tons, was exported—an increase of 352 tons over 1924.

The total values of imported and exported goods, exclusive of specie, were £14,340,006 and £16,838,437, giving a total of £31,178,443. If specie be included the total is £33,035,775.

The number of ships entered at the Port was 531, of which 321 were British, the total tonnage being 1,236,173. Of vessels cleared, out of 521, 317 were British, combined tonnage being 1,321,058 tons. British ships carried by far the larger proportion of cargo, inwards and outwards.

## AGRICULTURE.

Nigeria is essentially an agricultural country, and the condition and prospects of agriculture are most important and require the closest consideration. Steady progress has been made all along the line, although I can only refer to the more important features.

Cotton growing in the Northern Provinces is increasing, 28,100 bales being exported in the 1924-25 season, as against 15,700 in the previous one. The aim of the Department has rightly been to improve the quality, and this is ensured by the introduction of American cotton and the system of grading.

It may be noted that marked progress has occurred in the Sokoto Province (eastern part) and should be even more noticeable when the Zaria-Gusau line is opened.

An interesting experiment is taking place in the trial of two caterpillar track lorries sent out by the British Cotton Growing Association. They are being operated by the Railway and although definite conclusions have not been reached, the signs are hopeful, and if the results are successful the effects should be very far-reaching.

Cotton-growing in the Southern Provinces is not likely to progress much until a variety is found whose yield will consistently compare with that of native cotton, and whose value is slightly greater.

The dual scheme of cocoa fermenting "demonstration" and bulk sale of best quality cocoa, initiated chiefly in the Oyo Province in 1922-23, continues to be successful.

Work in connection with oil palms continues to occupy the closest attention of the Department. I do not wish to be an alarmist, but no time must be wasted in improving our palm oil industry, and obviating the great waste which occurs under present methods of extraction. The Sumatran menace is not one which can be lightly ignored. The best and most practicable way of dealing with the situation is engaging the earnest attention of myself and my advisers, but it would be inadvisable for me at this stage to state exactly what steps are being taken.

Provision is being made in the forthcoming Estimates for a permanent building and staff for a school of agriculture at Ibadan. The present arrangement is a makeshift, but the school has proved sufficiently successful to justify more ambitious proposals.

The question of establishing rice mills is being investigated as the prospects of a much more extensive culture are good.

A scheme of produce inspection comes into force on April 1st, and I gratefully acknowledge the assistance Government has received from the gentlemen who form the Advisory Committee.

## LANDS.

The Lands Department has been fully occupied carrying out useful work, notably the Yaba Land Acquisition Scheme, but it must be admitted the Department has never taken its proper position in the Administration. The land problems in the Southern Provinces at any rate, are among the most difficult and the most complex that can be conceived, and will tend to become more so. Proposals are on foot to strengthen materially the position of the Department so as to enable it to deal adequately with the problems that arise.

## PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Medical Department at the moment is still short of eighteen medical officers and two medical officers of health, although it is hoped these vacancies may be filled up before long. Owing to widespread epidemic disease the health of Nigeria in 1925 cannot be said to have been good. The European sick and invaliding rate is about the same as last year, but the death rate higher, solely due to an outbreak of yellow fever.

Relapsing fever and cerebro-spinal meningitis spread in an alarming manner over great areas of the Northern Provinces towards the end of the dry season, and such action as could be taken was taken. Propaganda by means of proclamations was set on foot, but the apathy of the natives makes this of little effect.

It must, I fear, be admitted that relapsing fever and cerebro-spinal meningitis are likely to reappear periodically for some time. Twenty-one cases of yellow fever occurred, with a death rate of 66% the last case occurring at Ibadan in October. If there were no *Stegomyia* larvæ there would be no yellow fever, and an energetic anti-mosquito campaign was undertaken with gratifying results. In addition, the Yellow Fever Commission of the Rockefeller Foundation, is now established. I wish to extend to the Commission a hearty welcome and sincerely hope their efforts will be of great help in ridding this country of yellow fever.

Plague still continues in spite of strenuous efforts on the part of the authorities and we are likely to have it with us more or less continuously. Rat destruction and anti-plague inoculations are extensively carried out.

The question of leprosy is one that must be seriously considered, as there are no less than 32,000 lepers in Nigeria. The visit of a representative of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association will, I hope, lead to practical steps for the relief of sufferers from this dreadful disease.

The question of sleeping sickness has recently been considered by a representative conference at Kaduna and steps are being taken to deal with this problem, which has become a serious menace to certain portions of the country.

The needs of the country as regards new or enlarged hospitals are pressing. Steps are being taken to tackle the problem seriously and provision is being made in the Estimates for 1926-27 to start the most urgent works.

During 1925, Dr. Gray's hospital in Lagos was taken over by the Government and it is proposed to rebuild the Native hospital on its present site.

A recent Medical Conference at Accra of representatives from all four West African Colonies made certain important recommendations which will receive consideration in due course.

## RAILWAY AND COLLIERY.

The activities of the Railway continue to expand. Thus for the financial year 1924-25, the gross receipts were £2,076,591, as compared with £1,655,115 the previous year, the working costs being £970,446 as against £902,048. Passengers carried amounted to 1,922,580 compared with 1,859,961 and goods and minerals transported 680,107 tons as against 640,068. The current financial year shews still better results. Up to December 31st, 1925, the revenue was in excess of the previous year by £230,237.

The revised estimated revenue for 1925-26 is £2,299,000 and for 1926-27 is £2,385,000, while the estimated working expenditure for the same periods is £1,015,611 and £1,454,070, the latter figure including £300,000 for renewals.

The Railway had the honour of conveying His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales from Iddo to Kano. The arrangements were well carried out and everything went off satisfactorily.

The total number of employees on the Railway amount to about 14,000, of whom 400 are Europeans, being 2.9% of the total, a reduction on recent years.

Efforts are being made to train Africans to become drivers with the hope of later reducing the strength of European drivers, but in the interests of public safety and traffic generally it will necessarily take time to train them. It is also hoped to increase the responsibility of the African platelayers by means of more intensive training.

The workshops at Ebute Metta and Enugu are working satisfactorily. Progress towards full output is sure, if slow, as the arrears of repairs, etc., is very large. Between March, 1925, and December 31st, 1925, 1,194 vehicles and fifty locomotives were handed over to traffic from the shops. The boat train stock is expected to be improved during 1926 by the addition of two restaurant cars, five first-class and three second-class sleeping cars.

The locomotive apprentices' school, Ebute Metta, erected in connection with a bequest of the late Sir Alfred Jones, is proving successful. From April, 1924 up to now twenty-three scholarship apprentices have qualified for entry.

One important alteration in railway administration was approved during the year—the divisional system. There are now three divisions—at Iddo for the Western Division, Iddo-Zungeru, at Zaria for the Northern Division, Zungeru-Kano, and at Port Harcourt for the Eastern Division—each division under a Divisional Superintendent.

The coal wharf and transporters at Iddo are working expeditiously.

The first of the four double-storied godowns (each 350 feet by 70 feet) at Apapa was handed over on December 9th, 1925, and the first ocean-going steamer berthed on December 13th, 1925.

The erection of a Coal bin to hold 2,500 tons of coal at Port Harcourt has been sanctioned and preliminary work started.

The proposal to construct a line *via* Iddo Island and a causeway to Apapa has been abandoned and the original alignment is being adhered to.

Construction on the Eastern Railway is proceeding as rapidly as circumstances will permit. On December 31st, 1925, railhead was 148 miles north of the Benue, and from Kakuri southwards 116 miles, the gap between the northern and southern ends being twelve miles. The work now going on at the Kloof is of an extremely heavy nature.

Sanction having been received to proceed on the Zaria-Gusau Branch, 110 miles, the work will be rapidly pushed on and should not take long to complete. Other branch lines are in contemplation and will be surveyed at the earliest opportunity. The Motor Transport Service is doing good work, the Southern Section has been abandoned and energies are now confined to the North.

The output from the collieries for the year March, 1924-April, 1925, was 220,161 tons, being 45,024 tons more than the year before.

Improvements are continually being made and the location and survey of fresh fields is receiving attention.

In the coming financial year, an attempt is being made to shew more accurately the true financial position of the Railway.

#### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The Public Works Department has worked under considerable difficulties, owing to shortage of staff due to difficulty of recruiting in England, deaths of seven European officers and high percentage of extensions of leave. The result was that the programme of work for the year 1925-26 cannot be completed. It is hoped, however, that the coming year will show a considerable improvement. The activities of a Public Works Department are always best illustrated by their capacity to deal with extraordinary works. The first estimate under this head for next year amounted to £1,500,000 odd, but this had to be cut down to a sum which the Department might reasonably hope to spend, and the figure now is £1,161,633. The arrears to be made up and the urgent new proposals are so many that the utmost activity and expedition will be necessary if a fair proportion of them are to be completed.

On the whole the roads in the country have been fairly well maintained, but the rapidly growing motor traffic, highly desirable and inevitable, will necessitate an increasing annual sum for maintenance and in many cases considerable widening, *e.g.*, the Lagos-Abokuta road, one of the most important and busiest roads in the country. (Hon. Members: Hear, hear). New bridges have been constructed at many points to take heavier traffic. Surveys have been made for the Kaduna-Zaria road (where work will shortly commence), for the Rigachikun-Jos road and for feeder roads to the new railway from Zaria to Gusau. Roads in Ogoja Province have been provided for in the Estimates and when staff is available survey work on roads in Munshi Province will be started.

A Central Road Board was established during the year 1925 to consider the road policy and programme to be laid down in the future. The Board is only in its infancy, but it should later on prove of great value.

The water supplies of various towns has received, and is receiving, the closest attention of Government, and steps are being taken to obtain the expert staff required in connection with them.

An excellent water supply was completed in April, 1925, at Enugu.

At Port Harcourt further wells have been sunk and it is expected the pipes and tanks will be received shortly.

The Kano scheme—one of the most important—is awaiting the result of further tests recommended by the Consulting Engineers; at Kaduna a preliminary report has been made, general proposals approved and details are being prepared. Schemes are on hand for supplies to Onitsha, Aba and Ibadan, and Ijebu-Ode. There are still other places to be supplied which will be dealt with as staff is obtained.

The electric light supply in Lagos was satisfactory. The Port Harcourt lighting scheme has received the sanction of the Secretary of State. At Kaduna preliminary investigations in conjunction with the water scheme are being undertaken.



Good progress has been made with the large extension to the African hospital at Port Harcourt and to the Massey Street Dispensary, Lagos. The first instalment of the African hospital at Kano, the African hospital at Jos, extensions to the hospitals at Kalamu and Zaria, to the European hospital at Lagos, and to the Lunatic Asylum at Yaba are completed. Work on the European hospital at Enugu has commenced. It is also proposed to rebuild the African hospital, Lagos, on its present site.

Good progress has been made on the 1925 programme of Government quarters, which includes sixty-four for Europeans and 168 for Africans. The Boarding House at King's College was handed over and the adjoining laboratory is approaching completion.

Work is progressing on the new Customs House, Lagos, W.A.F.F. Messes and quarters at Kano, and Court house and Government office, Zaria.

The proposals for the forthcoming year will all be found in the Estimates and explained in the accompanying memorandum.

#### MARINE.

Navigable conditions at the entrance to Lagos Harbour continue to maintain a satisfactory aspect and recent surveys shew no indication of shoaling or of the Bar extending. The Eastern Spit has a continual tendency to extend towards the navigable channel unless kept clear of silt. Shoal patches in the entrance, which reappear from time to time, are easily kept under. The Bar draught remained at twenty-three feet until 11th December, 1925, when it was raised to twenty-four feet for vessels leaving.

Dredging has continually been carried on within the harbour, 2,279,129 tons of spoil being taken out and 674,113 tons were deposited by the *Romulus* for reclamation work at Iddo and the Apapa swamps.

A large amount of clearing of rivers and creeks was done during the year and all launch routes in the delta were kept open to navigation.

The various lights and buoys have been well cared for, but a new light has been ordered for Cape Nachtigal and the Debundscha light will be replaced by an automatic light.

Various hydrographic surveys were carried out at Opobo Bar, Burutu Channel, Forcados River, Port of Warri, Lagos Lagoon as far as Palaver Island, and results transmitted to the Admiralty.

The Dockyard at Apapa has been fully occupied and the utility of the floating dock evidenced by the docking of the s.s. *Glenaster* in February and of the s.s. *Akabo* in July, after the collision with the tug *Hercules*, which sank, resulting in a regrettable loss of life.

It is proposed to construct three new wharves at the dockyard.

The tug *Vulcan* was obtained to replace the *Hercules*, sunk. In December, the tug *Rollicker*, one of the most powerful of her class in the world, arrived and will shortly be in commission.

The new ferry boat *Kathleen* commenced running in September, is proving successful, and a second is being asked for.

The Niger Transport Service maintained by the Government will close down at the end of 1926.

During the year, the Government colliers carried 102,874 tons of coal from Port Harcourt.

There were several shipping disasters in neighbouring waters during the year. The *Glenaster* stranded on December 24th, 1924, near Cape St. Paul and was refloated in January. The *West Nohno*, an American vessel, stranded off Cape Formosa, but before the *Atlas* could reach her, she floated off. The French mail steamer *Europe* went ashore west of Lagos. The tug *Atlas* in conjunction with two other vessels, succeeded in refloating her in January. On July 5th, 1925, the tug *Hercules* collided with the s.s. *Akabo* and was sunk, with the loss of seven lives, including one European. The wreck has since been removed. Messrs. John Holt & Co's. s.w. *Burton* foundered at Ibi on September 29th, with a loss of four lives, including one European. The French steamer *Mouafiric* arrived from Secondee on September 13th with her cargo of coal on fire. She was brought into the Pool and flooded, in the course of which an explosion occurred. Several of the crew were injured and one reported missing.

When the Niger Transport closes down at the end of the year, it is proposed to reduce materially the Forcados dockyard and remove part of the plant to Apapa.

At Port Harcourt the second instalment of the new wharf was commenced during the year. Work on the new coaling berth has also started.

Two Marine officers died of yellow fever and the general health of the personnel was not good.

#### EDUCATION.

*Southern Provinces.*—The question of education in the Southern Provinces is one of the most important problems confronting the Government, and has in fact been so for many years. It has also closely engaged the attention of the Advisory Committee in England. An attempt is about to be made to reorganise the system and to place it on sound lines.

Mr. Grier, Secretary for Native Affairs, has been temporarily transferred to the Department as Acting Director of Education, Southern Provinces.

Legislation will be introduced at this Session which will give effect to the new proposals, including the formation of an Education Board, on which the various missionary bodies engaged in education will be largely represented. It is recognised that the scheme will cost money, but it is equally realised that nothing substantial is likely to be achieved without considerable expenditure. The memorandum accompanying the Estimates explains the items more in detail.

During 1925 the activities of the Department resulted in much useful work being done. There are at present under Government control and inspection, ten institutions which provide a two years' course of training for residential students, of which two belong to Government and eight to various missionary bodies. It is estimated that one-third of the certificated teachers have been through a two-years' course of training.

The Boarding House at King's College was opened on 1st February. It is hoped the new laboratories at the College will be ready for use before the end of 1926.

Continuation Classes are held in various subjects, but not attended to the extent they might be.

The girls' schools—fourteen in number—are well organised and doing good work. Proposals are on hand to start a secondary school for girls on the lines upon which King's College was started for boys, and if successful, it is hoped it may not be long before a Queen's College comes into existence. (Hon. Members: Hear, hear).

*Northern Provinces.*—Education is steadily gaining ground and every encouragement is being given to the inauguration of small Rural schools in all Emirates. The Katsina Training College, which was opened in March, 1922, now has fifty-six pupils undergoing training, and the first batch of trained pupils will leave in March, 1926, and be drafted to various Provincial schools.

#### FORESTS.

An addition of 1,000 acres was made to the Forest Reserves, making the total area over 6,000 square miles, not including 3,000 square miles awaiting judgments of Settlement Courts. The process of finally delimitating a reserve is delayed for lack of survey staff. Substantial additions have been made to fuel plantations, and it is hoped later to make extensive plantations with a view of supplying the Plateau and similar places.

#### POST OFFICE.

This Department showed gratifying increases in the volume of work, with corresponding increase of revenue.

The task of arranging transport of mails internally is not easy, but every effort is made to give satisfactory service.

Africans are being satisfactorily trained in the workshops at Lagos.

Provision is being made to re-arrange the Lagos-Oshogbo telegraph line and to provide for a trunk telephone between Lagos and Ibadan.

#### WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE.

His Majesty the King did the Force the honour of becoming its Colonel-in-Chief on June 22nd, 1925.

The Nigeria Regiment maintains its high standard of efficiency.

A reorganisation scheme for location of the battalions has been approved and will take effect as accommodation is provided.

It is proposed to build new barracks at Ibadan next year and the barracks at Lagos are already under reconstruction.

Colonel Badham, Commandant, left Nigeria on November 6th, on being offered the Command of the 2nd Battalion Dorset Regiment.

Colonel Greenwell has been appointed Commandant in his place.

The Regiment furnished two patrols and one escort during the year.

The Inspector-General was in the country from December 11th, 1924, to March 13th, and made a comprehensive examination.

#### SURVEYS.

The work of this Department has been much hampered by lack of staff resulting in delays, especially in the Minefield. Proposals have been made, which, if approved, should go far to bring matters up-to-date and provide adequately for topographical and trigonometrical work as well. In spite of this much useful work has been done, thus, the Kano Survey Section surveyed for taxation purposes 57,900 acres of native agricultural holdings. Good progress is being made with the Sokoto irrigation survey.

An area of 2,000 square miles was triangulated in Niger Province.

## VETERINARY.

The Veterinary station at Vom, in the Bauchi Province, came into being during 1925 and has already done excellent work.

In the Bauchi Province the efforts of the Veterinary officer have been concentrated in and around the cattle reserve in Jos Division. The Veterinary officers in Zaria and Kano for the six months during which one was stationed in each Province were engaged in touring, instructing native stock inspectors, advising and supervising the work of native administration officials in connection with cattle disease.

In Zaria the Veterinary officer was also employed in inoculating cattle with anti-rinderpest serum with the willing co-operation of the cattle owners. The result was highly successful and Fulani cattle-owners besieged the officer to have their cattle treated.

The chief work at the laboratory has been in connection with rinderpest, and the production of serum has been most successful. It is hoped before long to be able to deal adequately with rinderpest in the provinces of Kano, Zaria and Bauchi. A start has now been made on the active immunisation of all susceptible cattle in Jos Division and the policy now is to secure active immunisation in place of passive. Provision is being made in the Estimates to extend activities on these lines, as the benefits will ultimately be incalculable.

An area for a stock farm was finally granted in June, 1925, and should serve a very useful purpose.

## GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

The survey party, who divide their activities between Nigeria and London, continued their researches in both the Southern and Northern Provinces.

The eastern extension of the Bende coal-bearing beds was examined. Samples of limestone and clay from Umuahia were forwarded to the Imperial Institute for testing. A reported occurrence of oil shale at Oturkpo was investigated with negative results.

In the North the survey of the tinfields was further extended. An important discovery of brown coal in the Niger sandstone series was reported from Munshi and awaits further investigation. The Department issued several bulletins.

## HARBOUR WORKS: LAGOS AND PORT HARCOURT.

The main wharf at Apapa was completed during the year and progress made on all four sheds. In December the ground floor of Shed No. I was used for the first time. The main contract should be completed by June, 1926.

The Iddo coal and petroleum wharf was handed over to the Railway early in the year.

The Denton causeway was commenced early in 1925 and should be finished by May, 1926.

The question of the Apapa shoal reclamation is receiving attention. The moles and training bank have been maintained in good order.

At Port Harcourt, the second instalment of the wharfage scheme is under construction, and sanction was given to the erection of a second coaling berth with concrete storage bins.

## POLICE.

*Southern Provinces.*—The type of recruit continues satisfactory and no difficulty is experienced in keeping up the strength of the rank and file.

The question of barracks in Lagos is unsatisfactory, as over 60% of the men live out of barracks. Steps are being taken to remedy this.

The police furnished several small escorts during the year, three in Ogoja, one in Ondo, one in Owerri, one in the Cameroons.

The state of crime has been normal throughout the year and counterfeiting coining cases do not appear to have spread.

*Northern Provinces.*—The force has been kept up to strength and there has been no lack of recruits. The police furnished armed patrols in Kabba Province and Nassarawa Province under difficult and trying conditions.

#### PRISONS DEPARTMENT.

*Southern Provinces.*—A serious disturbance occurred in the Lagos Prison on May 27th, which might easily have resulted in loss of life, prevented, however, by the action of the police. An inquiry was held which indicated several abuses and the necessary steps have been taken to prevent any recurrence.

The prisons at Port Harcourt and Enugu are not of a permanent type and are gradually being replaced by permanent buildings. There has been an improvement in the type of recruit for warders, but it is not yet as good as in the police.

*Northern Provinces.*—There is nothing of special interest to report in this connection. The Provincial Prison at Kontagora was closed and prisoners removed to Kaduna. Some of the prisoners in the Lagos Prison riot were transferred to Kaduna.

Prison industries continue to show improvement.

#### PRINTING OFFICE.

The work of this Department shewed considerable increase over 1924, due to some extent to the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

#### AUDIT.

This Department calls for no special comment.

#### SUMMARY OF NATIVE AFFAIRS.

##### SOUTHERN PROVINCES.

There has been a happy absence of any serious disturbance during the year. Such troubles as have occurred have been dealt with speedily and without great difficulty and in no instance where an escort has been required from the police or Nigeria Regiment has it been necessary to proceed to extreme measures, and no lives among police or troops have been lost owing to the enforcement of Government control.

In the Yoruba Provinces administrative officers have been mainly occupied in assisting the local Chiefs to develop their administrations. In the untaxed Provinces efforts are continually being made to stop the decay of tribal authority.

In the Colony the dispute between the Mohammedan parties of Lagos has to a great extent died down owing to a decision in court in favour of the Jamal party.

The Fleko question, which was a source of considerable trouble for years, has, it is hoped, been settled. The deposition of Eshughbayi and the election in his stead of Ibikanle Akitoye received the sanction of Government. Eshughbayi was deported to Oyo. The whole of the proceedings in this affair were approved by the Secretary of State.

*Ijebu Province.*—The outstanding event was the death of Ademolu, the Awujale, towards the end of the year. He had always been a good friend to Government. He has been succeeded by Adenuga, an appointment acceptable to all concerned, and I installed him at the beginning of this year. Plague, unfortunately, broke out in this Province for the first time.

*Abeokuta Province.*—The Alake and his Council continue to progress in the art of governing their country, and the Egba Native Administration is probably more advanced than any other in Nigeria. It was found necessary to suspend the Oshile, and further events have rendered his deposition inevitable. Two small outbreaks of plague were traced to Lagos.

*Oyo Province.*—The principal event was the meeting of Chiefs held at Ibadan in honour of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on the 20th April, in substitution for the Durbar which was to have been held at Oyo. Shittu, the Bale of Ibadan, who had lost the confidence of his people and Chiefs, mainly owing to disloyalty to the Alafin, was deposed with approval of Government, at the end of June. The Ibadan Native Administration proposes to construct a native hospital next year, which when completed will be equipped and staffed by Government.

*Ondo Province.*—During the early part of the year it became evident that trial by ordeal was taking place in the Ondo Native Court with the full knowledge of the Head and other Chiefs of the Native Administration. The Head Chief, the Oshemowe, was thereupon deposed. There are a number of land disputes in the Province which are not yet settled. An outbreak of relapsing fever occurred in the Ekiti Division. The headquarters of the Owo Division have been moved from Ifon to Owo with advantage.

*Benin Province.*—A year of peaceful development with little to record. The Oba successfully prosecuted a letter-writer who had practically accused him of murdering one of his wives. The man disappeared but was found at Warri before the hearing of the case. With the sole exception of Asaba Division, including Agbor, the people of the Benin Province are governed through Native Administrations under their own Chiefs. The application of the Forestry Ordinance causes considerable irritation in this Province and the position requires careful handling.

*Warri Province.*—Progress has been made in ensuring that only those entitled by native custom to the rank of Chief shall be given warrants to sit in the Native Courts. (Hon. Members: Hear, hear). The action brought by the Chiefs of Okere and Agbassa has resulted in the right of Chief Dore to lease these lands to Government being upheld. The King's Medal was presented to Chief Dore in September last.

*Owerri Province.*—A new Native Court has been erected at Owerri, towards the cost of which the Chiefs subscribed £300. A residency is being erected at Port Harcourt which will then be headquarters of the Province. Bonny, whose day is over, has been closed as an administrative station.

*Onitsha Province.*—A strike occurred among the pit boys at the Colliery in the early part of the year. An inquiry was held and some slight grievances were remedied. Since then there has been no trouble. In dealing with the affairs of this Province, it is impossible to overlook the work carried out by some of the pioneers of the Missionary Societies in bringing about the cessation of many of the most repulsive practices associated with fetish worship. (Hon. Members: Hear, hear). Two such pioneers retired last year—Archdeacon Sidney Smith and Miss Elms—upon the latter of whom was conferred in August last the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

*Ogoja Province.*—This Province has been the scene of several inter-tribal disturbances involving the intervention of Government. The Ishiekes and some Ezzas and Effium settlers fought, and collective punishments had to be inflicted. There was a certain amount of inter-tribal fighting in the Obubra Division in November and December, 1924, and January, 1925, 29 persons being killed. The police were called in and later two platoons of troops, when order was restored. In February there was trouble between the Igbeagu and Awkum clans with some loss of life. Towards the



end of the year, affecting Ogoja, and to a less extent, Awgu, Awka, Enugu and Okigwi, bands of dancing women suddenly appeared. Certain disorders were committed, a Court House was burnt and two roads were blocked. The matter died away as quickly as it sprang up.

*Calabar Province.*—A riot broke out in April in connection with imposition of market fees. No shots were fired, but the police had to disperse the mob. The Obong received a severe warning in connection with the affair.

*Cameroons Province.*—The plantations auctioned in 1924 were finally handed over at the end of March. The Native Administrations are in a flourishing condition and have indicated an appreciation of their duties by achievements so diverse as the establishment of twelve fully-equipped infant schools and the construction of roads of general use to the community.

#### NORTHERN PROVINCES.

*Kano Province.*—The most notable event of the year was the visit of the Prince of Wales, and especially the Durbar on April 18th. Another interesting event was the arrival of three British aeroplanes from Cairo on November 1st. The serious outbreak of relapsing fever in the early part of the year subsided in June. Two important District Chiefs have been summoned to Kano to act with the Waziri as Chief Advisers to the Emir—a gain to the efficiency of the Native Administration.

*Zaria Province.*—In January, the British Cotton Growing Association opened a new Ginnery at Dutsin Wai. In June the Emir Ibrahimu was formally installed by the Officer Administering the Government. A motor road between Zaria and Kaduna was opened in November, although proper bridges and culverts have still to be put in.

*Ilorin Province.*—The Emir of Ilorin was invested with the King's Medal for African Chiefs in June. An affray between people on each side of the Ilorin-Ondo boundary took place in September. Fines were inflicted on both communities. There was considerable mortality from relapsing fever in the early part of the year.

*Sokoto Province.*—The export of cotton has increased from 44 bales in 1921-22 to 2,516 in 1924-25 and is confidently expected to increase by 50% again this season. The new ginnery at Gusau will not be erected in time for this season, as expected, owing to lack of transport. Relapsing fever caused serious mortality during the year. There was a considerable amount of rinderpest.

*Kgbbā Province.*—The 2nd Battalion, Nigeria Regiment left Lokoja on transfer to Kano during February. Owing to intrigues in the Igbirra district, an outbreak occurred in Bangede in May necessitating a police escort. Two persons were killed and two native foreigners from Togoland were deported.

*Munshi Province.*—This Province, although containing some troublesome tribes, continues to progress. In September the King's Medal for African Chiefs was presented to Andu Dan Afoda, the Sarkin Makurdi.

*Bauchi Province.*—On January 1st, headquarters were moved from Bauchi to Jos. All the areas in the Province, which had hitherto been listed in the "Unsettled Districts" Ordinance were declared open on February 1st. Construction was commenced on the permanent motorable roads Bauchi-Potiskum and Pankshin-Tshendam.

*Muri Province.*—A rapid expansion of the kola trade from the Cameroons is noted. An epidemic of cerebro-spinal fever occurred during the early part of the year and was particularly severe in the Wase District.

*Nassarawa Province.*—Provincial headquarters were moved from Jemaa to Keffi in August. This was due to the outbreaks of sleeping-sickness at Jemaa, many Europeans being affected. The difficult portion of the Eastern Railway Construction lies in the North of this Province. A number of roads are under survey or already being constructed. Cerebro-spinal meningitis caused many deaths in the early part of the year. It was found necessary to send a patrol into the Mama District which accomplished its mission satisfactorily.

*Bornu Province.*—Owing to the outbreak of relapsing fever in the early part of the year, there was a heavy mortality in the Province. Cerebro-spinal meningitis also occurred, confined chiefly to Maidugari. The Shehu was invested with the C.M.G. in February, and at Dikwa, in the same month, a plaque to the memory of Ferdinand de Béhagle, a French Pioneer executed by Rabeh in 1899, was unveiled by the Lieutenant-Governor.

*Niger Province.*—Considerable political and economic progress has been made during the year, cotton output has more than doubled and trade in general has flourished. Cerebro-spinal meningitis visited the Province and caused many deaths. As usual it died down with the advent of the rains.

#### GENERAL.

The most outstanding event in the history of Nigeria so far was the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in April, 1925. The visit, which at the eleventh hour nearly miscarried, was a complete success from beginning to end. The programme was carried through without a hitch and the effect on the country cannot be measured in adequate terms. His Royal Highness was received with an enthusiasm which impressed all, and I think I am not incorrect in saying His Royal Highness was equally touched with his reception. (Hon. Members: Hear, hear and loud applause).

The next important event was the departure of Sir Hugh Clifford, who had been Governor since 1919. His tenure of office coincided with the varied reactions—common to all countries—which resulted after the Great War. His untiring efforts for the benefit of Nigeria, are too well-known to you all for me to mention them now but he has left an imperishable memory as a great administrator and a great gentleman. (Hon. Members: Hear, hear and loud applause).

His Majesty the King was pleased to appoint me Governor of Nigeria in succession to Sir Hugh Clifford, and I arrived in the Colony and was sworn in on November 13th, 1925.

In the New Year's Honours, 1925, Major Ruxton, at that time Senior Resident, Cameroons Province, received the C.M.G., and at the Birthday Honours, Sir Hugh Clifford was made a G.B.E. Lieut.-Colonel Moorhouse, who had recently relinquished the office of Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces, received the Honour of Knight Bachelor while Mr. F. M. Baddeley, Chief Secretary, received the Honour of C.M.G., and Mr. D. S. MacGregor, Treasurer, received the Honour of C.B.E. Mr. D. Kingdon, Attorney-General, was appointed one of His Majesty's Counsel on the 10th January, 1925.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council, I have now concluded my survey of the year. The Expenditure Estimates, which you will soon be called upon to consider in detail, have been framed with due regard to economy, coupled with the desire to make provision for, and if possible complete, the most urgent of the projects which the necessities of this country demand.

(Hon. Members: Hear, hear and loud applause).



## PETITIONS.

Nil.

## PAPERS LAID.

The Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government laid the following papers on the Table:—

Sessional Paper No. 26 of 1925, Annual Report on the Forest Administration for the year 1924.

Sessional Paper No. 27 of 1925, Annual Report on the Survey Department for the year 1924-25.

Sessional Paper No. 28 of 1925, Annual Report on the Mines Department for the year 1924.

Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1926, Report of the Tsetse Fly Conference held at Kaduna, September, 1925.

Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1926, Proposal to construct Electric Light and Power Station at Port Harcourt.

Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1926, Memorandum on Education in the Southern Provinces.

Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1926, Correspondence Relating to the Condition of Carter Bridge.

Sessional Paper No. 5 of 1926, Report on the Nigeria Section of the British Empire Exhibition, 1925.

Sessional Paper No. 6 of 1926, Annual Medical and Sanitary Report for the year 1924.

Sessional Paper No. 7 of 1926, Proceedings of the Third Conference of the Senior Members of the West African Medical Staff.

Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1926, Annual Report on the Lands Department, Northern Provinces for the year 1924.

Sessional Paper No. 9 of 1926, His Excellency's Address. Draft Estimates, 1926-27.

Memorandum on the Draft Estimates, 1926-27.

Supplementary Estimates, 1925-26.

Notes on Parliamentary Procedure.

The Hon. the Member for the Colony Division:—

Your Excellency: It is my proud privilege to welcome you here Sir, for the first time as President of this Honourable Council. The institution of this Honourable Council is due to your illustrious predecessor, Sir Hugh Clifford, to whom you have paid a well deserved tribute in your Address to Honourable Members. I am reminded of his words that we are privileged to come into this Council as men representing various communities to state the views which press upon us and to assist to the utmost to help the governed and the Government. I trust these words will never be lost to us, and not only to us, but to those who come, in due course of time, after us. You, Sir, have an extraordinary advantage over your two illustrious predecessors, I refer to His Excellency Sir Frederick Lugard and to His Excellency Sir Hugh Clifford. Both of them had very high motives, and higher resolves but a variety of circumstances prevented them from carrying out the aims which they had in view, aims for the good of the people. The tumults of war, the clash of arms are silenced and we hope will be silenced for many years to come. It was during the war period that this country experienced great financial difficulty and stress. Distress was prevalent all over the world but since the war the finances of Nigeria have improved and the health conditions of the country show signs of improving and we hope that they will go on improving for many years to come. You, Sir, we know, have the well being of this country at heart, your fame and your mighty achievements have preceded you and we are led to believe that you will do the best you can for this vast country of Nigeria, and for the millions of people in Nigeria. There are many problems awaiting solution at your hands and we hope these problems will be dealt with as expeditiously as possible. We are aware of the tremendous volume of work which awaits your consideration and we feel sure that during the period of your government this Colony will make great strides forward. In welcoming you, Sir, we do not forget Lady Thomson; we know what an important part the Lady at Government House plays in the social, and not only in

the social life of Nigeria. We pray for you, Sir, and Lady Thomson, health and happiness during your stay here. We pray for a strong and efficient service and we feel sure that when it comes to your turn to lay down the seals of office it will be said "behold the man that has done his best for Nigeria, who was, one of the best and strongest Counsellors Nigeria ever had."

His Excellency: I thank the Honourable Member most heartily for his good wishes and for his hearty promise of co-operation which I do not doubt I shall always receive from all Members of this Honourable Council.

QUESTIONS.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Kano:—

1. To ask the Honourable the General Manager of the Railway if inquiries have been made into the delay in the delivery of United Kingdom mails received by the intermediate express steamers? Whether in some cases the wagon containing such mails is cut off at Minna, the mails, including parcels, being forwarded as opportunity offers, and whether steps cannot be taken to allow such mails to go through to Zaria and Kano on the Up Through Mixed train?

The Hon. the General Manager of the Railway:—

Mails received by the intermediate express steamers are delayed at times on reaching Minna. The section between Minna and Zaria constitutes the bottleneck of the Western system in that the grades and curves are excessive and the rails are light, thus limiting the loads which can be hauled. The passenger traffic on the through Kano trains is increasing at a very rapid rate and it is impossible to separate passengers from their luggage; therefore the mail van is cut off when necessary. This, however, is always forwarded by the next train and I have ascertained the average delay to be only some three hours and twenty-four minutes. It is hoped, however, shortly to introduce a tri-weekly service between Lagos and Kano which will, to a certain extent, relieve the congestion in the existing trains.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Kano:—

2. To ask the Honourable the General Manager of the Railway whether the Nigerian Railways receive any payment or subsidy for the carrying of mails and if so, under what class mails are carried?

The Hon. the General Manager of the Railway:—

In reply to the second portion of the Honourable Member's question, the railway receives a sum of £6,000 per annum for the carrying of mails. This amount is based upon the average weight of the mails at class 6 rate.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Kano:—

3. To ask His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Northern Provinces, if arrangements can be made for a responsible expert officer of the Veterinary Department\* to be in attendance when the Estimates of that Department are being discussed in this Honourable Council?

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Northern Provinces:—

Arrangements have been made.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Kano:—

4. To ask His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Northern Provinces, if he is aware of the public inconvenience caused by the considerable delays in the registration of Deeds and other documents, and the delay in returning same to the senders, and if he will consider the question of opening an office in Kano for this purpose, or if this is not possible whether the local Treasury Department could not carry out this work?

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Northern Provinces:—

While I am aware that delays have occurred and am fully conscious of the inconvenience that must have been caused thereby, I would point out that these delays have by no means always been the fault of Government. Deeds and other documents are only too frequently presented for registration in a manner which does not comply with the terms of the Land Registration Ordinance and in such case the establishment of a Registry at Kano would not avoid the delay. In this connexion I would draw attention to the fact that considerable latitude in the past has been allowed in the interpretation of section 18 of the Ordinance under reference.

The possibility of establishing Sub-Registries in the Provinces, however, has been contemplated for some time and, although the trial given to the system in the Northern Provinces from the 1st of May, 1914, to the 1st of February, 1917, was abandoned owing to the difficulties encountered at that time, proposals have recently been made whereby the Residents of Provinces should have power to issue titles to land. If this delegation of powers is approved, the establishment of a sub-registry at the Headquarters of each Province would follow as a natural sequence.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Kano:—

5. To ask the Honourable the Director of Public Works if he is aware that a motor road between Kano and Zaria would prove of great advantage to the mercantile community and if Government will consider the question?

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:—

There is a dry season motorable road between Kano and Zaria constructed and maintained by the Native Administration but I have not been informed that its conversion to a bridged motor road is a necessity. The matter will be placed before the Road Board.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Kano:—

6. To ask the Honourable the Postmaster-General if he will consider the question of the installation of a trunk telephone system between Kano and Zaria?

The Hon. the Acting Postmaster-General:—

The question of the installation of a trunk telephone system between Kano and Zaria will be considered in due course.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Kano:—

7. To ask whether in view of the fact that the Province of Kano possesses over three quarters of a million head of cattle—not to mention other live stock—if the Veterinary Department does not consider it necessary to have an officer permanently stationed at Kano together with a relief?

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Northern Provinces:—

The reply is in the affirmative. It will be observed that provision has been made in the Draft Estimates for 1925-27 for two additional Veterinary Officers, making seven in all, and the Chief Veterinary Officer should be able to station one of these in Kano Province.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Kano:—

8. To ask whether it is a fact that the last census returns for the Hadeija Division show a decrease in population of 18,000 persons, whether such decrease is mainly due to relapsing fever, and further to ask that steps be taken to enquire whether this disease—together with cerebro-spinal meningitis—can be regarded as preventable or otherwise?

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Northern Provinces:—

It is the case that in the past two years decreases have had to be recorded in the population of Hadeija, mainly in the figures relating to children, and that the decrease is largely due to epidemic disease. The quoted figure of 18,000 has not yet been confirmed. The latter part of the question indicates a point of view which naturally commands the sympathy of Government and engages its attention at all times. It was an unfortunate coincidence that about two years ago four different epidemics came upon Nigeria all at once, and in two of them at any rate—influenza and cerebro-spinal meningitis—no very feasible method of stopping the spread of the disease under Nigerian conditions has yet been devised. Much can be done and is being done to check relapsing fever.

The Hon. the Mining Member:—

Arising out of that question, Your Excellency, may I be permitted to ask the Honourable the Director of Medical and Sanitary Service what immediate steps are being taken by the Medical Authorities in regard to the prevalence of the two terrible diseases, relapsing fever and cerebro-spinal meningitis? According to the Medical Report of 1924 relapsing fever and cerebro-spinal meningitis have been very prevalent. These two diseases have been the cause of the death of no fewer than 100,000 persons and I would like very much to hear what the Director of Medical and Sanitary Service has to say with regard to the steps that are being taken by the Medical Department with a view to counteracting this terrible increase in mortality. I think the Medical Report for 1924 is one of the saddest reports I have ever read.

The Hon. the Director of the Medical and Sanitary Service:—

Steps have been taken through the Political Officers, the Administrative Officers, in the Northern Provinces. Advice has been given through them to the Chiefs and to other people, chiefly in regard to relapsing fever and cerebro-spinal meningitis. As regards relapsing fever it is a question of boiling clothing and cleanliness of the body. This advice has been conveyed whenever and wherever possible to the people. As regards cerebro-spinal meningitis, it has been the practice to advise the people during the season to sleep in the open air as much as possible. Treatment has been given whenever an epidemic broke out and it has been successful whenever the people attended to the advice and treatment proffered.

I can assure Honourable Members that everything that is possible is being done by the Medical Department to counteract the ravages of these diseases.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Kano:—

9. To ask whether the Honourable the General Manager of the Railway will expedite the commencement of the railway sidings recently applied for by several well-established and important firms in Kano, particularly in view of another siding, applied for at the same time having already been commenced. Further to ask if there is any reason for the delay in the commencement of this siding, viz., from plots Nos. 1B to 8B having regard to the fact that the firms concerned were responsible for railing for export approximately thirty and a third per cent. of last year's Kano ground nut crop?

The Hon. the General Manager of the Railway:—

The work of constructing the sidings applied for is awaiting the sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor, Northern Provinces. The plots in question were, in the first place, never intended to have railway communication and therefore the matter has been delayed. As soon as approval has been received the work will be expedited.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Kano:—

Arising out of that answer, may I ask if the Honourable the General Manager is aware that the Advisory Board has approved this. What is the reason for the further delay?

The Hon. the General Manager of the Railway:—

I am aware that the Kano Council have recommended the construction of these Sidings. The matter is before the Lieutenant-Governor of the Northern Provinces and I am not sure how far it has got.

His Excellency:—

Perhaps the Lieutenant-Governor, Northern Provinces, can enlighten us upon that.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Northern Provinces:—

No, Sir! I am afraid I cannot at the moment.

His Excellency:—

Very well. Enquiries will be made.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

Your Excellency: In the unavoidable absence of my Honourable friend the Commercial Member for Port Harcourt, may I be permitted to ask questions 10 to 15 standing in his name. He has asked me to do so. In view of information received this morning I ask your permission to withdraw question No. 10.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

11. To ask in view of the serious delays to merchants in obtaining leases for trading sites in the Eastern Provinces will the Government consider the question of establishing a branch of the Lands Department in the Eastern Province. As an alternative suggestion, will Government consider the question of the Resident of the Province being allowed to deal direct with the merchants *re* land questions?

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces:—

The delays to which the Honourable Member refers are regretted, but they are mostly unavoidable. Before deed plans can be prepared the land must be properly surveyed, and this of course, takes

time. Further, in the Eastern Provinces especially, much time is taken up in deciding which person or persons are the legal owners of the land.

The above are the chief causes.

The whole question of reorganisation of the Lands Department is under consideration and the points raised by the Honourable Member will be among the first to receive attention.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Port Harcourt:—

Your Excellency: Arising out of that answer might I ask His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces, in view of the recommendation made by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Northern Provinces, as indicated by his answer to question No. 4 in regard to powers of Residents to issue titles to land, whether His Honour is in favour of similar proposals being made in the Southern Provinces, that is to say, whether the Residents may have power to consent to titles to land on behalf of non-natives?

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces:—

I am afraid that an answer to that question will require consideration. I cannot give any answer now.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

12. To ask if it is possible that Government will agree to the suggestion of extending the present sewerage system installed at the European hospital at Port Harcourt to the whole town?

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:—

It is regretted that the installation of a complete sewerage scheme for Port Harcourt cannot be undertaken as yet. The details would require much careful consideration and the staff of Public Works Department is already fully occupied on more urgent work. There are other towns, too, much more populous than Port Harcourt, whose claims to the service suggested by the Honourable Member must not be overlooked.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

13. To ask as some years ago it was understood that a system of electric controlled clocks was under consideration at certain important points at Port Harcourt with regard to the railway, can any information be given as to when they will be installed?

The Hon. the General Manager of the Railway:—

A sum to provide for an installation of electrically controlled clocks at Port Harcourt was inserted in the Railway draft Estimates to Government for the year 1922-23 but was subsequently deleted for financial reasons. The question of such installations at important points on the railway including Port Harcourt is still under consideration.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

Your Excellency: I beg leave to withdraw question No. 14 in view of the statement made to-day.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

15. To ask whether it is possible for the last three miles of the existing road be completed to Imo, suitable for motors. Also whether an adjunct to the present bridge on the Imo River can be constructed for motor traffic as this will mean a saving of some eighty-eight miles on the road journey from Port Harcourt to Opobo which is so highly desired by the African and mercantile communities?

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:—

The Senior Executive Engineer, Port Harcourt, has been instructed to submit a report on this matter with rough estimates of cost. On receipt, the suggestion will be considered.

The Hon. the Member for the Egba Division:—

16. To ask whether Government is aware of the fact that the Idunmagbo Bridge has for several months been closed to vehicular traffic to the great inconvenience of merchants and traders in that locality, and to ask how long is this undesirable condition to continue?

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces:—

Yes Sir. The question of the most suitable type of bridge with which to replace the existing Idunmagbo bridge has been the subject of discussion between the Town Engineer, the Crown Agents and their Consulting Engineers. The Town Council recently approved the plans of a new bridge and the material is on order. It is not possible at this stage to say exactly how long it will take to erect.

The Hon. the Member for the Egba Division:—

17. To ask how soon does the Director of Public Works intend to carry out his promise made before this Honourable Council on the 16th October, 1924, to effect necessary repairs to the decking of the Timber Bridges at miles 27 $\frac{1}{4}$  and 37 $\frac{3}{4}$  respectively on the Lagos-Abeokuta road as well as to widen the approaches and embankments of the Bridges in question?

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:—

Necessary repairs to these bridges have been effected and their improvement and improvement of the approaches and embankments will form part of the work to be undertaken under Item 39 Head 34 of the Estimates now before this Council.

The Hon. the Member for the Egba Division:—

18. To ask the Director of Medical and Sanitary Service—

- (a) How many pupils are at present under instruction in the Sanitary School at Lagos and how many have already been turned out proficient enough to take the place of the old recruits of that Department?
- (b) Whether in his own opinion the old recruits in the Sanitary Department known as Senior Inspectors are both efficient and satisfactory as a body of officers?
- (c) What are their qualifications?
- (d) Whether the time has not arrived when steps should be taken to get a better class of men in point of education and training to replace them?
- (e) What active measures are being taken to combat the ravages of plagues and whether the campaign against rats especially have been allowed to die a natural death?

The Hon. the Director of the Medical and Sanitary Service:—

(a) There are at present sixteen Sanitary Inspectors-in-training attached to the staff of the Medical Officer of Health, but none will have completed the three years course of training, necessary to make them proficient until April, 1928.

Five Sanitary Inspectors completed the three years course of training between 1923 and 1925.

(b) Owing to their lack of education and of facilities of acquiring practical training these men are not so efficient and satisfactory as one would wish.

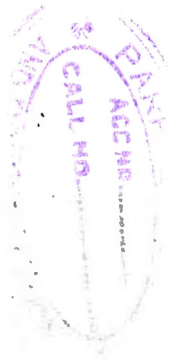
(c) The Sanitary Inspectors taken on previous to 1917 were not required to pass a preliminary examination nor to sit for promotion examinations; they received practical and theoretical training from the Medical Officer of Health. Sanitary Inspectors-in-training taken on since 1917 are required to pass a preliminary examination and, having received practical and theoretical training, to sit for promotion examinations.

(d) It is the desire of the Government to have a staff of well qualified, and efficiently trained Sanitary Inspectors but it appears almost impossible to obtain well-educated candidates to offer themselves for employment in this branch of the service. At present, remuneration from £6 per month is being offered to temporary Sanitary Inspectors to attract better men. A number of applications, which are being considered, have been received.

A scheme for the regrading and improvement of the pay of Sanitary Inspectors has been put forward to the Government.

(e) Active measures are still being prosecuted to combat plague. These are:—

- Removal of sick.
- Inoculation of contacts.
- Disinfection of houses.
- Demolition of houses.
- House to house inspection.
- Removal of suspicious cases.



General inoculation against plague is being carried out and notices to their effect appear in *Reuter's Telegram*. At present attention is being directed towards schools. The inspection of passengers at Iddo, Denton Bridge, and the canoe stations at Idumagbo and Elegbata, is carried out.

The examination and disinfection of all deck and Third-class passengers leaving the port, with fumigation of their baggage, is continued as in the past.

Action in regard to rat-proofing of buildings is being taken.

There is not the slightest foundation for the suggestion that the campaign against rats had been allowed to die a natural death.

The total number of rodents destroyed for the year 1925 was 177,601. The total destroyed for January, 1926 was 20,212. For September, October, November and December, 1924 the total was 46,463.

Routine examination of rats for evidence of plague infection is carried out just as before.

The Hon. the Member for the Egba Division:—

19. To ask considering that Tax on vehicles in Abeokuta is collected by the Central Government and that ninetenths of the wear and tear and damage to the roads in the Abeokuta Province may be attributed to the vehicles, whether the Central Government will not now take up a reasonable proportion of the cost of the relaying and maintenance of these roads?

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces:—

Government already undertakes the maintenance of certain roads in Abeokuta Province and contributes towards the maintenance of trunk roads in Abeokuta Town. The question of taking over other roads has been brought to the notice of Government and is under consideration.

The Hon. the Member for the Ibo Division:—

20. It was rumoured some time ago that the Government was about establishing a branch Survey School at Onitsha for the benefit of the native community. It is intended to ask whether such a rumour may be relied upon as likely to prove true?

The Hon. the Member for the Ibo Division:—

21. And if not, it is intended to ask whether the Government can now seriously consider such a project and the advisability of including it in its programme for the coming year.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

The reply to questions 20 and 21 is that the advisability of establishing a survey school at Onitsha has not previously been brought to the notice of the Government but that enquiries will be made whether such a scheme is desirable.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

22. To ask the Honourable the Director of Public Works: in regard to the £5,000 voted in the current Estimates for Calabar Roads:—

- (a) How much of the amount has been expended to date?
- (b) What progress, if any, has been made with the work for which this sum was estimated?

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:—

The actual expenditure to the 31st January was only £48 1s. 6d. but arrangements have now been made for the supply of material and an indent has been forwarded for the purchase of a Road Roller.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

23. To ask the Honourable the Director of Public Works in regard to the £500 voted in the Supplementary Estimates of the current year for the strengthening of the "Ivy" Pier in Calabar so that it might be used by ocean-going vessels:—

- (a) How much of the amount has been expended?
- (b) Whether any enquiries were made of the Calabar Chamber of Commerce or of Shipping Companies using the Pier as to the feasibility of the scheme proposed?



- (c) What practical results, if any, have accrued from the money expended on the scheme?
- (d) Whether anything further is contemplated by way of improvement of wharfage facilities in Calabar?

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:—

- (a) £500.
- (b) The erection of the dolphins was originally proposed by a member of one of the Shipping Companies.
- (c) No practical results have accrued.
- (d) Government is not at present prepared to undertake enlargement of the wharfage facilities in Calabar. The reasons for this decision will appear in a Sessional Paper shortly to be printed.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

24. To ask the Honourable the Comptroller of Customs in regard to Transit Sheds at Calabar:—

- (a) Whether he is aware that these sheds are absolutely inadequate to the needs of the Port both in size and general facilities of handling cargo?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that no lighting arrangements whatever are provided in these sheds, either by windows or sky lights during the day or by artificial light at night?
- (c) Whether a Shipping Company using the Transit Sheds has had to provide at its own expense the necessary cement flooring outside the sheds and even corrugated iron sheets to make the sheds weather-tight?
- (d) Whether he has asked or is going to ask the Government to provide suitable facilities for handling cargo at the Port of Calabar and if so what is the nature of the representations he has made or is going to make on the subject?
- (e) What is the total Customs revenue of the Port of Calabar for the last ten years and during that time what capital expenditure, if any, has been incurred in the providing or improving of facilities for handling cargo at that Port?
- (f) What are the total amounts of cargo (excluding coal) handled at Port Harcourt and Calabar respectively during the present financial year up to the latest figures available; what are the cubic capacities of the Transit Sheds at Port Harcourt and Calabar respectively?

The Hon. the Comptroller of Customs:—

It will be more convenient if (a), (b), (c) and (d) are dealt with in one reply. The Honourable Member will, no doubt, recollect the answers given in Council on the 29th of July, 1924, to his questions on this subject. Shortly after that sitting proposals were made that in addition to a new wharf the present buildings should be demolished and a shed 400 feet by 50 feet erected instead, on the grounds not only of the inadequacy of the present buildings but of their unsuitability as transit sheds. They are not worth the alterations which would be necessary in providing windows and sky lights, and as regards artificial light there are obvious objections to the use of oil lamps. Owing to the prohibitive cost of the works mentioned above and the present unsatisfactory means of handling cargo it is possible that the former system of working vessels in the stream will be resorted to. No attempt has therefore been made to improve the sheds, and it was not known that a shipping company had found it necessary to intervene.

(c) The total Customs revenue collected at Calabar during the last ten years was £1,788,538. Beyond the cost of ordinary maintenance and repairs no expenditure would appear to have been incurred in the direction mentioned.

(f) During the ten months which ended on the 31st of January the total amount of inward and outward cargo (excluding coal) handled at Port Harcourt was 91,000 tons, and at Calabar 76,400. The two transit sheds now in use at Port Harcourt can conveniently hold 6,000 tons of inward cargo, and those at Calabar 1,500 tons.





The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

25. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government whether any steps can be taken to avoid the delay which occurs in the publication of Legislative Council Debates?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Steps have been taken which will, I believe, expedite the issue of these publications.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

26. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government whether the Government is considering the advisability of having the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces stationed outside of Lagos and, if so, where?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

The opinion of the Government is that it is desirable that the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces, should have his headquarters outside of Lagos, but the whole question must be examined very thoroughly before Council is asked to approve the expenditure which the move will entail. I am not yet in a position to answer the last part of the question.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:

27. To ask His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces:

(a) Whether it is contemplated to apply to the Southern Provinces east of the Niger the recommendations contained in Parliamentary White Paper, Native Education, 6081; and

(b) Why, if any one represented Nigerian Educational interests on the Advisory Committee which prepared that White Paper?

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces:—

(a) The recommendations referred to will be fully discussed by the Board of Education which will be constituted under the new Ordinance; and it is intended to appoint as members of that Board, men who are well qualified to advise the Government on this important subject. No action will be taken until that discussion has taken place.

(b) Sir Frederick Lugard, the late Governor-General, is a member of the Advisory Committee.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:

28. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government whether he is prepared to instruct the Director of Public Works to enquire into and report upon the feasibility of electric lighting for Calabar Township?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

An electric light scheme for Calabar is included in the list of development works now under consideration by Government.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

29. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government whether he is aware of the very inadequate coastal transport service for mails and passengers between Lagos and the other ports in Nigeria and whether the Government is prepared to consider means to improve such service by subsidising Shipping Companies or otherwise?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

It is admitted that the steamer service to the Coast ports is not entirely satisfactory, especially as regards passenger accommodation. As regards mails, sixty-eight steamers carrying mails (Lagos for South Coast ports during the period August 3, 1925, February 10, 1926. The average interval between sailings was less than five days, and this cannot be regarded as a wholly inadequate service.

Government is not prepared at present to consider the question of subsidy.

The Hon. the Member Representing the Niger African Traders:

30. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government whether—

(a) Government will confirm the statement made in the issue of *West Africa* of 28th November, 1925, *et c.*; that

seventy-two persons were executed in Nigeria during 1924 after trial in the Courts without being allowed the aid of counsel?

(b) Government will state for the information of this Honourable Council the number of persons similarly executed during 1925—

(i) after trial in the Provincial Courts?

(ii) after trial in the Native Courts?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) The statement is confirmed.

(b) After trial in the Provincial Courts, 62.

After trial in the Native Courts, 9.

The Honourable Member is aware, no doubt, that any person who desires to be tried by the Supreme Court can apply for a transfer and that the Commissioner of the Provincial Court is bound to forward the application to the Chief Justice.

The Hon. the Member Representing the Niger African Traders:

31. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government if Government will consider the need for establishment of a Government secondary school in Onitsha Province?

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces:—

The establishment of Secondary schools in the Southern Provinces will be carefully considered by the Board of Education.

The Hon. the Member Representing the Niger African Traders:—

32. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government whether Government is aware that many Africans possess the prescribed qualifications necessary for appointment as examiners of the Ibo language and that such appointment will enhance the purpose for which that examination is created and materially benefit the students themselves?

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces:—

The qualifications of the examiners in the Ibo language are, in the opinion of the Government, quite satisfactory. There is no necessity to increase their numbers at present. It is not understood how the appointment of any individual examiner can materially benefit those who are examined.

The Hon. the Member Representing the Niger African Traders:—

33. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government if Government will consider connecting the Western with the Eastern railway at a point between Onitsha and Asaba and introducing a ferry at such point across the Niger as a means which will provide great transport facilities?

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces:

The time is not yet ripe to consider such a proposal in view of the fact that there are other parts of Nigeria in more urgent need of transport facilities. The country generally to be traversed by such a line is in touch with various markets and produce finds its way to the Coast without great difficulty.

The Hon. the Member Representing the Niger African Traders:—

34. To ask His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces whether Government will favourably consider the inclusion of Africans among unofficial prison visitors appointed for Onitsha and Enugu Prisons?

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces:—

Yes, if the names of suitable persons willing to undertake the duty are submitted.

The Hon. the Member Representing the Niger African Traders:—

Your Excellency: I wish to ask whether Abu might also be included?

(No further reply was given.)

The Hon. the Member Representing the Niger African Traders:—

35. To ask His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces, whether Government can lay on the table of this Honourable Council statistics of Native Courts revenue and expenditure for period covering April 1st, 1921—March 31st, 1925?

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces:—

In the Native Administration Provinces of the Southern Provinces, which include Abeokuta, Oyo, Ijebu, Ondo, part of Benin and the Cameroons, Native Court Revenue and Expenditure was as follows:—

	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
	£	£
1921-22 ... ..	78,357	24,945
1922-23 ... ..	79,200	32,415
1923-24 ... ..	76,011	33,863
1924-25 ... ..	80,005	34,759
Totals ... ..	£313,573	£125,982

In the remainder and non-Native Administration Provinces the figures were:—

	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
	£	£
1921-22 ... ..	116,838	47,205
1922-23 ... ..	106,281	53,129
1923-24 ... ..	105,656	59,487
1924-25 ... ..	111,283	59,515
Totals ... ..	£440,058	£219,336

The Hon. the Member Representing the Niger African Traders:—

36. To ask the Honourable the Postmaster-General if Government is aware that the demand for Post Office boxes at Onitsha Post Office is increasing and whether provisions for extension of that service will have the immediate attention of Government?

The Hon. the Acting Postmaster-General:—

The necessary information is herewith—

It has been ascertained that one large and three small boxes are available for use at Onitsha Post Office and that the only two applications on hand for small boxes have been given the necessary facilities. A public circular has since been issued and to date applications for eight small and two large boxes have been received. It would not appear therefore that there is a widespread demand for such facilities. No additional private boxes for Onitsha have been recommended for inclusion in the 1926-27 Estimates.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Kano:—

37. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government if in view of the necessity for roads development in the North he will consider the question of representation from the unofficial community on the Roads Board of Nigeria?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Of the two unofficial members of the Board, one is nominated by the Governor and the other by the Motor Traders Association. The Governor nominee is selected as far as possible by virtue of his knowledge of road conditions in the Northern as well as in the Southern Provinces, and no doubt the same principle is observed by the Motor Traders Association. The official members of the Board for the most part possess the same knowledge. Apart, therefore, from the undesirability of adding to the members of the Board, the interests of the Northern Provinces appear to be already adequately safeguarded.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Kano:—

38. To ask the Honourable the General Manager of the Railway if arrangements can be made for local mails between Kano, Zaria and Jos to be carried on the two local trains in addition to the through mixed trains thus giving better service particularly to Jos.—the mails frequently taking five days to arrive?

The Hon. the General Manager of the Railway:—

I am informed by the Postmaster-General that these arrangements have been in force since the 24th of July last.

The Hon. the Member for the Ibo Division:—

39. A certain Post Office Circular—A.B. 35/25 of 23/11/22 appears to have been issued announcing that between Great Britain and certain Nigerian Post Offices parcels up to 22 lb. weight may be accepted and received and such benefit is limited to a few offices named in the Circular. It is respectfully requested that this Honourable Council may be made acquainted with the reasons which rendered this difference necessary even where the towns and offices are of the same class?

The Hon. the Acting Postmaster-General:—

The limit of weight for parcels was raised from 11 lb. to 22 lb. as from the 1st November from Great Britain and as from the 23rd November, 1925 from Nigeria and Government approved that, for the present, the "extra weight" service should be confined to offices served by the Railway and the main ports. The reasons for the restricted service are the bulk of such parcels, the heavy charges consequent on such packages being carried by carrier or motor transport with consequent delay to mails, and the heavy wear and tear to parcels post bags by frequent handling. The Government is not prepared to extend the service in existing conditions.

The Hon. the Member for the Ibo Division:—

40. It is interesting to know what prospect, if any, of realising the promise (though not unqualified) made by the Director of the Medical and Sanitary Service to give the Onitsha Native Hospital the blessing of a trained female nurse?

The Hon. the Director of the Medical and Sanitary Service:—

It is not yet possible to say when Onitsha Hospital may be supplied with a female nurse. The question of female nurses is difficult but no opportunity has been lost of obtaining and training them. It must be remembered that the training of a nurse lasts at least three years so that the promise given last year still stands.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

41. To ask whether the franchise as applied to Nigeria does not confer on Unofficial Members the right to criticise Government measures: If it does—

(b) To ask what justification is Government holding for refusing information in reply to questions 16 to 19, and 81 to 91, Legislative Council Debates, October, 1925, pages 16 and 36 to 39, which are in effect fair criticisms of certain measures of Government with reference to the deportation of Prince Eshughayi Eleko in August last?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Unofficial Members certainly have the right to criticise Government measures; but this right is not derived from the franchise.

The putting of questions which are, in effect, criticisms is not the proper method of criticising Government actions. Questions are intended to elicit facts and should not have as their object either the expression of the questioner's opinion or the criticism of the Government. Attention is directed to No. 11 of the Standing Rules and Orders which provides that the term of any question shall not contain any argument or expression of opinion or statement of fact, except in so far as may be necessary to explain such question. Considerable latitude has hitherto been allowed to members in putting questions, and many which might properly have been disallowed as infringing this rule have been allowed to be put and have been answered. But in framing questions members should bear this rule in mind and observe its provisions.

(b) The questions referred to were answered in the manner they were because the Government having already made a full statement of the facts in the matter dealt with had no further facts to add and regarded the questions as of an argumentative and vexatious nature and designed, as is now admitted, rather to criticise the Government than to elicit information; moreover the matter dealt with was at that time before the Courts and therefore *sub judice*.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

42. Referring to Government reply to question No. 60, Legislative Council Debates, October, 1925, page 25, to ask whether there is any obligation on the Government in allowing the Printing Department to accept and execute jobs for the Lagos Town Council or the Native Administrations? If there is not—

(b) To ask that as such jobs are in effect "private work" and as their acceptance and execution must be a serious competition with private printing enterprises in the Colony, whether Government will be pleased to consider the desirability of discontinuing a policy which Government "entirely agrees" is "not the function of the Government Printing Office" to be engaged in?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

The reply to the first part is in the negative, and to the second that Government does not admit that such work is private work.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

43. Referring to Government reply to question No. 72, Legislative Council Debates, October, 1925, page 32, to ask for an indication of the difference in the extra work of a staff doing "overtime duties extending several hours daily, Sundays included," and that of another staff "normally called upon to work at abnormal hours in addition to their ordinary duties" ? and further—

(b) To ask in what manner officials under the latter class have been held by Government to come within the "principle governing the payment of overtime" while those of the former class are not so held?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

I have already explained to the Honourable Member that the Sanitary Staff are not as a rule required to work overtime, and that for that reason they are not given overtime pay.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

Your Excellency, following the reply to question 43, I beg leave to withdraw question 44.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

45. To ask whether the Nigerian Medical Authorities hope to be able to turn out African nurses and midwives, of their own training, much more efficient than those that may be trained in any of the recognised British Medical Training Institutions of the United Kingdom? If not—

(b) To ask what justification Government is willing to adduce for refusing to appoint "any British qualified African nurses holding certificates regarded as satisfactory by the Nigerian Medical Authorities" to the two highest grades of nurses, unless these nurses first submit to appointments as Senior-Learning Nurses and then subsequently to an examination by the Nigerian Medical Authorities?

(c) To ask whether it is meant to be inferred that there are better facilities at the disposal of the Nigerian Medical Authorities for training nurses and midwives than those which have been obtaining for years in the recognised teaching establishments in the United Kingdom? and—

(d) Whether it does not occur to the Nigerian Medical Authorities that the adopting of such a policy will tend to discourage African candidates from undergoing the risk and expense of training in the United Kingdom for the profession of nurse and midwife?

The Hon. the Director of the Medical and Sanitary Service:—

(a) If the proposals at present under consideration are approved it is expected that it will be possible to train African nurses and midwives to a high degree of efficiency. Comparison with the possibilities of British Trained African Nurses is not possible as we have no practical experience of the latter.

(b) So far as I am aware no applications have been received from British trained African nurses for employment. Any such application would be considered on its merits. It would be unwise to bind Government to accept any and every application even of a British trained nurse, as much would depend upon where the training had been received and other factors. Any appointment would naturally be subject to a probationary period and such nurses as showed themselves competent by examination and conduct would be assured of accelerated promotion.

(c) There is no such inference as implied in this question.

(d) Nothing is intended that will discourage British trained African nurses or midwives. With the expected development of infant welfare centres capable British trained African midwives would be welcomed if willing to serve where posted.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

46. To ask whether the reduction of the cost of Overseas postage to a rate similar to what obtains in the sister Colonies of British West Africa will not, in the opinion of the Honourable the Postmaster-General, eventually result in such an increase in the volume of correspondence as to make good in the very near future the pecuniary loss which it is estimated the reduction will at first entail?

The Hon. the Acting Postmaster-General:—

The answer is in the negative.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

47. To ask for a statement of the number of officials of the various Government Departments in the municipal area of Lagos who are in receipt of motor car allowance? and—

(b) To ask for the specific duties attached to the office of each of those officials which in the opinion of the Head of the Department concerned justify the recommendation and grant of the allowance?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

The figures asked for in (a) will be obtained in due course. The Governor is not prepared to call upon Heads of Departments, who are already sufficiently occupied, to compile the statements asked for in (b), but I would assure the Honourable Member that all applications for transport allowances are subjected to close scrutiny before they are granted.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

Your Excellency, in view of the Sessional Paper which has been laid on the table, I wish to withdraw question 48.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

49. To ask whether Government is aware that applications from Cricket clubs for the construction of cricket pitches on the Race Course are giving some anxiety to the Race Course Board of Management because of insufficiency of space for more than one or two such allotments?

(b) Such a state of affairs not being compatible with the suggestion that recreation space sufficient for the needs of the community will be made available by the removal of the Polo Club to Ikoyi (implied in the reply of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces, to Question 59, Legislative Council Debates, October, 1925), to ask whether Government will be pleased to give the matter an earnest re-consideration with a view of remedying the situation by placing at the disposal of the community an additional play-ground to that which exists in the Race Course?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative.

(b) It is understood that arising out of an application by the Unity Cricket Club to lay down a concrete pitch on the race course, the Race Course Board of Management has resolved that certain members of the Board should inspect the ground with a view to seeing how many cricket pitches it would contain. At the present time, therefore, the Government is not aware that there is any necessity for a reconsideration of the decision arrived at in this

Council on the 18th of February, 1924, when a proposal to turn the Old Golf Links into a public park and recreation ground was negatived.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

Your Excellency, before asking question No. 50, may I ask the leave of the Council to make a little alteration in the question: for the word "accountants" in line 6, I should like to substitute the word "accounts."

His Excellency:—

Very well.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

50. Referring to Government reply to Question No. 78, Legislative Council Debates, October, 1925, page 34, to ask whether the supervision and scrutiny to which the Revenue and Expenditure accounts of the various Native Administrations are said to be subjected by the Political Officers, who are themselves connected with the accounts, is equivalent in every detail to any recognised and efficient system by which accounts are audited and passed? If not—

(a) To ask whether Government will consider the desirability of recommending the introduction of a recognised, efficient and independent system of auditing accounts such, for instance, as obtains in the case of the Revenue and Expenditure accounts of the Colony proper?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

The system of supervising and scrutinising the accounts of the Native Administrations differs from the system of audit applied to Government accounts.

Government is satisfied as to the efficiency of the present system and does not propose to change it.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

51. To ask if Government is now in a position, as the result of the investigation promised, to state whether the allegation, that a high Government official was presented with, and did receive on the eve of his departure from the Colony, on the 9th of October, 1925, a solid Gold Rose Bowl of local workmanship, value about £100, bearing the initials "W.B.G." and the inscription "From the princes of Lagos in remembrance of August 8, 1925," is correct? If so—

(b) To ask whether Government is also in a position to state and, if so, whether Government will kindly state, who the high Government official is to whom that presentation was made? And

(c) To ask, further, for an indication of the particular service, or services, rendered on the 8th of August in appreciation of which it was represented that such a valuable remuneration was received?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) The allegation is correct.

(b) The officer in question was Major Birrell Gray, who was Resident of the Colony at the time.

(c) Government is not aware that Major Birrell Gray rendered any particular service or services on 8th August, 1925, other than those naturally arising in the course of his duties. The Honourable Member could more suitably submit this part of his question to the donors.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

52. To ask whether the allegation is correct that this same Gold Rose Bowl has since been returned to the donors by Government? If so—

(b) To ask whether Government will be pleased to disclose the identity of the donors?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Yes, by the Acting Resident of the Colony.

(b) Messrs. M. A. Akinsemoyin and J. A. Oshodi.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

53. If the allegation is also correct, that this same Gold Rose Bowl bears both the inscription "From the princes of Lagos in remembrance of August 8, 1925," (which date synchronises with

the date on which Prince Eshugbayi, commonly known as Eleko, was deported) and the initials "W.B.G.," and as the indication is that Government was ignorant of the acceptance of the presentation, to ask whether the incident, as it appears to suggest some form of corruption and abuse of office, does not now call for a full and open inquiry by Government into what is known as the "Eleko Question"?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

The bowl was presented to Major Birrell Gray just before he proceeded on leave. It was packed by the donors in a parcel and was stated by them to be a sample of native work, intended as a present to Major Birrell Gray's wife. It was placed by Major Birrell Gray in his baggage and was not opened by him until he reached his home. As soon as he unpacked the parcel and saw the nature of the gift he sent it to the Secretary of State and asked for his instructions as to the best course to adopt. The Secretary of State replied that the bowl should be returned to the donors and added that he quite appreciated the peculiar circumstances which led Major Birrell Gray to pack the gift away without examining it and that in his opinion Major Birrell Gray had acted quite correctly in the matter. With this opinion the Government entirely agrees, and has made this full statement in order to dispel once for all any suggestion that a charge of corruption or abuse of office might lie against Major Birrell Gray. No reason whatever exists for making any such inquiry as the Honourable Member suggests and Government has no intention of instituting one.

Hon. Members: Hear! hear! and loud applause.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

54. To ask whether Government is in a position to make a statement giving an idea of the average time it should take the Fire Brigade to commence the operation of pumping water after arrival at the site of fire?

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces:—

The time varies between three and ten minutes, and an average of six minutes may be taken. The time depends on the position of the hydrants in relation to the site of the fire.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

55. To ask whether there is any arrangement at the disposal of the Public by means of which information of the fire can be immediately communicated to the Headquarters of the Fire Brigade? If not—

(b) To ask whether Government will kindly consider the need for the introduction of some arrangement in different parts of the Town?

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces:—

Yes, by telephone: the numbers to call are given on the outside cover of the Telephone Directory.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

Arising out of the reply of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces, May I ask what would be done in the case of people who do not possess a telephone: what means of informing the Fire Brigade have they?

The Fire Brigade should be got up as quick as possible to the scene of the fire. Those people who are fortunate enough to possess telephones can of course use them. But what about the hundreds and thousands of people who have not got telephones?

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces:—

I suggest they might enquire (laughter).

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

Enquire of whom, Sir, may I ask?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

The Honourable Member must be satisfied with the answer which has been given. There are many firms and individuals who have got telephones and in the case of a fire it is quite easy for anyone who does not possess a telephone to go and find one.



The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

56. To ask whether the Public Works Department is justified in withholding for as long as three months any application for the installation of water in the premises of private house-holders who may apply for such installations?

(b) To ask further, whether any failure or inability on the part of the Department to effect such installation within a reasonable period from the date of application should not sufficiently justify the exemption of such house-holders from paying water rate until such time that the installation applied for is made and water supplied?

(c) And as the Public Works Department has not been able for the past four months to entertain applications from a house-holder for the installation of water in his premises *because of shortage of water-taps*, to ask whether Government will kindly take up the matter with a view of getting the Public Works Department adequately supplied with materials during each financial year so as to have every facility for the easy execution of such an important sanitary measure when applied for by private house-holders?

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:—

The regulations made under the Ordinance, provide that the Water Authority may grant, refuse or alter any application made for the laying on of water but as a general rule the application is granted.

(b) With certain exceptions the general water rate is leviable under the Ordinance whether water is laid on to premises or not and with such exceptions there appears to be no power to grant exemption.

(c) I am not aware of the application particularly referred to by the Honourable Member but the water taps in question were indented for by this Department in February, 1925, and have but recently arrived.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

May I ask the Honourable the Director of Public Works, for the information of Members of the Council, the exact amount of water taps that were ordered and when they arrived?

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:—

I was informed that they arrived in the month of December.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

May I ask further whether it is a fact that the officers who were incapacitated by reason of illness or death were intimately connected with the laying down of these taps and if they were how the incapacity of these men has interfered with the work?

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:—

I do not understand the Honourable Member's reference to incapacity of staff.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

I understood the Honourable the Director of Public Works to say that some of his men were incapacitated by illness and death and I am referring to them. Whether these men were Store-keepers or what?

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:—

There is no reference in my answer to incapacity. Is the Honourable Member referring to Your Excellency's address?

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

You said some of your officers were handicapped.

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:—

I do not think I used the word "handicapped" at all.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

If the Honourable Member was not handicapped can intimation be given to the Council of the way in which the work has been interfered with?

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:—

I still do not understand the Honourable Member's question but I might say that the water works branch of the Department has been very seriously handicapped by the death of one officer and the

invaliding of two other officers. The branch has a very heavy programme of work and the loss of these officers may possibly have delayed some of these minor applications for the installation of water in the premises of private house holders.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:

57. Referring to the reply of the Honourable the Director of the Medical and Sanitary Service to Question No. 70, Legislative Council Debates, October, 1925, page 31, to ask whether in the new scheme for Sanitary Inspectors, said to be under contemplation, Government is taking into consideration the question of giving facilities for the special training of suitable candidates so as to make them competent for some of the high posts which the Sanitary Department has up to the present not been able to fill? If not—

(b) To ask whether Government will entertain any very serious objection to the inclusion in the Scheme of facilities for the training (abroad if necessary), of a few suitable candidates in—

(i) Tropical Hygiene for Sanitary Inspectors;

(ii) Sanitary Science as applied to buildings and Public works;

for employment in the Service as First-class or Senior Sanitary Inspectors, not only in the interest of efficiency but also that monies voted for improved Sanitary work may be spent to the best advantage?

The Hon. the Director of the Medical and Sanitary Service:—

(a) Under the new scheme proposed for Government Sanitary Inspectors facilities will be provided in Nigeria for the training of Sanitary Inspectors up to the grade with a salary of £240 to £300 per annum, and it is unlikely that training beyond this grade will be available in Nigeria during the next ten years. Promotion up to this grade will be through the lower grades only.

(b) The scheme provides for a still higher grade at a salary of £350 to £450 per annum but this grade is open only to those who possess a qualification of the Royal Sanitary Institute or its equivalent.

In the Government service, there is no Sanitary Inspector at present suitable for promotion even to the grade £240 to £300 per annum. When suitable candidates of an educational standard likely to profit by higher training present themselves recommendation will be made to Government for their further training. This matter was dealt with at a Conference recently held at Accra and is now under consideration of Government.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

58. To ask whether the overhead and other charges in connection with the Electric Light Plant and the maintenance of the Electric Light Branch of the Public Works Department cannot yet allow a recommendation, by the Honourable the Director of Public Works, of a reduction in the present rate of 1s. 3d. per unit?

(b) And to ask further, whether it is not possible for Government to popularise and encourage the use of electricity for other than lighting purposes, so as to increase the clientele and the revenue of that branch of the Public Works Department?

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:—

It is regretted that beyond the rebate to large consumers and the flat rate to very small consumers it is economically impracticable yet to reduce the standard rate for lighting.

(b) Government is prepared to encourage the use of electricity in Lagos for every purpose and for that reason has fixed the rate for power at a very low figure.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

Your Excellency: Before giving notice of the question No. 59 may I ask that the 14th April appearing therein be deleted and the 15th April substituted?

His Excellency:—

Very well.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

59. To ask whether Government will be graciously pleased to recommend, for the approval of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the observance of the 15th of April as a

Public holiday each year in commemoration of the visit to this Colony of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K.G., as already inaugurated in the other Sister Colonies in British West Africa?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Government regrets that it does not see its way to move in the matter.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

60. In view of the serious hardship which is being entailed by many claimants in consequence of the long delay in completing payment of compensation for lands taken by Government at Yaba under "Public Lands Acquisition Ordinance," to ask how soon it is intended by Government to meet the claims of the remaining dispossessed owners?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

The land actually required amounts to about 175 acres. All claims in respect of this have already been paid. As regards the houses on this 175 acres the agreed values are now being paid and should be completed in a few days.

The remaining portion of the Honourable Member's question will be dealt with in the reply to question 85.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

61. Referring to Question Nos. 61 and 62, Legislative Council Debates, October, 1925, page 26, to ask whether Government is now in a position to furnish the information asked for therein?

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces:—

I lay statements on the table which I hope will furnish the Honourable Member with the information he desires.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

62. In view of the opinion of the Honourable the Acting Director of Medical and Sanitary Service (so plainly expressed in his reply to a question subsidiary to Question No. 63, Legislative Council Debates, October, 1925, page 26) "that the members of the African community have no cause to grumble at the facilities and accommodation in that (the present African) hospital," to ask for further explanation of the necessity for the Sessional Paper introduced by the Acting Director of Medical and Sanitary Service during the last meeting of Council requesting that this same hospital be urgently replaced by another and a larger one at a cost to the revenue of something near £200,000?

The Hon. the Director of the Medical and Sanitary Service:—

The reply quoted by the Honourable Member was intended to refer to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, not to the Colonial Hospital.

The Hon. Member for Shipping:—

To ask the Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government—

63. If there is yet any decision arrived at in regard to the formation of an Advisory Board to deal with Lagos Harbour—in this connection to refer to question 46 and reply thereto in Council Debates of the Third Session, 20th and 21st October last?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

The reply is in the negative.

The Hon. Member for Shipping:—

64. To ask what police system, if any, is contemplated for the new port at Apapa in order to check and prevent unauthorised access to the wharf premises, etc., where produce is now sometimes stacked in the open?

The Hon. the General Manager of the Railway:—

The premises will be enclosed by an unclimbable wall with one gate of entry only at which a gate-keeper or constable will be stationed. In regard to the last part of the question I may say that a constable is on duty day and night in the vicinity of the stacks of produce.

The Hon. Member for Shipping:—

To ask the Hon. the Director of Marine—

65. If it is contemplated and the necessity of bringing into action the working of this port (Lagos) continuously, and to enquire, could not an all-night pilotage service be organised thereby saving much time to steamers operating the port—to explain the difficulties, if any, why such a desirable state of affairs cannot be brought about?

The Hon. the Director of Marine:—

It is not considered at present that the demand for an all-night pilotage is sufficient to justify the expense which such a service would entail. The question will not be overlooked, but it is one requiring the most careful consideration.

The Hon. Member for Shipping:—

66. To ask the number of hours the s.s. *Lady Clifford* actually dredges over a given period—and cannot same be improved upon, seeing her heavy existing cost to the Colony?

The Hon. the Director of Marine:—

*The Lady Clifford* works nine hours a day continuously for five days of the week. On Saturday mornings she coals and overhauls her pumps and machinery. Allowing half-an-hour for her to reach the dredging ground from her anchorage and half-an-hour to return to her anchorage she actually dredges eight hours a day for the five days.

No interval is allowed for meals during the day; the officers relieve one another for the purpose, or take the opportunity when the vessel is going out to dump, as convenient. This is a more economical way of working than suspending operations in the middle of the day to allow officers and men to eat and rest, and accounts for the fact that the vessel returns to her anchorage at what appears to be an unusually early hour.

It is quite correct that the dredging output of this vessel could be increased by 30% to 40% if necessary, but this would entail increasing the crew, which has been reduced to the minimum required for her present work, and paying them overtime. There is no necessity, however, to increase the output as things are at present and such extra expenditure and wear and tear of the vessel are not warranted.

*The Lady Clifford* is a Bar dredger designed for working in the running sand which forms the bar to Lagos Harbour; she is not suited to working in the harder deposits inside the harbour and was not obtained for such a purpose. As conditions are at present the depths in the Entrance where *The Lady Clifford's* work lies are such that only a minimum of work is required from her to maintain satisfactory conditions, and this she does. She is, however, available for increased output should such become necessary at any time, and as such is a very valuable insurance against any possible future troubles that may arise on the bar. It would be a great mistake to work this vessel unnecessarily hard now. Our policy is to hold her more or less in reserve and keep her in a state of efficiency while carrying out such maintenance work as is actually necessary.

The Hon. the Member for Shipping:—

Arising out of that answer, Sir, I would like to make it perfectly clear to Honourable Members of Council that my question was not put with any intention of causing any reflection on the work of the personnel of the Marine Department. My question was put simply to elicit information with regard to the actual number of hours the *Lady Clifford* dredges weekly in view of her running expenses which I believe amount to something like £68,000 a year. I quite appreciate the heavy cost which is inevitable in dredging operations and I am very agreeably surprised to hear from the Honourable the Director of Marine that *The Lady Clifford* actually dredges forty hours a week. We all know how expensive dredgers are to operate and I wish again, Sir, to say that the question was put simply for the purpose of obtaining information and no reflection on the work of the Marine Department was intended.

The Hon. Member for Shipping:—

67. To ask in view of the long and difficult approach to Apapa by road from Lagos, cannot a small direct channel be dredged to avoid the long detour small launches have at present to make to get to Apapa?

The Hon. the Director of Marine:—

It is not a sound engineering proposition to dredge a channel across the Apapa shoal at right angles to the tide. It would silt up again very quickly. It is also impossible to say what the effect of dredging such a channel would be upon the existing channels in the harbour. Instead of cutting through the Apapa shoal the Consulting Engineers to the Government are advocating the revetment of the edges of this shoal so as to conserve the present channels, and it is quite certain that they would deprecate any action on the lines suggested.

The Hon. Member for Shipping:—

To ask the Hon. the General Manager of the Railway—

68. Is it contemplated to set quay accommodation aside at Apapa, permanently, for lighters to be loaded and unloaded, apart from the four proposed berths for ocean-going vessels; if in the affirmative the feet of quay space available and if rail facilities will be provided in conjunction therewith?

The Hon. the General Manager of the Railway:—

No special accommodation has been set aside for lighters at Apapa. In due course it is expected that the Stone Wharf now used by the Marine Department will become available for this purpose.

The length of quayage which can be so used amounts to 260 feet and this can be increased to 420 feet when the space reserved for Stone Traffic in connection with the maintenance of the Moles is not required.

Rail facilities will be provided.

The Hon. Member for Shipping:—

69. To ask what is the cost per ton of off-loading and handling coal by the transporters direct from Government colliers?

The Hon. the General Manager of the Railway:—

During the eight months ending November 30th last, we offloaded from all vessels 74,577 tons no distinction being made between Government or other colliers.

The cost per ton on this basis worked out at 6.7d. This includes European supervision, overtime, passages, electric current, stores, etc.: but not depreciation or interest charges.

In addition the transporters loaded a large quantity of coal from the dump to trucks of which no record was kept; this would reduce the cost of 6.7d. per ton "ex ship," considerably.

The Hon. the Member for Shipping:—

Did I understand the Honourable the General Manager that there was no allowance for the depreciation?

The Hon. the General Manager of the Railway:—

That is correct.

The Hon. Member for Shipping:—

70. To ask the reason why the "stone wharf" at Apapa could not be placed at the disposal of shippers and the Shipping Companies recently for loading produce into lighters, and which Department has jurisdiction over this wharf in particular?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

The Marine Department has jurisdiction over the "Stone Wharf" at Apapa.

This wharf is 531 feet long. Of this 100 feet is taken up by the ferry berth, 100 feet is required by the Harbour Works Department for stone traffic, and the remaining 331 feet is required as a coaling berth for the Government vessels, as a place to land light buoys for repairs, and as a berth for vessels under repair at the dockyard, the latter more particularly at week ends when the dredgers go over for running repairs.

The old coal wharf at the dockyard collapsed at the end of 1924, and if the Marine Department is deprived of the present use of the Stone Wharf for the purpose, they will be left with no means whatever of landing or loading coal and the operations of the dredging fleet and other craft will be seriously hampered.

Two new wharves have been sanctioned for the Dockyard and construction is about to commence, a third is also projected. One of these will be the future coaling and buoyage wharf. Until some at least of these wharves have been built it is impossible to hand the Stone Wharf or any part of it over for commercial uses.

The Hon. Member for Shipping:—

To ask the Hon. the Comptroller of Customs—

71. Whether he is prepared to instruct his officers at Iddo and Apapa to send particulars *re* produce shipped from these stations immediately after the completion of loading operations, to the Customs Office at Lagos, so that ships can be cleared at this Central Office without undue delay?

The Hon. the Comptroller of Customs:—

If the Honourable Member is asking that the Customs Department shall undertake to furnish particulars which the law clearly lays down shall be supplied by the master or owner of a vessel, the Government is not prepared to issue an instruction to that effect. If, on the other hand, the implication is that delay is caused by the non-receipt of the Customs tallies I would point out that such tallies are not necessary for the clearance of a ship.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Lagos:—

72. With reference to a question previously asked in this Council (*vide* Minutes 20/10/25) *re* Water Police—

(a) Whether he can furnish a return showing the number of police patrols on duty each night of the week, and the area so patrolled?

(b) Whether he can state on how many occasions the European officer available to direct such patrols, has, in fact, taken an active part in same by personal supervision?

(c) Whether the launch *Phoebe* is regularly used in connection with night patrol?

(d) Whether he is aware that at about 2 a.m., January 17th, eight natives armed with machets boarded a Bull Line lighter, overpowered the watchman, and removed seventy-nine bags of cocoa. An alarm was raised and an attempt made to attract the attention of the police, but without result, as no assistance was forthcoming. The thieves forced the locking device to gain access to the cocoa. The matter was reported to the police, who have not succeeded in discovering the thieves?

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces:—

(a) Four canoes patrol the foreshore during the hours of darkness between Onikan and Oke Sana Lagoon nightly.

Six to eight constables are employed on these duties. The police motor pinnace patrols the Lagoon between Government House wharf and Epetedo at irregular hours for two or three hours at a time, three or four nights a week, devoting special attention to that part of the Lagoon between Government House wharf and Carter Bridge.

(b) The European Police Officer in charge of Ebute-Ero Division directs all the canoe patrols. The motor pinnace patrols are, without exception, carried out under the command of a European officer.

(c) Yes.

(d) A report was made to this effect, but it is doubtful whether the theft occurred in the circumstances related by the watchman. No arrest has been effected in connection with this theft. The motor pinnace did not patrol during the night in question. Only two thefts of this nature have been reported to the police during the last fourteen months and in one of these cases, the culprits were convicted.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Lagos:—

To ask the Hon. the General Manager of the Railway:—

73. With reference to a question previously asked in this Council (*vide* Minutes 20/10/25, p. 20, par. 48). Will the General Manager consider bringing the rates from Zaria to Kano, and intermediate stations, more into line with the "taper" rates, seeing that Zaria is a growing distributive centre for line trade? The following example illustrates the inequality of the existing rates:—

Goods.	Lagos to Kano		Lagos to Zaria		Zaria to Kano.			
	per ton	per cwt.	per ton	per cwt.	per ton	per cwt.	%	
Cottons	213/10	12/2	229/7	11/6	91.5	69/11	3/2	22%

The Hon. the General Manager of the Railway:

The question will be duly considered provided firms can guarantee that Zaria imports on which a rebate is asked for will in the first place be handled through Apapa and not *via* Lagos and Iddo local.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Lagos:—

74. To ask with reference to the Estimates:—

Whether it would not be possible, and of advantage to include in the published Estimates, a series of Graphs, under the principal headings, showing the increase, or decrease of Revenue, or Expenditure, and the Government will give this suggestion their favourable consideration?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

It has not been customary and it does not seem to be necessary to include a series of graphs in Colonial Estimates.

Several Departments in this Colony include graphs in their Annual Report—which appears to be the proper place for them. Government is prepared to encourage these although I must add that they are difficult to print.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Lagos:—

To ask the Hon. the Director of Public Works—

75. (a) What action is being taken to popularise, and extend the use of electricity, in Lagos, and district, for both domestic, and commercial purposes?

(b) Whether he will table, for the information of members, a return showing what percentage of the available power, is at present in use?

(c) Whether he will furnish, for the information of members, a return showing the cost, per unit of the current supplied, for domestic and other purposes, and method of costing?

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:—

(a) In order to popularise the use of electricity in Lagos, Government sanctioned a special non-metered flat rate for small consumers and a revote on the rate for large consumers and to encourage the use of current for power an extremely low figure is charged.

(b) The total capacity of the Lagos Power Station is 3,600 K.W., the maximum available capacity is about 2,600 K.W. and the maximum peak load to date is between 700-800 K.W.

(c) The cost per unit supplied for lighting and power purposes was 9.22d. in the year 1925. This cost is based on the actual expenditure plus interest and depreciation charges and on the number of units supplied to metered services plus the estimate of the number supplied to non-metered services.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:—

Might I ask, shall I be in order if I ask, whether the Honourable the Director of Public Works will cause enquiries to be made amongst the consumers of light in the Railway Department as to the cost and report to this Honourable Council the result of his finding?

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:—

I think that the rates applicable to Railway officers is a matter for the Honourable the General Manager of the Railway. I know that there is some arrangement between the two departments, but I am not in a position to say what it is without notice.

His Excellency:—

If the Honourable Member will put his question into writing showing what information he really desires I shall be very glad to see that he gets an answer.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Lagos:—

76. To ask whether the Government will consider the desirability of appointing district committees, to supply local information to the Advisory Road Board?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

The suggestion will be considered at the next meeting of the Road Board.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Lagos:—

To ask the Hon. the General Manager of the Railway—

77. Whether it is proposed to double the rail track, between Lagos and Ibadan?

The Hon. the General Manager of the Railway:—

The reply is in the negative.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Lagos:—

78. To ask whether he is aware that there is a decrease of 2,400 tons, up to, and including January 31st in the tonnage of Ground nuts railed from Kano, this season, as compared with last season, in spite of the promise made by him that much better facilities would be provided?

The Hon. the General Manager of the Railway:—

It is true that there has been a decrease in ground nut railings from Kano up to the end of January. At the same time when the Superintendent of the Line visited that station towards the end of last year, the Chamber of Commerce there specially requested that better facilities should be given for the shipment of ground nuts from intermediate points between Zaria and Kano. This was done and up to the end of January the total ground nut railings show an increase of 2,148 tons over the similar period for last year.

The quantity of ground nuts railed for the three months ending January 31st last amounts to nearly 40,000 tons. The stocks held at Kano on January 31st shewed a decrease of over 11,000 tons compared with the same date in 1925.

As an indication of what the railway has accomplished during the three months ending January 31st, 1926, I would mention that we have exported from Baro, Iddo and Apapa a total of 70,163 tons or an increase of 2,817 tons over the similar period for last year.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Lagos:—

79. To ask whether information can be given to Honourable Members as to what use it is intended to make of the P.W.D. site on the Marina, now that the P.W.D. Workshops, and the Power Station, have been transferred to Ijora?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Part of the site will be utilised for offices for the Marine Department. The use to which the rest of the area will be put has not yet been considered.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Lagos:—

80. To ask with reference to a question previously asked in this Council (*vide* Minutes 20/10/25, p. 16, par. 32), whether he will reconsider the decision, respecting the exemption from income tax of the clerical staffs of Government Departments, in certain areas, whilst the tax is levied upon the clerical staff of the mercantile firms: If not, whether he will state, for the information of members, why this distinction should be maintained?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

The Government is considering the matter.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Lagos:—

81. To ask if Government will be pleased to institute an inquiry into the administration of the Medical service, for the following reasons:—

(a) To obtain full particulars of the fees earned by Government Medical Officers, in public institutions, financed out of revenue?

(b) To enquire into the considerable difference in the charges for attention, and maintenance in hospital, as between officials and non-officials (*vide* Gazette No. 8 of 4/2/26, Regulation No. 24 of 1925)?

(c) To ascertain the number of indigent persons treated at the Colonial Hospital, and the Massey Street Dispensary?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

The Government is not prepared to institute such inquiry.

In regard to the grounds advanced by the Honourable Member in support of his request, I may state:—

(a) the conditions in which Medical Officers may undertake private practice are laid down by the Secretary of State and are by no means peculiar to Nigeria;

(b) the charges for hospital attendance and maintenance of non-officials are based on those which might be expected to be in force in a privately owned hospital. It must be remembered that the practice of charging Government officers less than non-officials is universal in all Colonies in respect of Government Hospital and is part of the conditions of their employment;

(c) if the Honourable Member will state the period in respect of which he desires this information, it will be furnished to him.



The Hon. the Second Lagos Member :—

To ask—

82. Whether the attention of the Honourable and learned Attorney-General has been drawn to the judgment delivered by the Full Court of Appeal in the case of Miller Bros. (of L'pool), Ltd., *v.* Abudu Ayeni *re* Sanni Ayeni and others—Claimants reported in Volume 5 of the Nigerian Law Reports and if so whether in view of the unsatisfactory state of the law relating to the attachment by way of execution of Family Property for debt, as disclosed by that judgment, he does not consider it desirable to advise the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry to consider whether it is not necessary to introduce legislation on this subject?

The Hon. the Attorney-General :—

My attention has been drawn to the judgment referred to. Whilst the Government is fully alive to the necessity of investigating this and kindred questions affecting land tenure, the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry, at any rate at the present time, is not considered the best method of achieving the desired objects.

Recommendations have been made to the Secretary of State concerning the re-organisation of the Lands Department, including the appointment of an experienced Lands Officer. If these recommendations are approved, one of the first duties of the officer appointed will be to investigate and report upon these questions.

The Hon. the Second Lagos Member :—

83. To ask whether in view of the reply given by the Lieutenant-Governor (Southern Provinces) to a question put by me at the last meeting of the Legislative Council relative to the introduction of the ward system into the municipal area of Lagos and in view of the fact that the Municipal Election takes place in the month of May next, it is not considered necessary to introduce legislation at an early date in order to give effect to the recommendation suggested by the question?

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces :—

The Government awaits representations on this matter from the Municipal Committee.

The Hon. the Second Lagos Member :—

84. To ask whether the attention of the Director of Public Works Department has been called to the unsatisfactory supply of water in some private houses and if so, whether steps are being taken to remedy the defect?

The Hon. the Director of Public Works :—

No; complaints of defects in water supplies to private houses are very rare, but if written application is made to the Senior Executive Engineer they will always receive attention.

The Hon. the Second Lagos Member :—

85. To ask whether the vote of £181,000 placed on the Estimates for Yaba Acquisition is intended for the whole of the area covered by the Acquisition including the portion marked "C" on the Government plan?

(b) Whether Government does not consider it desirable to make a definite statement of its future intentions with regards to the area already acquired and the buildings already erected?

(c) Whether in view of the dissatisfaction engendered by the decision of the Secretary of State that Freehold title—which had offered an attractive inducement to natives to take residential sites—should not be granted for any part of this area and which unfortunate decision may tend to discourage the scheme in the eyes of the natives—the Government will not consider the advisability of reopening this matter with the Secretary of State for the Colonies?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :—

(a) The vote of £181,000 to which the Honourable Member refers will be deleted in select committee as advances in respect of this item are being met by a loan. I may say, however, that it is an estimate of the cost of acquiring the balance of 525 acres, out of a total of 700 acres, and the houses standing thereon.

(b) With regard to the area already acquired the Town Council on behalf of the Government are prepared to let the eighty-four houses recently erected and it is understood that advertisements to this effect will shortly appear.

With reference to the remaining portion of the land already acquired and the balance of 525 acres making up a total of 700 acres, in view of the fact that the scheme has developed on somewhat different lines from those upon which it was conceived, the Government has recently reviewed the matter most carefully and has agreed upon a general policy. At the earliest possible moment, the whole matter will be placed before the Secretary of State for his sanction.

Briefly the proposal is that Government should acquire the whole 700 acres and the houses on it; build no more themselves, but lease out the plots on suitable terms within the case of building sites, an obligation to build a house, which while complying with certain necessary regulations would be of an inexpensive nature. The Government has never lost sight of the fact that provision must be made for the growth of Lagos and for the relief of the congested areas and it is very important to do so on right lines.

(c) It is not proposed to reopen the question of title with the Secretary of State.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Kano:—

To ask the Hon. the Director of Public Works—

86. In view of the Estimates for the further experimental investigation of the water supply for Kano whether the practicability of artesian wells has been considered and if not, cannot some of this vote be appropriated to experimental boring?

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:—

In view of the geological formation it is not considered that the supply of water for Kano could be obtained from artesian wells and unless the experiments now being undertaken in the Challowa River prove unsuccessful, it is not proposed to undertake experimental boring.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Kano:—

87. To ask if he is aware that the township of Kano is without drainage and if he will consider laying down a drainage scheme during the present year?

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:

A scheme for the drainage of Kano will be prepared in time for consideration with the Estimates for 1927-28. The work cannot be commenced in 1926-27.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Kano:—

88. If his attention has been drawn to the very bad state of the roads in and around the township of Kano and if he will consider the appointment of a European roads official in conjunction with the Kano Township Advisory Board?

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:

The Public Works Department is not responsible for the roads in and around the township of Kano and I am not aware that they are in very bad condition. In the opinion of Government the appointment of a separate roads official for the maintenance of these roads would be entirely unwarranted. The Public Works Department officer at Kano is always prepared to give any advice to the Township Advisory Board that it may require.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:

89. To ask, whether the concession, by which some consumers of electric light who are not supplied with meters are made to pay only 1s. 3d. per light per month whilst others are made to pay 1s. 6d., is in accordance with regulations? If so,

(b) To ask for an indication of the basis on which an inequality in rates, which appears to be an invidious distinction, has been determined?

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:—

The Honourable Member's question is not understood as *no di crimination* is made in the rates to non-metered consumers of light which are in strict accordance with the sanctioned schedule.

## RESOLUTIONS.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Sir, I rise to move the following resolution:—

“ Be it resolved: That this Council approves an annual  
 “ grant of £1,200 a year for five years, towards the  
 “ general funds of the Imperial College of Tropical  
 “ agriculture in Trinidad, in addition to the sum of  
 “ £1,300 a year for ten years, voted in this Council on  
 “ the 21st October, 1925, towards the scheme for the  
 “ recruitment and training of officers for the Agricul-  
 “ tural Departments of the non-self-governing Depen-  
 “ dencies.”

There is no need to repeat what is an axiom here in Nigeria that Nigeria is an agricultural country and we must have the very best men we can get as Superintendents of Agriculture for work that is so important. We look to the Superintendents of Agriculture to train the natives in agricultural work in agricultural schools. In order that they may have the very best instruction we must get the best men possible and the most highly trained. England is not a tropical country and it is impossible to get that intensive training in England that can be got in a tropical country where the students see for themselves and learn what is best suited for an agricultural country like Nigeria. There exists in Trinidad the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, which is an institution which has done a great deal in the training of officers who come out to tropical countries for the purpose of improving the agricultural possibilities of those countries. It is true to state that originally it was a West Indian College mainly concerned with the study of Agriculture of West Indian Colonies. It is no longer purely a West Indian College; it is an Empire College. Officers from all over the British Empire receive instruction there and it deserves to be supported. It is an Empire College for the Empire as a whole and that is its function to-day. It is the rule of the Colonial Office now that no officer can be selected for appointment to a tropical country in the Agricultural Department unless he has completed a preliminary course of study at the College in Trinidad.

I may say that the Gold Coast has already sent four probationers to the College at Trinidad and I do not think that we can afford to lag behind the Gold Coast in that respect.

There is a broader aspect of the matter which will, I think, appeal to Honourable Members and that is, that the effect of training, such as the College of Agriculture gives, is that it will enable the men who have taken a course of study to give instruction to the natives of this country which will have the effect of increasing and improving the production of raw material, not only in Nigeria but in other parts of the Empire. Great Britain is a manufacturing country which depends very largely for its new products from other countries and largely from tropical countries. It is important therefore that the tropical countries within the British Empire should produce these products in ever-increasing quantities of the highest quality. It is important that Nigeria should be able to produce, and not only Nigeria but other Colonies, the maximum of raw materials and therefore if you support this resolution you will be supporting an Institution of the highest Imperial value. If the College cannot be kept going, the British Empire and this Colony in particular will suffer. I therefore beg to move the resolution standing in my name.

The Hon. the Treasurer:—

Your Excellency: I beg to second the resolution.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

Your Excellency: before putting this resolution to the Council might I ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary, apropos of his statement that the Gold Coast have already sent four probationers to the College and as he gave that as a reason why Nigeria should make this contribution, whether every care will be taken in selecting the men who should undergo this course of instruction. Can he give us some assurance that steps will be taken—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

I think, Sir, that those to be sent will have been selected by the Colonial Office from amongst the probationers who have been selected for appointment in the Agricultural Department in Nigeria.



His Excellency:—

Does any other Honourable Member desire to address the Council?  
*The resolution was carried.*

The Hon. The Member Representing the Niger African Traders:—

Your Excellency: before moving the resolution standing in my name I would beg Your Excellency to accept an amendment. I would like to insert the words "in all schools" after the word "holiday" appearing in the second line. If Your Excellency accepts that the motion would read:—

"Be it resolved: That this Honourable Council proclaims  
"every 15th day of April to be a public holiday 'in  
"all schools' throughout Nigeria and British  
"Cameroons to commemorate the visit last year of His  
"Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to Nigeria."

I think it would be a very good thing that such a holiday should be given to commemorate His Royal Highness' visit and it would engender a spirit of loyalty amongst the school-children.

The Hon. the Member for Calabar:—

Your Excellency: I beg to second the resolution. It will give the schoolboys and schoolgirls an opportunity of showing their loyalty to the British Crown. His Royal Highness came to Nigeria when there was an epidemic of plague, and the fact that there was at one time a possibility of the postponement of his visit shows that he had the welfare of the country at heart, because he did not wish, in view of the crowds of people that would assemble to welcome him, to increase the mortality. The fact, however, that he did come after all, and when there was some subsidence of the epidemic, shows the courage of our Royal Prince and I think a holiday to commemorate his visit is a highly desirable thing for the children.

His Excellency:—

I am not very clear how well off the children are for holidays now.

The Hon. the Director of Education, Southern Provinces:—

Your Excellency: it appears to me that this amendment, is rather sudden: it alters the resolution entirely and I wish to raise the point as to whether the resolution is in order. I am not in a position now to say what holidays are enjoyed throughout Nigeria and I suggest that the resolution might be moved at a subsequent meeting of the Council.

His Excellency:—

Would the Honourable Member have any objection to that? I should have to rule that his amendment is out of order, and I think it would be better if the Honourable Member would raise it at the next meeting of the Council as Government has not been given an opportunity of considering the matter.

The Hon. the Member Representing the Niger African Traders:—

As Your Excellency pleases.

His Excellency:—

You agree to that course?

The Hon. the Member Representing the Niger African Traders:—

If Your Excellency pleases.

*The resolution was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.*

The Hon. the Secretary, Southern Provinces:—

Your Excellency: I beg to move:—

"Be it resolved: That this Council approves the advance to  
"the Calabar Township of a sum of £500 for the  
"improvement of the Township market."

"Be it further resolved: That this advance shall bear  
"interest at the rate of 4% per annum."

The local Authority, the Advisory Board, are anxious to spend a sum of £500 on the improvement of their markets, and particularly on the erection of permanent sheds, but they cannot find the money from Township Funds. A similar loan was made to the Lagos Town Council for the purchase of new material for, and the erection of, the new Idumagbo Bridge and in the present case the local Authority and the Advisory Board have agreed to accept a loan at four per cent. and to extinguish the loan in five equal yearly payments.

The Hon. the Treasurer:—

I beg, Sir, to second the resolution.

The Hon. the Member for Calabar:—

Your Excellency: I beg to move an amendment. That the latter part of the resolution, the part that says "That this advance shall bear interest at the rate of four per cent. per annum," be deleted. The reason is this, that some time ago the Government undertook to make the Calabar Market a permanent market. The people asked that Government should give them a proper market and then they said they would be prepared to pay anything that Government asked them to pay. The Government has not paid a single penny towards the provision of a market. There are two markets at Calabar and the one on the riverside during the greater part of the year is flooded. Responsible people have refused to do anything in the matter and they waited until the last moment, when they put a fence round it. The result has been that a few irresponsible women went about the market and pulled up a few fence stakes. That has been described as a riot in Calabar. Enugu is not being asked to pay a single penny in the way of interest on the loan made them for improving their markets and I do not see why Calabar should be asked to. The Honourable the Secretary, Southern Provinces, mentioned the case of the loan to the Lagos Town Council but I believe I am right in saying that the Lagos Town Council has a yearly grant of £69,000 and their case is not comparable with Calabar. With all respect, I say that I do not consider it fair that Calabar should be asked to pay interest on a paltry sum like this. I suggest that it would only be fair that Government should give us a market, and if they will not do that, we must at least be given this £500 without interest.

The Hon. the Member Representing the Niger Africa  
Traders:—

Your Excellency: I beg to second the amendment.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

May I ask whether the Government is in any way differentiating between Enugu and Calabar as regards these markets?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

I am afraid I do not know the facts of the case. If the Honourable Member says that Enugu had a loan interest free I must accept his statement. But this case may not be comparable with Enugu and, even if it is, it does not follow that because Enugu gets a loan without interest that Calabar should do so. Perhaps the Secretary, Southern Provinces, can tell us about Enugu.

The Hon. the Secretary, Southern Provinces:—

I am not in a position to state the facts about Enugu.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

Can the Honourable Member inform me when the Enugu loan was made?

The Hon. the Secretary, Southern Provinces:—

There are sums voted for work at Enugu in the Estimates, Head 34.

The Hon. the Senior Resident, Onitsha Province:—

Is the Calabar money for market stalls? I think Enugu had money for something else.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

I am not sure.

The Hon. the Senior Resident, Onitsha Province:—

If the money was for the improvement of a market it is a different matter. But I do not think Enugu had money actually for the erection of stalls.

His Excellency:—

Does any other Honourable Member desire to address the Council?

His Excellency:—

I will put the amendment to the Council.

The amendment is that the words "That this advance shall bear interest at the rate of 4% per annum" be deleted.

Those in favour of the amendment say "Aye"

Those against say "No."

The "Noes" have it.

His Excellency:—

A division had better be taken.

The resolution was put to the vote and carried, Members voting as follows:—

FOR—20.

The Hon. the Member for the Egba Division.  
The Hon. the Acting Postmaster General.  
The Hon. the Director of Public Works.  
The Hon. the General Manager of the Railway.  
The Hon. the Deputy Chief Secretary.  
The Hon. the Secretary, Southern Provinces.  
The Hon. the Acting Secretary Northern Provinces.  
The Hon. the Acting Senior Resident, Niger Province.  
The Hon. the Senior Resident, Onitsha Province.  
The Hon. the Senior Resident, Oyo Province.  
The Hon. the Secretary for Native Affairs.  
The Hon. the Comptroller of Customs.  
The Hon. the Director of Marine.  
The Hon. the Treasurer.  
The Hon. the Director of the Medical and Sanitary Service.  
The Hon. the Commandant.  
The Hon. the Attorney-General.  
His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Northern Provinces.  
His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces.  
The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government.

AGAINST—14.

The Hon. the First Lagos Member.  
The Hon. the Commercial Member for Lagos (Provisional).  
The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar.  
The Hon. the Member representing the Niger African Traders.  
The Hon. the Second Lagos Member.  
The Hon. the Member for the Ibo Division.  
The Hon. the Member for the Rivers Division.  
The Hon. the Member for Shipping.  
The Hon. the Commercial Member for Kano.  
The Hon. the Mining Member.  
The Hon. the Banking Member.  
The Hon. the Member for Calabar.  
The Hon. the Member for the Colony Division.  
The Hon. the Third Lagos Member.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Your Excellency: I rise to move:—

"Be it resolved: That a grant of £500 from Government Funds be made to the Nigeria Boy Scouts Association for the year 1926-27."

This, Sir, is the first time any application has been made to Government to contribute to the Funds of the Nigerian Boy Scouts Association, and up till now Government has not given any money at all to this Association. The Boy Scout movement is rapidly growing in this country, and the keenness of its members, and the influx of new members, has made heavy inroads into the funds at the disposal of the Association. It is a movement that ought to be encouraged and those of us who, a few months ago, had the opportunity of watching a rally of the Boy Scouts of Lagos and surrounding parts can never forget the enthusiasm with which that rally was conducted. The thing is getting too big now to be entirely dependent on the voluntary contributions and financial efforts of the boys as it is at present, although it is highly desirable that those efforts should be maintained. If the movement is to progress it wants funds, and Government is taking this step to encourage the movement which clearly is for the good of the rising generation. One condition of the Government advancing this



money is that it must be assured that it will be properly used, and there has been a local Council formed consisting of His Excellency, as Patron and Chief Scout, the two Lieutenant-Governors, the two Bishops in Lagos, members of Missionary bodies and other prominent citizens.

I think that Honourable Members will be satisfied that with a Council like that the money will not be wasted. It is, I think, better to give a lump sum grant than to say we will give something to build this building or that, which would probably imply some responsibility for maintenance. Nor does Government undertake to give another grant hereafter. It depends entirely on how the movement grows and is carried on. Without encouragement, however, the movement is likely to fall to the ground. I beg therefore, Sir, to move the resolution standing in my name.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces:—

Your Excellency: I beg to second the resolution.

His Excellency:—

Does any Honourable Member wish to address the Council?

*The resolution was carried.*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Your Excellency: I rise to move:—

“ Be it resolved: That the Supplementary Estimates for  
“ 1925-26 which I have laid on the Table be referred to  
“ the Finance Committee for consideration.”

The Hon. the Treasurer:—

Your Excellency: I beg to second the resolution.

*The resolution was carried.*

The Hon. the Member for Calabar:—

Your Excellency: I beg to move:—

“ Be it resolved: That in the opinion of this Council, the  
“ Native Courts in the Southern Provinces of Nigeria  
“ as at present constituted, do not meet with the best  
“ interest of the people and that all existing warrants  
“ should be cancelled and only Chiefs appointed by  
“ Native Law and Customs should be recognised by the  
“ Government.”

There is no doubt, I am sure, that a great deal of corruption is going on in these Courts. I have discussed the matter with some of these Chiefs, with other people who are interested in the method of administering the law in this country, and with people who know a good deal about the customs, and their opinion is that these things are not what they should be, and the question of the remedy to be applied is the only thing that matters to them. Before the Government came to this country the people had their own method of appointing and electing their rulers. They had the opportunity of watching them and seeing that they did not mis-behave themselves and they held their posts subject to good behaviour. There is no doubt that this method of appointment by the people themselves had the effect of making the administration of rough justice righteous and incorrupt because the Chief presiding over the Court could be turned out of his office at the will of the people.

The people had their eyes on their Chiefs. Then the Government came and instead of the old custom, the Government adopted a method of giving certain people a piece of paper which made the recipients recognised warrant holders and chiefs. This system is destroying the very customs which we are told the Government desires to develop. These Chiefs, after the coming into force of the Native Courts Ordinance, became responsible to the Political Officers who, after all, knew as little about them as the Chiefs knew about the Political Officers themselves, because these Political Officers had no contact with the people, except in their position as Political Officers when they came to attend the Courts in their Provinces. When the system was first introduced a certain number of people who had no right at all to become chiefs were appointed—messengers and interpreters and others managed to become chiefs, and when it is recognised that this is a country where custom is the essence of Government, and there is a custom to keep up, it was found that those appointed to a position of authority in this way used their position, not in a proper way, but in oppressing the people, and in most cases their object was to make money out of their position. That is well known and admitted by responsible people.



Some time ago, last year, there was an article in the *Nigerian Law Journal*. A Chief in Onitsha Province was said to have defrauded his people. He made use of fetish men known as rain-makers. Some of the rain-makers were arrested and brought to Onitsha. But when the Commissioner of Police applied to the Resident to have the Chief's warrant suspended in order that he might be arrested and punished he met with a refusal. The Chief was "serviceable to Government" and nothing was done, and I believe he (the Chief) is still acting as Chief. Under the old system this Chief was doing something he ought not to have done and under the old law and custom he would have been quietly put away. Things are getting so bad that an apprehension exists, rightly or wrongly, in the minds of some of these people that the Political Officers are behind all this. (Honourable Members. No! No!) I say rightly or wrongly. Some people may think that I am exaggerating, but Political Officers have very little opportunity of travelling about these thick bush places. Those of you who sit here and do not know what is going on may say No! No! But the time has come for you to hear the truth and you must be cool about it.

Now, Sir, I am endeavouring to show that the only remedy for all this is to withdraw all these warrants, not because I feel that it is the only remedy which will do away with this state of corruption, but because, in the absence of any other remedy, I think my remedy is the best. Some of the Members of this Honourable Council, I know feel as I do about this matter. If any Official Member likes to move an amendment having for its object a better solution of the matter I shall be only too pleased to accept it, but failing anything better to offer than my remedy, I think mine is the best.

Your Excellency: I beg to move the resolution set down in my name.

The Hon. the First Lagos Member:—

Your Excellency: I beg to second the resolution.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces:—

The position as regards these Native Courts is as follows: They were established many years ago amongst very primitive people by Political Officers who had little knowledge of the country and who had no means of finding out anything. Numbers of these Native Courts had to be set up and members were appointed, but I should say, I am quite confident of it, that no members were appointed contrary to the expressed wishes of the people.

Some three or four years ago we began to realise that some members of the Native Courts had been appointed, though they were not in fact the true leaders and elders of the people, and ever since we have set about reforming the Native Courts and taking away the warrants, but I do not think the Honourable Member, any more than the Administration, would tolerate the cancellation of all existing warrants. Warrants are being cancelled as men die out or as they misbehave themselves. It would be a cruel thing to suppress all the existing Chiefs merely because they were appointed three or four years ago. No one of late has been appointed a member of the bench who was not a leader of the people. In so far as the cancellation of all existing warrants is concerned I must oppose the resolution of the Honourable Member.

The Hon. the Member for Ibo Division:—

The mover of this resolution in doing it has to some extent called attention to the evils that exist under the present system. I wish to put in a word. It is not my intention to oppose the resolution but I maintain that an abuse of authority should be corrected in any part of the country. (*The succeeding remarks of the Honourable Member were inaudible*), but the question is this: Those among the Chiefs who do not consider their position as Chiefs as imposing important duties upon them, it is such people that are going in for corruption, but those among them who have a serious sense of duty think something more than of making themselves big men in the town. Those who have no sense of duty I maintain are the oppressors (*the succeeding remarks of the Honourable Member were inaudible*). I do not think you can cure the evil by deposing all these Chiefs. People who are by birth chiefs and who hold a position amongst the people as leaders of people, as chiefs, and who have the confidence of the people should not be deposed. If the Honourable Member's resolution is agreed

to what remedy would you set up against this? (*The succeeding remarks of the Honourable Member were inaudible*). It is not good I say to cancel the warrants, it will have the effect of deposing the representative people, representative chiefs, and not of displacing those who happen by accident to get into those posts. In view of what the Honourable Member has said, and in view of what His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has just pointed out, and considering the reason why the large number of these chiefs have been appointed, I do not think the passing of this resolution can be justified. I feel inclined to oppose the motion not because I want to encourage corruption but because it will do more harm than good.

His Excellency:—

I take it the Honourable Member wished to have the subject ventilated. He has heard the Lieutenant-Governor's reply and I think that reply should satisfy him that the Government is giving the most serious attention to this matter by replacing the Chiefs who have lost the confidence of their people when occasion arises. In the circumstances does the Honourable Member really wish to press his resolution?

The Hon. the Member for Calabar:—

In view of what Your Excellency has said I do not wish to press the motion.

His Excellency:—

You withdraw it?

The Hon. the Member for Calabar:—

If Your Excellency pleases.

*The resolution was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.*

The Hon. the Banking Member:—

Your Excellency: I beg to move the following resolution:—

- .. Be it resolved: That, the abnormal conditions which
- .. rendered expedient the introduction of a base metal
- .. currency having ceased to exist, this Council would
- .. welcome action by the West African Currency
- .. Board having as its object a return to a silver
- .. coinage."

I will first sketch briefly the events which led up to the introduction of this coinage. As we all know, after the Armistice, the prices of all commodities soared to an extraordinary extent with the result that the currency of the country was unable to cope with the demands of trade. This situation was later aggravated by an extraordinary rise in the price of silver which brought the silver contents of coins to a greater value than their face value. The first of a series of temporary expedients was the issue by the Government of Nigeria of notes of various denominations. They were popularly known as MacGregor Notes on account of the signature which, incidentally, was the only respectable looking thing about them. These notes were followed in February, 1919 by a new issue of West African Currency Board Notes and these notes, with the assistance of a very meagre supply of silver coin, had to meet the demands of the country formerly met by coin.

Needless to say these notes were extremely unpopular and when, in 1920, the first alloy coinage arrived in this country it achieved immediate popularity, but I want to make it quite clear that that popularity was merely comparative. Those of us who have been privileged to travel in distant parts of this country can be under no illusion as to its popularity in regard to silver coin. I think I have shown that this alloy coin was purely the product of abnormal conditions which I have the faith to believe will never occur again.

I want to press that consideration may be given to a return to the coinage which we have known and used for the last seventy years. It is very significant, I think, that West Africa is the only place in the British Empire which has a coinage (other than subsidiary coinage) of base metal. I am thinking particularly of India with which this country has been, in a small way, compared. The Government of India made a limited experiment when, under similar conditions, they introduced a cupio nickel coinage for one anna and half-anna pieces. These were withdrawn from circulation as soon as the emergency passed. I think we should do something of the same sort here. The arguments against its withdrawal are: first, that it is popular; second, that it is not hoarded;

thirdly, that it is difficult to counterfeit; fourthly, that it is cheaper and more profitable; fifthly, that another change in our coinage would have some unknown effect upon the illiterate natives. As regards the first and second arguments, I submit that they are mutually destructive. As regards hoarding, in my experience this does not exist in West Africa to a greater extent than anywhere else. The native places his money in the only strong room which he knows, that is to say, mother earth, where he leaves it until he feels the need of some luxury or necessity. It is up to the banks to show the native that there are safer and more profitable ways of keeping his money than by burying it in the ground. It is up to the traders to make the luxuries of to-day the necessities of tomorrow. As to No. 3, it is no doubt true as regards our present, shall I say, practitioners in the art of coinage in Nigeria. I am quite sure that if a very real danger of coinage did not exist, other countries in the British Empire would have adopted our system of coinage and taken the profits which are brought to the Colonies concerned. As regards the fourth point, that it is cheaper and more profitable, I suggest that cheapness is not necessarily a virtue in coinage. As regards the question of profits, at the last meeting of this Council the Acting Treasurer, in reply to a question of mine, indicated, though extremely vaguely, I must say, that the question of contribution of profits to the Nigerian Exchequer was not necessarily a vital factor in the discussion, in my opinion a very proper view to take. I think currency should not be looked upon as a source of revenue. If after providing a decent sound coinage there should be certain surpluses, and I have no doubt if we return to silver currency there will still be considerable profits on the minting, these profits should be looked upon as merely incidental. As regards the effect on the natives, I feel quite sure that it would be good. So far, Sir, you will notice, I have adopted what I may call a negative mode of argument, in that I have not indicated any positive benefit which might accrue to the country through the return of silver coinage. I do not think that is necessary. One does not argue the advantages of honesty or morality. Silver coinage has always been the coinage of this country and similar countries and before any permanent change is made the matter should receive very close consideration and should be thoroughly discussed.

I have not so far referred to the situation which has arisen in view of the embarrassing compliment which our French neighbours have paid us by imitating our coinage. Their new alloy franc, worth about 2d. (instead of 10d. as in pre-war days) is of the same size, colour and appearance as our shilling. Up to now, it has merely been a nuisance but it has made the dealing with bulk coin extremely laborious. There has been very little loss, however, I am glad to say, to the natives, merchants or the banks. That is very largely due to the fact that the supply in the French colonies has been very much less than the demand, but when those supplies are augmented I foresee a considerable amount of trouble.

After all, metal coinage of this description is all very well for countries with a depreciated currency and credit.

Now that the Pound sterling on which our currency is based, and may I say very firmly based, can look the whole world in the face for goodness sake let us get back to the silver coinage we are used to.

I am not criticising in any way the West African Currency Board. That Board has always endeavoured to meet the expressed wishes of the Colonies which it serves. I am sure it must be one of the most efficient and economically run concerns of its kind in the Empire, and must have been the envy and despair of many less fortunate Colonies, the East African Colonies for example, during the periods of extreme inflation and deflation which our currency has successfully survived.

Your Excellency: I beg formally to move the resolution standing in my name.

His Excellency:—

The Council will now adjourn until 2.30 p.m. in the afternoon.

*(The Council adjourned at 1.10 p.m., and resumed at 2.30 p.m.)*

His Excellency:—

The Honourable the Banking Member has moved a resolution. We will now continue the discussion.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Port Harcourt :—

Your Excellency and Honourable Members: I rise to second the resolution. No doubt you have listened carefully to the technical explanation given by the Honourable the Banking Member as to why the silver coinage should be reintroduced into this country, and I would like to support it, not only from his point of view, but also from the layman's point of view. I am therefore instructed from my Chamber and the other Chambers to press for silver coinage again instead of alloy. I ask you not to look at it from the Lagos, Port Harcourt, Opobo, Calabar case point of view, but to look at it from the illiterate natives point of view who accepted the alloy because the European said it was necessary, but he never took to it. I am confident that a return to silver coinage will be advantageous and beneficial to the country. Not only do I make that statement, but from a trade point of view the return should be prompt. As regards the suggestion that has been made as to hoarding, the natives do not hoard base metal or alloy coin. They do not understand it. The introduction of alloy was, I understand, a temporary measure. As regards the point which was raised by the Honourable the Banking Member that silver was hoarded or buried because the native does not understand about the principles of banking, the native in the hinterland buries it because he has nowhere else to place it. He does not keep silver in his house for obvious reasons of theft, so he turns to mother earth. Therefore I do not think the question of hoarding enters into the argument at all.

I might also point out that as regards the question of base metal we are the last Dependency in the British Empire to retain it and it is a natural corollary that either all the others are right and we are wrong or *vice versa*. It is a question of what experience has shown, what the native wants and what he requires. The native will produce more for silver than he will for base coin, as he understands silver and not alloy. I think the Chambers of Commerce are asking a reasonable thing. I beg to second the resolution.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar :—

Your Excellency: I wish to support this resolution and to make it quite clear that, although I represent the Calabar Chamber of Commerce, I am not supporting it as an expert in commercial matters, still less as an expert financier. There are other very definite and deciding factors which appeal to the layman and from that point of view I wish to support this motion.

The motion itself states a proposition which, I think, must weigh considerably with every layman. It states the admitted fact that this base metal coinage was an expedient. It was introduced to deal with a particular set of circumstances, the circumstances being the economical situation brought about by the world war. The return to a normal state of trade in Nigeria shows, that to a considerable extent, those exceptional circumstances which gave rise to this expedient have disappeared, and we should return now to what, apart from those special circumstances, was considered the best thing for Nigeria, namely a silver coinage. Another point appeals to me as a layman. This motion is introduced by the Honourable the Banking Member: I may be wrong, but I do not think he has informed the Council, as he has informed me, that, in moving this motion, he was doing so, not merely as the nominated Honourable Member for the Banking interests of this country, but also with the express support of the other bank in Nigeria. We find as laymen, that the two banks here are in agreement on, what is after all, a purely financial and economic question. It seems to me therefore there only remains one further supporter I should like to hear in favour of this resolution, I mean the Honourable the Treasurer whose name, we have been told, alone gave respectability to the first currency notes. I await his remarks with interest.

We have a West African Currency Board and, after the tribute paid by the Honourable the Banking Member to the activities of that Board, it would be scarcely seeming of me to detract from anything he said. Being a Currency Board it should know exactly what is best for Nigeria currency. But it is a *West African* Board and my experience is that the line of least resistance has a morbid attraction for any West African Board.

I seem to remember that when, in the exceptional circumstances brought about by the war, we really did need, and need urgently, a base metal coinage to carry on the trade of the country, there were criticisms about the slowness of the action taken and about the delay in getting the requisite amount of base metal.

If the terms of the resolution proposed by my Honourable friend are looked at it will be found that the resolution is a very innocuous one and that it cannot do any harm. It merely asks this Council to say that it would welcome action taken by the West African Currency Board having as its object a return to silver coinage. It is not that we ask for an immediate return to silver coinage at all. I suppose the first thing that would happen, if this resolution is passed, is that a copy of it would be sent to the West African Currency Board and their first step would probably be to enquire into the question. They may have enquired into it before for all I know, but it seems to me that the effect of this resolution will be to make it incumbent on the West African Currency Board at once to enquire with some diligence into the question whether they should not now depart from the line of least resistance.

For these reasons I support the resolution.

The Hon. the Member for the Egba Division:—

I rise, Sir, in support of the case which has been set up by the previous speakers, managers of banks, commercial men and others very well qualified to know and as a commercial man myself I wish to say that I should welcome a return to the silver coinage but it looks to me that the metal coin has come to stay. The emergency first arose in the days of the war, when the price of silver rose abnormally, and it was then that it was suggested that a metal coinage might be used. It was then that the MacGregor notes were forced into being. They did not serve the purpose at all and they were displaced with other notes and an alloy coinage. I believe there was a lot of trouble arising from the form of security of these notes hence it was suggested that some better paper should be used. I think, Sir, that I was one of the few who suggested that some sort of metal might be introduced instead of paper currency. People used to complain that they did not find that the paper currency answered their purpose and that they were not worth anything like their intrinsic value. Base metal coin was therefore in favour for a while. I can assure you, Sir, that the position became very stringent.

Very recently the French Government found it necessary to start coining base metal pieces the size of our shilling, and it was very difficult to differentiate between our own coin and the French coins, for both had the Palm Tree on it, and a lot of people made it their business to buy these French coins for 2d. each and palmed them off on the people here as proper Nigerian currency. Only recently I heard from a business friend that he had lost £40 as a result of this and we have now to be particularly careful in receiving coin in payment. Each piece has to be carefully examined: one has to examine every shilling one by one. Great trouble has been caused. There is another matter too that is occupying the mind of the commercial man. It makes counterfeiting very easy, so very easy, that men make it their business to have the necessary tools and then they start coining away. They form themselves into gangs and when one is caught the rest carry on the work and so it goes on. If a man is caught he after serving a sentence, comes back to receive the profits his friends have made from this illicit trade. This trouble should be considered and there is to my mind no reason why Government should refuse to give us back our silver currency because the price of silver is very low at the present time. It is only 2s. 6d. an ounce now as compared with 5s. a little time ago so that Government could make a profit of nearly 100% on the £159,000 they have received from the introduction of the metal currency. I think it is time that the Government went back to the silver coinage.

The Hon. the Shipping Member:—

Your Excellency: may I be permitted to say that there is a principle that might be borne in mind on this matter, the principle that has now obtained in the home country—I refer to the return to the gold standard—and I think that the same principle applies to the motion you have before you.

His Excellency:—

Does any other Honourable Member wish to speak on the motion?

The Hon. the Treasurer:—

Sir, I rise to oppose this motion and to say a few words on the other side. To begin with I listened with great care to the speech delivered by the Honourable the Banking Member and it struck me that it contained no positive argument but consisted entirely of negative arguments. So much was this the case that he could not help referring to the matter himself and apologising for the lack of positive arguments.

It has been said that this resolution is a very harmless one but if the Council passes it, it becomes at once an indication that this Council is of the opinion that we should go back to silver currency. There are six millions of alloy in this country at the present moment. We are asked—in effect—to coin six millions of silver money, bring it out here, withdraw six millions of alloy and replace it with the silver—a huge, an expensive and a lengthy operation. It would probably take five years to do that and we require to be persuaded, not by negative but by positive arguments that it is a wise thing to do. We are urged to return to a state of “honesty and respectability” but I deny, Sir, that we have strayed from the paths of honesty and respectability. My Honourable friend the Banking Member was good enough to make some passing reference to the currency notes which were issued a few years ago and were connected with the name of an official called MacGregor. I would have liked to interject at the moment he made that allusion that they were honest and respectable notes and were all redeemed.

No one has said anything about the loss that would accrue if we returned to silver currency. That point was ignored. The West African silver coinage was introduced here in 1913. There were no profits until 1920. From 1913 to 1919 we got nothing. In 1920 we got £96,000. In that funny little financial period of three months, January to March, 1921, we got £50,000. In 1921-22 we got nothing, in 1922-23 nothing and then in 1923-24 we received over £150,000 as Nigeria's share of the profits of the alloy coinage, the first consignment of which had reached this Colony in July, 1920. We received the same again in 1924-25 and up to the end of October, 1925 we received £76,000 for the first half of this year and we expect to receive another £76,000 for the second half of the year. We are asked to return to silver currency which in the early days produced nothing: we are asked to throw away £100,000 per annum and no compensating benefits are alleged to make up for that. The alloy coinage is now accepted all over the land. I have enquired of merchants who are in an excellent position to know and they assure me that they want no change. The other day I had a conversation with a gentleman representing the largest firm in Nigeria and when the matter was put to him he said: “what do you want to change for? We have no trouble with the natives.” I interviewed another who knows all about Kano and the neighbourhood and he said the same thing: “There is not the slightest necessity to go back to silver.”

It was not a happy process in the early days introducing alloy coin into the country, the native is not fond of changes, he is conservative in his thoughts and habits; but he has got past that and he is taking to the alloy coins quite well. In his opening speech in support of this resolution the Banking Member said he was satisfied that the emergency brought about by the war would never return. That it should return through another European war, God forbid, but there are other circumstances which put up the price of articles and commodities. We have all heard of combines, trade disputes, workmen going on strike; there is also the possible exhaustion of supplies. Any of these things may put up the price of silver again to a prohibitive figure. If we returned to silver currency we might, in a few years, be in the humiliating position of having to go back a second time to the despised alloy coinage!!!

Now, about hoarding and counterfeiting: I do not attach much importance to these. While the native may prefer to hoard silver rather than alloy it does not amount to very much in either case. Of course hoarding is not a thing to be encouraged. If he is intent on hoarding it is more profitable for the country that he should hoard a metal that has cost less rather than one that has cost more. Hoarding is certainly not a thing that we should recommend, least of all in the presence of the representative of Banking.



There was one statement which the Banking Member made towards the end of his speech and he was, I think, supported in what he said by another Honourable Member, and that was the danger of finding in a bag of money, coins from the neighbouring French Colony. He said they were similar in appearance to our shilling but much less valuable. That is a danger but I don't think it is a very serious one—certainly not at present: it affects the Banks more than anyone else. But that we should change our whole system and lose £100,000 a year into the bargain in order to prevent the Banks having a little more trouble does not seem reasonable or desirable.

A curious slip was made by several Honourable Members in saying that this is the only country in the world that still has a debased coinage. They seem to have forgotten entirely the Colonies in East Africa. There is an East African Currency Board (as well as a West African Currency Board) which deals with the Colonies in East Africa: all these colonies together form quite a substantial portion of the earth's surface and of the British Empire. They are sufficiently large to have a policy of their own.

Another statement that was made was that when a layman hears the representative of both the Banks of this country advocate a return to silver coinage presumably the Banks are agreed on the matter and therefore there must be something in it. There often is something in it. (Loud laughter.) I find that when I want to get the price of remittances reduced I am told that for certain reasons of brotherly love they are not in a position to reduce it (Laughter). But in this instance I have reason to believe that both Banks are not of the same mind. I have had a conversation with the representatives of both Banks and the impression left on my mind was that at least half a Bank is on my side.

Then another reason brought forward for the return to silver coins was that it would be more or less following the example of the United Kingdom in returning to a gold standard. We are not talking about a silver standard or a gold standard: we are talking about coins, not standards. One would imagine that since the return to a gold standard the streets of London, Glasgow and Manchester were flowing with sovereigns. The standard of this country is a gold standard just as much as it is the standard of the United Kingdom, although I have not seen a gold piece here for years past.

I do not wish to take up the time of the Council otherwise I could enlarge on the subject a little more. In the absence of positive reasons, in the absence of thorough, convincing, overwhelming reasons it would not be wise to make a change in the currency at present. If we undertook it now it is within the bounds of possibility that within the next ten years we might have to come back to the despised alloy coinage. The motion as it stands may look harmless but none the less I am entirely opposed to the idea behind it that we ought to go back to silver. If we do it will entail a most substantial loss without any corresponding benefit. (Applause.)

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

The question of currency, Sir, is a very delicate one and it requires very careful consideration before one currency is substituted for another. It therefore behoves us to walk warily and to deal with this matter with the utmost caution.

Personally I agree with every word the Treasurer said and I remember seeing, when I was reading through the official papers, that the question of currency was raised in 1921 and at that time both the Banks fully agreed with the system of alloy coinage. I should be very interested to know whether the Honourable the Banking Member in moving this resolution was speaking in his private capacity or with the authority of the two banks or merely from the brief of his own Bank? In any case I am not very much impressed with the arguments in favour of the resolution that have been addressed to the Council. It was not imagined that the alloy coinage introduced into Nigeria in consequence of the world shortage of silver had come to stay for an indefinite period but does the native want a change? The native realises that that little bit of metal, our present shilling, will buy him one shillings—worth of goods all over the country and all over West Africa. The £5 note is nothing more or less than a piece of paper, the West African shilling is a piece of alloy but both have a purchasing power up to



their full value. So long as the credit of this country is good, the longer we exist with an alloy coinage, the more the native becomes accustomed to alloy coin and I think that we should make a great mistake if we altered the currency; we should only make the native nervous and dissatisfied.

I do not think that there is any general desire that this country should return to a silver currency and from conversations I have had I am confident that there are a great number of people who do not want it. It is as I have said a very delicate and difficult matter but I do not think that there is any cause for inquiry at all if that is what is behind the Honourable Member's motion. I may say at once that the motion as it stands will be resisted by the Government, but perhaps it would meet the Honourable Member's wishes if I suggested the motion should read something like this:—

“ Be it resolved: That the abnormal conditions which  
 “ rendered expedient the introduction of a base metal  
 “ currency having ceased to exist, this Council is of  
 “ opinion that the West African Currency Board should  
 “ now consider the question of a return to silver  
 “ coinage.”

That is merely asking the West African Currency Board to consider the matter. It pledges neither the Government or the Board to anything and if it meets the aim the Banking Member has in view it would be acceptable to Government.

The Hon. the Banking Member:—

The amendment as proposed by the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government will have the effect of raising this question which was the object I had in view. As I have pointed out the West African Currency Board has always endeavoured to meet the wishes of the Colonies themselves but I was not satisfied that the wishes of this country were being sufficiently considered and that is why I moved the resolution standing in my name. I shall in the circumstances, Sir, be quite willing to amend my resolution and accept the proposals of the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:

As a supporter of the original resolution, Sir, I should like to say that before the Honourable Treasurer sat down I had already commenced to draft an amendment almost in the same terms as that proposed by the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government.

His Excellency:—

The motion is:—

“ Be it resolved: That the abnormal conditions which  
 “ rendered expedient the introduction of a base metal  
 “ currency having ceased to exist, this Council is of the  
 “ opinion that the West African Currency Board should  
 “ now consider the question of a return to silver  
 “ coinage.”

Those in favour of the motion as amended say “ Aye.”

Those against say “ No.”

The “ Aye's ” have it.

(The resolution as amended was carried unanimously.)

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Sir, I rise to move the motion which was not on the Agenda but which was referred to in Your Excellency's Address to the Council. Copies of the motion and of the Order in Council were handed round to Honourable Members this morning. The motion is as follows:—

“ Be it resolved: That Order in Council No. 5 of 1926, dated  
 “ the 12th day of February, 1926, made under the  
 “ Customs Tariff Ordinance, 1924, be approved in so far  
 “ as it relates to the Colony and the Southern Provinces  
 “ of the Protectorate.”

Honourable Members will see that this motion deals with a variation in the duties, both import and export. There has been a good deal of controversy over this question. There are those who say give us relief from the import duties, and there are others who say first of all relieve us of the export duties. The import duties bring in a very large revenue to this country and they are increasing,

while the export duties remain very much as before. We take the view that we are better able to afford to reduce some of the export duties than the import and that, speaking generally, our policy is to reduce export duties before import duties. The import duties collected during the year 1925 amounted to nearly two and three quarter million pounds sterling, an increase of nearly three quarters of a million over the preceding year. The export duties were very much the same as the year before.

As regards the export duties let me refer to a statement that I have heard made very many times, that the export duties were levied purely as a war measure. That is quite wrong. It is true that they were at first introduced as a war measure and that it was generally understood that as soon as the financial situation improved they would be reduced, but it is quite untrue to say that any promise was made that they would be entirely abolished on the termination of the war and in order to dispel what is an illusion and a misapprehension I propose to quote a passage from Sir Hugh Clifford's Address to the Council in 1924. He says, speaking of the Customs duties:

"The Customs duties are, and probably will always be, Nigeria's principal source of Revenue. The figures, to which I have just invited the attention of Honourable Members, illustrate three facts which, in considering the financial affairs of the Dependency, it is necessary to bear steadily in mind. They are:

"Firstly, the extent of the havoc that was wrought in the entire fiscal system of Nigeria by the action of His Majesty's Government in prohibiting the importation of so-called "Trade" Spirits into the British West African Colonies, as from February 1st, 1919.

"Secondly, the impossibility of making good, not only the actual, but the *potential*, revenue derivable from the duties on spirits by subjecting those on other articles of import even to the most drastic revision. It is true that in 1923 the actual receipts on this account exceeded those of 1913, but having regard to the changed purchasing-power of money, the development of the country and the inevitable expansion of its needs and services during the past decade, an increase of £90,586 in that period must be recognised as a negligible amount.

"Thirdly, that in these circumstances the imposition of Export duties upon produce, however, objectionable they may be held to be in principle, was an inevitable measure which this Government was compelled to adopt and which, in fact, has alone saved the financial situation. In this connection, it should be noted that in 1921, even with the aid of revenue from this source amounting to £606,009, the total Customs Revenue fell short of that of 1913 by nearly £60,000.

And then after a passing reference to a speech made by Lord Leverhulme on the Export duties, Sir Hugh went on to say this:—

"Lord Leverhulme is, of course, mistaken in suggesting that the export duties on produce were "imposed on West Africa" by the Colonial Office. The measure was first proposed and recommended by me, as Governor of the Gold Coast, during the War and as a purely war-expedient; and as such it received the approval of the then Secretary of State, the late Mr. Bonar Law, himself a fairly successful and representative man from a self-governing Dominion. It was subsequently adopted, still as a purely war-measure, by the Governments of the other West African Colonies. No one at that time, least of all myself or any other West African administrator, could possibly foresee that within a few weeks of the ending of the war—which we might reasonably hope and expect would bring with it some relief to our besetting financial anxieties and a general repeal of emergency legislation—His Majesty's Government would, by a stroke of the pen, suddenly deprive these Colonies of the revenue from spirit duties which, in pre-war days, had composed the bulk of Nigeria's customs receipts and her largest individual source of income. This measure having, however, been taken without warning or preparation of any kind, Nigeria found herself, very shortly after the cessation of hostilities, faced with the difficult task of accommodating herself to the loss of what before the War had represented anything from 63% to 69% of her revenue from

import duties and of from 55% to 61% of her total revenue from all sources. In these radically altered circumstances, it ceased to be possible to regard the export duties on produce as the purely war-expedient which they were originally designed to be; and it became necessary not only to retain them as part of our peace-time system of taxation but, from February 1st, 1920, materially to increase them."

Gentlemen, I hope we shall never hear another word about the export duties being purely a war tax. What Sir Hugh Clifford said in 1924 is perfectly true and it stands to-day.

Coming to the specific points of the Order in Council I will deal first of all with items (a), (b) and (d) together. They are what I might call the cold storage parts of the Order. The question of whether the duty on cold storage provisions should be maintained was dealt with in March, 1924 when the Honourable the Commercial Member for Lagos made an effort to have fresh provisions in cold store not exempted from the duties, but he was defeated. Government has come to the conclusion that no reason exists now, if it ever did exist, why this class of goods should escape. We all know that it is the consumer who pays in the long run and a release from duty would not the better enable or assist the Cold Storage Company to maintain their supplies. All can go to the Cold Store and get what they want but the fact is that it is only the European that deals there to any great extent. It is said that the exemption from duty of fresh provisions is a subsidy in favour of the European. That is intolerable and we wish to put a stop to it. There is no reason why the Cold Storage Company should not carry on their business and work on the same basis as any other firm without such a charge being made. Presumably they work for a profit and it is absurd to suggest that they would come out here and put down an expensive plant if they could not see a working profit.

As regards petrol: the amount of petrol imported into the country is increasing. A short time ago the amount imported was 327,000 gallons, now it is 1,696,000 gallons and duty has gone up from £8,000 to £42,000. We are of the opinion that anything Government can do to help to increase the transport facilities in this country should be one of the first things to be done. At present the cost of petrol is high, and the duty must be added to that and it all goes to make transport charges heavy. The less it costs to bring produce to the coast for shipment the more will trade improve and we consider that it is time to do something to reduce the cost of transport. We should have liked to have abolished the duty altogether but it was not found possible to do that so we have reduced it by half—to 3d. instead of 6d. per gallon.

Now as regards the second paragraph of the Order, the Governor in Council has power under clause 18 of the Second Schedule to the Ordinance to exempt from duty patent foods for invalids. It is now proposed to delete this clause in the Schedule. In 1923 a certain medical missionary applied to the Government for a remission of duty on Mellin's Foods on the grounds that it would be beneficial to European and American children. As the European children then and now could probably be counted on two hands that does not strike me as a very cogent argument. It was then tried to get exemption by calling the food a medicinal preparation, but that failed. Finally, item 18 came into existence and Mellin's Food was put on the free list. That was followed by applications on behalf of other foods and whatever argument existed in favour of Mellin's Food existed equally as regards the others. Even a Governor in Council must act judicially, and the result is that we now have eight or nine on the free list and I see no reason why it should not eventually reach eighty or ninety if sufficient applications were made. I cannot imagine there are any European invalids who depend for their sustenance on tinned foods as I am quite sure our medical friends would have shipped them home long before that. As regards African children, I imagine the several millions of them rely entirely on their mothers in their earliest years, and anything likely to discourage the use of the natural sources of supply should in my opinion be discouraged. Personally I have never understood that there was any real desire that these patent foods should not pay duty. There is one tinned food obtainable, probably no less efficacious than patent foods. I refer to tinned milk which pays duty and is then only 6d. a tin as against 2s. say for a tin of patent food. Nor do I imagine the evils of

malnutrition are to be cured by the extensive use of these foods. That seems to me to be starting at the wrong end. What is wanted is to improve the education of the African mother and to teach her the right methods and the sanitary methods of mothercraft in general. If anyone who wants these patent foods can afford to pay 2s. for them they can very well afford to pay 2s. 2d. and I think that no ground exists for retaining this item.

Then as regards palm oil: I have told you that we prefer to reduce export rather than import duties. We had to decide which of the export duties we would reduce. We had to make a start somewhere and we decided, subject to the approval of the Council, to make a start on palm oil. We have worked it out and we find that as compared with this year's estimated receipts there will, if we reduce the duty by 10s. a ton, be a resulting loss of £64,000. If we reduced palm kernel oil by the same figure there would have been a loss of £136,000. Therefore, as we did not think we could afford to lose such a large amount, we came to the conclusion that we could not wisely go beyond the £64,000 and, as you will have gathered, that means a reduction on palm oil of 10s. a ton.

As regards hides and skins, this is a small trade and it is not very prosperous. The duty on hides and skins ranges between a penny and a halfpenny. At the time the duty was imposed it was the last trade to be taxed. It is fair to argue it should be the first to be relieved as the trade was less able to afford it than other trades. That being so and a tax having been imposed, we had to consider whether we should remit the tax altogether or reduce it by half. We came to the conclusion that it did not seem worth while to reduce it by half, by halfpennies and farthings, as the whole amount of the duty only amounted to about £28,000 a year and so we have decided to remit the whole of the tax.

Now the question is what does it all amount to?

The reduction of the petrol tax means a loss of revenue of £21,000, on palm oil £64,000, on hides and skins £23,000, a total loss of £113,000. My Honourable friend the Treasurer, with that caution which is a characteristic of his race, was not very happy about these reductions. He did not think that we could afford these reductions. If he does not think we are definitely embarking on the Bakes Progress, he is not quite sure that we are not flirting with bankruptcy. He was, however, prepared to say that we could afford to reduce the duties, providing they did not amount to a loss of more than £80,000. The difference as you see is about £33,000. However, bearing in mind our policy that where possible export duties should be reduced before import duties, we came to the conclusion that we could risk it safely in view of an estimated revenue of nearly eight millions. The result of all this will be to alter the estimated revenue and according to estimates which have been worked out there will be a deficit on paper of about £150,000. I should add that these reductions will take place as from this morning. (Applause.)

The Hon. the Comptroller of Customs:—

Your Excellency: I beg to second.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

Your Excellency: I should like to say one word and that is to welcome the reduction on the commodity with which I am most concerned that is palm oil. It is not so much the quantity of the reduction that I welcome, but the reduction is an indication of the attitude and the future intentions of the Government, which will be welcomed throughout Nigeria. I think that during the controversy as to the effect of the export duties in Nigeria both sides overstated their case. There is one rather whimsical point during the whole controversy which was never put forward by either side and that is that the export duties which were imposed were not the first export duties known to Nigeria. I am speaking now of the Eastern Provinces and there before the advent of the Government, before the Government had anything at all to do with it, the only duty in existence was the duty on coal which was arranged between the European merchants and the natives. The first thing the Government did was to remove it and to substitute import duties on coal and I am very glad to see that that early policy is still in the forerun of their ideas.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Port Harcourt:—

Your Excellency: I should like to say one word, representing as I do the Port Harcourt Chamber of Commerce, and I re-echo the words of my Honourable friend in welcoming the reduction of the

duty on palm oil. The reduction of the tax will give a much needed stimulus to the merchants at home and will further the plans of the trade in the world's markets.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Lagos:—

Your Excellency: I welcome the reduction of the export duties chiefly because the Chamber of Commerce that I represent has consistently, from the time that Sir Hugh Clifford advocated a reduction or the repeal of these duties, contended that as soon as the financial position of Nigeria improved the export duties should be done away with. I particularly welcome Mr. Baddeley's announcement of a reduction in the palm oil duty because with all these duties on the export of the natural products of the country, the commercial firms have had a great deal of competition to contend with, particularly when it is remembered that we really have to pay two export duties. This is a very expensive port and although the export duty on palm oil has been reduced we still have another export duty to pay in the shape of harbour dues, etc., and we think that these might be reduced also. I am quite sure that the commercial community of Lagos and in this division of the oil palm centre will welcome this reduction very heartily.

The Hon. the First Lagos Member:—

Your Excellency: I also welcome this removal of the export duties although I would have liked to have seen the export duty abolished altogether. I think that one or two sessions ago when the export duty on cocoa was being discussed the Chamber of Commerce stated that they were in favour of the duty on cocoa being abolished too, and I am rather surprised that no mention has been made of this to-day. However, I have no doubt that although 10s. only has been taken off the duty on palm oil the Chamber is tolerably satisfied and I only hope that they will pass on the reduction to the consumer.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Lagos:—

Your Excellency: I might mention that the price of palm oil on the beach went up by 10s. almost before the announcement of a reduction in duty was mentioned.

His Excellency:—

Does any other Honourable Member desire to address the Council?

*(The resolution was carried).*

#### BILLS.

##### CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY SEA ORDINANCE, 1926.

On the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Comptroller of Customs, a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to make Provisions with respect to the Carriage of Goods-by Sea" was read a first time and the Honourable the Attorney-General gave notice that the second reading of the Bill would be moved at the next meeting of the Council.

##### TRADE MARKS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1926.

On the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Comptroller of Customs, a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to Amend the Trade Marks Ordinance 1914 and 1923" was read a first time and the Honourable the Attorney-General gave notice that the second reading of the Bill would be moved at the next meeting of the Council.

##### PROFITEERING (RENT) (REPEAL) ORDINANCE, 1926.

On the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government, a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to Repeal the Profiteering (Rent) Ordinance" was read a first time and the Honourable the Attorney-General gave notice that the second reading of the Bill would be moved at the next meeting of the Council.

##### LOAN ORDINANCE, 1923 (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1926.

On the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Treasurer, a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to Amend the Loan Ordinance, 1923" was read a first time and the Honourable the Attorney-General gave notice that the second reading of the Bill would be moved at the next meeting of the Council.



## AGRICULTURAL ORDINANCE, 1926.

On the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government, a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to enable the Governor in Council to make regulations for the prevention of the introduction or spread of pests and insects destructive to trees, plants and crops, and for the control of cotton growing and of the preparation and export of cotton and other agricultural produce" was read a first time, and the Honourable the Attorney-General gave notice that the second reading of the Bill would be moved at the next meeting of the Council.

## REGISTRATION OF BUSINESS NAMES ORDINANCE, 1926.

On the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Treasurer, a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to Provide for the Registration of Firms and Persons carrying on Business under Business names and for purposes connected therewith" was read a first time and the Honourable the Attorney-General gave notice that the second reading of the Bill would be moved at the next meeting of the Council.

## COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1926.

On the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Acting Secretary for Native Affairs, a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Collective Punishment Ordinance" was read a first time and the Honourable the Attorney-General gave notice that the second reading of the Bill would be moved at the next meeting of the Council.

## REVISED EDITION OF THE LAWS (ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT) (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1926.

On the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Treasurer, a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to Amend the Revised Edition of the Laws (Annual Supplement) Ordinance, 1925," was read a first time and the Honourable the Attorney-General gave notice that the second reading of the Bill would be moved at the next meeting of the Council.

## TRADING WITH THE ENEMY (REPEAL) ORDINANCE, 1926.

On the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Treasurer, a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to Repeal the Trading with the Enemy Ordinance" was read a first time and the Honourable the Attorney-General gave notice that the second reading of the Bill would be moved at the next meeting of the Council.

## PORTS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1926.

On the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Director of Marine, a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to Amend the Ports Ordinance" was read a first time and the Honourable the Attorney-General gave notice that the second reading of the Bill would be moved at the next meeting of the Council.

## TOWNSHIPS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1926.

On the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Secretary, Southern Provinces, a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to Amend the Townships Ordinance" was read a first time and the Honourable the Attorney-General gave notice that the second reading of the Bill would be moved at the next meeting of the Council.

## SUPPLY ORDINANCE, 1926.

On the motion of the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government, seconded by the Honourable the Treasurer, a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria for the year ending the 31st day of March, 1927," was read a first time.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

I rise, Sir, to move the suspension of Standing Order No. 23 to enable the Supply Bill to be read a second time at this meeting of Council.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:—

I beg to second.

*The resolution was carried.*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

I now beg to move that a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the Service of the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria for the year ending 31st day of March, 1927," be read a second time. It is usual, Sir, in proposing the second reading of a Bill to explain at some length the provisions of the Bill. I think that it is quite unnecessary for me, at the present stage, to explain the provisions of this Bill because you have the Estimates before you, together with a Memorandum thereon, and those of you who have read them carefully will find all the information which you will require when the Bill comes to be considered by the Select Committee.

The Hon. the Treasurer:—

I beg to second.

*The motion was carried and the Bill was read a second time accordingly.*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

I now beg, Sir, to move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the two Lieutenant-Governors, the Treasurer and all the Unofficial Members of the Council, together with myself as Chairman.

The Hon. the Treasurer:—

I beg to second.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

Ought this not to be referred to a Committee of the whole house, Sir?

His Excellency:—

No, I do not think it is necessary. All the Unofficial Members will be present and if any of the Official Members are required they can be sent for. Are you referring to any Standing Order?

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

No, Sir, I was only referring to what I understood was the ordinary practice.

His Excellency:—

All Unofficial Members have been invited to be present on the Select Committee and all Official Members will be available to answer any questions that may be asked.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

It is not necessary that all the Official Members should be members of the Committee, they can be sent for if they are wanted. As regards the Unofficial Members, the Committee may consist of all of them or such number as the President may determine.

His Excellency:—

Everybody asked to be present will be present.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

I was only thinking, Sir, about the Senior Residents. They ought to be present at the discussion in order that they may be in a position to answer any questions that may be asked about their administrations.

*The motion was carried.*

#### EDUCATION (COLONY AND SOUTHERN PROVINCES) ORDINANCE, 1926.

On the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Director of Education Southern Provinces, a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to make better provision in regard to Education in the Colony and Southern Provinces," was read a first time.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:—

I beg, Sir, to move that Standing Order No. 23 be suspended in order to enable a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to make better provision in regard to Education in the Colony and the Southern Provinces" to be read a second time, at the present meeting of this Council.



In moving this motion my object is to expedite the work of the Council, because if this Bill is not read a second time to-day it will be necessary to have a further meeting of the Council after the meeting at which the report of the Select Committee on the Supply Bill is considered.

A number of amendments have been directed by the Secretary of State and it is my intention to ask Your Excellency to appoint a Select Committee to consider the Bill. It will obviously be convenient if that Committee can be appointed to-day and present its report at the same meeting as the Select Committee on the Supply Bill presents its report on that Bill. If Honourable Members have any objection to that course they will, no doubt, say so. I accordingly beg to move the suspension of Standing Order No. 23.

The Hon. the Member for the Colony Division:—

Your Excellency: I would have opposed the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General if he had not suggested that the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee and if he had not given Honourable Members an opportunity of stating their wishes.

His Excellency:—

I regard a Select Committee as essential in a novel matter of this sort.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

This Bill must clearly go to a Select Committee. When the Committee has reported to the full Council Honourable Members will be given a full opportunity of a long debate on the third reading.

If the second reading were not taken to-day, the effect would be rather to stultify the work of the Select Committee and that is why the matter is being dealt with in this way.

I beg to second the motion.

*The motion was agreed to.*

The Hon. the Attorney-General:—

I rise, Sir, to move the second reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to make better provision in regard to Education in the Colony and Southern Provinces."

This Bill, Sir, is in a great part a re-enactment of the present Education Ordinance which applies to the whole of Nigeria, both the Colony and the Southern Provinces and the Northern Provinces. In so far as it is a re-enactment of the existing Provisions of the Education Ordinance it is unnecessary for me to explain its provisions. Those provisions are law now and are well known to Honourable Members.

I propose therefore to explain how the proposals now made differ from the existing law.

There are four principal matters in which an amendment of the law is proposed. The first is in the definition of the word "school." It is proposed to include in the definition regular assemblies of ten or more children called together for the purpose of receiving regular instruction. But the proposed definition does not include any institution or assembly where the instruction is only of a religious character. That is decidedly a new departure and one which is regarded as of first importance.

The second important alteration is the constitution of the Board of Education. The present Board is to be abolished, and a new Board set up in which unofficial and official elements will be equally represented, the idea being, that the Board should be Advisory and that its advice should be sought and acted upon with frequency.

The third principal alteration is that it is provided in the Bill also that all teachers must be registered, and the fourth, and the most important of all, is that the machinery for closing a school is much simplified, whilst at the same time there is a safe-guarding provision which prevents a school from being closed except with the consent both of the Director and of a majority of the Board. Under the old Ordinance a school could not be closed without the holding of a commission of enquiry under the Commissions of Enquiry Ordinance. Evidence had to be taken on oath, a report had to be made and generally the procedure was very cumbersome.

It is proposed to abolish that cumbersome method of closing schools and to enable a school to be closed by order of the Governor but only on the authority of the Director of Education and a majority of the Board on which the unofficial elements have equal representation with the official.

I have now explained the way in which the present Bill differs from the existing Ordinance. The Acting Director of Education for the Colony and Southern Provinces has been appointed an extraordinary member of this Council in order to advise Your Excellency and this Council in regard to this Bill and I feel sure in seconding the motion for the second reading he will give you fuller information than I have done. I have merely indicated the principal legal alterations.

I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

The Hon. the Director of Education, Southern Provinces:

I beg to second the motion for the second reading. I do not want it to be thought that this Bill has been prepared hurriedly. It is really the result of long discussions, many interviews and much correspondence with the Colonial Office, and if Honourable Members had seen the file in our office dealing with this subject they would have been astounded at its size. Many of you will remember that the late Governor, Sir Hugh Clifford, took a very great interest in this subject and the present Bill is very largely based on a memorandum drawn up by him which was very fully discussed at a meeting of the Advisory Committee in London at which I was present; that Committee, as you are aware, consists in the main of men with long educational experience and representatives of mission societies. The main object of the Bill is to obtain effective co-operation between the Government and the Missions which have been in the past doing so much educational work in this country. For that reason it is proposed to set up this Board. There are to be twelve members of the Board and six of these members will be non-officials. No action which might appear to be rather drastic can be taken unless the Director of Education obtains the sanction of a majority of the Board. That safe-guards any mission or any school from drastic departmental action by some hot headed Director of Education. For example, he has to convince the majority of the Board that it is necessary to close a school.

As regards the definition of the word "school," the Attorney-General pointed out that we have defined the word "school" in a different manner to that in which it has been defined in chapter 65 of the Laws. Schools were defined there as institutions in which more than ten pupils are systematically taught and in which any person is engaged to impart education. One of the things which concerns the Government is that in the Southern Provinces a great many schools, to which the late Governor referred as "heir-g-schools", have sprung up one might almost say all over the country. In some cases these schools are not institutions so much as "assemblies" of children taught either in buildings and even under trees. We excluded schools of a purely religious character, for instance, Koranic schools.

Then we have changed the title of officers appointed by the Government to assist in the control of schools from Inspectors to Superintendents, a title which has already been adopted in the Northern Provinces. Then the definition of the word "Supervisor" is introduced. A Supervisor is defined as a person appointed by a proprietor, and approved by the Government to assist in the supervision of schools established or conducted by such proprietor. The reason for this will be explained to the Select Committee as the system of supervision is one of the main principles that it is proposed to introduce. This scheme should do much to ensure the co-operation of Missions and others in improving the standard of education.

As regards the question of the registration of teachers, it must be clearly understood that we do not propose to take drastic action at first. The object of this provision is to ensure that fit and proper people are engaged in the teaching profession. I have known convicted criminals after release from Prison to undertake the running of a school and the education of children. It is necessary to ensure that men of good character should enter the teaching profession. At the same time this provision will do something to raise the status of teachers in this country.

School Committees. It is proposed that they should take an active part in developing our educational policy in the Southern Provinces.

Up to the present they have been of considerable value in the Northern Provinces, but not in the South.

As regards the inspection of schools, the outstanding difference between the new Ordinance and the old is that in the past only assisted schools were inspected. Now it is proposed that all schools should be subject to inspection.

Section 12 replaces Section 16 in the old Ordinance. Section 12 proposes that where a school is in an unsatisfactory condition the proprietor of the school should be given due warning of the faults in the conduct of the school and how those faults should be remedied.

If after a certain period it appears that the school is still being conducted in a manner not in the interest of the pupils or of the community the recommendation that the school shall be closed will be made by the Director of Education, provided he is supported by a majority of the Board, to the Government who then has power to order the school to be closed.

I do not think there are any other outstanding points in the Bill which call for explanation.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

I have been rather in a difficulty as to the stage at which I should say what I have to say about this Bill. It might perhaps have been better for me to have made my statement on the motion to suspend Standing Order No. 23. I have, however, deferred it until now because I wanted to hear what the mover and second had to say. I say at once that I oppose the second reading of this Bill being taken at this Session of the Council. I am speaking with particular reference to the Eastern part of the Southern Provinces of Nigeria. It is my firm conviction that the Nigerian Government has never fairly and squarely met its responsibility with regard to the education of the people. It seems to me that this grave responsibility has been shirked or shelved for the last forty years by the Government. Government has a responsibility for the welfare of the people of this country and that involves fundamentally a responsibility for the education of the people of this country. That serious responsibility has almost entirely been left to, and accepted by, the Missionary bodies of various sects; and particularly is this so in the Eastern Provinces. I hold no brief for the Missions and I do not wish it to be understood that in my opinion the results of Mission education are all that can be desired, but they have laboured in the field which has been neglected by the Government. We have had in this country many Missionaries who have devoted their whole time, and in some cases their whole lives, to the work of education. Some of their ideas may be wrong; some of their principles and methods may be wrong; but they have done far more for the education of natives than the Government. Until I came to Lagos for this meeting of Council I had never seen this Bill. That may be due to the delay in mails or to delay in gazetting but when I read the Bill I was amazed to find even the possibility that we might be expected to pass this Bill through all its stages at this Session of this Council. I took it upon myself to ask by telegram whether this Bill had yet been seen by the Missions in Calabar; the answer was that it had not. It is true that the Director of Education was recently in Calabar and that some questions of education were discussed by him with Missionary bodies, but they were never consulted as to the terms of this Bill. I am referring particularly to one of the oldest established Missionary bodies in Nigeria, the Headquarters of which the Honourable the Director of Education did visit while in Calabar; but he never as far as I know brought with him to Calabar a copy of this Bill. I had a conversation with him in Calabar but he never showed me a copy of this Bill or even mentioned its existence; and up till now this particular Mission in Calabar has not seen the Bill or been consulted as to its terms. It would not only be the last word in discourtesy to the Missions, but it would be totally disrespectful to the work which they have so devotedly undertaken if they were not given an opportunity of seeing this Bill before it is passed; and it would, from the point of view of this Council, be ridiculous to pass a Bill of this kind without having before this Council the considered views of not only all the Missionaries in the country but also the views of their Headquarters in the United Kingdom. I am accordingly of the opinion that we should not read this Bill a second time at this Session; or if we do, it should only be read a second time on an undertaking on behalf of the Government that it will not be preceded with further until the Government are able to put before this Council definitely and fully the views of all Missions. We have heard a great deal of this

Advisory Committee of the Colonial Office, but we have not been told what Nigerian Mission bodies if any are represented on this Committee and neither do we know who represents and looks after Nigerian educational interests on that Committee?

The Hon. the Director of Education, Southern Provinces:—

Sir Frederick Lugard.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

I am afraid that does not meet the point I had in mind. My point is that there is apparently no representative on that Advisory Committee of the people who have for all these years been carrying on the education of the people in the Eastern Provinces. Further it is a most remarkable fact that, in this Council, where we have Members representing all sorts and kinds of interests, we have no one nominated as a Member of the Council to represent the Missionary bodies here, although everyone knows the valuable work those bodies have done for a great many years past. Notwithstanding that, we are asked to pass a Bill going to the root of education in this country and, at any rate, one of these missionary societies has not been consulted in the matter. Accordingly, Sir, unless there is an express undertaking by the Government that the Bill will not be proceeded with further until the views of the Missionary bodies have been obtained on its provisions and considered by this Council, I shall feel obliged to oppose the second reading of this Bill. I wish to make it quite clear, Sir, that there ought to be some time given to consider the matter. I for one wish to ascertain the views of the Missionary societies in Calabar on the terms of this Bill, before I vote for the second reading.

The Hon. the Director of Education, Southern Provinces:—

I think, Sir, that there must have been a complete misunderstanding. I am unaware of the particular missionary society to which the Honourable Member sent his telegram but I may say that I had a long discussion with the head of the United Free Church Mission in Calabar, Mr. Gardiner, and Mr. MacGregor and Mr. Jones were present. We went through every item of this Bill. We discussed the representation of the Eastern Provinces on the proposed Board of Education and only yesterday, with the Governor's consent, a telegram was sent to Mr. Gardiner saying that the Governor approved of the nominee of that mission who was put forward in the course of the discussion.

One of the main objects of my trip to Calabar was to discuss the terms of this Bill with various representatives of the Missionary bodies in the Eastern Provinces, and I may say that in addition to Mr. Gardiner I saw representatives of the C.M.S. at Onitsha, Bishop Lasbury, and the Principal of the St. Andrew's Training College at Oyo, Father Strubb of the Roman Catholic Mission, Asaba, Bishop Shanahan and others and the majority expressed themselves as generally in agreement with the proposals of the Government. I did not have time to discuss the matter with everybody but I did the best I could in the time at my disposal. Government has in the past done very little for education in this country and now it is our wish to expedite this important Bill, which the Honourable Member has proposed should be delayed. As regards his suggestion that the Missionary bodies in Calabar were not consulted I can only say that I discussed the matter with Mr. Gardiner and his friends and if the Honourable Member is referring to the United Free Church Mission:—

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

It is that Mission and that individual I am referring to, Mr. Gardiner. I wired to him and asked him if he was consulted with regard to this Bill and he replied "we were not consulted." I will read, if I may, his telegram to me:—

"We were not consulted Director Education gave brief resume when here requested me arrange representative go Lagos for three months when Colonial Secretary reply received to rough draft sent home. Gardiner."

It seems to me, therefore, that so far as the Bill is concerned the United Free Church Mission were never consulted as to its provisions and I am assured that they never in fact saw the Bill at all. They understood apparently that a rough draft was to come out from the Secretary of State in regard to which they were to send down a representative to discuss matters before the Bill assumed final form.



The Hon. the Director of Education, Southern Provinces:—

My object in consulting the United Free Church Mission was to find out if they would be prepared to send up a representative who would be able to sit in continuous session for three months, and I asked Mr. Gardiner whether he would be able to spare his nominee's services for three months. The Bill, I informed him, was before the Secretary of State and we would only proceed with it if the Secretary of State approved. It is correct to state that Mr. Gardiner was not consulted before the Bill was drafted.

His Excellency:—

There seems to be a complete misunderstanding. This Bill merely deals with certain broad and general principles. The working out of the details of the reforms which it is proposed to introduce, as far as the Southern Provinces is concerned, will be done by the Board of Education and the missions will be fully represented. That is the important point. The missions will have a very big say, though not a preponderating say, in the matter.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Port Harcourt:—

Your Excellency: I should just like to make a point, and that is that the Scottish Missions who have been out here for fifty years or more giving their services to education in this country, and giving the lives of their missionaries also, have had no opportunity of considering this measure. Government has done nothing for education in this country for fifty years or more. It was only on Thursday morning last that we received a copy of this Bill, and the Government are so anxious to rush it through that we are asked to pass the Bill in three days. I think there is more in this Bill than meets the eye and I believe the Director of Education knows that for he used the word "drastic;" "we are not going to take drastic measures;" no fewer than three times. I think therefore he rather stands condemned out of his own mouth. I quite concur with my friend the Honourable the Commercial Member for Calabar when he says that this is a matter that ought not to be hurried: the missions ought to be consulted. They have stood alone for many years in the education of the country, many of them have given their lives to educating the native and I do think that their work demands further consideration.

The Hon. the First Lagos Member:—

Your Excellency and Honourable Members: I rise to second the amendment moved by the Honourable Member. This Bill is a very important Bill, very important indeed. I am speaking more from the point of view of the public. I think the Honourable the Director of Education stated that the Bill followed somewhat the lines of the old Bill but that there were some new departures. There are a few things in this Bill which it is very necessary should be considered, not only by the educated but by the uneducated part of the population because it is going to make a big difference to them. They should be told something more about it. For instance section 11 gives power to the Governor to close schools in respect of which some offence has been committed. We have just learned here that Sir Frederick Lugard represents Nigeria on the Advisory Board of the Colonial Office on Education. I can very well understand why this clause was put in if he is one of those responsible for the drafting of the Bill. There are a lot of vested interests doing very good work here known as private schools. It is these schools which will feel the draught and it is a great departure to allow the Board of Education to close schools when they think it necessary. All the Unofficial Members think that the second reading should be postponed while this Bill is digested. The position is that the Governor in Council may either abolish a school or he may establish one and if one is established it is to be regarded as a Government school. One of the evils of this Bill is that instead of it being clearly stated on the face of the Bill that the Governor has power to close schools it is wrapped up in the section. The closing of schools is left in the hands of the Executive. Nothing can prevent the Executive, if it thinks necessary, to allow certain things to be done in a school. The Executive might order that the school should only be taught in the vernacular, or that English should not be taught. It is left entirely in the hands of the Executive to say this and that shall be done or shall not be done. The whole town should be educated as to what this Bill means. It is necessary for them to have some idea of the good you think you are going to do. Therefore, if you are going to put education in the Southern Provinces on a better

basis, let those who have to give some advice to their constituents, let them have an opportunity of studying the Bill and consulting with them. Only a few days ago I had heard nothing of this Bill. When I saw it, it looked very innocent indeed but a good many things may be done under it. I am suggesting that it should be put down plainly what the Bill proposes to do. I am seconding the amendment of the Honourable the Commercial Member for Calabar that the Bill should not be referred to a Select Committee now as we want time to consult the general public and those who are interested. I remember that a certain Bill was introduced into this Council two Sessions ago and it was agreed at once that it should go to a Select Committee but a reasonable time was allowed for Members to consider it and consult their constituents. I have not the slightest objection to this Bill going to a Select Committee, but my objection is that it is inconsistent with the procedure that has been followed in the past if Honourable Members are not given an opportunity of digesting it. I am anxious to have no avoidable delay in this important matter but I do suggest that time should be allowed for Honourable Members to consult their constituents, and Government may wish to meet Honourable Members. On the other hand if this Bill is now shelved for six months until another meeting of the Council is held it results in a great deal of delay.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

With all due deference to my Honourable friend who has just spoken I suggest that the third reading of this Bill should be postponed for three months. I do not think that the Bill should be taken at this Session of the Council. We only ask for three months delay. The question of Education has been left severely alone by the Government for years and years and a measure like this should not be rushed through in a day.

The Hon. the Member for Calabar:—

Your Excellency: I rise in support of the suggestion to postpone the second reading of this Bill for three months. The Lieutenant-Governor was approached by the Chiefs of Calabar because they had heard rumours that their children were only going to be taught the vernacular and not English. The Lieutenant-Governor told them that the paper they had seen was not worth the paper it was written on. We were only handed this Bill a few days ago and to me it seems that there is something behind all this. I think that the fathers and mothers of Nigeria should be given an opportunity of knowing what is going to take place.

His Excellency:—

The question of educational reform in the Southern Provinces and the devotion of more Government funds to that object is a most important and urgent matter. Government is not criticising the work of the Missions but there is no doubt of the need that education in the Southern Provinces should be put on a well defined basis. I want Honourable Members to have the fullest opportunity of discussing the matter and in view of the general desire for a postponement of this Bill I do not think it would be proper to rush this Bill through to-day. But I want Honourable Members to meet me. This is a very urgent matter: what I would propose is to allow a delay of two months. That would give ample time for consultation and Government can then bring this matter up as an urgent Government measure, and a special meeting of the Council can be convened in two months time to proceed with the Bill.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

Might I ask Your Excellency to make it three months? We particularly wish to obtain the views of the Missions in Calabar and also of their Headquarters in the United Kingdom. The Calabar mail service between Calabar and the United Kingdom is very bad, and even three months delay barely gives us time to write home and get a reply.

His Excellency:—

You must remember that the Missionary bodies at home are very strongly represented on that Advisory Committee to which the Director of Education has referred and the intentions of the Government of Nigeria have been discussed with Sir Frederick Lugard so that they are fully aware of the proposals.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

Do I understand that the United Free Church of Scotland Mission is represented on that Committee?

The Hon. the Director of Education, Southern Provinces :

There is a very prominent Member of the Committee who is in close touch with that particular mission.

His Excellency :—

Honourable Members must understand that the question of representation will be fully discussed by the Education Board when it is appointed. I have gone a very long way towards meeting Honourable Members and I would ask Honourable Members to agree with me. I am anxious to avoid any avoidable delay: I think reasonable delay is fair and I think two months is a reasonable delay.

The Hon. the Member for the Colony Division :—

I think Your Excellency has given us a reasonable delay. Your Excellency must understand, and the Honourable the Director of Education must understand, that we have to explain things to the outside public and if we find that we have not got time enough to consult the interests we represent we are bound to ask for some delay. I must convince myself, and I must convince the people I represent, that the Bill is in their interests. I agree with my Honourable and learned friend the First Tagoos Member when he said it was not clear what the Bill did propose, and I must pay the Honourable the Attorney-General the compliment of being a very able and skilful draughtsman, and it is for those reasons that we desire that the Bill shall not be taken now.

His Excellency :—

Very well then, if Honourable Members agree with me I propose that this matter should be brought up at a later date and there will be a special meeting of the Council convened to consider the matter.

*The second reading of the Bill was postponed accordingly.*

*The Council adjourned at 5 p.m.*



**DEBATES**  
IN THE  
**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF NIGERIA,**  
ON  
**Friday, February 19th and Saturday,**  
**February 20th, 1926.**

Pursuant to notice the Honourable the Members of the Legislative Council met at the Council Chamber at 2.30 P.M. Friday, February 19th and at 10 A.M. Saturday, February 20th, 1926.

PRESENT :—

- The Governor,  
His Excellency Sir Graeme Thomson, K.C.B.
- The Chief Secretary to the Government,  
The Honourable Mr. F. M. Baddeley, C.M.G.
- The Lieutenant-Governor, Northern Provinces,  
His Honour Mr. H. R. Palmer, C.M.G., C.B.E.
- The Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces,  
His Honour Major U. F. Ruxton, C.M.G.
- The Attorney-General,  
The Honourable Mr. D. Kingdon, K.C.
- The Commandant,  
The Honourable Colonel W. B. Greenwell, D.S.O.
- The Director of the Medical and Sanitary Service,  
The Honourable Dr. D. Alexander, C.M.G.
- The Treasurer,  
The Honourable Mr. D. S. MacGregor.
- The Director of Marine,  
The Honourable Captain R. H. W. Hughes, C.B., C.S.I.,  
C.M.G., D.S.O., R.D., R.N.R.
- The Comptroller of Customs,  
The Honourable Mr. F. A. Glinch.
- The Acting Secretary for Native Affairs,  
The Honourable Mr. G. J. F. Tomlinson.
- The Senior Resident, Oyo Province,  
The Honourable Captain W. A. Ross, C.M.G.
- The Senior Resident, Onitsha Province,  
The Honourable Mr. R. A. Roberts, C.B.E.
- The Secretary, Southern Provinces,  
The Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel F. Jenkins, C.M.G.
- The Acting Secretary, Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Mr. H. H. Middleton.
- The Acting Senior Resident, Niger Province,  
The Honourable Mr. T. S. Newton.
- The Deputy Chief Secretary,  
The Honourable Mr. T. S. W. Thomas, C.B.E.
- The General Manager of the Railway,  
The Honourable Mr. E. M. Bland.
- The Director of Public Works,  
The Honourable Mr. C. L. Cox.



- The Acting Postmaster-General,  
The Honourable Mr. G. I. Righton.
- The Third Lagos Member,  
The Honourable Dr. C. C. Adeniyi-Jones.
- The Member for the Colony Division,  
The Honourable Mr. Kitoyi Ajasu, O.B.E.
- The Member for Shipping,  
The Honourable Mr. L. A. Archer.
- The Member for Calabar,  
The Honourable Mr. K. Ata-Amonu.
- The Banking Member,  
The Honourable Mr. W. F. Becker.
- The Commercial Member for Kano,  
The Honourable Mr. J. W. Speer.
- The Commercial Member for Port Harcourt,  
The Honourable Mr. J. B. Jones.
- The Member for the Ibo Division,  
The Honourable Mr. I. O. Mba.
- The Second Lagos Member,  
The Honourable Mr. E. O. Moore.
- The Member representing the Niger African Traders,  
The Honourable Mr. S. C. Obianwu.
- The Commercial Member for Lagos (Provisional),  
The Honourable Mr. J. T. Wagstaffe.
- The Commercial Member for Calabar,  
The Honourable Mr. G. Graham Paul.
- The Member for the Egba Division,  
The Honourable Mr. S. H. Pearse.
- The Member for the Rivers Division,  
The Honourable Mr. Mark Pepple Jaja.
- The First Lagos Member,  
The Honourable Mr. J. E. Shyngle.
- The Member for the Oyo Division,  
The Honourable Mr. E. H. Oke.
- Extraordinary Member,  
The Honourable Mr. S. M. Grier (Director of Education,  
Southern Provinces).

## ABSENT :

- The Senior Resident, Cameroons Province,  
The Senior Resident, Owerri Province,  
The Senior Resident, Kano Province,  
The Senior Resident, Sokoto Province,  
The Senior Resident, Munshi Province,  
The Senior Resident, Bauchi Province,  
The Senior Resident, Bornu Province,  
The Mining Member,

## MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Meeting of the 16th day of February, 1926, having been printed and circulated to Honourable Members, were taken as read and confirmed.

## PAPER LAID.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :—

Sir, I beg to lay on the table the report of the Select Committee on the Draft Estimates for 1926-27.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Sir, I should like to draw the attention of Honourable Members to a small pamphlet consisting of notes taken from Sir Byskine May's Parliamentary practice. It is rather a surprise to some of us not unaccustomed to question time in other legislatures to see the large number of questions put, many of them of great value it is true, but not all. Questions will in the future be subjected to careful scrutiny. The Pamphlet describes quite clearly the *raison d'être* of questions and I desire that Honourable Members will study it carefully; Honourable Members must understand that Government does not desire to withhold any information that may properly be sought on matters of public interest, providing the question is framed to elicit information and not merely for the purpose of criticising. Government does not desire to bank criticism. It is the right of Honourable Members to ask questions and it is equally the duty of the Government to answer them fully and to the best of its ability. In the past a great deal of latitude has been allowed in the asking of questions but it is time that we should observe the proprieties of Parliamentary procedure. It is right that I should tell Honourable Members now that in future meetings of the Council if questions do not rigidly comply with this high standard we shall exercise our power of disallowance.

#### RESOLUTIONS.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Sir, I rise to move the following resolution:—

“Be it resolved: That the Council approves the expenditure of £180,201 as detailed in the Supplementary Estimates for 1925-26 which were passed by the Finance Committee on 17th February, 1926.”

The Hon. the Treasurer:—  
I beg to second the resolution.

His Excellency:—

Does any Honourable Member desire to address the Council?

*The resolution was carried.*

The Hon. the Director of the Medical and Sanitary Service:—

Your Excellency: I beg to move the resolution standing in my name:—

“Be it resolved: That as a mark of its appreciation of the services rendered by Sir Ronald Ross, K.C.M., F.R.S., to Residents in the Tropics by his researches into the causation of malarial fever, the Council do make a grant of £1,000 to the fund which is being raised for the foundation of the ‘Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases.’”

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

Your Excellency: I beg to second that motion.

His Excellency:—

Does any Honourable Member wish to speak to this motion?

*The resolution was carried.*

#### BILLS.

CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY SEA ORDINANCE, 1926.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:—

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled “An Ordinance to make provisions with respect to the Carriage of Goods by Sea.”

In 1922 and 1923 an International Maritime Conference was held, and as a result of the deliberations of that Conference various recommendations were subsequently made. The result of that was a draft Convention on Bills of Lading which led to the enactment by the Imperial Parliament of an Act similar to the Bill now before the Council. We have been informed by the Secretary of State that it is very desirable that legislation on these lines should be enacted in this country and we have been requested by him to pass legislation, on the lines of the Imperial Act, in Nigeria.

The present Bill has been prepared to give effect to that wish of the Secretary of State. It follows as nearly as possible the lines of the Imperial Act. I do not think I need deal in detail with each section of the Bill or with the rules which form the schedule to the Bill; most of those rules are essentially of a technical nature as Honourable Members will have seen. It is desirable therefore that this Council should enact this Bill.

I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

The Hon. the Comptroller of Customs:—

Your Excellency: I beg to second the motion.

His Excellency:—

Does any Honourable Member wish to address the Council?

*The motion was agreed to and the Bill was read a second time accordingly.*

On the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Comptroller of Customs, the Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:—

Sir, I beg to move with regard to clause 6, sub-section 3, that it be amended to read as follows: Your Excellency will notice that there is a date left blank but I think we can simplify the sub-section if it reads as follows:—

“ The rules shall not by virtue of this Ordinance apply  
 “ to any contract for the carriage of goods by sea  
 “ made before the 1st January, 1926, nor to any bill  
 “ of lading or similar document of title issued,  
 “ whether before or after the 1st January, 1926, in  
 “ pursuance of any such contract as aforesaid.”

In suggesting the 1st January, 1926, I may say there is no particular virtue in the date, it is necessary to take an arbitrary date and in proposing that date I am following the precedent of the Imperial Act, which fixed a date a few weeks previous to the operation of the act.

I beg therefore to move that section 6, sub-section 3 of the Bill be amended in the manner I have indicated.

The Hon. the Comptroller of Customs:—

I beg to second the amendment.

His Excellency:—

The motion is that section 6 as amended stand part of the Bill.

Does any Honourable Member wish to address the Council?

*The motion was carried.*

The Bill having passed through Committee with one amendment the Council resumed, and on the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Comptroller of Customs, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

#### TRADE MARKS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1926.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:—

The next Bill on the Agenda, Sir, is a Bill entitled “ An Ordinance to Amend the Trade Marks Ordinances, 1914 and 1923.” I beg leave to postpone the second reading of this Bill because a telegram has been received from the Secretary of State since this Bill was read a first time, informing your Excellency that a despatch dealing with this matter is on the way from England, and indicating that no further action should be taken on this Bill until that despatch has been received.

*The second reading of the Bill was, by leave of the Council, postponed accordingly.*

#### THE PROFITEERING (RENT) (REPEAL) ORDINANCE, 1926.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:—

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled “ An Ordinance to Repeal the Profiteering (Rent) Ordinance.”

The Profiteering (Rent) Ordinance was passed during the War as a war measure and to a certain extent in conformity with a similar war measure passed in the United Kingdom.

The question of its repeal has been before the Government for some years. In 1923 a Committee sat on it and the present Solicitor-General was the Chairman.



The Committee at that time reported against its repeal. But the Chairman of that Committee has authorised me to say that he would be in favour of it now being repealed, and that is a view which may commend itself to Honourable Members of Council. Government thought it proper to bring this Bill forward in order that the views of Honourable Members might be obtained as to whether this Ordinance should remain on the statute book or should be repealed. It applies only to Lagos and its main object was to prevent landlords from charging excessive rents while there was a scarcity of housing accommodation. The main arguments in favour of its repeal are that it was a war time measure and that it tends to discourage building and so increases the congestion in Lagos. It is expected that every member of this Council will have his own opinion about this Bill and will vote accordingly. Government desire very much to get the opinion of Honourable Members of the Council on this matter.

I beg therefore to move that the Bill be read a second time.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Sir, I beg to second the motion.

The Hon. the Second Lagos Member:—

Your Excellency: I feel that I should not content myself with a silent vote in favour of the second reading of this Bill. I was a member of this Honourable Council when the Bill was introduced and I supported the view that it was necessary. I had also the honour to be a member of the Committee that sat in 1923 to consider its repeal and I think our report was at that time unanimously in favour of its retention. But conditions have changed so much in Lagos that I am now in favour of the repeal of the Bill. Houses are farther more plentiful than they were in the days of the war and landlords, I think, are not so exacting as they were during the war. I am therefore in favour of the second reading of the Bill now before the Council.

His Excellency:—

Does any other Honourable Member wish to speak on this matter?

*The motion was agreed to and the Bill was read the second time accordingly.*

On the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government, the Council resolved, itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

The Bill having passed through Committee without amendment the Council resumed and, on the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The LEAS (ORDINANCE, 1923 (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1926.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:—

I rise, Sir, to move the second reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Loan Ordinance, 1923."

The object of this Ordinance is to enable savings on Loan Works to be utilised for additional public works. It is proposed to safeguard that power by including the public works which can now be foreseen in a schedule to the Ordinance and by requiring the approval of this Council and of the Secretary of State to any fresh works to which funds may be allocated. I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

The Hon. the Treasurer:—

Sir, I rise to second the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General and to offer a few words of explanation. It must be evident to everyone that when a Bill of this nature is first drafted the figures contained in the schedule can only be estimates and that, as the work proceeds and experience is gained, those estimates become subject to modification. In the present instance that has happened. The Bill now before the Council contains two columns of figures, the first showing the original and the second the revised estimates. In regard to the first item, "White Meta Junction Station and improvements to Apapa line", the original estimate was £102,000; last year we were told that that would have to be increased to £114,000 and since then an additional £6,000 has been added for the purpose of reclaiming the swamp in the vicinity of the branch line to Apapa, thus making a revised estimate of £120,000.

There is no change in the second item.

In the third item there is a slight saving of about £4,500.

In the fourth item there is a saving of about £112,000 in the estimate of the original estimate of £1,100,000.

Item 5, "The reconstruction of the bridge between Minna, Kaduna and reconstruction of bridges, Zungeru—Minna": when Colonel Hammond was out here recently he was asked to report on this and it was his advice that it should be abandoned. Therefore the £85,000 provided in the original Ordinance has been reduced to the trivial sum of £9,700, leaving the rest to be appropriated for other public works.

Items 6 and 7 call for no special comment.

Item 8, "Eastern Railway": The original estimate was £6,831,000 revised to £6,389,134 of which £1,800,000 was provided under 1921 loan. This revised estimate was further reduced to £6,000,619 the effect of which is to reduce the sum required under the 1923 loan to £4,200,619.

Item 9, Apapa Wharfage Scheme: The original estimate of the Consulting Engineers in 1920 was £806,250, of which £100,000 was provided in the 1921 loan. Their estimate, however, did not include local expenditure on staff, fees, etc. In addition, tenders for certain subsidiary works within the wharf area proved to be much higher than was anticipated. The nett result is an increase of £129,000.

Item 10, there is a saving on the "Iddo Coal and Petroleum Wharf" of about £8,000.

Item 11, "Port Harcourt Wharfage Scheme." The figure here has been increased to £808,730. The original estimate was revised from £485,000 to £486,500, but since then the scheme has been very considerably extended and now includes a second instalment of the wharf, with subsidiary works, with a resulting increase of about £325,000 in the cost.

Item 12, the "Electric Light and Power Station at Iddo" shows an increase of £7,655.

Item 13, "Lagos Harbour Entrance Works." The increase here is due to the construction of a new training bank to divert the current, at a cost of £60,000, less a saving of £16,500 on the previous programme.

Item 15, "Dredgers and Dredging Plant, including the *Lady Clifford*:" the actual expenditure on the existing provision of £10,000, was £9,600, but the item now shows a large increase. This is for a new dredger and dredging plant estimated to cost £186,000.

There is no change in the next item, No. 16, and there is a slight saving in the one following.

There are two new items, an "Electric Light and Power Station for Port Harcourt," £45,000, and the "Zaria-Gusau Railway," £627,000, which it has been possible to insert because of the huge saving caused by the abandonment of the scheme for relaying the railway track from Minna to Kaduna already mentioned.

Another new item has been inserted for the purchase of such other plant or materials or such other public works or undertakings as the Governor may, with the approval of the Legislative Council signified by resolution, and of the Secretary of State, determine.

I beg now, Sir, to second the motion for the second reading of the Bill.

His Excellency:

Does any Honourable Member desire to speak on the second reading of this Bill?

*The motion was put and carried and the Bill was read a second time accordingly.*

On the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Treasurer, the Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

The Bill having passed through Committee without amendment the Council resumed, and on the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Treasurer, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:—

I rise, Sir, to move the second reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to enable the Governor in Council to make Regulations for the prevention of the introduction or spread of pests and insects

AGRICULTURE ORDINANCE, 1926.

destructive to trees, plants and crops; and for the control of cotton growing and of the preparation and export of cotton and other agricultural produce."

This Bill, Sir, is really a re-enactment of our present Agriculture Ordinance, but with certain modifications giving rather wider powers in respect of the inspection and grading of cotton and other agricultural produce for export. It is necessary that rather wider powers should be taken having regard to the new scheme of produce inspection. It is intended to introduce that scheme as from the 1st of April. The principal differences in the Bill are in Heads 6 and 8 of clause 2. Under Head 6 power is taken to make regulations providing for the inspection and grading of cotton and other agricultural produce and generally for controlling the preparation and export of any agricultural produce.

Head 8 provides for the appointment of Advisory Committees to advise on the carrying out of the provisions of any regulations under the Ordinance. Much importance is attached to the new scheme being carried out with the assistance of these Committees. The scheme will only apply at first, at any rate, to produce exported from the Port of Lagos.

I beg, Sir, to move that the Bill be read a second time.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces:—

Sir, I beg to second.

*The motion was put and carried and the Bill was read a second time accordingly.*

On the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces, the Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

The Bill having passed through Committee without amendment the Council resumed and, on the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

REGISTRATION OF BUSINESS NAMES ORDINANCE, 1926.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:—

I rise, Sir, to move the second reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the Registration of Firms and Persons carrying on business under Business Names and for purposes connected therewith."

This Bill, Sir, has its origin in a question asked by the Honourable the Banking Member. As a result of that question certain conversations took place and this Bill was drafted. It follows the lines of the English Act entitled the "Registration of Business Names Act," passed in 1916. That Act was to a certain extent a war-measure but it now has a permanent place in the Imperial Statute Book. The Bill now before Council follows that Act omitting the unnecessary parts of it. The object of the Bill is to require the registration of firms and persons carrying on business under business names and so prevent the use of fictitious trading names by insolvent and irresponsible persons with the object of obtaining credit.

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for the registration of firms, and clauses 4 to 7 lay down details of the procedure to be followed. Clauses 8 and 9 provide penalties for non-compliance with the provisions of the Bill. Clause 11 provides for searches and clause 12 for copies of entries in the registers. Clause 13 requires the publication of true names in catalogues, trade circulars and business letters issued by firms, and clause 14 provides that disabilities shall be imposed upon persons in default. Clause 15 gives power to make regulations.

I beg, Sir, to move that the Bill be read a second time.



The Hon. the Banking Member:—

I beg to second the motion. This Bill will undoubtedly tend to prevent what is a well-known evil in commercial life out here, that is a frequent change of name and the use of fictitious names for the purpose of securing credit fraudulently. I think this Bill will go a long way to rectify the present state of affairs and I do hope Honourable Members will support this Bill.

His Excellency:—

Does any Honourable Member wish to address the Council?

*The motion was carried and the Bill was read a second time accordingly.*

On the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Banking Member, the Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:—

I beg to move, Sir, that the words "Governor in Council" be substituted for the word "Governor" in clause 15 of the Bill. It is more usual for regulations to be made by the Governor in Council and I think the amendment I have proposed is desirable.

The Hon. the Banking Member:—

I beg to second.

His Excellency:—

The motion is that clause 15 as amended stand part of the Bill.

Does any Honourable Member desire to address the Council?

*The motion was carried.*

The Bill having passed through Committee with one amendment the Council resumed and, on the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Banking Member, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

#### COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1926.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:—

I rise, Sir, to move that a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Collective Punishment Ordinance" be read a second time.

The object of this Bill, Sir, is fourfold: it makes four amendments to the present Ordinance, all in respect of matters which have been found in practice to require amendment. The first is in regard to section 2 of the principal Ordinance and is aimed at enabling a fine to be imposed upon a community where it has been found necessary to bring soldiers or police to them in order to prevent a disturbance, even although no disturbance has taken place. At present soldiers or police may be sent to a place to prevent a disturbance but no one can be mulcted in the expense entailed unless a disturbance has actually taken place and it is very desirable that the authorities should be able to charge the community concerned with the expense. The second is to enable the Government, in effect, to require security for keeping the peace either in addition to or in lieu of imposing a fine, and it takes the form of enabling a fine to be returned after a period of good behaviour. The third is to enable an order to be made against a community requiring the delivering up of such number of arms as may be specified.

The fourth object is almost a matter of procedure and it lays down clearly that any inquiry under the Ordinance shall be conducted by two or more officers, sitting together, when considered necessary.

I beg, Sir, to move that the Bill be read a second time.

The Hon. the Acting Secretary for Native Affairs:—

I beg to second the motion.

*The motion was agreed to and the Bill was read a second time accordingly.*

On the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Acting Secretary for Native Affairs, the Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

The Bill having passed through Committee without amendment the Council resumed and, on the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Acting Secretary for Native Affairs, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

REVISED EDITION OF THE LAWS (ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT) (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1926.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:—

I rise, Sir, to move that a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Revised Edition of the Laws (Annual Supplements) Ordinance, 1926" be read a second time.

The object of this Bill, Sir, is of a somewhat technical nature. It is proposed to amend section 4 of the principal Ordinance by striking out proviso (a) thereto which provides that in each annual supplement the Ordinances enacted during the immediately preceding year shall be printed *verbatim* and in chronological order. That proviso was inserted in the principal Ordinance in order to give effect to clause 19 in the Royal Instructions for the Colony which directs that the Government shall publish each year, in the early part of the year, a complete collection of Ordinances passed during the previous year. It is now proposed to publish separately each year a small volume containing only the Ordinances enacted during the previous year and to arrange for the larger volume, the Annual Supplement to the Laws, to have all the amending Ordinances printed under the various headings appearing in the parent volumes. I think this will be a far more convenient arrangement and will add to its value as a reference book.

I beg therefore to move that the Bill be read a second time.

The Hon. the Treasurer:—

Your Excellency: I beg to second the motion.

*The motion was agreed to and the Bill was read a second time accordingly.*

On the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Treasurer, the Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

The Bill having passed through Committee without amendment the Council resumed and, on the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Treasurer, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY (REPEAL) ORDINANCE, 1926.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:—

I rise, Sir, to move that a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to Repeal the Trading with the Enemy Ordinance" be read a second time.

On the 2nd of December, 1924, a Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between the United Kingdom and Germany was signed in London and Nigeria is to adhere to that Treaty. For that purpose it is necessary, in order to conform to the provisions of the Treaty, that the Trading with the Enemy Ordinance, which imposes certain disabilities on Germans, should be repealed.

I beg, Sir, to move that the Bill be read a second time.

The Hon. the Treasurer:—

I beg, Sir, to second the motion.

His Excellency:—

Does any Honourable Member desire to address the Council?

*The motion was agreed to and the Bill was read a second time accordingly.*

On the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Treasurer, the Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

The Bill having passed through Committee without amendment the Council resumed and, on the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Treasurer, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

PORTS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1926.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:—

I rise, Sir, to move the second reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Ports Ordinance."

Last year, Sir, a Committee sat and made certain recommendations in connection with ports and shipping. One of their recommendations was to the effect that there should be power to the Governor in Council to impose Berthing dues and Mooring buoy dues and it is therefore necessary to amend section 4 of the principal Ordinance in order to give effect to those recommendations. This Bill quite shortly does that by adding those dues to the list of dues which may be imposed by regulations under that section.

I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

The Hon. the Director of Marine:—

I beg to second the motion.

*The motion was agreed to and the Bill was read a second time accordingly.*

On the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Director of Marine, the Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

The Bill having passed through Committee without amendment the Council resumed and, on the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Director of Marine, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

#### TOWNSHIPS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1926.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:—

I rise, Sir, to move the second reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Townships Ordinance."

The objects of this Bill, Sir, are threefold and none of them are of any great importance. The first is merely to improve the wording of section 19 of the principal Ordinance, the Townships Ordinance as substituted by section 3 of the Townships (Amendment) Ordinance, 1924, and has been suggested by the Secretary of State. The wording of the clause as it is at present is, "The Council shall have power to expend money approved for any one purpose in the said Estimate on any other approved purpose therein specified" and so on, and the Secretary of State thinks it would read better if the wording was as follows: "The Council may by resolution authorise the expenditure of money approved" and so on.

The second object is to enable the Government to vest in the Lagos Town Council any street on Crown land whether constructed or not. Under section 25 of the principal Ordinance as it reads now the position is somewhat anomalous. It reads thus: "The Governor may by notice vest in the Council all or any of the streets in the township which have been constructed by the Government subject to such reservations if any, as may be specified in such notice." It is now proposed that it should read as follows: "The Governor may by notice vest in the Council all or any of the streets in the township which are on Crown land or which have been constructed by the Government" and so on. In other words it is giving to the Government wider powers to vest in the Town Council streets on Crown land whether the streets have actually been constructed or not.

The third object is to simplify the procedure with regard to the minutes of Board meetings of Second-class townships. It provides that the minutes instead of being sent to the Lieutenant-Governor, as at present, shall be sent to a Resident of a Province, and this will effect a considerable saving of time and labour.

I beg, Sir, to move that the Bill be read a second time.

The Hon. the Secretary, Southern Provinces:—

I beg, Sir, to second the motion.

*The motion was agreed to and the Bill was read a second time accordingly.*

On the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Secretary, Southern Provinces, the Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

The Bill having passed through Committee without amendment the Council resumed and, on the motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General, seconded by the Honourable the Secretary, Southern Provinces, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

## SUPPLY ORDINANCE.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Sir, I move that the Council do go into Committee to consider the Supply Bill clause by clause.

A Select Committee of this Council sat on the 17th and 18th of February to consider the draft Estimates. There is before you a list of the amendments made in the Estimates by the Committee to which I would invite your attention and I will now present and read the Report of the Select Committee.

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
APPOINTED TO CONSIDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE 1926-27 SUPPLY  
ORDINANCE, 1926.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

The Committee sat on the 17th and 18th of February, 1926.

They examined each Head of the draft Estimates and the details of the alterations which they recommend are shown in the schedule to this Report.

The financial effect of these recommendations is to increase the expenditure for the year 1926-27 by £204,077 and to decrease it by £249,975. The net decrease is therefore £45,898.

To give effect to these recommendations the following amendments will be necessary in the schedule to the Bill.

- Head 5. Government Colliery, Special Expenditure.—For “ £20,255 ” read “ £15,255 ”.
- Head 8. Education, Southern Provinces.—For “ £133,299 ” read “ £133,959 ”.
- Head 13. Lands, Southern Provinces, Special Expenditure.—For “ £181,000 ” read “ nil ”.
- Head 15. Lieutenant-Governor's Office, Northern Provinces.—For “ £5,265 ” read “ £5,315 ”.
- Head 18. Marine.—For “ £357,363 ” read “ £358,698 ”.  
Special Expenditure.—For “ £177,751 ” read “ £196,601 ”.
- Head 19. Medical.—For “ £269,656 ” read “ £269,936 ”.
- Head 20. Medical Research Institute.—For “ £7,087 ” read “ £7,147 ”.  
Special Expenditure.—For “ £150 ” read “ nil ”.
- Head 22. Miscellaneous Services.—For “ £109,958 ” read “ £113,408 ”.
- Head 23. Pensions and Gratuities.—For “ £203,454 ” read “ £248,504 ”.
- Head 24. Police, Civil, Northern Provinces.—For “ £64,782 ” read “ £68,528 ”.  
Special Expenditure.—For “ nil ” read “ £160 ”.
- Head 25. Police, Civil, Southern Provinces.—For “ £144,226 ” read “ £150,265 ”.
- Head 26. Posts and Telegraphs.—For “ £189,299 ” read “ £190,479 ”.  
Special Expenditure.—For “ £50,062 ” read “ £50,542 ”.
- Head 34. Public Works Extraordinary.—For “ £1,161,633 ” read “ £1,223,017 ”.
- Head 35. Railway.—For “ £1,454,070 ” read “ £1,398,291 ”.
- Head 36. Railway Capital Works.—For “ £131,760 ” read “ £183,920 ”.
- Head 37. Sanitary.—For “ £84,089 ” read “ £84,109 ”.  
Special Expenditure.—For “ £21,620 ” read “ £27,867 ”.
- Head 44. W.A.F.F., Nigeria Regiment.—For “ £367,689 ” read “ £362,549 ”.

and the total expenditure will be £8,066,395.

F. M. BADDELEY,  
Chairman of Committee.

Lagos.

February 19, 1926.

SCHEDULE TO THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL APPOINTED TO CONSIDER  
THE 1926-27 SUPPLY ORDLINANCE, 1926.

Item No.	Head	Provision made in Draft Estimates.	Provision recommended by Committee.	Increase.	Decrease.
		£	£	£	£
<b>HEAD 5.—GOVERNMENT COLLIERY.</b>					
52	Machinery and Plant ... ..	14,500	9,500	...	5,000
	Net Decrease, Head 5 ... ..	...	...	...	5,000
<b>HEAD 8.—EDUCATION, SOUTHERN PROVINCES AND COLONY.</b>					
1	1 Director of Education at £1,200 ... ..	1,200	1,400	200	...
2	Duty Pay at £240 ... ..	240	280	40	...
3a.	1 Deputy Director of Education at £1,100 ... ..	...	1,100	1,100	...
3b.	Duty Pay at £220 ... ..	...	220	220	...
4	4 Assistant Directors of Education at £1,100 ... ..	2,200	...	...	200
5	3 "Duty Pay at £220" ... ..	...	2,000	...	40
	" " £200 ... ..	...	400	...	...
6	3 Principals at £1,050 ... ..	1,050	...	...	50
	" " £1,000 ... ..	...	1,000	...	...
7	Duty Pay at £210 ... ..	210	...	...	10
	" " £200 ... ..	...	200	...	...
10	3 European Schoolmistresses ... ..	1,080	480	...	600
	1 " Schoolmistress ... ..	...	...	...	...
	Total ... ..	6,420	7,080	1,560	900
	Net Increase, Head 8 ... ..	...	...	660	...
<b>HEAD 13. LANDS, SOUTHERN PROVINCES AND COLONY.</b>					
20	Land Acquisitions ... ..	181,000	...	...	181,000
	Net Decrease, Head 13 ... ..	...	...	...	181,000
<b>HEAD 15. LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, NORTHERN PROVINCES.</b>					
5	1 Chauffeur at £36-6-66 ... ..	78	...	...	30
	1 Motor Driver not exceeding £48 ... ..	...	48	...	...
5a.	1 Motor Mechanic at £72-8-112 ... ..	...	80	80	...
	Total ... ..	£ 78	128	80	30
	Net Increase, Head 15 ... ..	...	...	50	...
<b>HEAD 18. MARINE.</b>					
28	5 (3*) Tugmasters at £100 15-500 ... ..	1,801	...	94	...
29	5 (4 <sup>2</sup> ) Tugmasters at £400 15-500 ... ..	...	1,895	...	...
	Command pay, 4 at £84, 6 at £48 ... ..	624	...	48	...
	Command pay, 4 at £84, 7 at £48 ... ..	...	672	...	...
35	6 (1 <sup>7</sup> ) Chief Engineers, Colliers and Tugs at £180 20-500 ... ..	3,120	...	121	...
	6 (5 <sup>7</sup> ) Chief Engineers, Colliers and Tugs at £180 20-500 ... ..	...	3,241	...	...
36	Charge Pay, 5 at £84, 5 at £48 ... ..	660	...	48	...
	Charge Pay, 5 at £84, 6 at £48 ... ..	...	708	...	...
131a	Coal transport contracts ... ..	...	2,000	2,000	...
139	Running Expenses, New Tug "Rollicker" ... ..	7,786	6,810	...	976
144	Building S.L. "Lilian" ... ..	1,500	2,500	1,000	...
146	Two Coastal Beacons for Bonny ... ..	250	100	...	150
148	Replacement of Pumping Machinery for S.D. "Romulus" ... ..	300	900	600	...
149	Plate and angle bar rack, Apapa Dockyard ... ..	300	...	...	300
155	New "Valiant". Alter column 1 to £25,000 ... ..	...	...	...	...
184	New Collier ... ..	50,000	49,900	...	100
185	Alterations to M.L. "Manatee" ... ..	1,500	1,800	300	...
187	Spare towing machine ... ..	1,500	2,000	500	...
189	Purchase of tug "Rollicker" ... ..	...	3,000	3,000	...
190	Refrigerators for "Enugu" and "Pathfinder" ... ..	...	1,200	1,200	...
191	Removal of Five Cowrie Creek wrecks ... ..	...	1,800	1,800	...
192	Purchase of plant ... ..	...	11,000	11,000	...
	Total ... ..	69,341	89,526	21,711	1,526
	Net Increase, Head 18 ... ..	...	...	20,185	...







## SCHEDULE—continued.

Item No.	Head.	Provision made in Draft Estimates.	Provision recommended by Committee.	Increase.	Decrease.
		£	£	£	£
<b>HEAD 34. PUBLIC WORKS EXTRAORDINARY.</b>					
1	Renewing Water mains, Carter Bridge ...	1,300	2,600	1,300	...
9a.	Quarters for Marine Ratings, Apapa ...	...	4,920	4,920	...
12a.	Improvements, Yaba Asylum ...	...	850	850	...
19a.	Repairs to Marina and outlet drain, Badagri ...	...	1,100	1,100	...
20a.	Re-erection of 10-ton crane ...	...	150	150	...
28	New Posts and Telegraphs Office, Apapa ...	593	793	200	...
30	Water mains to Apapa ...	4,500	7,000	2,500	...
33	W.A.F.F. Buildings, Lagos ...	12,035	17,000	4,965	...
37	Furniture for bungalows, Ikoyi ...	200	400	200	...
38a.	Alterations to Creek Hospital ...	...	200	200	...
41	Police Barracks, Abeokuta ...	2,650	2,250	...	400
42a.	Rest House, Abeokuta ...	...	3,750	3,750	...
49	Customs House, Sapele ...	300	360	60	...
53a.	Kwale-Warri Road ...	...	1,305	1,305	...
57	Lock up, Burutu ...	50	150	100	...
66	Supreme Court and Offices, Aba ...	5,000	...	...	5,000
68	Water Supply, Aba ...	3,500	8,000	4,500	...
72a.	Survey Office, Aba ...	...	1,070	1,070	...
73a.	Additions to Port Harcourt and Enugu Prisons, materials only ...	...	2,650	2,650	...
77	Police Barracks, Port Harcourt ...	7,314	8,000	686	...
84	Removal of Bonny Consulate ...	1,500	1,700	200	...
85a.	Quarters for Marine ratings, Port Harcourt ...	...	572	572	...
105	Native Hospital, Enugu ...	50	150	100	...
117a.	Survey Office, Ibadan ...	...	1,070	1,070	...
125	Erinno Efon Alaye Road ...	4,200	4,150	...	50
136	District Office, Iyo ...	400	970	570	...
152	Police Barracks, Victoria ...	500	600	100	...
153	Infants' School, Victoria ...	100	200	100	...
168	Rest House, Kaduna ...	5,000	...	...	...
	2 Rest Houses, Kaduna, including Furniture ...	...	5,836	836	...
173	New Court House, Zaria ...	600	1,500	900	...
174	Post Office, Zaria ...	470	1,500	1,030	...
177	Kaduna-Zaria Road, Bridges ...	11,500	12,500	1,000	...
178	Samaru Farm, Laboratory, etc. ...	1,000	2,000	1,000	...
178a.	Two additional Rooms, Kaduna School ...	...	100	100	...
178b.	Repairs and improvements, Government House, Kaduna ...	...	100	100	...
178c.	Sanitary Works, Zaria ...	...	400	400	...
178d.	Ice plant, Kaduna ...	...	850	850	...
183a.	Two Rest Houses, Kano ...	...	8,100	8,100	...
185	Buildings for W.A.F.F., Kano ...	8,300	11,000	2,700	...
186a.	Native Hospital, Kano, Ward for Native Administration prisoners ...	...	1,000	1,000	...
192	Public Offices, Jos ...	6,000	8,850	2,850	...
194	Quarters including Furniture for Resident, Jos ...	2,250	2,950	700	...
195a.	Six cells, Jos Prison ...	...	450	450	...
195b.	Native Hospitals, Jos ...	...	600	600	...
195c.	Bukuru Ropp Road, Bridges ...	...	1,500	1,500	...
196a.	Hospital, Maiduguri ...	...	5,000	5,000	...
208	Bungalows, including Furniture, 1926-27 Programme ...	144,000	146,000	2,000	...
218	Bungalows, including Furniture, 1925-26 Programme ...	28,000	30,500	2,500	...
	Total ...	£ 251,312	312,696	66,834	5,450
	Net Increase, Head 34 ...	...	...	61,384	...
<b>HEAD 35. RAILWAY.</b>					
61	Additional openings, etc. ...	2,000	300	...	1,100
312	Police Services ...	9,629	...	...	9,629
312a.	Compassionate Allowances ...	2,250	...	...	2,250
313	Pensions ...	20,000	...	...	20,000
314	Gratuities ...	22,000	...	...	22,000
315	Bonus on old Pensions ...	800	...	...	800
	Total ...	£ 56,679	300	...	55,779
	Net Decrease, Head 35 ...	...	...	...	55,779

## SCHEDULE—continued

Item No.	Head.	Provision made in Draft Estimates.	Provision recommended by Committee.	Increase.	Decrease.
		£	£		
<b>HEAD 36. RAILWAY CAPITAL WORKS.</b>					
1	Running Shed, Jebba ... ..	880	400	...	480
4	Class B Quarters, Ebute Metta ... ..	2,500	...	...	2,500
6	Divisional Offices and Quarters, Zaria ... ..	5,000	4,600	...	400
22	Four 701 Class Locomotives ... ..	32,540	...	...	...
22	Eight 701 Class Locomotives ... ..	...	65,080	32,540	...
23a.	Column 1. Amend to £225,114 ... ..	...	...	1,000	...
23b.	Semaphores, Ibadan Station ... ..	...	1,000	1,000	...
23c.	Inspection coach for Posts and Telegraphs Department ... ..	...	3,000	3,000	...
23d.	Class A Quarters, Ebute Metta ... ..	...	9,000	9,000	...
23e.	Quarters, excluding Ebute Metta ... ..	...	10,000	10,000	...
	<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>£ 40,920</b>	<b>93,080</b>	<b>55,540</b>	<b>3,380</b>
	<b>Net Increase, Head 36 ... ..</b>	...	...	<b>52,160</b>	...
<b>HEAD 37. SANITARY.</b>					
62	Telephones ... ..	116	136	20	...
70	Clayton disinfector with barge, Lagos ... ..	...	6,247	6,247	...
	<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>£ 116</b>	<b>6,383</b>	<b>6,267</b>	...
	<b>Net Increase, Head 37 ... ..</b>	...	...	<b>6,267</b>	...
<b>HEAD 44. W.A.F.F. NIGERIA REGIMENT</b>					
69	Passages ... ..	15,000	13,000	...	2,000
73	Field Allowances to Officers ... ..	2,280	1,700	...	580
76	Bush Allowances ... ..	5,500	5,300	...	200
80	Clothing and Necessaries ... ..	16,200	15,750	...	450
81	Outfit Allowances, Officers ... ..	1,200	2,000	800	...
83	Equipment, Saddlery and Miscellaneous ... ..	8,110	5,400	...	2,710
	<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>£ 48,290</b>	<b>43,150</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>5,940</b>
	<b>Net Decrease, Head 44 ... ..</b>	...	...	...	<b>5,140</b>

Well, Sir, before I move the adoption of that Report, I want to draw attention to an item which will necessitate my moving the adoption of the Report with an alteration to the existing figures. Will you look at Head 18, Marine, Item No. 184, New collier, Provision proposed, £49,900. The provision made in the draft Estimates was £50,000. The history of the alteration is that in Select Committee the Member for Shipping took exception to this item in the Estimates on the ground that he could not see that a new collier was required because we could get the same service from private enterprise. The object of buying this collier is to enable us to carry coal ourselves and we prefer to carry coal ourselves, to employing an outside firm to carry it for us because, for one reason, it is much cheaper. The whole question is one of public economy, and further the purchase of this new collier does

not mean an increase in the fleet. It is a case of replacing a worn out collier with another. The cost to us per ton to employ outside firms to carry coal for us is 19s. and we can carry it ourselves for 6s. 8d. a ton. That was pointed out to the Shipping Member in Committee, and to my astonishment he was supported in his motion to reduce the provision by £100 by a majority of the Members of the Committee, who apparently thought that it was a sound business proposition to pay 19s. a ton for coal transport when we could carry coal ourselves for 6s. 8d. I told my Honourable friend that when this question come up before the full House, on the motion for the adoption of the report, I would do my utmost to restore the item as originally stated in the Estimates. I therefore beg to move that this report be adopted, but reading for the figure of £196,601 under Head 18, Special expenditure, £196,701: that is restoring the £100 by which the estimate was reduced in Committee. This will involve a consequential alteration in the total expenditure figure which instead of £8,066,395 will be £8,066,495.

I beg, Sir, to move that the report on the Supply Ordinance be adopted with the alterations I have mentioned.

The Hon. the Treasurer:—

Your Excellency: I beg to second.

The Hon. the Member for Shipping:—

Your Excellency: The Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government has seen fit to single out the Shipping Member for his attack, and I take this early opportunity of giving you my views on this question. I must say that I was astounded to hear that the Marine Department could bring coal round from Port Harcourt to Lagos for the small amount of 6s. 8d. per ton? You will, however, pardon me if I say that I look upon those figures with a certain degree of scepticism because we have already had one experience which has taught us not to accept as facts all the figures which the Marine Department may put forward.

Not so long ago it was stated the Government were being mulcted in a rate of 30s. per ton which I corrected to the extent of 33½%, but I doubt whether the small errata slip that appeared in your predecessor's Address had the effect of calling full public attention to the error.

The Government seem to think that the firms who do carry coal are profiteering, but I cannot for myself see how it is possible for the Government to carry coal at the rate of 6s. 8d. per ton. If such a saving *can* be made, from 19s. 6d., at date to 6s. 8d., the thing that strikes me is that the Government have been singularly slow in waking up to the fact.

In connection with the Marine Report in general we read that the *Lady Clifford* dredges at a cost of 3.72d. per ton, but that no allowance has been made for interest on capital or depreciation. I submit for your consideration that it would be better that the true figures should be shown. This is not a trivial matter when it comes to working out the actual cost of carriage per ton. I ascertained from the Honourable the General Manager of the Railway the cost of operating this coal by the electrical transporters. He replied that the cost per ton was 6.7d., and that this figure included supervision, passages, electric current, stores, etc., but that no allowance was made for depreciation or interest charges. Even there, there is a difference between the Marine figure and the Railway figure, but we will not go into fine points. I wonder what the Honourable the General Manager would charge to unload coal from an outside ship? If there is such a difference in this rate of transport of coal, why not go a step further—why not supply our neighbouring Colony, the Gold Coast? I might say, Sir, that you cannot single out one Company and say "that is what we are charged"; you cannot pick out one line, because carriers and transport companies have more than one field of operations, and the trade as a whole has to be looked at. The Government have not seen fit as yet to give us facilities for operating this port (Lagos) night and day, and no reduction we are told can be made in the heavy port charges.

I am proud to open the debate on this question; I have in mind that you have said, Sir, that it is no part of the duty of the Government to interfere in projects like this, and I feel therefore that this matter will be further carefully gone into. I await the details of this figure of 6s. 8d. with very great interest in view of my many years out here in the service of a well-known Line; and I hope I may be afforded the facility of understudying the Director of Marine's Departmental system of costing in a business which