

411A2 SA/A2



NORTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

ADDRESS

by His Honour Captain E. W. Thompstone,
C.M.C., M.C., Chief Commissioner, Northern
Provinces, to the First Budget Session
of the Northern Regional Council,
4th December, 1947

ADDRESS BY HIS HONOUR CAPTAIN E. W. THOMPSTONE
C.M.G., M.C., CHIEF COMMISSIONER,
PROVINCES, TO THE FIRST BUDGET SESSION OF THE
NORTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL, 4TH DECEMBER, 1947.



This is my first address to the two Houses of the Northern Regional Council and it is my privilege to present it at the opening of the First Budget Session.

It will be my custom each year at the Budget Session of the Council to review, in a printed address which will be placed in your hands before the meeting, that which has been achieved in the past year throughout the whole of the Northern Region, and then to invite you to look once more forward to the future; and I shall hope to sketch out to you the broad lines along which I think we should plan our policies and along which our progress should run.

This, as I have said, is the Budget Session and in a later paragraph of this address I shall set out in considerable detail the exact financial implications of the new Regional Organisation of Nigeria.

In brief what you are immediately and in detail concerned with is the expenditure of the Revenue which the Region has for the coming year. That Revenue is a sum in the neighbourhood of £2,000,000.

Now I want to remind you at this early stage that that sum is by no means the limit of revenue which will be spent in the Northern Provinces next year. It is simply the money which with your advice will be expended regionally. You are not here concerned with the very large sums of money which Native Authorities, under the guidance of the Administrative Staff and subject to my final approval, will spend on works and services which are local affairs, which are local services and which are local development. Neither are you concerned with Nigeria-wide affairs and the expenditure which is of Nigeria-wide application. By this I mean expenditure on services which although they operate in the Northern Provinces do so on a Nigerian basis such as the Railway, the Marine, the Posts and Telegraphs, the Geological Survey and the Aviation Departments, etc.

The estimates which we are going to frame with your advice are confined to those services which have been declared regional with the result that this Budget will bear the cost of all those Government regional services including the salaries of all the Government personnel. I should explain here that these Regional Estimates after they have been considered in both Houses of the Northern Regional Council will not be subject to alteration in detail by the Legislative Council except indirectly in so far as

His Excellency may accept that Council's advice to increase or reduce the Revenue which has accrued to this Region from central funds. Naturally if our Revenue allocation is reduced, or increased expenditure will have to be contracted or expanded accordingly. Apart from this limitation the Estimates for the Regionalised Departments will be subject to review only by the Governor who, in doing so, will of course give full weight to the resolutions which you are now about to make for the first time. These resolutions afford you the opportunity of placing before His Excellency your considered opinions on the proposed ways of spending those monies which have been allocated to the Region; and I hope that you will take full advantage of this opportunity.

Whilst these Estimates are before you in Council you are at liberty to advise that they allocate too much money to one service and too little to another and you can say how you think it should be re-apportioned; you may advise that certain services not provided at all should be inserted to the exclusion or reduction of some other services but what you are not called upon to advise is that more money should be allocated to the Region than has now in fact been offered. The money allocated to the Region is determined finally by the limits of the general Revenue of Nigeria, by the sums which are necessary for maintaining central Government services and those sums which are allocated to the Western and Eastern Regions. It is for the Legislative Council to advise His Excellency whether there should be an increase or a reduction in Revenue allocated from central funds to any Region: at the Debates of that Council some of you will be present and will be able to speak and vote on that point. I look forward to hearing all your ideas on what should be provided from these Regional Funds for the many millions of inhabitants of the Northern Provinces. You are assured that the advice which you tender will be whole-heartedly welcomed by His Excellency as well as by myself and will be given full weight.

I now propose to proceed to give you a description in very considerable detail, in more detail perhaps than may be necessary in future, a review of the activities which Government and the Native Authorities have performed for the people of this country from the funds which have been available to them both from local sources and from Nigerian Revenue as well as with those monies which have been voted by the Imperial Government from taxes paid by the people of Great Britain. I think we all have by now a pretty clear picture in our minds as to all those services which we wish to be able to give the people of the Northern Provinces but financial considerations are generally the main limiting factor in determining what we can achieve. In saying this I have not forgotten our present difficulties over the chronic shortage of expert staff and of imported materials of almost every kind.

Nevertheless the fact remains that this Region must cut its cloak to suit its cloth; we shall be assigned so much revenue and

we should spend that revenue and we must spend it in the very best possible way which, after due consideration by this Council, we can plan. In that planning we must not forget the difficulties in securing staff and in securing materials. By wise planning I feel that we should be able to spend the money without being too much limited by those difficulties.

I will now proceed to deal in greater detail with the various branches of activity. I will deal first with finance.

Finance

In the Memorandum on the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, Northern Region for the year 1948-49, which has been circulated to Members together with the first draft estimates, there has been set out a short summary of the main features of the financial procedure consequent upon Regionalisation.

It is necessary here to stress only the following aspects of that procedure:—

- (a) The Regional Council has not, at this stage, any legal power of appropriating revenue for regional expenditure; all funds available for regional purposes, whether "declared regional" or not are voted to the Region by the Nigeria Legislative Council.
- (b) The revenues of Nigeria continue to form a single fund and there will be no separate creation of Reserve Funds for the Region, to which a surplus would be credited or from which a deficit would be met. Where a surplus or deficit becomes apparent when the accounts of the year's working are balanced, this surplus or deficit will be reflected so far as is feasible in the Block Grant allocation for the subsequent financial year.

Though the estimates of expenditure for the current year were not originally compiled on a regional basis, it has been possible to "breakdown" these figures, so far as Regionalised Departments are concerned, to show by Regions the estimated expenditure of each of those departments during 1947-48 and the resultant figures have been accepted as the "Approved Estimate". It will be understood, however, that these figures are necessarily only approximate and that, therefore, the difficulty of closely estimating expenditure for 1948-49, which must be largely based on the approved estimate for the present year, has been greatly enhanced.

In spite of this, however, the breakdown of the 1947-48 Estimates does give an approximate basis for comparison and shows that expenditure in the Northern Region for 1947-48 will be about £1,730,000 while the provisional allocation of revenue to the Region for 1948-49 will be about £2,210,000. Of this sum, approximately 5% or £100,000 must be set aside to cover

unforeseen or supplementary expenditure which may become necessary during the coming year and the estimates of expenditure, excluding expenditure under the Ten Year Plan for Development and Welfare have therefore been drawn to a total of slightly more than £2,110,000, an increase over the present year of £380,000.

It must be noted, in examining the detail of the draft estimates by departments that, while in 1947-48 provision for the cost of the revision of salaries and wage rates amounting to some £110,000 has been made under Head 37—Miscellaneous, this expenditure in the 1948-49 Estimates has been properly appropriated to the Departmental Heads concerned with the result that the figures shown in the "Increases" column of the Summary of Expenditure do not accurately reflect the actual expansion of the departments concerned. After making allowance for this increased expenditure on salaries and wages, the main directions to which the additional £380,000 has been devoted are:—

	£
Agriculture	50,000
Education	65,000
Medical (including Sleeping Services)	120,000
Police	30,000
Provincial Administration	30,000
Public Works (a) Staff	10,000
(b) Maintenance	40,000
(c) Extraordinary	45,000

It must also be remembered, in considering the total expenditure on Education in the Northern Region, that provision for grants-in-aid both to Voluntary Agencies and to Native Authorities will in 1948-49 be borne on the Nigerian, not Regional, Estimates and that the figure of £149,500 as shown in our Estimates must therefore be increased by about £170,000 to give a true total of nearly £320,000.

Two most important features of the new financial regime are the substitution of regional capitation tax for the present lump-sum contributions of General Tax and Jangali by Native Authorities to Government and the system of codified grants from Regional Funds to Native Treasuries. Under these two systems, as well as because Government will assume direct responsibility for certain services such as the maintenance of rest-houses, administrative roads and agricultural farm centres, and will reimburse Native Authorities for expenditure on the policing of "stranger settlements", the Native Treasuries of the Northern Region will receive financial relief from Government funds in 1948-49 as compared with 1947-48 to the extent of some £270,000.

Native Treasuries during the year 1946-47 improved their financial position and were able to increase their reserves by some £550,000 to a total of £3,440,000. Revenue during that year

amounted to about £2,590,000 against an expenditure of £2,040,000 as compared with revenue of £2,295,000 and expenditure of £1,760,000 in 1945-46. This increase in revenue of £300,000 was very largely due to increases in rates of general tax assessments. Rates of assessment for persons other than those in salaried employment were raised in some areas by up to ten per cent and the resultant figures give a maximum rate of assessment per adult male of 14s 1d and a minimum of 5s 6d. In addition of course the general rise in emoluments of persons in salaried employment and in wages has resulted in a higher contribution from this class of taxpayer.

During the present financial year Native Treasury gross revenue is estimated at £2,630,000 against gross expenditure of £2,760,000; this will involve the withdrawal of £130,000 from reserve funds which are thus estimated at the end of March 1948 to total £3,310,000. Though it may perhaps be thought by some that these reserves have been amassed at the expense of the rapid expansion of Native Administration social services which are so obviously desirable, it is essential to remember that such expansion and development can only be achieved when the present shortage of staff and materials has been overcome and that as soon as these difficulties can be surmounted the apparently healthy Native Treasury reserves will prove none too large for the adequate development of the Northern Region.

In considering the financial position of Native Treasuries, too, mention must also be made of the revision of Native Authority employees' salaries which has recently been undertaken, as a corollary of the Harragin Revision of Government Servants' salaries as well as the introduction of the same daily rates of pay for Native Authority labour as has been adopted by Government as a result of the Miller Report. The full financial implications of these measures are not yet co-ordinated, but Native Authorities were most anxious to follow as closely as possible the course pointed by Government as a "good employer" so far as their resources permit and in order to enable them to do so permission has been granted them during the next three years to draw upon their reserves, if that is essential, in order to meet these increased charges. Nevertheless, in view of the considerable relief to be granted to Native Treasuries in 1948-49 as compared with 1947-48 to which I have already made reference it seems unlikely that many Native Administrations will be forced to have recourse to so drastic a measure and it is confidently hoped that Native Treasuries will be able to preserve intact their development reserves for their true purpose.

Accountant-General's, Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise and Audit Departments

Before I pass on to the activities and programme of each department, it will be convenient if I here describe the Accountant-General's (Treasury), Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise and

Audit Departments. The first has custody of and distributes the coin and notes required for the finance of all Government and Native Administration services, disburses cash to those who have performed such services, receives revenue contributed by the taxpayer and keeps account of all these transactions.

The inauguration of Regional Accounting calls for much more careful consideration and is of a most complex character as it entails not only the keeping of Regional Revenue and Expenditure Accounts but also embraces many of the Heads of Nigeria Estimates and Colonial Development and Welfare Funds as applied to the Northern Provinces and to be satisfactory, such information should be readily available to me and the Regional Council and it is the intention of Regional Treasurer and Deputy Head of the Department that this should be so.

A great deal of reorganisation has been and still is necessary and the acute shortage of experienced staff is still one of the major problems, but, it is hoped that this will be largely overcome by the commencement of the new financial year, or during that year, and towards that end it is proposed to institute a special school of training for junior staff recruited. This school has proved a great success in Lagos and there would appear to be no good reason, if suitable candidates are forthcoming, why it should not be equally so in the Northern Provinces and give a definite incentive to young men of ability in that direction. At the present time there are regrettably few officers in the Department recruited from the Northern Provinces.

Statistics show that the volume of work passing through the Government Treasuries in the North continues to show a marked increase during the last three years and it is of interest to note that during the first six months of the current financial year more than 59,000 vouchers passed through the forty Treasuries in the Northern Provinces representing a total turnover of some £926,000. In addition to this £564,000 has been dealt with in remittances between Treasuries, and large stocks have been built up for the West African Currency Board at Kano to provide for the requirements of the present groundnut season.

A branch of the Inland Revenue Department has been established in the Northern Provinces at Kano since August 1944. The activities of the Department are at present restricted to the taxation under the Income Tax Ordinance of non-natives.

This branch has, as a result of the closer investigations which thus can be made into the affairs of taxpayers and the local knowledge of the trend and volume of trade which can be acquired, materially increased the amount of income tax accruing to the General Revenue from non-natives, and has also proved of considerable convenience to the tax-paying public who now have available locally an officer of the Department whom they can approach for advice upon their Income Tax affairs,

The Customs and Excise Department collects fees or rather duties as they are technically named imposed on various types of goods entering or leaving the country, thereby securing a large part of its revenue. The activities of the Department in the Northern Provinces, as you are aware, are not very great but the following information will be of interest.

An increase over previous years in the transit trade both by rail to Jos and thence by road and by inland navigation from the Nigerian port of Burutu is noticeable and the value of this trade during the last twelve months has amounted to approximately £2,200,000. Kano has further developed as an airport and it has been found necessary to increase the Customs staff there. During the period under review 711 aircraft were entered and 729 cleared. In conjunction with the Posts and Telegraphs Department the decentralization of Customs assessment of postal packets was undertaken and Customs officials have been stationed at Kano and Jos for assessment duties which has enabled importers by parcel post to obtain postal packets more quickly. Several persons were caught attempting to export prohibited articles to French territory and seizures were made, the value of which was in the neighbourhood of £3,000.

It is the responsibility of the Audit Department to see that Government and Native Treasury accounts and supporting documents are in order, that no defalcations occur, and that money is only spent in the way authorized by Government and Native Authorities. In the Northern Provinces the Director of Audit has for a number of years been responsible for the audit of the Native Authority accounts, as well as of the accounts of Government Treasuries and Departments. During the last twelve months he and his officers have also continued to render advice and assistance in accounting matters to Native Authorities and their staffs.

In August, 1946, a branch Audit Office was set up in Kano under a Senior Auditor, to enable a continuous audit to be applied to the accounts of the Kano Native Treasury and to afford more frequent opportunities for inspections of Government and Native Authority departmental accounts in Kano.

Additional work will fall to be undertaken by the Audit Staff in the Northern Provinces when regionalisation of the Treasury takes place next April. The audit of all expenditure accounts of the Northern Provinces will then be done at Regional Headquarters in Kaduna.

With the object of training Northerners in the course of time to do this work, temporary clerical assistance is being recruited from amongst them; if the candidates turn out well, they will be absorbed into the clerical staff of the Department.

Of these four departments, only the Accountant-General's Department (Treasury) will be regionalized.

Agriculture

I turn early to the Agricultural Department, (which has been regionalized), because you and I know full well that at present and in the future the wealth of the Northern Provinces lies in its land, in the sweat of the peasantry under our tropical sun and their toil through the anxious days of our erratic rains. It is your desire and mine that by improved methods they may reap a greater reward for their efforts and thereby a higher standard of living and may be less subject to calamity arising from drought or storm, the ravages of locusts and other pests and not least from unscientific methods of farming. It is the duty of the Agricultural Department to achieve these ends.

The fact that Europe and parts of Asia after their devastation by war are still seriously short of the crops your farmers can produce increases the great incentive of the Government to foster the agriculture of these provinces and, I am sure, increases the incentive of you and your farmers to give of your best in the spirit of co-operation.

Two years after the cessation of hostilities the shortage of edible oils in Europe still remains serious, and the stimulation of exports of groundnuts and benniseed is still one of the department's great concerns. War-time experience has shown that, though production could be fostered by propaganda and by an attractive increase in price, it was often achieved at the expense of the supply of local foodstuffs. It is hoped that farmers of Northern Nigeria will take full advantage of the prices now offered for oil-seeds, whilst ensuring that supplies of staple crops remain adequate and that farming land is not exhausted; to the latter end the Groundnut Mission which, following the Oil-seeds Commission, visited Nigeria in June, has recommended the issue of artificial manures to groundnut farmers and has advocated mechanical cultivation of groundnuts in areas which would otherwise remain uncultivated through lack of population.

The implementation of the department's post-war plans has been hindered by staff shortage, which has been even more acute than in 1946.

During the year the North has lost the valued services of Mr. I. E. James, O.B.E., who proceeded on leave prior to retirement in October. Mr. James had spent twenty-one years in the Northern Provinces and had been Assistant Director (later Regional Deputy) from 1942.

The harvest of 1946 was good. Groundnut purchases, at 323,000 tons, were above expectation, and represented an increase of 21,000 tons on purchases in 1945-46; wide advertisement of a price increase from £12 to £16 per ton had brought a much larger acreage into production. Owing to shortage of rolling stock, stacking in pyramids in Kano was again necessary, and it is not expected that the 1946-47 crop will be evacuated before next

March. Cotton exports were disappointing: an estimate of 40,000 bales (400 lb.) appeared justified by the amount of planting seed distributed and by the patently larger area in cultivation; the price of 2.7d. per lb. for Grade I seed cotton at all ginneries represented an increase of 0.5d. per lb. to the producer over the previous year's price and was considered attractive except in established textile centres where buyers for internal trade were prepared to pay 1d. per lb. above the official market price. Exports were 33,000 bales, a decrease of 1,000 bales on 1945-46 purchases; the main deficit of 5,000 bales occurred in Southern Katsina. It has yet to be established how far this loss is due to the activities of the American pink boll-worm, which appeared in large numbers for the first time in the history of Northern Nigerian cotton. Purchases of benniseed were 5,256 tons compared with 3,469 tons in the previous year. Produce inspection of the major export crops proceeded smoothly, new cotton markets being opened in North Katsina, which had previously been declared a groundnut priority area. For the second year grading of capsicums was carried out: of 400 tons bought in the Funtua area 200 tons were found to be below grade, and the future of this crop is uncertain.

The *millet* crop of 1946 was below average. The *guinea-corn* harvest was good, but a reduction of the acreage under this crop in groundnut areas resulted in high prices for grain (about £20 per ton in April to June) though no serious scarcity was recorded. Preparations for dealing with any marked inflation were again made by storing stocks of grain in areas of high population, fumigation being carried out by the department.

Growing conditions throughout the present year have been excellent. In the Middle Belt rains were above average, and some damage to rice crops was caused by floods in the Kabba and Niger Provinces during October. The rainy season was shorter than usual in the Northern Belt, but distribution was good. An excellent millet harvest was reaped, and prices fell sharply in August and September. Yields of guinea-corn promise to be very high, and as a result of very extensive planting a bumper crop is prophesied. Groundnuts have made good growth. The early onset of the harmattan is likely to reduce yields in Bornu and Sokoto, where planting was later than usual, but over-all yields per acre are expected to be of the same order as in 1946. The price remains at £16 per ton and purchases are likely to be determined by the area in cultivation; this is estimated at ninety-five per cent of last year's acreage. Cotton was planted unusually late in some areas, and though issues of planting seed were roughly the same as in 1946 it is expected that this year's crop will be rather smaller. The official market price for the present season for Grade I cotton has been raised by 0.3d. per lb., but that for Grade II by a smaller amount: this difference should stimulate the production of the higher grade crop. An increase from £7 to £15 per ton in the price of benniseed, made in March, has led to quickened interest in the crop. Wet-season purchases in Benue

Province are estimated at 4,500 to 5,000 tons compared with 4,000 tons in 1946 and there are extensive preparations for a dry-season crop which is expected to yield another 2,000 tons. Helped by an increase from 6d. to 7d. per lb. for Grade I ginger exports from Southern Zaria rose from 33 to 105 tons. The planting area has been extended during the year, and given the same attractive price it is likely that 1948-purchases will be of the order of 150 tons.

Despite difficulties in obtaining building materials good progress has been made at the new experimental farms at Maiduguri and Yola, where response to propaganda for the preparation and application of manure has been gratifying. Both centres have issued large numbers of fruit trees, over 1,800 budded mangoes and citrus being distributed from Maiduguri in the month of June alone. Date cultivation is giving promising results at Maiduguri, and widespread interest is being shown in the introduced "Dun Wari" type of cassava, which has shown itself markedly superior to local strains.

Land shortage is acute in parts of Plateau Province and is intensified by the spoliation of arable land resulting from tin-mining operations. With the assistance of the chemist and the co-operation of the mining authorities the Agricultural Officer, Riyom, is carrying out an investigation into the relative costs of various methods of bringing back mined land to a farmable condition. He has also begun a survey of the Shendam area, which may well be suitable for the absorption of surplus population from the High Plateau.

Experiments in the eradication of *Acanthospermum hispidum* (*Kashin Yawo*) by selective weed-killers have been continued at Kano. Marked success has attended the use of D.N.O.C. at applications as low as one gallon per acre. Unfortunately, this substance is highly toxic, and further trials with sulphuric acid and growth promoting substances such as 'agroxone' and 'chloroxone' are needed before a large-scale campaign can be launched.

Whilst rigid enforcement of the Ordinance for the control of this weed by pulling would do much to eliminate it from farm land it seems certain that extensive spraying operations will be needed to eradicate it from road-side margins and cattle-routes, where it threatens an increasingly large area of valuable grazing land.

At Samaru the Botanist has continued the selection and issue of improved strains of seed and has again obtained very favourable reports on Groundnut Selection S.38. The problem of sterility in guinea-corn in the Langtang area of the Plateau is being investigated and some progress, hindered by lack of qualified staff, has been made in the classification of local grasses.

Marked response to artificial phosphatic fertilisers had been demonstrated on the soils of Zaria and Kano Provinces before the war. Similar response was later found on soils of Katsina

Province and has been very markedly shown during the present year on the granitic soils of Plateau Province. There is ample evidence that peasant farmers would find the use of artificial manures containing both phosphate and nitrogen to be economic with guinea-corn and cotton on average land, and with groundnuts on poor land. The Chemist at Samaru is carrying out trials to decide in what form and proportions these artificial manures may be most economically applied and to learn which crop it would be best to manure where crop rotation is practised. The import of artificial manures will mean the return to Northern Nigeria of plant food which is exported in the groundnut and benniseed crops. A further drain on soil fertility is entailed in the export of raw bones, a trade which is growing in large towns such as Kano. The fertilising value of bone-ash prepared in Kano is being investigated in trials with guinea-corn and groundnuts at Kano, Daura, Samaru and Bauchi.

Impetus to these trials of artificial manures was given by a recommendation of the Groundnut Mission that phosphatic fertilisers should be issued to groundnut farmers. The Mission, headed by Mr. G. F. Clay, C.M.G., Agricultural Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and one-time Assistant Director of Agriculture in Northern Nigeria, made an aerial survey of Northern Nigeria in June. They recommended investigations into the possibilities of the mechanical cultivation of groundnuts in a number of sparsely populated areas where soils appeared suitable for the purpose. Three areas suggested for a ground survey were (i) an area of about 1,600 square miles centred round Damaturu in Bornu Province (ii) land lying between Kontagora and the Railway in Niger Province (iii) the Shendam Division of Plateau Province. The necessary investigations are already being undertaken by a team under the direction of the Agricultural Chemist; it comprises members of the Administrative, Geological, Forestry and Survey Departments and has, during September and October, made a thorough survey of the Bornu area and has collected details of topography, of petrology and water-supply, and of the distribution of soils and vegetation. Their report is expected shortly. A similar though less intensive survey of the area lying south of Kontagora is being undertaken. As little is known of agricultural practice in this area the department has acquired an experimental farm on the sandy soils which occur about ten miles south of Kontagora. An intensive soil survey of Shendam awaits the completion of the work at Kontagora. In the meantime an agricultural survey is to be carried out by a Development Officer attached for the purpose to Agricultural Officer, Riyom. For the information of the Mission details of groundnut yields and methods of cultivation in various climatic zones were collected.

Only one minor occurrence of the migratory locust, at the Bornu-Cameroons boundary, was reported during the year. Some apprehension has, however, been caused by the advice that in

September swarms were leaving breeding grounds on the River Niger in French Sydan; and might invade West and East Africa in large numbers. Forty-eight tons of sodium arsenite are distributed throughout the North for use in poison bait, and auxiliary supplies of gammexane have recently arrived; the intelligence service has been strengthened and arrangements have been made for requisitioning of transport to supplement the stock of trucks available for mobile work. It must, however, be stressed that the full co-operation of every Village and District Head will be needed if this threatened menace is to be averted.

The American pink boll-worm, which was first found in Northern Nigeria in small numbers in the cotton crop of 1945 assumed serious proportions last year. In view of the large losses caused by this pest in other cotton growing countries very active measures need to be taken for its eradication. Regulations for the uprooting and burning of old cotton plants and for the sunning of planting-seed are expected to afford some degree of control. Alternative procedures have been suggested, but their adoption depends on the findings of the Entomologist, Ibadan, who is studying the pest during the present season.

Lack of machinery has delayed plans for large-scale trials of mechanically drawn implements. Apart from their use on large land holdings, for instance, in settlement schemes, tractors will serve a useful purpose in opening up new land. Chiefs have advised the department of areas of heavy land, such as rice-land in Niger Province which could profitably be opened up, and have promised the co-operation of land owners. Demonstrations of mechanical cultivation, given at Samaru where the costs of mechanised farming are being compared with those of hand cultivation, have attracted a number of visitors including a party of Chiefs from Benue Province. The Samaru workshops, in charge of the Agricultural Engineer, are nearing completion, though essential machinery is still lacking.

The Agricultural Engineer has continued to supervise soil conservation measures on Agricultural Stations and has visited Daudawa, Maigana, Riyom, Bauchi and Kano during the year: he has given advice to Provincial Development Committees in respect of operations at Gyel near Bukuru, at Sokoto and Kano. Major work has been confined to Shika and Samaru Farms where 332 and eighty-five acres respectively have been protected during the year. Because of the presence of trees on these areas and of the lack of suitable machinery operations have been carried out by hand labour. Apart from survey work carried out on the Wuya (Bida) Irrigation Scheme by an officer seconded by the Public Works Department no advance in irrigation projects has been possible owing to the failure of expected technical staff to arrive.

At the end of September the number of mixed farmers was 4 068, an increase of 741 during the year. The greatest increase comes from Kano where 235 farmers were enrolled and twenty-five

were wound up. Obstacles to more rapid progress are firstly the difficulty in obtaining new ploughs, secondly inadequate staff for supervision and thirdly the scarcity and high price of suitable stock. The third is the most serious factor, for the keeping of stock for fattening and manure making gives attractive profits even though ploughing cannot be undertaken. To procure sufficient suitable stock for replacement issues to the increased number of mixed farmers it will be imperative for farmers to carry out their own breeding. Stock bulls could be issued for the purpose to selected groups of farmers possessing female stock.

Seven students passed out of the Samaru Agricultural School at the end of 1946, six entered the department as Agricultural Assistants and one was appointed a Field Overseer. The present numbers in training are:—first year 13; second year 18; third year 9. To remedy the shortage of Assistant Agricultural Officers an accelerated course of higher instruction is being given at Ibadan School to students and Agricultural Assistants of exceptional ability. Three Agricultural Assistants and one student from each of the second and third years have been sent to attend this course. Progress in the erection of the new school has recently been accelerated.

The general programme for cattle improvement was discussed at a meeting of the Joint Agricultural and Veterinary Advisory Committee on livestock held at Ibadan in August. Major findings affecting the North were a new system of combating contagious abortion and suggestions for breeding for resistance to trypanosomiasis in the Middle Belt (Ilorin). At Shika Stock Farm the breeding and selection amongst native cattle for increased milk yields has been continued. A lactation of over 7,000 lb. has been recorded during the year, a new record. The introduction of new blood of proved high milking capacity is at this stage very necessary. Although actual abortions are few there is a high percentage of positive reactors to the contagious abortion test; an embargo on the issue of any but negative reactors has seriously curtailed the issue of improved stock. Shika is responsible for the production of all breeding stock of pigs as opposed to those intended for consumption. Improvement by the use of imported Large White male stock has produced an excellent type of bacon pig for which the demand for breeding purposes is very heavy. During the year forty boars and forty gilts were supplied to French Guinea (a colony neighbouring Sierra Leone).

The original purpose of the Ilorin Stock Farm was to produce stock with a greater tolerance to trypanosomiasis than the local Zebu by type and of a better conformation and greater working capacity than the Dwarf (Muturu) cattle of the South. For this purpose introductions of Gold Coast Shorthorns and French Guinea Ndama were made for comparison with the local cattle. Evidence that the Ndama had a greater resistance than the Gold Coast Shorthorn to trypanosomiasis was available by 1946, and

they are also shown to be more resistant to tick-fever and general hardship than either the Kaiama or the Gold Coast Shorthorn. Work on the Gold Coast Shorthorn is being abandoned, and future research is being directed to show the relative tolerance of both local and Ndama cattle to trypanosomiasis under controlled conditions and their general resistance to disease.

The demand from Lagos curers for bacon pigs has been constant at 400 per month. Zonkwa and Daudawa piggeries were closed in October 1946 to permit private breeders to take an increasing share of the trade. Railments during the year ending September have been 3,732, of which private piggeries have provided about one-third, compared with 3,811 in the previous year.

Purchases of Tobacco by the British American Tobacco Company from Zaria and South Katsina were 171,000 lb. as against 149,000 lb. in 1946, this increase being far from commensurate with the increase in seedling distribution. The crop quality was low and an increase in price from 6d to 7d per lb. Grade I brought little benefit to the farmers on account of the high proportion of lower grades. Plans for extending the industry to parts of Sokoto Province are now under consideration.

A poor rice season in 1946 led to reduced millings at Baro and Badeggi where the total production to the end of September was only 379 tons compared with 524 last year. Sales of milk from the principal dairies during the year are compared with those of last year in the following table which gives the number of gallons produced:—

	1945-46	1946-47
Shika	6,941	8,592
Kano	6,647	4,304
Zaria Station ...	5,707	5,750

A census of sugar makers showed that at the end of 1946 there were 164 crushers in operation with an estimated output of 1,810 tons of brown slab sugar per annum. The demand for new mills is heavy, and fantastic offers have been made for second-hand plant. Of 164 new mills on order 58 have arrived during the year. At the end of July, railments from Zaria were 844 tons compared with 583 tons in the previous year. The supply of fresh vegetables has been well maintained, railments from Kano totalling 531 tons at the end of September compared with 399 tons in 1946-47. Partly owing to a temporary glut last year this year's production of English potatoes has shown a marked decline and a notable increase in price, total railments from Zaria, Katsina and Plateau during the peak months of July, August and September were only 180 tons at 3d to 5d per lb. compared with 334 tons at 2d to 3d per lb. in the previous year; at the end of September the year's railments from Jos were 273 tons as against 504 tons in 1946-47.

The Daudawa Settlement Scheme continues to attract a deal of attention by reason of the greatly increased standard of living which improved methods of farming by bullock cultivation have brought to the settlers. No extension of the present Settlement is planned, though modifications in the system of produce marketing are being made by the Co-operative Department, and a much needed cattle market is being erected at Funtua. It is certain that future settlements, which will probably be based on mechanical cultivation, will have much to learn from Daudawa.

Co-operative

The objects of the now regionalised Co-operative Department are to encourage the growth of the pooling of funds and communal effort between farmers and salaried or professional classes for the obtaining of benefits which as individuals they would be unable to obtain for themselves from their own separate means. This is a young department that has yet only a small staff whose activities have of necessity been to date rather limited though during the past year the number of Co-operative Societies in the Northern Region has increased from 60 to 109: of these, all but six are savings societies.

The Thrift and Loan Societies, intended to provide salary earners in the employment of Government, Native Authorities and trading firms with a means of putting aside money for a rainy day, have increased from fifty-seven to sixty-eight, and at the end of the last financial year they had 1,875 members with savings of roughly £16,000. Most of the societies have been formed among Native Authority employees. Thirty-five other societies have been formed in the Ilorin Province as thrift and credit societies; these are village banks which take regular though small savings from their members and lend them money at reasonable rates of interest. There are also five consumers' societies in the region, as opposed to two at this time last year. Four of these are formed by members of thrift societies, in Kaduna, Kano, Zaria and Bida, but only one of them has been in action for more than a few months. They supply their members with local foodstuffs, such as *gari* and palm oil, and also with such imported goods as they are able to obtain, but supply is of considerable difficulty. The fifth society was formed in 1942 by the Church of the Brethren Mission at Garkida in the north of Adamawa Province, as the people of that area had no trading store within about fifty miles, and it deals mainly in imported goods which are obtained from Jos and Yola. The department is beginning to arrange for imported goods to be made available to the consumers' societies more cheaply and more frequently than in the past. The last society is one which produces blood meal and bone-ash, valuable cattle foodstuffs, from the by-products of the Kano slaughter slab; it became a co-operative society a little more than a year ago and sells all its products to the Agricultural and Veterinary Departments and to pig-breeders.

I must also mention the marketing societies, which form a large part of the movement in other areas; this is mainly because of the difficulty of finding outlets for internal trade, but investigations are being made into the possibility of co-operative marketing of such varied commodities as rice and dried fish from Gashua, peppers from Mubi, leatherwork from Sokoto, yams from Offa and hats and mats from Bida. The department is also discussing with the Katsina Native Authority the question of forming a co-operative society to provide the farmers of the Daudawa Estate and Planned Area with the credit and marketing facilities they need.

Forestry

Another source of wealth to the Northern Provinces stands in the trees which nature has provided and which must be farmed to no less extent than the normal crops of the fields. There stands the task of the now regionalized Forestry Department.

The first consideration in the application of Government forest policy is the establishing of an adequate forest estate, but without sufficient European staff to examine and select areas, this is an extremely slow process. In the Northern Provinces only one province—Sokoto—can be said to have completed this first phase, having established as forest reserves twenty per cent of the provincial area. Kabbia Province comes next on the list but unfortunately it has not been possible to post a Provincial Forest Officer to this province for some years and it is to be feared that considerable areas of potential forest estate have been lost in the interval through unreserved forest being destroyed for farming.

It is the aim of the Forest Department under the Ten Year Development Plan to post at least one Forest Officer to each province but the supply of trained Forest Officers is very limited and considerable time must elapse before that aim is accomplished; in the meantime a very great deal can be done by Native Authorities to check wasteful exploitation of their forest areas and to protect areas suitable for reservation.

Although no forest reserves have been finally constituted during the year, much work has been done in reconnaissance, surveys and demarcation of proposed reserves. There are at present 6,000 square miles of forest land under proposals which have not yet reached the stage of final constitution. Besides this some thirty-eight square miles of Communal Forest Areas were added to the Secondary Forest Estate.

The continued destruction of the all too scarce tree growth on the Plateau is a source of considerable anxiety. An attempt to supply up to 1,000 cords of cheap firewood per month from the Jema forests to the High Plateau proved a failure because of high costs of road transport. Railway transport would reduce costs considerably but the railway, being short of rolling stock, is not at present in a position to supply waggons to transport this

large monthly quota. Plans are being prepared for opening accessible Forest Reserves off the Plateau to rotational cutting by the local people and this should be of considerable value in decreasing the present practice of the gleaning of coppice shoots on hill sides, and so assist in the rehabilitation of the tree growth on the Plateau.

Plans are taking shape to exploit the Savannah woodlands of the Northern Provinces for small sized sawn timber by employing a portable saw bench driven off an agricultural tractor. The tractor, sawbench, and other equipments have arrived at Kaduna and Zaria Native Authority in whose forests the experiment is to be tried, has applied to the Nigeria Loan and Development Board for a grant sufficient to cover capital costs and the first year's working. The Idoma timber scheme continues to supply much needed timber to all the provinces in the North, but the principles behind this scheme though apparently remunerative in practice are subject to reconsideration as Idoma has as yet no established forest estate, and it is generally held that forest exploitation should be carried out as part of a plan of management designed to maintain the supplies of forest produce in perpetuity.

A privately owned sawmill is being erected near Kogum Station in the Jema'a Division of Plateau Province and negotiations are in progress for the grant of a Timber Area concession to the mill-owner to work the high forest contained within certain Forest Reserves in Jema'a; in this case exploitation will be carefully controlled to fit into the plan of management of these reserves, so that the forest instead of being destroyed by exploitation will in fact at the same time be regenerated.

Lands, Mines, Survey and Geological Survey

Before passing on from reference to the natural resources of this country, you would wish me to mention the subjects of land tenure and mining. The former Land and Survey Department has recently been organised as two separate departments; the new Land Department has its headquarters in Lagos but its functions in the region are at present carried out under my direction by a branch of the Northern Provinces' Secretariat, which section also deals with the closely related subjects of mining, survey and geological survey. These departments have also a central organization but no Regional representatives.

The legal position of land in the Northern Provinces differs from that in the other Regions and the Colony of Lagos in view of the Land and Native Rights Ordinance, Chapter 85 of the Laws of Nigeria which applies only to the Northern Provinces and the Trusteeship Territory of the Cameroons. This Ordinance vests the control and disposition of all lands in the Governor and lays down that they should be held and administered for the use and common benefit of the natives having due regard to the native law and custom of the area in which the land is situated. Any native of the Northern Provinces lawfully using the land in accordance with

native law and custom has under this Ordinance, without being required to obtain documentary proof thereof, a right of occupancy over the land he is using but any non-native must apply for a documentary right of occupancy for any land he wishes to use. This right does not give him ownership of the land but only the right to occupy for a fixed term of years. When considering applications for Rights of Occupancy, the use to which the site is to be put and the amount which will be spent on improvements are taken into consideration when fixing the term of the lease; rents are liable to revision at such intervals as are specified in the grant, in accordance with the value of the land which almost everywhere is increasing. Rights of Occupancy may not be transferred or alienated in any way without my consent. There are approximately 1,750 extant Rights of Occupancy granted in this way in the Northern Provinces.

A different procedure obtains for the grant of rights of occupancy in townships: in the African reservation of Jos Township the Local Authority may grant rights of occupancy, but the Sabon Garis of Kaduna, Kano and Zaria are now controlled by the Native Authorities and in these Sabon Garis the Native Authorities are themselves empowered to grant rights of occupancy.

The tin mining industry is now returning to economic production as opposed to the war-time efforts to produce tin in as great a quantity and as quickly as possible regardless of cost. In consequence, production of tin ore and its associated minerals has gradually dropped from a figure of 15,500 tons in 1945 to 12,600 tons in the twelve months from October 1946 to September 1947, and the average African labour employed has likewise dropped by 10,300 men.

The policy of restoring areas destroyed by mining so that they may revert to agricultural use has been and is the subject of much discussion. Restoration conditions may now be imposed under the Minerals Ordinance, 1945, but will normally only be considered in areas declared by Gazette Notice to be 'congested'; one such area of 111 square miles in Jos Division has so far been declared congested. A restoration 'team' consisting of an Administrative Officer, an Inspector of Mines and an Agricultural Officer has been formed to examine and report on each lease applied for in the congested area. It has been decided that the actual bringing back into agricultural use of land which has been mined shall be Government's responsibility after the mined area has been substantially restored by the lessee; a Resoiling Unit is to be established on the Plateau for this purpose.

Gold production has dropped from 3,315 ounces in 1945 to 1,186 ounces in 1947. It was hoped to encourage thorough exploration of gold bearing areas in Sokoto and to raise production and employ more labour by offering large tracts of country under Special Exclusive Prospecting Licences; one such Special Exclusive Prospecting Licence of 759 square miles proved

disappointing and was relinquished after one year; other Special Exclusive Prospecting Licences have been applied for on the River Niger in Sokoto, Ilorin and Niger Provinces and one has been granted south of the Niger in Ilorin Province and a further one in Kabba Province. It is a feature of the terms of grant of these Special Exclusive Prospecting Licences that adequately capitalised companies with thoroughly qualified mining engineers and geologists are employed and that all information and plans are supplied to the Chief Inspector of Mines and Director of Geological Surveys; in this way the country benefits from the exploration and mapping carried out and at the same time obtains rent for the ground leased.

There have been attempts to mine silver and lead in Nigeria but this has never been attended with great success. In view of the higher world price for lead, the mine at Zurak in Plateau Province is being reopened. The development of the mineral resources of the country and the right to occupy of valuable land can only be regulated without fear of dispute by the careful mapping of rights and concessions. This duty falls on the Survey Department.

Steady progress was made during the year with the establishment of ground control over the 13,000 square miles of Sokoto Province which were photographed recently by the Royal Air Force. For most of the time two surveyors were employed but the party has now been increased to four. During the ten months ending on the 31st of October, 1947, forty-five surveys of new mining areas were made by Government surveyors and 145 were received from licensed surveyors. The number of mining areas awaiting survey has dropped steadily from its war peak of 320 in June 1942 to 143 in June this year. Some increase has become apparent in recent months and there are now 197 outstanding areas; forty surveys for the renewal of mining leases were carried out, four by Government and thirty-six by licensed surveyors.

A considerable amount of cadastral survey work was done during 1947. The survey of Ataneguma for the new Igala Divisional Headquarters was completed, as were layouts at Bauchi and Minna; four more blocks of plots in the Nasarawa layout at Kano were demarcated; other surveys completed were immunization centres at Yelwa near Zaria, and Mai-Idon-Toro on the Plateau for the Veterinary Department, Catering Rest House sites at Kaduna and Minna, Stock Farm and Grazing Area at Bokkos for the Agriculture Department, land for the Elementary Training Centre at Toro and Girls Middle School at Kano for the Education Department.

More surveyors have been transferred to the Northern Provinces in recent months and a large amount of work is now in hand. Among the jobs now being undertaken are the extensions to Jos Township, a detailed survey of Lokoja Town, and layouts for

Government Reservation Areas at Kaduna, Nguru and Bida. A surveyor is also assisting the Groundnut Commission by traversing roads in Bornu Province.

The Land Settlement Officer Course successfully concluded its first year in April 1946. This course which is held in Kano gives students nominated by Native Authorities a year's training in elementary surveying. All ten students completed the training and returned to take up appointments under their Native Authorities. A new class of fourteen students started in May of this year and a third class will be formed in August next year provided there is a sufficient number of applications.

Enquiry into the possibilities of at present unknown mineral wealth in the Northern Provinces is the sphere of the Geological Survey Department. Until the department handed over to the Public Works Department in March 1946, it was also responsible for the execution of water supply programmes; it had sunk nearly two thousand wells capable of producing ten million gallons of water a day but it now confines its activities in this connection to investigating the possibilities of obtaining water at specified places in arid areas.

During the year, hydrological surveys have been made for Katsina Town and in certain rural areas in Katsina Province. Water supply maps have been prepared for Gumel Emirate, for part of Hadejia Emirate and for the Gaya District of Kano. At the present time, water supply investigations are proceeding in those areas of Bornu and Kontagora, which have been tentatively selected for the groundnut mechanised production scheme. The department is now engaged on a detailed revision of the geological maps of the Plateau tin-fields in order to ascertain where the most economic deposits of ore are likely to be met. Coal is known to exist in the Northern Province but not in economically workable quantities.

Veterinary

In spite of the general shortage of staff and delay in arrival of new drugs and equipment activities of the Veterinary Department have been well maintained. As in past years, the activities of the field service have been largely concentrated on the control of the major epizootic diseases.

Rinderpest, the dreaded disease of two decades ago, which was responsible for up to ninety per cent or even more deaths in highly susceptible cattle, is now no longer the nightmare of the cattle owner, especially the nomadic Fulani. This happy state of affairs has been brought about by vaccinations, on a vast scale throughout the country, made possible by the comparatively recent evolution of attenuated rinderpest goat virus. The total number immunised this year should be well over 600,000. The aim of the department is to eradicate this disease from Nigeria, and provided we can be assured of co-operation on a wide basis from all

Course since many students in past sessions could not follow much of the lectures. In a recent examination, in which the standard of English was low, there were only five passes out of a total of forty-eight candidates from the Northern Provinces. It is encouraging to record that pupils who have taken this course have proved of great value on returning to the provinces, but it is evident that improvement in the standard of English is vital to the advancement of the Native Authorities'. Veterinary Staff.

Ten Veterinary Immunization Centres have been included in the Development Plan at a total cost of £30,000. The centre at Mai-Idon-Toro in Plateau Province is now completed and centres at Azare and Potiskum will be established this financial year. From these centres veterinary activities will radiate and propaganda towards the better management of livestock will be undertaken; it is not proposed to carry out any large scale immunisations on the actual sites, but within a radius of approximately fifty miles.

Five Livestock Improvement Centres have been included in the Development Plan at a total cost of £25,000; possibly four will be built in the Northern Provinces. It is hoped that building will soon start on the centres at Biu and at Katsina; the latter will be adjacent to the proposed Katsina Native Authority horse breeding centre; this has already had gifts of three well-known stallions, winners of many races, which it is hoped will leave their mark on succeeding generations of improved horses—and not only as race horses.

The food production schemes of the Veterinary Department which are designed largely to demonstrate the possibilities of marketing dairy products, which is the profit of the stock owners, have maintained their output; it is estimated as follows:—

Fresh Butter	...	...	...	205,000 lb.
Clarified Butter, Fat	...	...	...	32,000 ,,
Cheese	...	...	...	40,000 ,,
Bacon	...	...	...	80,000 ,,

The policy of paying only surplus milk prices has been maintained in order that no supplies which could be sold at higher prices in the local markets should be diverted to the production of high class butter and cheese. It is estimated that the purchase of fresh milk for the above products has resulted in payments to the cattle owners of over £12,000.

Commerce and Industries

The Department of Commerce and Industries is a new non-regionalized department whose functions are to facilitate the growth of trade and its easy flow through clear channels, the development of local industries and the encouragement of local enterprise.

In the past year it was found necessary to retain many of the previous controls on export produce, but it was possible to expand the scope of Open General Licences to include goatskins, sheepskins, tanned and untanned, and locally-woven cloth. A free market for skins was established in July. The export figures for locally-woven cloth also show a very marked expansion. Exports of this commodity are directed mainly to the other British West African Colonies but the establishment of other markets may be expected as a result of the cloth being brought into wider use. Recently, American importers have evinced considerable interest in locally produced leatherwork, notably handbags. A Tanning Officer attached to the Department of Commerce and Industries has submitted reports on the tanning industry in Kano, Sokoto, Zaria and Bornu Provinces and is now engaged on a survey of the industry in the Katsina Province. His recommendations for the development and improvement of the tanning industry are being considered. This matter is being actively pursued and a profitable market in leather goods may be expected in the near future if high standards of tanning can be maintained.

Due to the critical supply position of caustic soda it was found necessary to prohibit the export of locally produced soap in order to protect domestic requirements. In this connection it is of interest to note that purchases of caustic soda may now be made from hard currency areas should it be found possible to get firm offers of supplies. The export prohibition on most local food-stuffs remains effective and will be operative until the production is such as to leave a clear surplus over domestic demand. A similar restriction operates in the case of imported goods which are imported to satisfy a local demand.

The Kano and River Areas Groundnut Control Schemes for 1946-47 were operated on similar lines to the control schemes for previous seasons. The West African Produce Control Board purchased all groundnuts offered for sale for export through approved buying agents. The Department of Commerce and Industries has acted as agents of the Board in Nigeria and has issued all necessary instructions to buying agents. In the Kano area the basic price at railway line buying stations was fixed at £16 per ton, an increase of £4 per ton on the price ruling in the 1945-46 season. Minimum prices at other stations were determined by deducting the approved cost of transport from the basic price. Subsidies were paid to prevent the minimum price at any station falling below £11 per ton. As previously, prices in the River Area were fixed on a zone basis, the average price being £15 per ton. Total purchases of groundnuts for export during 1946-47 amounted to 304,609 tons in the Kano Area, and 18,090 tons in the River Area; total purchases by provinces were as follows:—

Kano	...	...	...	...	152,655 tons.
Katsina	...	...	...	...	53,897
Sokoto	...	...	...	...	41,361

Zaria	5,228	tons
Bornu	42,373	,,
Bauchi	14,867	,,
Plateau	51	,,
Benue	349	,,
Adamawa	10,151	,,
Kabba	—	,,
Niger	1,752	,,
Ilorin	15	,,
	<hr/>	
	322,699	

This constitutes the second highest groundnut crop on record. Owing to its reduced carrying capacity, the Railway has only been able to evacuate some 210,000 tons of the 1946-47 Kano Area crop, leaving a balance of approximately 95,000 tons unrailled at the opening of the new season. This abnormal position has created a considerable storage problem which is being met by the provision of tarpaulins on a large scale by the West African Produce Control Board in order to provide cover for groundnuts stacked in pyramids as a temporary storage measure.

The purchase of benniseed for export has been controlled as in the past seasons; all benniseed offered for sale for export has been purchased by the West African Produce Control Board through approved buying agents. The control of this scheme in Nigeria has been operated by the Department of Commerce and Industries. The same minimum buying price has applied to all gazetted buying stations; this price was raised to £15 from £7 per ton in March and has led to a considerable increase in purchases. During the six months from March to September, purchases totalled 5,957 tons against only 4,442 tons purchased during 1946. Requisitioning of crops by the Government has now been finally abandoned though Native Authorities may still if necessary build up stocks for their own purposes, all restrictions on the movements of produce have now also been removed.

Before proceeding to the services rendered by Government and Native Authorities for the men and women of this country themselves, I wish to give you a brief description of those departments which are responsible for the erection of buildings, the supply of power and the provision of communications.

Public Works

The Public Works Department is now fully regionalized, having a Regional Deputy Director and an Assistant Deputy Director at Kaduna, one or other of whom should be frequently available to tour the provinces and see that approved work is being efficiently executed.

The year has seen the gradual building up of the regional staff and organisation, and progress has been made in all branches of engineering carried out under the Public Works Programme. The determining factors controlling the rate of progress and volume of works are shortages of staff, and, still more so, the difficulty of obtaining materials.

The chief items under the road programme have been the continuation of the Kano-Eastern Road and the construction of the Yola-Wukari, Mokwa-Kontagora, Sokoto-Kalmalo and the Ilesha-Yashikera Roads. Reconstruction is being carried out on the Yola-Biu, Jebba-Bida-Wamba-Karshe, Ropp-Shendam-Wase, and Fokku-Jega Roads. Bituminous surfacing is in progress on the Kano-Katsina and Maiduguri-Jos Roads. In all provinces progress has been made in the feeder roads programme.

During the year the rural water supply section provided the greatest number of new water points since well-sinking began in 1929. The total number of wells completed was 241 compared with the previous best of 189 in 1934; the total footage sunk was over 16,000. New drilling rigs have arrived and a borehole yielding 4,000 gallons an hour has been completed for the Nigerian Railway at Mallam Maduri; three rigs are at work in Bauchi Province and reasonable quantities of water have already been encountered at Gombe.

The urban water supply for Minna is in hand and supply is about to start in Sokoto; extensions to Vom water supply have been completed and investigations have been carried out in preparation for a scheme for Ilorin.

A large building programme is progressing satisfactorily, as far as the supply of materials will permit. The more important works for Education are the School of Arabic Studies at Kano, extension to the Katsina Elementary Training Centre, the Zaria Secondary School and the Trades Training Centre, Kaduna and for the Medical services, the hostel for sanitary inspectors in training at Kano, and the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Jos. Post Offices are being built at Nguru and Bauchi and an extension to the Telegraph Office at Kaduna and Radio Diffusion Stations at Jos, Kaduna and Kano. Other large works in hand are the Lugard Memorial Council Chamber, the new Secretariat, extensions to the Printing Department and Police Depot at Kaduna. Junior service staff quarters are being built for the Marine Department at Lokoja and similar projects are in hand in other stations. Catering Rest Houses have been built or are nearing completion at Sokoto, Gusau, Katsina, Kaduna, Minna, Makurdi, Bauchi, and Yola, and Senior service quarters are under construction in many stations. In addition the numerous works are being carried out from Native Authority or other funds and of these I must make special mention of the mosque at Kano and the Middle School at Yola.

Improvements to aerodromes have been carried out at Sokoto, Gusau, Potiskum, Zaria, Kano and Kaduna and the runways have stood up well to traffic during the rains. Buildings and quarters for Civil Aviation and Radio Operation staff are being built.

Further extensions to the Kano City and Jos drainage schemes have been made and the Bauchi Government Reservation Area drainage scheme has been completed.

The programme for the coming year is expected to reach nearly £400,000 under Public Works Extraordinary, Colonial Development and Loan Funds. In addition, there are works and projects financed by the Native Authorities and the ever increasing demands for maintenance as new works are completed.

Electricity

The Electricity Department, which aims at providing electricity to advanced centres of population, is not regionalized.

The Government-owned Electricity Undertakings at Kaduna, Zaria, and Yola and the Undertakings owned by the Native Authorities at Kano and Katsina have been operated throughout the year. The demand for electricity has increased considerably and the generating plant is now fully loaded at all these stations. Orders have been placed for additional plant but delivery periods are so long that it will unfortunately be necessary to place restrictions on the connection of additional load, particularly during the evening when the maximum demand occurs. We are all keen to see expansion but we should not forget that similar conditions exist, not only in Nigeria and West Africa generally, but in the United Kingdom and most other parts of the world. At Jos and Vom the Electricity Department is responsible for the distribution of power supplied by the Nigerian Electricity Supply Corporation.

Schemes for the provision of electricity supply in Maiduguri, Sokoto and Bukuru have been prepared and indents for the necessary plant and materials have been despatched.

Railway

The Nigerian Railway is not strictly a Government Department, as it is run largely as a business concern in the interests of the state; it is, of course, not regionalized. The Railway services are suffering as much if not more than those provided by Government from the difficulty of obtaining new equipment. Railway stock is old and much is due for early replacement, while the expanding demands of passenger and goods traffic cannot be fully met until there is improvement in the world shortage of rolling stock and locomotives, and railway equipment generally.

The Nigerian Railway also operates road transport services in areas where it is not possible, at any rate for the present, to construct railway lines.

Marine

The activities of the Marine—another non-regionalized Department are confined at present to the Niger and Benue waterways.

The expansion of Lokoja dockyard is proceeding gradually and additional buildings and machinery have been transferred there from Forcados. Lokoja slipway has been extended thus enabling the launch "Margaret" to be re-plated there during the year; arrangements have been made to send other ships there for similar repairs and overhaul. The maintenance of craft stationed at Onitsha is now undertaken at Lokoja instead of at Forcados as in former years. This expansion at Lokoja will provide opportunities for the training of artisans and craftsmen in the Northern Provinces. When more facilities become available and more quarters are built, the dockyard will be able to increase its activities appreciably.

No waterway clearing was undertaken except in the Benue River between Abinsi and Tunga, where twenty large snags were destroyed by the use of explosives.

Aviation

The Department of Civil Aviation is not regionalized. During the past twelve months aviation in Nigeria has undergone considerable change: the Royal Air Force has withdrawn and civil air services are rapidly expanding. This is particularly so in the Northern Provinces. Most important has been the establishment of Kano as an international aerodrome and services operated by British, Belgian, Dutch and French aircraft now pass through here to and from the respective capital cities and West and South Africa. As many as 200 air passengers have used Kano in one day. It is expected that traffic will continue to expand and with the larger types of aircraft coming into service, the number of passengers will increase considerably, as will the weight of freight and mail carried. In addition to the long-distance International Services, aircraft operate from Kano to Fort Lamy and Zinder. Since the end of 1946 the Nigerian Air Service, operated on charter from British Overseas Airways Corporation, has provided a link between Kano and Lagos, via Kaduna, Jos, Enugu and Port Harcourt, and many hundreds of passengers have been carried in both directions.

We are extremely fortunate to possess excellent airfields widely distributed throughout the Northern Provinces. Early in 1948 the network of scheduled air services should be in full operation and the following routes served by bi-weekly flights:—

Kano—Zaria—Gusau—Sokoto—Katsina—Kano

Kano—Maiduguri—Yola—Kano

Kano—Jos—Ilorin—Lagos

Kano—Kaduna—Ilorin—Lagos.

Meteorological

The functions of this Central Department are to provide dependable weather forecasts over the whole of Nigeria and its neighbours, a service which is essential if safe flying conditions are to be maintained.

During the war the British West African Meteorological Service was placed under the control of the Air Ministry; in September this arrangement ceased and the service reverted to the control of Government.

Fifteen weather reporting stations are maintained in the Northern Provinces, most of which are open throughout the twenty-four hours of each day. These stations maintain observations of weather, clouds, visibility, temperature, humidity, pressure and rainfall. Every hour these observations are coded and telegaphed to Kano, where an important forecasting station is maintained; these reports are plotted on a chart in such a way that the Meteorological Officer can see at a glance the weather at any particular station. In addition, broadcasts of weather data from Europe and other parts of Africa are intercepted and plotted and a picture is thus available of the actual and probable weather over a large area.

The Meteorological Office at Kano is responsible for supplying weather information to all aircraft flying over the Northern Provinces and also to those aircraft leaving Kano Airport for destinations outside Nigeria. Each pilot is provided with information as to the weather, cloud and visibility to be expected en route and in addition the wind direction and speed at various heights up to 15,000 feet. Forecasts are issued regularly to aircraft flying from Kano to Lagos, Leopoldville, Tunis, Algiers, Tripoli and a number of other centres.

Apart from the service to aviation, all observations at each station are tabulated monthly and sent to Lagos and are supplied on request to Government Departments and the general public.

Posts and Telegraphs

The demand for increased Posts and Telegraphs services continued throughout the year, and although the staff position has been alleviated to some extent, a further large number of recruits for the junior service will be required in the coming year. It is hoped that a fair percentage of these will be Northerners.

The expansion of postal facilities continues, and postal agencies were opened at Moigbo, Guga, Mubi and Sokoto; arrangements are also being made to open up at Bama and Yerwa in the Bornu Province. It is the policy of the department to open agencies wherever there is potential business and suitable literate agents can be found. A new Post Office was built at Bauchi, and

one at Nguru is nearing completion; other new offices are to be erected during the year at Katsina, Gudi, Bukuru, Numan, Gombe and Sokoto.

The internal air service has operated regularly since last December, and the frequency of flights will be increased in the near future. The six times weekly Trans-Sahara service, London—Castel Benito—Kano—Lagos—Accra, commenced in September and afforded very satisfactory acceleration of correspondence.

The lowering of postage rates on letters and parcels, and the reduction of the commission on money orders, has resulted in appreciable increases in the volume of mails carried and in money order transactions. Direct despatches of parcels from Liverpool in England to Kano, Kaduna and Jos have been introduced and have effected considerable improvement in the service.

Savings Bank withdrawals show a decrease on last year's figure, mainly due to the slowing down of demobilization; otherwise this business shows a normal increase.

The number of telegrams handled continues to increase, and until additional telegraph channels are provided the few wireless channels available are loaded to full capacity. When carrier equipment is installed and more modern wireless apparatus can be obtained the long-desired reduction in delays will be possible. The demand for telephone installations continues to increase.

Everything is in readiness for opening up Radio Distribution Services at Kaduna and Jos, as soon as receiving and amplifying apparatus arrive from the manufacturers.

The programmes of Telecommunications Development are still held up for lack of material.

Gentlemen, I have described how Government and the Native Authorities attempt to improve the material wealth of this country and, as a means to that end, its system of communications, supply of electrical power and its works programmes. I have not forgotten, and we must never forget, that the real wealth of a country lies in the welfare of the men, women and children who live their lives therein. Government does what is possible within the limits of its resources to promote the physical and mental well-being of the people.

Labour and Re-settlement of Ex-servicemen

I turn now to another and not regionalised department, the Labour Department. The Labour Office in Jos constitutes the only branch of the department in the Northern Provinces and through it the department was able during the year to maintain close supervision over labour problems on the minesfield.

The Labour Advisory Board appointed by the Governor to enquire into and make recommendations on wages and conditions of service of workers in the tin mining industries has now completed its deliberations and its report to the Governor should be available within the next few days.

Trade Unionism in the North played a responsible role during the year when six mining trade unions with the assistance of the Labour Department concluded a memorandum of agreement with the Tin Industry Labour Committee representing the employers; the agreement covered rates of pay, leave conditions, termination of employment, medical facilities, overtime fees and so on and the Trade Union Officer who was in the North at the time helped in bringing about the agreement.

Two trade disputes in the tin mines occasioning stoppage of work were reported during the year. These disputes involved a total of 10,200 workers and were the result of demands for improved conditions of service and retrospective payment of cost of living allowance; through the intervention of the Labour Department the strikers agreed to resume work pending final settlement.

Resulting from unrest among casual labourers engaged on the loading and off-loading of ships for commercial firms along the Northern river ports an officer of the department was detailed to carry out an extensive survey of labour conditions at these ports; the survey covered the whole of the river systems in Benue, Adamawa, Kabba, Ilorin and Niger Provinces and thirty-nine stations were visited. The report which is in course of preparation will be useful in determining the action necessary for the regulation of the general conditions of service of port labourers throughout the area visited.

Up to the month of October 28,545 ex-soldiers in the Northern Provinces had registered themselves as ex-servicemen applying for employment though the total number of soldiers demobilized is probably in excess of 65,000.

Of the 28,545 registered, 7,656 are known to have been placed in employment and 3,489 to have taken up farming or other occupations not in direct employment. Of the balance of 17,400, nominally unemployed it is impossible to say how many are genuinely seeking employment: many have secured employment or returned to their farming pursuits without notifying the Registration Officers.

The number of new registrations is steadily falling with the slowing down of demobilization and the advisability of abolishing or combining outlying registration offices is under consideration. One special centre for assisting in the rehabilitation of old soldiers, is the training farm at Kafinsoli in Katsina Province which affords the teaching of improved agricultural methods to about thirty enthusiastic ex-servicemen.

Medical and Health Services

I must next deal with the Medical and Health Services, now under the control of a Regional Deputy Director at Kaduna. The process of regionalization was initiated some months ago and should be completed and a full organization be working early in 1948. You are all familiar with the work of the Government and Native Authority hospitals, dispensaries and health centres, so I will only invite your attention to other aspects of medical work.

One of the most pressing problems for present needs and for future expansion and staffing of extensions and new hospitals is the training of staff. During this year a school for training dispensary attendants was started at Kano and another school for training dispensers was opened at Zaria; recruitment of candidates with the requisite educational standards has proved difficult. Institutions for the training of midwives are under contemplation and preliminary plans are almost complete for the commencement of the building of a probationer Nurses Training School in Kano. All these schools with pupils of Northern extraction are mainly intended for the needs of the Northern Region.

The special school at Makurdi for training field units for combating epidemics and for looking after the needs of areas remote from hospital facilities has had a busy year. New buildings for housing trainees and staff have been erected, also a new school building for lectures; over one hundred field unit orderlies will have been trained by December. The first unit to go into the field commenced work in Benue Province in April; the object of the unit is to carry out a mass survey of the population first finding out what diseases are common in the area and then treating these diseases, to make observations and recommendations for improvements in sanitation, water supplies and nutrition and where possible to carry these recommendations into effect, also to vaccinate against smallpox all those examined in their town. The Benue field unit in three months examined over 14,000 people; and also dealt with a small outbreak of typhoid which occurred in the province; as an example of what the team is doing you will be interested in the following figures: in an area where 5,000 people were examined the following disease incidence was found:— sleeping sickness 15 cases, yaws 779, ulcers 375, scabies 324, gonorrhoea 71, goitre 136, leprosy 9, anaemia 39; further, the Medical Officer reports that in every undernourished child examined eggs of one or other intestinal worm were found. All these sufferers from disease received treatment and it is encouraging to note that the people welcome the coming of the team to each new district and readily avail themselves of the treatments offered. A supply of iodised salt is being made available for the cases of goitre. Another unit for work in Bornu Province will be ready for action in December of this year.

A survey intended to be used as a basis for the prevention of malaria in Katsina has been completed; recommendations have

been made, and the work will be executed as soon as circumstances permit; for the same purpose a more generalized survey of other cities and towns in the Northern Provinces is now in progress.

The majority of the Railway staff at all stations from Enugu to Kafanchan have been inoculated against yellow fever and it is proposed to extend these measures to the Railway staff working in all the stations in the Northern Provinces.

During July an outbreak of relapsing fever occurred in the Plateau Province and assumed epidemic proportions. There has been little relapsing fever reported in the Northern Provinces for a number of years. This louse-borne disease was attacked by mass delousing at road and rail control posts; the following figures are given for the period July to November; total cases 282, deaths 13, number of persons treated with anti-louse powder 474,091. Cases of relapsing fever have also been reported from Kano, Katsina, Bauchi and Maiduguri. The mass delousing campaign continues. It is probable that the disease was introduced by travellers from North Africa.

There has been a reduction in the number of cases of smallpox and cerebro-spinal fever during the year. Vaccination campaigns continue without hindrance. In areas of endemic human trypanosomiasis the staff of the Sleeping Sickness Service has examined over 700,000 people during field surveys and at Sleeping Sickness Dispensaries; infection rates were generally low averaging about one per cent; 9,844 cases of sleeping sickness were treated and over 133,000 cases of other general diseases. Over 28,000 vaccinations were made at Sleeping Sickness Dispensaries. Tsetse control measures were expanded and continued by communal effort in several of the provinces.

Field research on the treatment of sleeping sickness and other diseases and on the bionomics of the riverine tsetse fly were intensified. The Sleeping Sickness Service is responsible for the control and functioning of the new field units. The Director of the new West African Trypanosomiasis Research Institute arrived in October and preliminary work is in hand with a view to establishing this institute in the Northern Provinces: it should in the future prove of immense economic advantage to all West African Colonies.

The recent devastating epidemic of cholera in Egypt has caused the department much concern and steps have been taken to prevent this disease being brought into Nigeria from Egypt; air travellers are quarantined at Kano or Maiduguri unless they are in possession of a valid inoculation certificate against cholera and anti-cholera vaccine is being procured.

Chemistry

One of the principle activities of the Chemistry Department in the Northern Provinces is the bacteriological examination and

control of water supplies in this area. Over 1,000 bacteriological analyses were carried out during the past year at the Kaduna sub-laboratory which was opened for this purpose in 1940. Daily tests on the Kaduna supply and weekly tests on the water supplies at Kano, Zaria, Jos and Barakin Ladi showed satisfactory operation throughout the year. Examination of other water supplies, railway coach waters and local mineral water were also made. Chemical analyses on existing and projected water supplies, on boiler water for power stations or railway locomotives were undertaken in the main laboratory at Lagos. Plans have been approved for the construction of a larger and better equipped laboratory at Kaduna which will increase the scope of the work undertaken there. Examination analyses of specimens in connection with criminal investigations and for the protection of the public against adulteration of food, etc., are carried out. In addition a considerable number of miscellaneous analyses were undertaken for various Government departments and private individuals. These included chemicals for water treatment, clay, chalk, boiler scale, local tanning materials, oil seeds, soaps, dyes, lubricating oils and greases, palm wine, local beer and other fermented beverages, insecticides, flour, milk, butter and tinned foods, terne plate utensils and coal.

Education

The hopes that were entertained at the end of the war for the immediate development of education in the Northern Provinces have been only partly realised mainly owing to the lack of supervisory staff. At no time during the war itself was the Education Department so short-staffed in the Northern Provinces: for a period of two to three months during the year seven out of the twelve Northern Provinces were without Education Officers and for a longer part of the year Kaduna College, with only two permanent officers on its staff, has had to depend on the intermittent posting of temporary teachers. During the year six Education Officers of considerable experience were lost to the department by resignation or invaliding; on the other hand only five new appointments have reached the Northern Provinces since the end of the war.

This serious state of affairs has been mitigated by the fact that in two provinces senior African teachers have shouldered new administrative responsibilities in connection with the supervision of education, and two teachers, recently returned from professional courses in England, have been temporarily seconded to teaching duties in Kaduna College. The position as regards staff is likely to improve progressively in the future, but numbers are very much below those necessary for the development planned for this Region, particularly as regards Middle and Secondary Schools.

Two more Middle School headmasters, and two members of the African teaching staff at Kaduna College, were awarded scholarships to the United Kingdom in the latter part of the year.

One of those so selected is to read for an Arts degree at Edinburgh. Four teachers from the North, three of whom are employed by Native Authorities, have successfully completed the scholarship course for the Professional Certificate at London University, and have resumed duty in recent weeks.

Perhaps the most disquieting feature in education in the North is the present (it is to be hoped only temporary) reluctance of young men of education to volunteer for training as teachers. There can be no question that this is a grave educational disadvantage in which the Region finds itself in comparison with the Eastern and Western Provinces. The development of Secondary Schools in the North depends largely on the maintenance of satisfactory standards in the Middle Schools, for which these teachers are chiefly required.

In spite of these handicaps, however, it has been possible to rebuild and reopen the Elementary Training Centre at Katsina, which was closed during the pre-war slump, and to open the new Girls' Training Centre at Kano on the site of what was formerly an American army camp. The latter school has an enrolment of ninety-two girls, taken from most of the Northern Provinces, and a European teaching staff of four, with one African woman Education Officer; first reports are encouraging. At Katsina, the Training Centre has provided a year's course for uncertificated teachers from the north-western provinces, and a class for the usual elementary certificate course for students from Middle Schools in these provinces. The Bauchi Elementary Training Centre will now serve the north-eastern provinces. Teachers who hold the certificate of either of these Centres will in future be trained to teach English in the Elementary Schools. Some have already begun to do so. Plans for the development of Toro Elementary Training Centre have been held up for lack of new buildings, but the standard of entry, and consequently of training also, at this centre is rising, and the gap between it and the other centres is being narrowed. At Okene the Igbirra Native Authority's Training Centre now prepares students for the Elementary Certificate, as well as offering shorter courses.

Native Authorities in all the Provinces have done all in their power to increase the number of schools and pupils of Elementary standard and a considerable increase on last year's enrolment figure of 23,000 is looked for in the near future. The women teachers trained at Sokoto Women's Training Centre continue to do useful work, and their contribution to the teaching of small children cannot be overlooked in a system where classes for infants are still impracticable. The Kano School aims at producing women teachers of a higher standard than those trained at Sokoto, who will be capable of teaching the full junior primary course. The enrolment of girls in Elementary Schools is now approximately one in four, so that the need of women teachers is great.

The development of Mission education in the non-Moslem areas is proceeding steadily, and there are Elementary Training Centres at Oturkpo, Guni and Gindiri; the last named institution is multilateral and considerable progress is reported in connection with the training of men teachers, the development of a Middle School, and the spread of enlightenment among adult women. Government has posted a Woman Education Officer to the Plateau Province with a view to encouraging and co-ordinating the educational work being done for women and girls.

The Mass Education Officer for Nigeria has given a large part of his time to experimental schemes in the Northern Provinces, notably at Misau, Katsina, Zuru and Jecira in Tiv; the development of mass education at Zuru and Jecira is largely in the hands of ex-soldiers from these districts.

The Trade Training Centre at Kaduna which is now training thirty-two pupils in mechanical fitting and carpentry will be enlarged as soon as more instructors and equipment can be obtained; more buildings are in course of construction. The course will last about four years and is intended to create a class of skilled Northern tradesmen.

You, as Members of the House of Chiefs and of the House of Assembly, were invited to attend a meeting of the Regional Board of Education held in Kaduna in August, at which the Director presided, and during this meeting valuable contacts were made with officials of the department and others closely concerned with the expansion of education in the Northern Provinces. It is hoped that in the future Members of the Regional Council will take an increasing part in the guidance of educational affairs, and that your views will be fully represented at the meetings of the Central Board. Such representation cannot fail to be of the utmost value in the development of education on lines which will command the support of the people whose progress it is designed to serve.

The Clerical Training College which is run by the Provincial Administration is situated at Zaria; it was opened in May, 1946, in order to give specialised instruction in Native Treasury accounting, office procedure, typing and general education, to young men sponsored by Native Authorities. The thirty-five members of the first course completed their studies in March and since that time, with one exception, they have been in the employ of Native Authorities. Some of them have returned to their former occupation of scribe in the Central Office or the Native Treasury with increased responsibilities; others without previous experience have been employed as typists and upon routine clerical duties. This is the first step towards the realisation of the purpose of the College, which is to provide the competent clerical staff necessary to relieve senior officials from duties which limit their concentration upon administrative work.

The present course has maintained the standard set by last year's students. The Native Treasury Instructor has given all students a thorough grounding in Revenue Accounting. In Office Procedure students have been taught filing, indexing and registration of papers, and are able to draft simple letters. A high percentage of the students should prove themselves to be accomplished typists. In General Education, debates and discussions upon current affairs have enabled students to make considerable advances, both in knowledge and self-expression. Lectures on subjects of general interest are given by Government and Native Authority officials during the course.

It is proposed to increase the number of students attending the 1948-49 course from thirty-seven to forty-eight. A minimum of six students will then be available to meet the growing demand from Government for graduates of the College.

Legal

The work of the Legal Department is twofold. It consists, in the first place, of advising on all matters involving any question of law, and, in the second place, of controlling and, where possible, conducting all prosecutions in the Supreme Court and the more important ones in the Magistrates' Courts, and representing the Government in any civil cases in which it may be concerned in these courts.

The advisory work of the department includes scrutinizing and, where necessary, drafting rules and orders made by Native Authorities, in order to ensure that they are in the proper legal form to achieve their purpose, besides examining certificates of occupancy over land in the Northern Provinces, and various documents concerned with mining titles. Apart from the rules and orders made by Native Authorities, most legislation is drafted in Lagos, but the first draft of legislation specially affecting the Northern Provinces is commonly prepared in the Regional Secretariat, with the advice of Crown Counsel.

Police

Whilst the Nigeria Police Force has been regionalised yet it stands in a special position as compared with other regionalised departments because it will remain a single Force under the command of the Commissioner of Police who will retain powers of inter-regional disposition of staff and in the case of emergency also retain the power to draw Forces from any Region. In this way regionalisation has effected no change in the previous distribution of overriding authority in this department.

Crime in the Northern Provinces generally has shown no appreciable increase, except in the Kaduna Area where 840 persons have been brought before the Court; ninety-two per cent have been convicted, and more than two-thirds of stolen property recovered. On the Plateau crime has increased by twenty-five per cent and

the value of property stolen has been over three times more than last year. This increase is thought to be partly due to the large number of unemployed after two wars.

In February a riot occurred at Makurdi between Tivs and Hausas which resulted in five men being killed and thirteen injured. The cause of the riot was a chieftaincy dispute between these two tribes. The Makurdi Police Detachment under the Assistant Superintendent of Police effectively dealt with the situation.

A small disturbance took place in May at Oke-Ode in the Ilorin Province. A party of Nigeria Police under the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Ilorin, was despatched to the scene and order soon restored.

It is hoped that the new Northern Police College buildings will be completed next year; it will be used for the training of both Nigeria and Native Authority Police and will accommodate seventy-five recruits of both Forces. Selected Native Authority Police, sent from all over the region are at present being trained as Instructors and will be ready to take over their duties when recruits start arriving at the College. It is the aim to enlist only recruits of Educational Standard Middle IV for the Nigeria Police Force—though certain suitable applicants of Middle II Standard are being accepted. Recruits must be literate in both English and Hausa and pass an entrance examination before being enlisted. Examinations are also held during their period of six months training, before they are passed out as Third Class Constables. In many stations in the Northern Provinces housing of the rank and file has much improved by the building of double-roomed quarters, and it is hoped that before long all the Nigeria Police will be adequately housed in permanent or semi-permanent quarters.

Traffic control is an urgent necessity, and it is proposed to establish a Motor Traffic Unit at Kano during 1948-49. The Nigeria Police also control the immigration of non-natives to Nigeria. During the year 393 persons from Great Britain have come across the Sahara Desert and arrived at Kano en route for South Africa. A variety of motor vehicles have been used and a number have had to be abandoned in the desert through mechanical defects; much hardship has been experienced by these travellers through lack of funds and sickness.

Superior Police Officers are now supervising and advising on the training of nearly all Native Authority Police Forces in the Northern Provinces. Excellent relations and close co-operation have existed between the Nigeria Police and Native Authority Police throughout the year.

Prisons

The Government Prisons Department, which controls prisons at Kaduna, Jos and Lokoja, is not regionalized and at present has little contact with Native Authorities but it is hoped shortly to post more Prisons officers to the Northern Provinces who will be able to give their undivided attention to assisting in the supervision of Native Authority Prisons.

Many interesting innovations were introduced in the Government Prisons during the year under review following a firm declaration of prison policy. The new machinery does not affect persons serving short sentences, or habitual criminals, but its reforming influences should be of the greatest value in the rehabilitation of first offenders serving long sentences. By good conduct and industry, these men may now earn a small sum of money monthly, half of which they are permitted to spend on articles of comfort, and the balance is placed in the prisoner's own savings box which is given to him on discharge. The effect on those prisoners participating in the scheme has been remarkable: miscellaneous offences against prison discipline have decreased considerably, and the privileges are so highly prized that few men will risk their loss. In the Convict Prisons a system of classification was introduced and first offenders were as far as possible separated from habituals and thus removed from the contaminating influences of the latter.

Efforts are being made to place religious instruction on a sounder basis in these prisons, and paid mallams have been appointed to the prisons at Kaduna and Jos. They are, to all intents and purposes, officers of the Prisons Department, and are responsible for the spiritual welfare of those persons who are followers of their creed.

The warden establishment was increased substantially during the year under review, and a number of senior posts were created. The latter has speeded up promotion and this, coupled with the fact that generous increases in their emoluments followed the Harragin Report, has made the prison service popular. A Warders' Training School was established early in the year at Enugu, and all recruits to the Government Prison Service now undergo a period of four months' training before they are accepted finally as warders. The School is under the command of an experienced Superintendent, and the course of instruction is not only rigorous but is designed to enable the School authorities to enlist eventually only the most suitable candidates.

The School at Enugu, and the Convict Prisons at Kaduna and Jos have also accepted certain selected Native Authority Prison personnel during the year on a refresher course' basis. This policy will be continued.

Criminal lunatics are confined in Lokoja asylum, but it is intended to move this establishment to a more central position and to give them the advantages of attention by persons more highly skilled in the treatment of mental disorders. A small juvenile reformatory is maintained by Kano Native Authority for juvenile offenders.

Public Relations

A Public Relations Officer will shortly be appointed to the Northern Provinces but at present the responsibility for informing the people of Government's plans and intentions and of explaining misunderstandings and twisted or distorted rumours and reports rests largely with the Secretariat.

The year has however seen a steady expansion of the facilities provided by the department. Work was begun on the building of Radio Distribution stations at Kaduna and Jos, while there was a substantial increase in the number of boxholders served by the stations already in operation at Kano and Zaria.

A mobile cinema van toured five of the provinces showing instructional films to the accompaniment of commentaries in Hausa. The new Public Relations Officer made an extensive tour of the North in July and August, addressing many meetings. The department also sent a photographer to take pictures of various phases of life in the North, to be used later both for local display and for distribution overseas.

Reading rooms established by Native Authorities serve, amongst other things, the useful purpose of making literature available for the public to read and places where public discussions and debates can be held by the more forceful members of the community. The Public Relations Officer's publication "Nigeria Review" has a wide circulation in the Northern Provinces and it is hoped that shortly a Northern edition or supplement may be published.

Government Press

The Kaduna branch of the Printing Department which is not regionalized has outgrown the facilities provided for the performance of its original duties: the press was in the first instance designed, staff and equipped to relieve the Lagos office of routine work peculiar to the Northern Provinces. It has now gone beyond this, as it has to meet other demands arising from the regionalisation of the Northern Provinces.

The amount of printing required by the Government Departments in the Northern Provinces, the Native Authorities, and Forces is rapidly increasing. The printing of forms, such as Stock forms, Tax Receipt books, Cattle Permit books, Tax labels, and so on, Native Authority Rules and Orders, the Proceedings of Regional Council meetings, the brochure in connection with the Laying of the Foundation Stone of the Lugard

Memorial Council Chamber, were undertaken during the year; a large number of copies of the brochure was printed for wide circulation as a memento of this special event.

The Kaduna branch of the Department is at present under the management of an African Assistant Superintendent of Press.

The heavy responsibilities which the department is called upon to face suddenly in connection with the Regional Council meetings, particularly now that so much work of bilingual nature is required, necessitates additional staff, plant, machinery and the expansion of the existing building; work is also expected to begin early next year on printing the Revised Edition of the Laws of Nigeria; the supply position in the United Kingdom is however such that it is unlikely that the new plant and equipment required for this department will be received until late next year.

Provincial Administration

During the year we have had to say farewell for the last time to Sir John Patterson, K.B.E., C.M.G., who for thirty-two years served the peoples of the Northern Provinces. He gave himself without stint to your progress and development and his model of unselfish endeavour is one that all of us should be proud to emulate; if you can picture conditions in this country in 1915 when he arrived and compare them with those of the present day you will I think appreciate some of the differences for the achievement of which Sir John Patterson dedicated his working years. With his vast experience, his deep understanding and love of this country he will be sorely missed. I wish him and Lady Patterson many happy years in their homeland. The Northern Provinces have during the year also lost the services of four Residents, all devoted friends of the country Mr. F. M. Noad, Mr. H. S. Bridel, Mr. G. Macdonald and Mr. G. B. Pitcairn; they will long be remembered in the Provinces in which they served. Thirty new administrative cadets have been appointed during the year but the strength still remains more than fifty short of the authorised establishment, and development and careful touring to achieve real contact with the more rural areas cannot therefore yet be undertaken to the extent we all desire.

The Provincial Administration embraces the activities of almost every department. But I now wish to give you a brief account of non-departmental activities.

Lord Milverton, then Governor of Nigeria, laid the foundation stone of the Lugard Memorial Council Chamber at Kaduna in July; it will when finished provide a meeting place for the Northern Provinces House of Assembly and House of Chiefs which will match their importance under the new Constitution. The unity of Nigeria under the new Constitution, and the importance of the Northern Region, is to be strikingly demonstrated in 1948, when a meeting of Legislative Council will for the first time be held in Kaduna.

1947 has seen several important changes among Native Authorities and their leading officials. Lamido Amadu has been recognised as Native Authority Adamawa, in succession to Lamido Musdafa, who died in October 1946, and Sarkin Katagum Umaru as Native Authority Katagum, in succession to Sarkin Katagum Abdulkadir, who retired last year. The administrative organisation of the Tiv has undergone an important change by the selection of Makari Dzakpe, a member of the House of Assembly, as Tribal Chief. The Idoma came to a somewhat similar decision in the selection of Ogiri Adoka as their Chief. The new Atta of Igala has been installed, and the staff and letter of appointment of a Second-Class Chief have been presented to the Ohimege Igu, Chief of Koton Karife. In Plateau Province the Bi Rom Tribal Council, which is the Native Authority, has chosen Rwang Pam, also a member of the House of Assembly, as President of the Council and Chief Executive. Kano Emirate lost an honest and faithful servant in November, with the death of Madaki Umaru, The Magajin Gari of Sokoto, a member of the Sultan's Council, died in June, after a long illness. M. Ahmadu, Galadiman Bauchi, died in September, after serving his Native Authority for thirty-seven years.

Local Development

The Anchau Sleeping Sickness and resettlement scheme is now considered to be firmly established, and approval has been given for supervision to be handed over completely to the Zaria Native Authority. Valuable resettlement or rural development schemes are in progress in many places, notably at Kaita (Katsina), Wuya (Bida), Little Gombe, Mubi and elsewhere in Adamawa, West Tangale, Maru (Sokoto), Balla (Ilorin), Nangere (Eka), Sherifuri (Bornu), and Mungadi (Gwandu). Daudawa settlement continues to progress. Proposals from Tiv, Idoma and elsewhere, for experiments in co-operative mechanised farming from which much is hoped, are under consideration. An area near Damaturu (Bornu) has been selected as suitable for large-scale mechanised production of groundnuts, if water supplies are adequate. Arrangements are being made for deep drilling, and should adequate water be found, this almost uninhabited area may become one of the most prosperous parts of Bornu.

Rural well-sinking under the Colonial Development and Welfare schemes continues in Sokoto, Katsina, and elsewhere: tenders have been placed for the machinery for the Sokoto Town water supply; work is in progress on the Bosso Dam, which is to supply Minna town with water. Minjibir (Kano) has been selected as a centre where improved methods of weaving will be demonstrated, and also as a base for a rural development scheme.

Mass education and village improvements continue to make real progress in Katsina and Daura Emirates, under the

enthusiastic leadership of the Native Authorities; other areas of mass education include Zuru, Misau and the villages of the Southern Tiv. Maternity welfare work has been begun in Katsina. Road development has been slower than hoped, owing to shortage of staff, but good progress has been made with the important Yola-Wukari trunk road.

The peoples of Jos Division, chronically short of good farming land, are watching with interest the work at Gyel, where farmland is being preserved by terracing, and at Zawan, where experiments are being made in the restoration of land which mining operations had made impossible to farm. The leading mining companies are co-operating with a Government team which is working out as fast as possible the most suitable methods of mechanised mining and re-soiling, in order to implement the "restoration" clauses of the Minerals Ordinance, for the benefit of the farming peoples of the Plateau.

It has been decided that the headquarters of Kabba Province shall remain at Lokoja, but a new Igala Divisional headquarters is being prepared at Ateneguma, and the headquarters of Nasarawa Division is to be moved to Keffi.

Gentlemen, I have now given you, I trust, a clear picture of all the functions and activities of Government to which the taxpayers' money is applied and on many of which you are now to be asked to make your recommendations; before closing this address I would, however, remind you again that only if every individual makes his own effort to help himself and his neighbours forward will your best laid plans achieve results of value. Surveying the task ahead and appreciating its magnitude may cause dismay to the faint-hearted but the achievements of the past give solid proof of what can be done in the future.

There then in the summary, necessarily lacking much detail, of the plans and activities which relate to the Northern Provinces. We confidently expect that before the end of 1948 many of these first plans will have come to fruition; in particular I most sincerely hope that the new secondary school at Zaria will by then be finished. The foundations of many other schemes are laid but if the Northern Provinces are to catch up in what is virtually a race in modern progress then time is vital and time is very short.

I have been guided in my approach to the deliberations of these newly constituted Northern Houses by the advice of a former Governor. His advice was that you should be taken as fully as possible into the confidence of the Administration, with regard to every branch of its manifold activities; that you should be afforded the data upon which to base an opinion as to how far the public revenues, to which all contribute, are being wisely and

advantageously expended; that you should at the same time be enabled to appreciate for yourselves the obstacles to progress with which we have to contend, and the means by the aid of which it is hoped to overcome them; that you should be placed in a position to scrutinise plans, to detect weaknesses or defects that may have escaped official calculation, to utter warnings which may be heeded, and to bring the force of criticism to bear upon questions which I and my advisers may not have considered with sufficient closeness from the point of view of special interests or from that of the community as a whole.

That is what I try to do and if together we can resist the jostling influences and interests which combine to thrust this way or that, in deviation from the straight and narrow path of wisdom, of impartiality, and of justice, if we can do that, then the ship can sail on steadied and fortified to maintain an even keel—no matter how fierce the seas.

Division. The Government Geographer has carried out a land use survey of the Jos Plateau; it is hoped to publish the results of his observations shortly.

Survey

Ground control for the Kontagora settlement scheme was completed in June. Preliminary survey required for the Niger agricultural project near Mokwa was undertaken from January to May; after two months work was resumed and is still in progress. Work on the ground control over the 12,000 square miles of Sokoto Province, photographed by the Royal Air Force during 1946, was suspended temporarily in April.

A considerable amount of photography has been carried out by the Survey *Dove* aircraft in various parts of the Northern Provinces. In all 5,275 photographs have been taken of twenty-six localities comprising a total area of 8,582 square miles. This includes photographic cover over agricultural, development and communication projects, sleeping sickness survey areas, geological and mining areas, forest reserves, 150 square miles over the Shiroro gorge site for a hydro-electric scheme, and six townships.

During the year seventy-five surveys of mining areas were made by Government Surveyors and 219 were received from licensed surveyors. In addition twenty-three renewal and part renewal surveys have been completed. The number of mining areas awaiting survey has risen sharply since April and is now over 500, the highest figure for twenty-two years. The number of Government surveyors employed on these areas was increased in July and the staff has been further augmented by twelve survey assistants who have recently completed training.

Cadastral work done during the year includes the survey and demarcation of Government Reservation Areas and residential plots at Kaduna, Sokoto, Katsina, Lokoja and Kabba. Trading plots were laid out at Gusau, and junior staff quarters plots at Kaduna, Lokoja and Okene. Other important surveys completed were the Railway, Radio Station, Police camp, hospital extension, Infectious Diseases Hospital and Pharmacy school sites at Zaria; the Police rifle range and the Medical store sites at Kaduna; and sites for Government offices at Jos and Okene.

The 1948-49 Land Settlement Officers' Training Course ended in August, eleven pupils passing out satisfactorily. Two classes for survey assistants undergoing training at Kaduna are expected to complete the course this month. A new class of ten assistants is being recruited from Northern Provinces' applicants and will shortly start training.

Public Works

In spite of continued shortage of staff the rate of progress on new works has been increased and it is expected that £982,000 will

be spent on them in the current financial year; the total for last year was £456,000. These figures do not include expenditure on new plant and vehicles for development works.

Supply in general has improved but construction plant and plant for water supplies still takes a very long time to come; steel for bridge decks is still in very short supply. The number of engineers' posts filled remains only just over half of those provided for in the Estimates but there has recently been a slight improvement in the rate of recruitment. Similarly with Inspectors of Works there is still a one-third deficiency.

Work has continued on the Yola—Wukari road which is now open at all seasons as far as Jalingo except for the Mayo—Belwa River crossing. The bridge for this has been designed and work will begin before the end of this month. Designs have also been prepared for the Lamurde, Little Fan and Fan Manga bridges west of Jalingo. Work was begun in September on a road from Mayo—Belwa to Jada in the trust territory. All road construction on the Kano Eastern Road will be finished by the end of the year, and a contract has been let to a British firm for the remaining bridges.

The survey of the Kano—Zaria road has been made and construction begun. The tarring of roads has continued and it is expected that fifty-eight miles will be tarred this year and about eighty miles next year. This year's tarring is being done on the Jos—Maiduguri, Kano—Katsina, Funtua—Yashe and Kaduna—Zaria roads. A start will be made on the Gusau—Sokoto road next year. Forty miles of new road have been constructed from Biu to Gwara and the road opened to dry-season traffic. Replacement of bridges on the Yola—Biu, Jebba—Bida—Wamba and Zungeru—Minna—Abuja roads continued.

The value of building work done this year is expected to be about £460,000, an increase of £100,000 on last year. The largest projects are the institutes for trypanosomiasis research at Kaduna and Vom, the Lugard Memorial Council Chamber and the new secretariat building at Kaduna, the agricultural school at Samaru, the pharmacy school at Zaria, Zaria Secondary School and Birnin Kebbi Hospital. Other works include four mechanical workshops, four post offices, four Divisional offices, Senior Service quarters in fifteen stations and Junior Service quarters at Jos, Lokoja, Okene, Kano, Maiduguri and Zaria. The staff of the department has also been responsible for the design and supervision of a considerable amount of building work for the Native Administrations.

Rural Water Supply teams have been engaged in well-sinking in Bauchi, Bornu, Kano, Katsina, Adamawa, Sokoto, Niger and Zaria Provinces; in addition one crew has been supplied for work in Plateau Province and it is expected that a start will be made

in Ilorin Province this dry season. During the last financial year 491 wells were sunk with an aggregate depth of 38,000 feet; the largest number sunk in any previous year was 241. During the first five months of this financial year 232 wells have been sunk and at least 540 wells may be expected for the whole year. As new equipment is at last beginning to arrive it is expected that it will be possible to do even better than this. The increased progress this year has been made in spite of the fact that since before the war only twenty-four new headframes have been received. The staff position is at present fairly adequate but when the new equipment arrives more inspectors will be required. The present number is about half that provided for in the Estimates.

The drilling programme in Bauchi Province is now almost completed and two rigs are at work in the Gumel Emirate in Kano Province. During the year 1948-49 nine successful boreholes were completed and 3,814 feet were drilled. Six boreholes had to be abandoned as no water was encountered. In the first five months of this financial year 1,545 feet were drilled, seven successful boreholes were completed and work on a further five was started. The casing position is still very serious and every effort is being made to get more: if none arrives within the next three months drilling will come practically to a standstill.

It is expected that Minna Town Water Supply will be finished very soon. At Sokoto the intake well has been sunk and pipe-laying is in progress. Investigations and plans for the Ilorin Town Supply have been completed and a contract for construction let to a firm of contractors who hope to start work this month. The Maiduguri scheme has been approved and work on the intake well will be started shortly. Extensions and improvements are being carried out at Jos and Kaduna, and investigations have now been completed for schemes at Lokoja, Offa and Makurdi.

On the mechanical side programmes were seriously curtailed owing to lack of transport. Although this difficulty has not been finally overcome the situation is rapidly improving and next year should see the Public Works transport fleet up to strength. It is hoped to standardise on Albion and Bedford lorries in this Region.

During the year road plant, machine tools, workshop equipment, etc., to the value of £76,250 was delivered to the Northern Provinces and a considerable amount of plant including heavy mechanical equipment is on indent. The programme for new regional and provincial mechanical and woodworking shops is progressing slowly owing to the extensive building programme, lack of supervisory staff and shortage of materials. Except for a few minor extensions the regional workshops are now complete and have been in operation most of the year. The Jos provincial workshops are almost complete as are also those at Makurdi. Re-

building of several Native Administrations workshops has also been planned and in a few cases work has begun.

Two courses of instruction were completed in the Mechanical Training School during the year, and a total of thirty-six apprentices from various Native Administrations attended. It is unfortunate that owing to staff difficulties it has not been found possible to continue the school, but in order to give the Native Administrations the opportunity to have promising boys trained a limited number will be admitted as apprentices in the regional mechanical workshops in Kaduna.

Electricity Undertakings

Essential spares for which we have been waiting so long are now beginning to arrive and, as the staff position is also improving, it is hoped that the long overdue renewal and maintenance work will soon be started. Deliveries of new plant are also improving and every effort is being made to recruit experienced construction staff. Two fully qualified and experienced Nigerian engineers have recently joined the department and are already doing excellent work.

At Kano, although the imposition of restrictions is still necessary during peak load hours, it has been possible to connect a number of business premises and partly in consequence of this there has been an increase of approximately 6 per cent in units sold during recent months. A second Charge Shift Engineer has been posted to the power station and maintenance work has therefore been facilitated. Long awaited spares for the turbine have arrived and general overhaul of the turbine and ancillary plant is now in hand. Work has also started on the Power Station extensions, the first step being the extension to the cooling pond.

An Electrical Engineer was posted to Kaduna in July and at this station also it has therefore been possible to give far more attention to the maintenance of the plant. An increase in the thermal efficiency of the Power Station is already noticeable. Although there are some restrictions it should be possible to remove most of them shortly as the installation of an auxiliary diesel engine generating set was completed in September. There are however certain technical difficulties to be overcome before this set can operate the system.

Work is in progress on the erection of substation plant and the laying of high tension mains to afford supply to the Zaria Secondary School, the wiring of which proceeds. To carry the additional load of the school two 65 KVA oil engine generating sets are to be installed at the power station and their foundations will be cast shortly.

Operating costs at all Undertakings have risen steeply during recent years and the revision of electricity supply tariffs has

become imperative. As an interim measure charges were increased by one-third at Kaduna, Jos, Zaria, Yola and Vom, in February, and at Katsina in September.

With regard to the development programme, the acute shortage of construction staff is seriously hampering both investigations and implementation of schemes already approved; an engineer has, however, gone to Sokoto to start work on the power station building and the distribution system pending arrival of the plant now on indent. For the Bukuru scheme materials are coming forward slowly. Due to a revision of plans elsewhere a hydro-electric plant is already available for Kafanchan but the staff is lacking. An aerial survey of Kafanchan and its environs is being carried out in order to enable the distribution system to be planned.

All possible sources of hydro-electric power are being investigated and in this connection the potentialities of the Shiroro Gorge on the Kaduna River in Niger Province for a central station are receiving close attention. A civil engineering expert is coming from the United Kingdom to advise upon the construction and probable cost of a dam 120 feet high and 600 feet long. If the scheme can be proved to be an economic proposition a steady all the year round load of about 10,000 KW could be accepted. It is estimated that no less than 300,000 KW of cheap power could be generated during the wet season.

Railway

The Nigerian Railway has again been working under adverse conditions owing to the shortage of locomotives and rolling-stock, and to the poor condition of much that was in service. This has inevitably been reflected in the tonnage of groundnuts evacuated from Kano. The position improved in the second half of the year as new engines and wagons were arriving and an average of over seven thousand tons of groundnuts were moved weekly.

Proposals are in hand to remodel and improve a number of railway stations and to this end a survey party, whose function was to advise on station design, spent nine months making a detailed tour of the country. Plans are now nearly complete for the remodelling of the stations at Zaria and Jos and the actual work should start soon. Kano, Minna and Jebba stations are also scheduled for remodelling.

The eighty-seven miles of track between Zaria and Kano are being re-laid. This work began in May and should be finished towards the end of next year. It will have an appreciable effect on the speeding up of services.

A large scheme is in hand to provide quarters at certain stations for Junior Service staff in order to ease the present difficulties of housing. The quarters will be rented to members of the staff and some have already been occupied.

It has been decided to investigate the possibility of extending the present railway from Nguru into the plain of Bornu as far as Maiduguri, via Gashua and Damaturu. An aerial survey has already been made of that part of the proposed route which is subject to flooding by the Yobe river. A ground survey will be carried out shortly and then precise recommendations will be made.

The first three of forty-eight third-class passenger coaches, most of which were ordered as far back as 1946, have recently been put into service. Delivery of the remainder has been promised within the next five months. These coaches are of a superior design to the old type and they will permit greatly improved passenger travel during 1950.

Additional train services were introduced in October. Apart from improved local services there is now an additional train each week, second and third class only, between Iddo and Kano and between Enugu and Kano, in each direction, and the Limited trains now stop at Kaduna North. Further improvements are expected in the new year.

With the increasing deliveries of both locomotives and rolling-stock the evacuation of groundnuts during the coming year should improve steadily until, about the end of 1950, there should be no further accumulation of stocks carried forward from one season to the next for want of transport facilities. Furthermore it is hoped that by then all demands for rail transport in the North will be met.

Marine

In order to assist in the evacuation of the groundnut stocks from the North the Marine Department have operated a steamer service from Baro to Warri and Burutu. Over three thousand tons of groundnuts were carried by Marine vessels during the high-river season.

In the Lokoja dockyard fourteen conical buoys were constructed for marking the Niger River channels and the rocky section of the river which was kept adequately buoyed; buoys were also laid marking rocks in the River Benue. Waterway clearing was carried out in the Benue and Anambra Rivers and all snags removed.

Civil Aviation

Kano airport has continued to develop as one of the most important air traffic centres in West Africa. In the first nine months of the year nearly 3,400 aircraft have taken off or landed at Kano and the revenue from landing fees exceeded £21,000.

In connection with a survey being made throughout the Colonial Empire an Air Ministry unit visited Maiduguri and Kano at the beginning of the year to test the bearing strength of the runways at these airfields.

aim of the department to staff the Kaduna and Kano offices with indigenous staff has been furthered to a limited extent during the year. One temporary clerk engaged in 1947 has been absorbed into the general clerical service and four more Northerners are at present employed in a temporary capacity. It is to be hoped that more Northern recruits will come forward including some who have passed through the Zaria Clerical Training College.

Inland Revenue Department

In the Northern Region the department has been compelled for want of staff to restrict itself to dealing with the affairs of persons subject to tax under the Income Tax Ordinance; nevertheless it is anxious to start advising the Native Authorities on the computation of incomes in the higher income groups as, from the information which the Assistant Commissioner has been able to obtain, it is evident the revenues of the Native Authorities could be considerably increased by this means. The difficulty of recruiting qualified Senior Service Staff is however so great that it is unlikely that a start will be made for some years. Four members of the Junior Service of the department have been granted Government Scholarships and are undergoing training; it will however be five years before they become qualified.

Despite the increase in the price of groundnuts and consequently in the purchasing power of the Region the department has experienced a marked drop in the profits derived from trade in cotton goods and textiles, but this was offset by an increase in the incomes of those engaged in mining activities with the net result that the collections for 1948-49 exceeded those of the previous year. There is also evidence that taxpayers are keeping more careful records of their transactions and from these records are supporting their declarations of income with more orthodox accounts than hitherto.

• Posts and Telegraphs

Both postal and telegraphic transactions have increased during the year and the staffs of post offices in this Region have worked very hard to meet the growing demands of the public. The most interesting innovation of the year was the introduction in October of the Penny Internal Airmail Letter Card. With the restoration and expansion of the internal air services these letter cards will be of great assistance and will perhaps alleviate to some extent the present very heavy load imposed on the telegraphic circuits. The installation of a direct wireless telegraphy channel between Jos and Maiduguri will also help in this direction.

Two special issues of postage stamps were made; 1d and 5s denominations issued to commemorate the Silver Wedding of their Majesties continued on sale until March, and 1d, 3d, 6d and 1s denominations were issued in October to mark the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union.

House to house delivery of letter mail by town postmen was introduced in Kano, Zaria, Minna, Jos and Kaduna, and proposals are in hand for starting it in Maiduguri. New post offices have been built at Sokoto and Numan. The new extension at Kaduna has been completed and as soon as electric power has been connected the telegraph office will be moved from Kaduna Junction. In January Gudi postal agency was converted to a proper post office and made available all classes of departmental public business except the telephone service.

Trunk telephone services were opened at Funtua and Gusau in July, and at the former town telephone exchange facilities were introduced in August; at Gusau calls have been confined initially to the public call offices.

Printing

Demands upon the department far exceeded the pace at which expansion is being carried out; there are still only two type-setting machines in the linotype section and it has therefore been necessary to introduce a double shift system for the greater part of the year in order to cope with the increased tasks imposed on the Kaduna Press.

The new building has been occupied by some of the sections but owing to electric power not yet having been connected it has been necessary to keep the composing and machine sections in the old buildings.

One of the principles of the department is to staff the Kaduna office with Northerners; some have already been engaged and it is hoped that more will be forthcoming in the near future.

Judicial

It has been decided to make two Judicial Divisions in this Region instead of the former one, and to double the magisterial districts, giving a total of four. The new Judicial divisions are based on Kano and Jos, the magisterial districts on Kaduna, Kano, Jos and Makurdi. On the 1st of May the headquarters of the Kaduna Judicial division were moved to Kano: except for an interval in March a Puisne Judge has been posted to this division throughout the year. Magistrates have been posted continuously to Kano and Jos and to Kaduna since the new Court was opened on the 1st of May.

Police

In March, Mr. W. C. Smith, C.B.E., one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary in the United Kingdom, toured Nigeria in his capacity of Adviser on Police Affairs to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. He visited several Provinces in this Region and took great interest in the correlation of the Native Authority Police Forces with the Nigeria Police.

I am glad to record a further decrease in serious crime in almost all Provinces. Strikes and the threats of strikes continued to be disturbing factors and whenever it was necessary for the Police to intervene, the Rank and File concerned behaved with exemplary restraint and performed their duties without animosity towards those involved.

Superior Police Officers have supervised the training of a number of Native Authority Police Forces and have succeeded in inculcating the principles of Police methods while avoiding any imposition of stereo-typed standardisation such as would make these forces merely a subsidiary body of the Nigeria Police. The usual good relations existed between the Nigeria Police and the Native Authority Police Forces throughout the year.

The fine Police College buildings are now complete and with the arrival of furniture and other necessary equipment will shortly be in use. The College will train recruits of both Nigeria and Native Authority Police and will also run a refresher course for both forces. There has been a noticeable improvement in recruiting in the Northern Provinces and educated Northerners are now coming forward in satisfactory numbers: great assistance in the recruiting campaign was given by the Native Authorities.

The Northern Area Motor Traffic Unit came into being in April. The officer-in-charge is stationed at Kano and regularly tours the other stations, Jos, Zaria and Ilorin, where detachments of the Unit are posted.

In order to be able to cope efficiently with present-day developments the Nigeria Police in this Region are being transformed gradually into a mobile Force with the result that if the need arises it will be possible to concentrate in a very short time a force large enough to deal with any foreseeable emergency.

Improved conditions of service, better quarters and greater opportunities of advancement have maintained the morale of the Nigeria Police at its usual high level.

Prisons

Since the posting of an Inspector of Prisons to the Region most of the larger prisons have been visited at least once and detailed reports submitted.

Structural difficulties and lack of accommodation are pressing problems. Steps are being taken to rectify these shortcomings and future alterations, extensions and new buildings are being undertaken in accordance with modern plans.

Due consideration is being given to the question of employing prisoners on productive work. It is generally recognised that for prisoners serving long sentences to be engaged almost exclusively

on routine labour such as grass-cutting and the prison chores has a far less reformatory effect than when they are occupied on productive tasks. Classification, preventing the contamination of first offenders by recidivists, is an aspect of prison administration which has been recognised as a necessity and this is being undertaken gradually in all prisons. The Earning scheme and After-Care organisations in the Government Convict Prisons are working smoothly and the effect on discipline has been notably beneficial.

Public Relations

The Regional Public Relations Officer has again spent much of his time touring the Provinces and on every possible occasion has held formal and informal meetings to impart information and to answer questions. With the aid of a cinematograph projector he has been able to show a large number of films to both town and country audiences.

The cinema section of the department is not yet regionalised but a mobile cinema is allotted to the North and has toured the Provinces in turn. Certain parts of the Ilorin and Kabba Provinces are covered by the Western Region mobile cinema. The performances given by the mobile cinema are very popular but with only one projector the service is at present quite inadequate.

A new radio distribution station was opened in Kaduna in February and the Katsina station should start very soon. A site for a station at Sokoto has been selected and work on the construction has begun. Radio Nigeria, an experimental station transmitting from Lagos, can frequently be picked up in the North and is occasionally relayed over the Radio distribution services.

Mr Ben Enwonwu, Art Supervisor to the department, visited Kaduna, Zaria and Kano, during August and September and exhibited a selection of his compositions.

Photographs, pictures and varied literature, have been distributed to reading rooms throughout the Region and in one or two cases batteries for radio sets have been replaced. Pamphlets in English and Hausa giving full details of the present constitution were prepared and distributed free, and a pamphlet in Hausa describing the proceedings of the last budget session of this Council was published by the Northern Regional Public Relations Office for sale at one penny. The Nigeria Review and Children's Own Paper continue to be distributed free to a wide public, and schools and institutions have received the illustrated periodical *Today* which is produced by the Central Office of Information in London.

Close contact has been maintained with Northern newspapers and a large number of locally made half tone blocks have been loaned to them. In addition a very great volume of photographs,

ebonites, feature stories and other information material, has been made available to the Editors. Up to the end of September over 250 press releases had been issued, giving information on matters of interest in the North and correcting erroneous statements in the Press.

Of the Northern newspapers the *Nigerian Citizen* has increased its size to sixteen pages and *Gaskiya ta fi kwabo* has increased its issues to two per week. The *Daily Comet* moved from Lagos to Kano at the end of September and restarted publication in November, while at Jos a new paper, *The Northern Advocate*, began publication in October.

Development

I have already mentioned in my account of departmental activities and in the Public Works Department building programme much of the work done in the past year under the Ten-Year Plan for development and welfare and I do not propose to recapitulate it here. Last year I had to speak once more of lack of materials and shortages of technical staff. It is a relief to all of us that it is unnecessary for me to repeat this well worn phrase of which members have become so weary and to say that materials, even steel, have been coming out to us in larger quantities than before and that staff of which we formerly despaired is at last reaching us in increasing numbers. With these we can look forward to a marked acceleration of our plans.

The programme of works and buildings will, however, bear a heavy maintenance cost and the developments, which I shall refer to now, are those which are likely to produce the wealth which will pay for them.

There is no question that a Bornu Railway from Nguru through Geidam and Damaturu to Maiduguri will, by cheap transport, open up that rich Province to economic development. Funds for the survey of the route have this year been approved by the Legislative Council.

I had hoped to be able to tell you that a contract had also been signed for deep drilling, to provide the other need of Bornu—an ample water supply. This contract has been held up by the necessity of acquiring machinery from America at a time when the devaluation of the pound has increased the difficulty of dollar purchases. We must hope that this is only a brief setback.

The Niger Agricultural project has started this year upon a 30,000 acre pilot scheme at Mokwa. Clearing and surveying of the area are going ahead and the Colonial Development Corporation and the Native Authority are working in close co-operation. This dry season the first villages will be planned.

In the Shendam Division of Plateau Province the resettlement of population of the Hill Yergam continues. Notwithstanding

initial difficulties over water supply the settlers have shown great enthusiasm and there is a big demand for expansion and new settlements in this 600 square mile area.

Excellent progress has also been made in Jema'a Division at Sabon Zawan where Birum from the High Plateau are now established and are evincing a great spirit of co-operation and self help. It is hoped that this area may provide in time for some 5,000 settlers from the over-crowded and eroded farmlands of their former home. Every assistance is being given to this project by the Agricultural and Medical Departments. Both these settlement schemes in areas of hitherto unfarmed bush will greatly increase the agricultural production of both export and food crops.

This year has seen another important economic development, the discovery of coal in Gombe which, though further investigation is necessary, is regarded as approximating in quality to the Enugu lignite. Another probable source of power is the hydro-electric scheme at Shiroro on the Kaduna River now under investigation.

The close of this year is to see the beginning of the revision of the Ten-Year Plan—first its recosting—the original estimates are quite inadequate due to the rise in prices of imported materials and to higher wages—second to adjust and if possible to shift the emphasis towards schemes likely to improve the economy of the country and pay for those social services of health and education which we so earnestly desire.

Parallel with the Colonial Development and Welfare Funds are the funds of the Northern Regional Production Development Board with its aim of agricultural expansion and the Northern Regional Development (Loans) Board with its aid for commercial enterprise and local industries.

These Boards held their first meetings in July. The Loans Board approved expenditure of £63,400 on the Dairy and Clarified Butter Fat Schemes, a palm oil mill to be erected at Ayangba in Kabba Province, and six groundnut oil expressing mills. These oil mills will be erected and supervised by the Department of Commerce and Industries and, when firmly established, will be sold to local African enterprise. All products of the mills, both oil and cattle cake, will be sold in the Northern Provinces. In addition the Board granted a loan of £35,100 to the Kano Citizens Trading Company Limited for the erection of a weaving mill in Kano. The formation of this company represents the birth of economic co-operation in the Northern Provinces and brings into being the type of enterprise which the Board is most anxious to encourage and finance.

The Production Board approved the allocation of funds amounting to £291,000 on development schemes of major importance. These included a scheme for the widespread distribution of fertilisers on which over a quarter of a million

pounds will eventually be spent (only one year's expenditure amounting to £38,000 was approved at the first meeting of the Board), a scheme for the cultivation of rice with mechanical aids in Sokoto, two Native Authority Land Resettlement Schemes at Shendam and Kontagora, and the establishment of a pool of agricultural equipment at Samaru.

The powers of both Boards are wide and their initial funds amount to over two million pounds. It is hoped that Native Authorities will not hesitate to apply to the Boards for funds for any worthwhile schemes for economic development. To date disappointingly few applications for loans or grants have been received from Northerners by the Loans Board. I hope that the coming year will show that the Northern Provinces are not lacking in commercial enterprise and can produce sound schemes which will justify financial assistance from this source.

Conclusion

That is the record, in general terms, of the progress we have made in the Northern Region during the year and I myself feel that not only is it good progress but indeed it is reasonably rapid progress. It is but natural that a sense of frustration is at once engendered by delay so let me remind you of the speed with which the plans of the Region, to take advantage of the funds which became available to us from the Marketing Boards, were framed and launched. Details of these schemes are recorded in the earlier paragraphs of this address.

We are never safe in the Northern Provinces from the danger of famine and it is a threat which must not be forgotten. The powerful climatic causes to which the danger is principally due, in the North, cannot be controlled by human agency but the system best calculated to counteract the devastating effects is one in which the yield from the land is large enough to allow of an ample surplus. That is the safeguard from famine and that is the solution to the perennial problem of the supply of corn. The prospects for the future would be grim indeed unless we could rapidly increase the productivity of the Region — I am confident that we are moving along the right road to do so.

Reading the foregoing pages we may feel with a certain satisfaction that the development of the North is really under way. But we must not be content merely to record the past. There is a strenuous time in front of us all. We must plan the next advance. And in planning it we must remember that the moral and physical welfare of the men and women of Northern Nigeria is our ultimate aim. We must not attempt to achieve the spectacular but rather strive to add our quota to the humble achievements of day-to-day administration on which the happiness and prosperity of the country depend.