

ARG/18



NORTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

ADDRESS

by

**His Honour Captain E. W. Thompstone,
C.M.G., M.C., Chief Commissioner, Northern
Provinces, to the Third Budget Session
of the Northern Regional Council,
1st December, 1949**

**ADDRESS by His Honour, the Chief Commissioner,
Northern Provinces, Captain E. W. Thompstone,
C.M.G., M.C., to the Third Budget Session of the
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Once again I undertake the task of reporting to the Northern Regional Council the progress achieved during the preceding twelve months, and in spite of some disappointments, I am glad to say that in almost every direction in which the activities of the administration of the North have been engaged, there is a reasonably satisfactory and encouraging account to render to you!

I shall deal fully in subsequent paragraphs with the activities of the various departments and branches of Government but I intend first to record some statistics of material progress in particular relation to the development of the country.

The Ten-Year Plan of Development and Welfare is not merely a document showing how the funds granted to Nigeria by the United Kingdom will be expended, nor is development just a series of major works, it consists also of a host of little things which all contribute to the social and economic progress of the country. Furthermore the development plan is being financed not only by the United Kingdom but also by locally raised loans and by direct expenditure from Nigerian Revenue. What I want to emphasise is that development in the Northern Provinces is by no means confined to the operation of that "Development Plan". There is and has been a continuing development financed from the Native Treasuries. In order, therefore, to paint you a clear overall picture of the achievements of the past twelve months I include in the following tables works in the Northern Provinces from whatever public sources they may have been financed, or by whatever agency executed, and to show you the acceleration which

is taking place I have recorded also the actual progress made since the war ended.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENTS

<i>Item</i>	<i>Constructed in 1949</i>	<i>Constructed 1945-48</i>
Elementary Schools	79	156
Middle Schools	2	—
Training Centres	2	7
Extensions to schools	26	56
Dispensaries	45	77
Hospitals	2	2
Extensions to hospitals	13	8
District Offices	19	29
District Courts	17	31
Central Offices	7	13
Government Offices	6	19
Quarters — Senior Service	70	91
Quarters — Junior Service	54	103
Barracks — Nigeria Police	3	5
Barracks — N.A. Police	5	28
Barracks — N.A. Warders	1	7
Lock-ups	9	10
Prisons	6	4
Veterinary Livestock Centres	11	6
Agricultural Centres	5	6
Extensions to N.A. Workshops	16	14
Bridges	37	76
Roads — new construction	385 miles	313 miles
Roads — bituminous surface	29 miles	22 miles
Wells	502	1,463
Boreholes	16	21
Urban market improvements	37	37
Rural market improvements	59	119
Urban improvement schemes	19	17
Extensions to electricity schemes	4	12
Post Offices and Postal Agencies	9	10
Extensions to Post Offices	2	5
Trunk telephone extensions	2	1
Radio Diffusion Services	1	2
R.D.S. boxes issued	562	1,857
Reading Rooms	11	53

That is a record of solid achievement which speaks for itself; had there not been active co-operation at every level and the will to make the most of whatever materials were available, then the record would certainly have been far less. For the future, the prospects of obtaining materials have improved but for some time yet there will be a serious shortage of skilled technical staff especially for engineering, agriculture and medicine. Of an approved permanent establishment of thirty-four engineers, architects and town planning officers, we have only twenty-seven, and of the qualified temporary development staff, excluding leave reliefs, only six instead of twenty-four; of an establishment of eight drillers and twenty-five inspectors in the Rural Water Supplies section we have only three drillers and sixteen inspectors; of twenty-five Agricultural Officers on the establishment we have seventeen; of

eighteen qualified Veterinary Officers twelve; of fifty-eight doctors forty-two, and of twenty-five Nursing Sisters upon whom so much of the training of our own nurses depends we have only seventeen and of them four are on temporary agreements.

As you will read in the section on Agriculture steps have been taken to bring under intensive cultivation large areas of hitherto unfarmed land as part of the economic development of the Region, but this alone is not enough to feed the growing population and to provide the wherewithal for improving their standards of living. The most hopeful way of increasing food supplies is by more intensive cultivation of the land (already in use, by more productive cropping systems, the development of livestock and the use of fertilisers. Much has been done by Government in this direction by practical experiments and by the provision of artificial manures; and success depends entirely upon the effort and the initiative of the individual farmer: tractors and fertilisers are only a means to an end: by themselves they can accomplish nothing, for experience and hard work still remain the basis of productive farming.

To the same extent measures for conserving the soil depend for their efficacy upon the farmers themselves. The advice which the experts are now offering to us is based not on theory but on practical experience. It is the duty of every single person in a position of authority to impress upon the farmers the need to accept this advice and to put it into operation and so to safeguard their greatest asset, the land.

Increased food supply must be supported by a high degree of efficiency on the part of the Railway. On the whole it has done a wonderful job with the materials at its disposal: thousands of tons of groundnuts are being evacuated from Kano each week and the piled up stocks are at last diminishing. This improvement should be maintained for the track between Kano and Zaria is being relaid in order to enable heavier locomotives to operate on this section and, with increasing deliveries of locomotives and rolling-stock, next year should see the end of accumulated produce stocks having to be stored from one year to the next. Improvement cannot however be maintained unless there is whole-hearted co-operation by all concerned and a united will to greater efficiency. In other undertakings also progress is too often retarded by irregular stoppages and strikes which are frequently inspired by motives in no way connected with the welfare of the workers concerned. It is the workers themselves who can open or close the road to economic and social prosperity; if they really want their country to advance they must close their ears to irresponsible propaganda and by their own united efforts raise their standard of living. Similarly in regard to the tin mining on the Plateau: a labour force of over 30,000 depends upon the mines for its livelihood and I cannot believe that those who profess to feel that the mining and export of Nigerian tin is

detrimental to their country really have stopped to consider what would be the grim consequences of the success of their policies. 30,000 labourers, most of them strangers to the Plateau, would be left without the means to support themselves or their families and would be plunged into dire poverty.

As with economic, so with constitutional development: the future rests with the community by whose interest and endeavour alone can any real progress be made. The constitutional discussions which were held this year showed the value of the village and district councils and their readiness to play a responsible part in local administration. Clearly unless these councils are given some responsibility their discussions will tend to become unrealistic, and it is with this in view that the district council funds have been instituted. These funds are used specifically inside the district on works advocated by the council, and I consider that this is a most important step towards imbuing the members of these councils with a sense of civic responsibility and to the avoidance of pointless and fruitless debates. Over the years we have built up the central offices of the Native Authorities into reasonably efficient machines for administering the country but as a rule the district organisation has lagged behind; this is my reason for encouraging delegation from the centre to the districts, and I am sure that the districts are eager to show themselves capable of shouldering their new responsibilities.

I shall now proceed to give a detailed survey of events and activities of the past year.

Finance

Last year I forecast a period of stringency as the Revenues of Nigeria, which had increased steadily each year since the war, reached stabilisation. This forecast has been fulfilled and the rapidly expanding body of regional services fits with difficulty into the allocation of revenue available. The 1949-50 estimates of expenditure budgeted for a margin of only one per cent instead of the normal five per cent, the balance of four per cent being reserved. This very narrow margin might have made supplementary provision very difficult and deprived the Regional Estimates of a valuable element of flexibility had it not been that expenditure in 1948-49 fell short of the estimate by very nearly £500,000. This sum is being transferred to a revenue balance account, and becomes available as a regional reserve.

The approved total for the one line vote for the Northern Region this year was £2,704,400. The first allocation for 1950-51 is £2,976,000, an increase of £271,600, to which has subsequently been added the sum of £63,305 to cover the cost of regionalisation of the Survey Department. To have attempted to frame the 1950-51 Estimates with a five per cent margin would have meant providing for little more than the normal increments of

personal emoluments. All possibility of expansion would have been excluded. It has therefore been necessary once more to frame the estimates with a margin of only one per cent.

As I explained last year allocations to regions must be determined by the interests of Nigeria as a whole, and expansion in one region could not be justified if it involved the curtailment of works and services in another. Based on the derivation of the revenues not declared regional the ideal allocation to the Northern Region would be forty-two per cent. This could only have been achieved in 1950-51 had there been a marked increase in the general revenue of Nigeria which is not at present indicated. The problem of regional revenue allocations is one which is engaging the attention of those who are framing the new constitution and is without doubt one of the most difficult which they will have to solve.

I do not propose to speak here of the estimates in any detail. Copies are already in your hands and the memorandum which accompanies them explains in detail the increase under each head and the balance preserved between personal emoluments, other charges and special expenditure. It is enough to say that the balance between development and social, administration and public works has been maintained at very nearly identical proportions to those in the current year's estimates.

The total increase of approximately £260,000 in the expenditure estimates may be broadly attributed to departments as follows:—

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Accountant-General	4,000
Administration	42,000
Education	91,000
Medical and Sleeping Sickness ...	32,000
Miscellaneous	8,000
Police	5,000
Public Works	5,000
Public Works Recurrent:	
Maintenance Works	31,000
Public Works Extraordinary ...	45,000

The increase in administration is mainly due to provision for the salaries of administrative officers. As you know in the past years there have been many vacancies which are now being filled by newly appointed officers. The increase in Education is due to the development of the supplementary plan and to the introduction of the new grants in aid under the Education Ordinance which came into force this year.

Medical services are inevitably expanding as the Ten-Year Plan for the new hospitals and health services and training institutions gets under way.

Public Works Maintenance increases are due to the rising costs of labour as well as the completion of new roads and buildings. The increase in the estimate for Public Works Extraordinary is an effect of the improvement in staff recruiting and in availability of materials.

The regionalisation of the Survey Department is another step forward in fulfilling the promises of the new constitution.

The revised estimate of expenditure in the current year amounts to £2,710,030. This total exceeds the total assigned and apportioned revenues of the Northern Region for the current year by £5,630. The major part of the increase over the approved estimate is due to revotes of expenditure amounting to over £57,000, funds to meet which are available in the revenue balance account to which I referred earlier, and the one line vote for the region will therefore not be exceeded.

The financial assistance to Native Authorities as code grants has been limited by the general level of Regional Revenue, and amounted to £350,000 compared with £206,000 in the previous year, an increase of £144,000. No new code grants were added, but the code grant for maintenance of dispensaries is being extended to voluntary agencies where they satisfactorily fulfil a need for medical and health services which the Native Authority would otherwise have to provide. Government took over financial responsibility for Ilorin and Offa Hospitals this year, the Native Authority continuing to provide staff on an agency basis. Katsina and Bauchi Hospitals will similarly become a charge on regional funds in 1950-51.

In 1948-49 the Native Authorities increased their Reserve Funds by over £375,000, the total being over £4,021,000 or almost exactly one million pounds more than the estimate. This was due to over optimism as to the amount of time which Government technical staff could devote to Native Authority projects.

Other factors were the increase in receipts from general tax and the payment of recurrent and capital grants for social services by Government. The Native Authorities paid 10% of Jangali receipts to Government. Arrears of salaries, ex-servicemen's war credits, and higher wages to artisans following the Railway arbitration award involved major increases in expenditure.

In 1949-50 the estimated surplus of ordinary Native Treasury revenue over recurrent expenditure is £445,000 or 16.5 per cent of ordinary revenue. Total Reserves at 31st March, 1950 are estimated to be over £3,250,000 but they are likely to be considerably more than this. The total amount estimated to be spent by Native Authorities on Special Expenditure and Works Extraordinary is over £740,000 which will involve a withdrawal from Reserves of £295,000 if the full programme can be completed.

This year has also seen a start made in the preparation of Native Authorities' Five-Year Plans for the expenditure of their development funds. After setting aside Special Reserves to provide a reasonable safeguard against famine or a slump, the balance of the surplus funds accumulated during the war years will, it is hoped, now be expended for the benefit of the people of the Northern Provinces, in every department of their life both economic and social.

Administration

At the last budget meeting of this Council motions were tabled in both Houses proposing that arrangements be made at a provincial level for full discussion of the working of the Constitution in the Northern Provinces. Arrangements were accordingly made and steps were taken to make known the present Constitution to as wide a public as possible and then to encourage discussions at every level, starting in the villages. The interest displayed by all sections of the community was remarkable and culminated in the Regional Conference last September where the value of the earlier discussions was very evident.

The selection by district councils of spokesmen to represent them in the provincial meetings provided an opportunity for these councils to show their ability to put forward practical suggestions and to take communal decisions. In some areas the constitutional discussions were directly responsible for accelerating the formation of advisory councils in villages and districts; their inauguration has succeeded, by the fact that their membership is largely unofficial and representative of all interests and shades of opinion, in broadening the basis of local administration.

It is with regret that I record the deaths of the Emirs of Keffi and Lafia after terms in office of seventeen and sixteen years respectively. The former Galadima of Keffi has been recognised as Emir of Keffi and was formally installed at the end of October. The formal installation of the first Chief of Tiv and of the first Chief of Idoma was carried out last month.

In accordance with the expressed wishes of the people the Waja and Longuda villages in Gombe Division have amalgamated under the Native Authority of Waja: Bormi, Chief of Gelengu village, has been recognised as the first Chief of Waja and appointed to the office of the Waja Native Authority. It is to be hoped that Cham Native Authority will in due course join the amalgamation. The population of the Cham villages amounts only to 5,542 compared with the 24,016 of Waja and Longuda combined and it will be of benefit to themselves to become part of a consolidated area which will have the resources to carry out communal development schemes.

In May, Mallam Rwang Pam, M.B.E., was recognised as the Chief of Bi Rom. He was formerly President of the Bi Rom Tribal

Council which constituted the Native Authority for the Bi Rom Tribal area. Now the Chief of Bi Rom and Council are the Native Authority. The newly created subordinate Native Authority of Jos Town has made a brave attempt to cope with the complex problems of that growing town.

In spite of much inspired publicity to the contrary a fair measure of success has in fact attended the development of the Igbona Area of Ilorin Emirate, and the reorganisation undertaken during the year has had the support of the vast majority of Igbonas resident in the area. An Igbona Area Council has been formed and a gratifying amount of agreement has been reached at its meetings: the presidency of this Council is rotational, a new president being elected each quarter. The Council has also selected two representatives to attend the Emir of Ilorin's Council. Next year a Council chamber will be built at Igbaja which is central for all members of the Council, and an Igbona Area Council fund will be instituted to be used specifically inside the area on works advocated by the Council. There is indeed every hope that this area will now settle down to the peaceful progress which most of its own inhabitants desire.

Short visits to the United Kingdom have been arranged by the British Council for a number of Emirs and Native Administration officials. These visits, brief though they are, have proved to be of great educational value especially in the opportunity they afford for the practical study of the working of local government in England.

A visiting mission of the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations toured the trust territory of the Cameroons under British Administration in early November. The Trusteeship Council had directed the mission to observe the developing political, economic, social and educational conditions in the trust territory, and the efforts of the administering authority to achieve the objects of the international trusteeship system, and to transmit to the Trusteeship Council a report on the findings of the mission with such observations and conclusions as the mission might wish to make. After visiting Adamawa the mission spent three days in Dikwa Emirate observing the general life of the people, their occupations, standards of living, housing and education, as well as the organisation of the Emirate and the manner in which the trust territory is integrated with Nigeria.

The trusteeship system was established by the United Nations Charter to supersede and enlarge upon the mandate system of the League of Nations. The system applies to territories placed under it by means of trusteeship agreements submitted by the Administering Powers and approved by the United Nations. In order to administer the system the Charter set up the Trusteeship Council which operates under the authority of the General Assembly: the Council is composed of an equal number of members who administer trust territories and of those who do

not. The aims of the system are to further international peace and security, to promote the advancement of the people and their development towards self-government or independence according to the circumstances of each territory, the freely expressed wishes of the people and the terms of each trusteeship agreement. The system also encourages respect for basic human rights and the recognition of the inter-dependence of the peoples of the world; finally it aims at ensuring equal treatment and equal justice for all nationals of members of the United Nations in social, economic and commercial matters so long as this does not conflict with the welfare of the inhabitants, for it is their advancement which is the supreme consideration.

Settlement schemes continue to make good headway; the Sabon Gida scheme in Shendam was followed this year by the opening of another settlement six miles to the East; it was occupied by farmers from hill villages. By their efforts in the new area they have produced crops of corn, rice, sunflowers and beniseed that are a real credit to their keeness and to the officers responsible for the settlement. One of the initial difficulties encountered in this area was the shortage of water in the dry season. The abundant savannah is evidence of water but much is located in perched aquifers and to enable permanent human settlement it will be necessary to impound water supplies by damming streams and creating artificial reservoirs. As the area is gradually cleared of tsetse the Fulani may be tempted to consider taking their place in these settlements, as has happened near Kaiama where as the result of a gradual process over the past few years a remarkable achievement has been obtained, some 100 Fulani cattle owners having been persuaded to settle and to carry out mixed farming on a large scale: no ploughs are yet used but the results are most impressive.

Agriculture

I am pleased to be able to report to you a slight improvement in the staff position of this department. The appointment of an Irrigation Engineer to the Region is especially welcome as further progress with this important line of development will now be possible. The demands on the services of the department continue to increase particularly in connection with development schemes, and present recruitment still leaves the establishment far below the requirements of the Region.

During the year a mission to investigate the possibilities of large scale grain production was appointed by the Secretary of State and toured certain areas of this Region; we also received a visit from a distinguished American Soil Scientist and three high-ranking Agricultural Administrators of the United States Government. The reports of these missions have not yet been received.

Groundnut purchases from the 1948 harvest totalled 325,000 tons, a decrease of 5,000 tons on the previous year. A drought

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in May, 1948, and the early cessation of the rains last year accounted for the drop in production by Kano and Provinces but it was offset by the considerable increase in Sokoto and Katsina. The planting of beniseed in Benue Province continued to expand as a result of the 1947 price. The 15,642 tons purchased in 1948 showed a 100 per cent increase on the previous year.

The early announcement of the increased price to be paid for the 1948-49 cotton crop led to an estimated increase of 15 per cent in the acreage planted in the main cotton belt, and a total of 46,000 bales, each weighing 400 lbs, was purchased for 1948. This is the highest figure attained for the past eight years, the previous year's total having been 18,442 bales.

The secondment of a Cotton Breeder and an Entomologist to the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation has been most welcomed and has relieved the very heavy pressure on the department's staff. These officers will work in close co-operation with the Development Team under the aegis of the Cotton Marketing Team. The records and advice of the department will, of course, be at the disposal of this Team whose aim is to double the production of cotton in this Region.

The excellent performance of the Botanist's Selections reported in my last address, has been maintained, and the multiplication has been stepped up by the use of artificial selection in the early stages. The possibilities of using artificial selection for multiplication and in general application to the crop are under consideration by the Team.

In the Northern belt the rainfall in the past year was below average and uneven in distribution. In general the season has been unfavourable in these northern areas, particularly for the planted crops, and yields of all crops have been below average. In the middle belt, however, rainfall was somewhat above average and crops were satisfactory. Beniseed yields have been below average but an increased acreage is expected to offset reduction in yield. There was a keen demand for soya bean for plantations in Benue Province where it is estimated that 1,000 tons will be sold for sale.

Experimental work in connection with mechanical farming has been continued throughout the year. There were some disturbing delays in the delivery of equipment which prevented the unit farms from coming into full operation. These units are designed to enable an economic system to be evolved of mechanized farming suited to the particular area. The engineering of the department has been further expanded to meet the increased demands made upon it. This branch is vital to the success of the mechanised project not only for the maintenance and repair of machines, but also for the testing of new types of machinery.

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the development of new techniques to suit the varied conditions which obtain in this country.

The experiments in Sokoto Province to test the possibilities of the mechanised cultivation of rice have proved so successful that the Regional Production Development Board has agreed to provide the capital equipment required for a major scheme of rice cultivation put forward by the Sokoto Native Administration. For this scheme six crawler tractors with suitable equipment are expected to be ready for operation this month. Equipment for a similar but much smaller project of rice cultivation in the Shendam Division of Plateau Province is also being provided by the Board.

Investigation into the techniques of soil conservation has been continued, with particular emphasis on the requirements of mechanised farming. With the expansion of the engineering branch it will be possible to open a sub-division of the branch for soil conservation, and the Agricultural Engineer, relieved of the duty of supervising the mechanical side, will be able to devote the whole of his time and experience to soil conservation. Experiments with methods of reclaiming land destroyed by mining operations have shown considerable promise.

The Irrigation Engineer in Niger Province has completed his survey of the Wuya-Edozhigi project and his proposals are now under consideration. Further surveys and the collection of data are being made. A second Irrigation Engineer has now been posted to the Region and is carrying out investigations in Sokoto Province and is assisting other Provinces by examining and advising on minor schemes. The provision of staff for carrying out detailed surveys is a major difficulty, and a course has been started at Sokoto to give assistants the necessary elementary knowledge of survey.

The expansion of mixed farming continues and every effort is being made to get female stock into the hands of farmers so that they may breed their own herds. The plough position is now satisfactory and over 4,000 are expected to arrive by the end of this year. The cattle-breeding programmes at Ilorin and Shika have been continued and work at Daudawa has started. It is hoped that, if the staff position improves, the Breeding and Multiplication Ranch at Bokkos may be opened in 1950. This multiplication of improved stock is of great importance to the cattle industry and to the extension of mixed farming. The investigation to be carried out in co-operation with the Institute of Trypanosomiasis Research and the Veterinary Department to test the relative tolerance to trypanosomiasis of Zebu, Ndama and crosses between the two breeds, has begun and the results are awaited with interest.

Experiments with artificial fertilisers proved so successful that the Regional Production Development Board has decided to finance ten propaganda teams to organise the free distribution of

artificial fertilisers in the groundnut areas at the rate of 1,000 tons per annum, and it is expected that the total cost will be about a quarter of a million pounds. The object of this campaign is to convince the farmers in the shortest possible time of the value of artificial fertilisers; the method will be by propaganda and visual demonstration on the farms themselves. Once the farmers are convinced of the value of artificial fertilisers it is expected that they will be prepared to purchase them, and commercial supplies will then be organised. The use of artificial fertilisers on the cotton crop is also being examined, and as their application to food crops is highly economic a request has been made for development funds to make possible similar work on crops other than groundnuts.

The increase in price of Grade I tobacco from 10½d to 1s caused the acreage in Zaria to rise to 700 acres and at Gusau to six hundred acres. Purchases by the British American Tobacco Company were almost double those of the previous year. The company also sent a representative to examine the tobacco-growing in Shendam.

The rice mills at Badeggi and Baro produced 505 tons in the twelve months previous to 1st October, an increase of 110 tons on the corresponding period in 1947-48. In the same period 5,500 bacon pigs were railed to Lagos for processing, an increase of 1,121. 3,315 of the pigs came from the departmental piggeries and the rest from private breeders.

The brown sugar industry has continued to expand rapidly. Production is estimated at 4,700 tons being fifty per cent higher than the previous year. Supplies of sugar crushers are not coming forward in reasonable numbers and considerable expansion of this flourishing industry may be expected.

The production of potatoes suffered in the immediate post-war period from fluctuations of demand and later from overseas competition but it is now settling down and railings from Zaria and the Plateau rose from 529 tons in 1947 to 703 tons in 1948. Prices ranged from £14 to £56 per ton. Purchases of ginger for export dropped however and they totalled only eighty-two and a half tons from the 1948 crop compared with 104 tons from the 1947 crop.

The Daudawa settlements continue to prosper and to attract a great deal of interest. A start has been made with the settlement in the Plateau Province and at Kontagora in Niger Province, and plans for a settlement in Tiv Division have been completed and are receiving consideration.

Investigations in connection with the control of *kashin yawo* have reached the stage where major trials are required to test technique and economics. Consultation with research bodies in the United Kingdom, particularly the Universities of Oxford and Bristol, has been going on for some time and specially designed machines are now being constructed for these trials: delivery is expected shortly.

Thirteen students completed their course of training at Samaru School in March and all have been posted to agricultural stations within the Region. Fifty-three students are now in training, of whom twenty were recruited from the Northern Provinces. In addition six students selected by Native Authorities are receiving training. In 1950 a special Junior Course for Native Authorities candidates will start: the demand for places was well above the thirty available. Work is in hand on the main school block for which the revised plans were approved earlier in the year.

Forestry

A part of every plan for the proper use of land is the establishment of reserves of forest for timber, firewood, hunting, pasturage, collection of edible fruits, thatching grass, and for all the many other things which would be lost if there were no forests. At the present time it is the chief work of Forestry Officers in the Northern Region to examine all the remaining forest and to advise which forests should be set aside for these purposes. Much work has been done on these lines during the past year by Forestry and Development Officers in the field but the legal procedure for constituting these reserves takes a long time and the areas added to the Forest Estate will therefore not appear in the statistics of Forest Reserves until next year. The total number of such new proposed reserves examined during the year was sixty-three.

The consolidation of old Forest Reserves was also undertaken. In many cases the boundaries of reserves made a long time ago require revision to accommodate the present needs of the people, and this work goes on at the same time as that of finding new reserves. During the year seven reserves were dealt with in this way and a satisfactory solution of their local land problems was achieved.

Production of forest produce increases year by year. Most of the sawn timber comes from pit-sawing in Kurmi but two small saw-mills have also been working during the past year. Firewood for the towns is still largely brought in by head-load or donkey-load, but in a few cases it is brought in by lorry from forest areas twenty to forty miles distant from the town. Firewood and timber-cutting provide a valuable source of revenue to the Native Authorities as well as providing much needed produce, and in all forest reserves within reach of towns proper plans for rotational cutting are being worked out so that there will be a continuous supply both of forest produce and of forest revenue; in this way the most will be made of these very real assets.

The afforestation of the area around Maiduguri by the planting of neem trees continues to expand and is a great credit to the enthusiastic encouragement of the administration. In the current year the millionth neem tree was planted at a ceremony attended by the Acting Governor.

Veterinary

Control of the major epizootic diseases is of such importance that the greater part of the activities of the department's still attenuated staff have been necessarily concentrated on it while work on improving animal products and on other veterinary undertakings has had to receive less attention than it would do if the establishment were up to strength.

In order to further the basic work of disease control six Veterinary Immunisation Centres have been constructed, the building costs being borne by the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund. These centres, of which four more will be constructed next year, were built under the direct supervision of departmental staff; they will provide facilities for increased supervision of livestock and will make more readily available the prophylactic medicines and vaccines. The protection of cattle against rinderpest was again carried out on a gigantic scale, over one million head of cattle being inoculated, while control of contagious pleuro-pneumonia, which ranks with rinderpest as one of the diseases most fatal to cattle, was continued by the slaughter of infected stock. In spite of the compensation paid to cattle owners the success of this control varied from Province to Province and was in direct proportion to the amount of co-operation received from the owners.

Research work was carried out on a more attenuated strain of rinderpest virus suited to the more susceptible cattle of the Middle Belt and also on new trypanicidal drugs. Before these drugs are made available for general use it is very necessary that exhaustive tests be carried out locally and too much reliance must not be placed on results obtained in other parts of the world since our cattle may react differently from those of the locality where the drug has been tried out first. Research was also carried out on the artificial insemination of cows and the experiments carried out have proved that if artificial insemination were to become a practical proposition in Nigeria it would be possible to use upgraded local stock-bulls.

Work on improving the quality of hides and skins offered for export was pressed on and a demonstration van was equipped for mobile instruction. The staff attached to this van exhibit good and bad skins, correctly constructed drying-frames and the right size of knife to use, and demonstrate the correct way to flay and dress skins: their mobility will enable them to reach a very large number of butchers who would otherwise have no opportunity to improve their technique.

Active encouragement was given to the stall-feeding of cattle. Work on trade cattle included not only inspection and control to minimise transmission of disease along the routes, but also the examination of cattle for grading. An officer of the department examined conditions of railing and improvements were consequentially effected which facilitated the railing of cattle for

Northern stations. Work on the trade routes has been held up pending recommendations of the Meat Missions which visited Nigeria early in the year, but once the priority of routes has been settled plans will be put into immediate action for improving routes by fencing through farmland, supplying water and fodder where none or little is now available, by straightening the routes and by clearing river-crossings. Although provided for in the Estimates no cattle ferries have been constructed because experiments proved the scheme to be impracticable and uneconomic; ferries to take only ten cattle at a time would have to be so large that machinery would be required to propel them across the rivers.

Livestock improvement centres are in process of construction at Katsina, Biu and Birnin Kebbi, with the purpose of examining the potentialities of livestock and of demonstrating improved methods of husbandry. To provide conditions suitable for Fulani settlement several more dams were constructed on the lines of that built in Adamawa in 1947. Hay and silage making was undertaken on a small scale in various places in order to demonstrate methods of providing dry season feed: in a normal wet season it should be possible to cut two crops of hay provided that it is mown before the seeds fall. The way in which grassland can be improved has been shown at the Kano Veterinary Centre where thirty acres of grassland have been subjected for the last three years to controlled grazing, manuring and the removal of weed, but without any artificial watering, the result being a great improvement in the grass in quality, quantity, and in endurance to dry season conditions.

Technical education continued at Vom School and was extended by Ibadan College's acceptance of students to study for the higher qualifications and by the opening of a Field Training Centre near Zaria to give instruction in the vernacular to junior Veterinary Assistants whose educational qualifications were too low for them to be accepted by Vom School. One Northern student is now at Ibadan and one has gone to Liverpool to take the full veterinary course which will qualify him to become a Veterinary Officer.

West African Institute for Trypanosomiasis Research

This, the first research institute of international status to be established in West Africa dealing with human and animal disease, has chosen Northern Nigeria for its headquarters and chief experimental stations. Although, so far from being a regional affair, it is the concern of all four West African Colonies the results which we confidently expect will have such far-reaching effects on the well-being of the people of this Region and on their animal-husbandry that I should like to give Members a brief description of the Institute's aims and work.

One of the outstanding features of this Institute is that it is an *ad hoc* organisation charged with research in both human and animal

trypanosomiasis, a task not previously attempted. It was initiated in 1947 and is administered by a small managing committee which consists of the Director and representatives of all four Government meetings under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to the West African Council. Steps are being taken to establish it as a body corporate under a Nigerian Ordinance.

1948 was spent largely by the Director in recruiting staff and drawing up plans for the necessary buildings. It has been necessary to recruit expatriate staff for the senior posts, which require a high degree of academic and practical experience of the subject under research, but it is the aim of the Institute to train West Africans so that they may eventually man the laboratories themselves.

In 1949 the building of laboratories, offices and quarters, has made good progress. It has been necessary to divide the main buildings between Kaduna and Vom because it is essential that part of the work be done in a locality where human and animal trypanosomiasis is endemic, conditions fulfilled by Kaduna and the small research station at Katabu fourteen miles away, and secondly that part be done in an area where natural cyclical transmission of the disease can be excluded with absolute certainty, such an area being found at Vom.

The objects for which the institute has been set up are to study the group of parasites carrying the disease, to investigate the biology of the tsetse flies which carry it, to elucidate the geographical distribution of the disease and the factors which favour its spread, in short to find out everything about the complexity of factors involved in the occurrence of trypanosomiasis in man and in domestic animals in order to provide information which will enable the highest possible degree of control to be achieved. The real importance of the institute lies in the prospect of abolishing, or greatly reducing, veterinary trypanosomiasis.

A start has been made in collating the results of previous research work on this subject, from which it has come to light that in Northern Nigeria sleeping sickness has spread within fairly recent years from two main foci of endemicity, one in the region of the Niger-Benue confluence, the other in the upper reaches of the Lake Chad basin. It has been possible to trace the spread of the disease from these two foci in which the clinical manifestations of the disease show distinct differences. There is here a probable explanation of the puzzling discrepancies found in the nature of the disease in this Region. It seems likely that the spread northwards from the Niger and southwards from Lake Chad met and overlapped in the vicinity of the Anchau corridor.

Finally an example of the practical nature of the research undertaken is provided by an experiment now being carried out at Katabu. For several years past there has been disagreement between the Sleeping Sickness Service and the Forestry and Agricultural Departments on the damage caused by erosion

following tsetse clearances. One view is that erosion occurs after clearing while the other is that clearing merely exposes existing erosion and that the succeeding growth of grass impedes rather than accelerates its progress. With the object of obtaining accurate information on this question a small scale experiment has been initiated on a typical tsetse stream near Katabu. Inspection of the stream in its natural condition revealed a considerable degree of erosion and this was measured and photographed so that comparison can be made with future recordings after tsetse-clearing has been done.

Medical and Health

Expansion of these services has continued steadily throughout the Region: new buildings and some increase in staff are evidence of the progress being made. As regards constructional work the new laboratory and other buildings for the Zaria School of Pharmacy are nearly complete and will make it possible for a greater number of students to be trained in the future; work on the new hospital at Birnin Kebbi is progressing and the first ward-unit has been opened; at the Kaduna General Hospital a new laboratory block has been built and the old one converted into a maternity ward; in Kano a new maternity ward has been added to the City Hospital and as soon as sufficient equipment has been received the new Infectious Diseases Hospital will be opened; the addition of a laundry, mortuary and a sixteen-bed block has almost completed the Maiduguri Infectious Diseases Hospital; in Ilorin Province plans are in hand for the expansion of Offa hospital and for the rebuilding on a new site of the Ilorin hospital which will then be converted into a maternity hospital and Midwives' Training Centre; at Sokoto hospital a new ante-natal clinic and an X-ray block were completed, and finally work has been started at Minna on the expansion of the hospital which will include a new operating theatre, a laboratory, and an outpatients' ward.

As regards staff the department has been greatly handicapped by the lack of trained doctors and sisters. The training of nurses has inevitably suffered owing to the shortage of nursing sisters available for the hospitals: this has been particularly evident in the past year as the first products of the Kano Preliminary Training Centre have been dispersed to hospitals for further training. Twenty-one students completed the course successfully at the Kano Centre while sixteen Dispensary Attendants graduated from the School of Hygiene; twenty-five more are now in training there and a further fourteen are at the School of Pharmacy. The Sokoto Training School has continued to fulfil its early promise and now has sixty pupils. Thirty new Field Unit Dressers passed out of the Makurdi Training School where fifty more are in course of training. Advanced courses of training for selected dressers were given during the year at Kaduna as well as refresher courses.

There is continued evidence of the awakening of the general public to the benefits of modern medicine especially in the field of maternity work and child welfare: increased attendances at the clinics are encouraging but the maternity clinic opened at Bauchi had to be closed after a few weeks owing to the difficulty of providing staff. A venereal diseases campaign is being conducted at Gombe and after various difficulties and delays had been met and overcome is now proceeding smoothly: the drugs, which are extremely expensive, are paid for from Native Treasury funds. All affected children and a large number of adults have been treated.

The epidemic of relapsing fever first reported in 1947 is now under control. Few cases have been reported since early in the year and although the infection is still present the position can be regarded as very satisfactory. Once again a formidable epidemic of cerebro-spinal-meningitis struck the North at the beginning of the year; the most serious outbreaks were confined to the Sokoto and Katsina Provinces, minor though nevertheless severe outbreaks occurring in Bauchi, Adamawa and Kano Provinces. The total cases notified and treated up to the middle of May when the epidemic subsided were 42,488 of which no fewer than 38,863 occurred in Sokoto and Katsina Provinces. The latter Province was well prepared for the epidemic: co-operation between the Native Authority and the Department was very effective and vital statistical methods introduced in 1948 gave fairly accurate information and applied to the whole Province with the result that the mortality rate was brought down to 8.8 per cent compared with over 20 per cent elsewhere. Staff mobilised to deal with the epidemic comprised four Medical Officers, three Sanitary Superintendents and 116 Field Unit Dressing and Sleeping Sickness Dispensary Attendants; these were sent to assist the existing staff in the Provinces concerned. Altogether 575 persons and eighteen vehicles were engaged in fighting the disease and over one million sulphur tablets were used in Sokoto and Katsina Provinces alone.

Smallpox continues to be very prevalent. The remedy lies in the hands of the people themselves and it is hoped that the general interest in child welfare clinics will ensure protection for the year. A total of 7,239 cases with 704 deaths were reported in the nine months of the year, the highest incidences being in the Sokoto, Kano, and Plateau Provinces. During the same period 93,000 vaccinations were performed.

Leprosy surveys were carried out in Bornu and Plateau Provinces and were conducted by a specialist officer. In southern Plateau Province it was estimated that a 16 per cent infection rate existed and in Bornu, where over 19,000 persons were examined an estimated incidence of 2.5 per cent was obtained. A survey made by a Sudan Interior Mission doctor in Sokoto Province of 2,000 Authority school children showed that 1 per cent of the children required treatment.

Shortage of expatriate staff has delayed the formation of some of the proposed new Medical Field Units; in addition to the original Unit which began work in Benue Province new Units have been established in Plateau, Sokoto and Bornu Provinces. As mentioned above some of the Units assisted in controlling the cerebro-spinal-meningitis outbreak. Morbidity surveys of endemic diseases have been made in selected areas of Benue and Plateau Provinces and total population examined by the Field Unit Service exceeded 50,000.

The Sleeping Sickness Service continued its surveys and re-surveys of known endemic areas in nine of the Northern Provinces. Figures for the first nine months of the year for these surveys are 642,847 persons examined of whom 2,205 were found to have sleeping sickness, giving an infection rate of .34 per cent. In Native Administration and Sleeping Sickness Dispensaries a further total of 3,209 cases were diagnosed in those reporting sick, 866 of them being relapses. Drug prophylaxis is being used to give protection to the inhabitants of certain selected areas and has had most satisfactory results. Riverine clearance has been carried out in Kano, Zaria, Katsina and in Benue where work was started for the first time in Tiv Division and twenty-eight miles of stream were cleared, partly by communal labour, in the Gboko area.

Education

We were fortunate in being visited in April by Mr Cox, the adviser on Education to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Mr Cox's experience of the Sudan enabled him to view our problems with sympathy and his report is therefore of particular value. His visit, which covered every Province with the exception of Adamawa, was most successful, and its fruits will appear in due course; already, however, there has been an acceleration in the appointment of new Education Officers to the permanent establishment, and the staff position is now fairly good; nevertheless we shall feel the lack of experienced officers for some years to come.

The training of teachers is perhaps the most important part of the department's work; a centre for the training of Higher Elementary teachers was opened at Katsina in May. I wish it the good fortune which attended the original Katsina Training College, the closing of which has been responsible for many of our present difficulties. A sub-grade centre was also opened at Maru for training teachers of the Toro type. It cannot be too often repeated that the whole future of the Region depends on a better supply of school teachers and that those who have the welfare of the North at heart must do all they can to encourage youths to enter the teaching profession. At present it is not easy to fill the classes at the Bauchi and Katsina Elementary Training Centres, and those who come do not always display the neces-

keenness. A vernacular course for women teachers, on the Tor model, has been started in the Girls' Training Centre, Sokoto, and the new Principal has arrived to take charge of the centre. The training of teachers for the Voluntary Agencies has been assisted by the Colonial Development and Welfare grants and within a few years the output of trained men will be considerable.

As regards secondary education the former Kaduna College moved to Zaria and re-opened in February as Zaria Secondary School. Although much remains to be done to the lay-out and general amenities, the school is well-housed and provided with proper classrooms, and we may confidently expect the general standard of work to improve correspondingly. The nucleus of the future Keffi Secondary School took over the Kaduna Junction buildings pending the building of their own school. The Roman Catholic Mission Secondary School opened at Kaduna early in the year, and new buildings for the Roman Catholic Mission Girls' Secondary School, also at Kaduna, are just completed and the school has moved to its new site. The Sudan United Mission, Gindiri, is working up to secondary standard.

In the Middle Schools numbers have not increased owing to the impossibility of staffing extra classes. During the last few months some temporary Education Officers have arrived to take up teaching duty and if these appointments approach our needs an appreciable improvement both in numbers and in standard should be noticeable by 1951. At the Middle IV Examination held early in the year exactly 50 per cent passed. Nevertheless, if all schools were properly organised and both teachers and pupils made an effort there is no reason why every school should not obtain at least 75 per cent passes. The new Middle School at Yola is now in use, that for the Plateau is being built and Bauchi Middle School is being rebuilt.

During the first nine months of the year eighty-one Primary Schools were opened, fifty-five by Native Authorities and the remainder by Voluntary Agencies. Returns indicate an increase in pupils in Native Authorities schools of some 3,000. The teaching of English in Elementary Schools is being introduced as rapidly as the supply of qualified teachers permits. One of the duties of the recently established local education committees is to ensure that all schools are sited where they are most needed, thereby ensuring that education is spread over the country and no staff is wasted. The Roman Catholic Mission Girls' School in Kano, which provides a full primary course, was formally opened in April and the new Senior Primary School for girls at Gindiri is now working. Much progress has been made in getting ready the Native Authority Girls' Schools at Birnin Kebbi and Kontagora.

Progress at the Trade Centre is most encouraging and proves that given the right type of instruction, good artisans can be produced. Work on the theoretical side will improve when boys, w

a better knowledge of English become available. There are now 103 pupils at the centre. Owing to lack of materials work on the new buildings has proceeded slowly. Plans are in preparation for the erection of a Centre in Plateau Province.

Sixty students are attending the present course at the Zaria Clerical Training College. There has been a growing demand for the graduates of this College in Government Departments. Nearly all the students are sponsored by Native Authorities who naturally like the students to return at the end of the course to work in the Native Administrations but now that the choice lies with the students themselves it is likely that an ever increasing number will decide to enter Government service. Out of forty-eight students attending the last course seventeen applied for Government posts.

Co-operative

Steady progress has been maintained but no new fields of development have been entered as the staff has been fully occupied in consolidating the progress made in previous years by strengthening existing societies and weeding out those which were incapable of making the grade.

As in the previous year there has been a steady improvement in Thrift and Loan Societies, two being registered and a further nineteen formed, while nine were dissolved. The reason for the dissolution of these nine societies was mainly lack of interest among the members.

It is interesting to record the formation of a co-operatively organised community school at Vom, due solely to the efforts of the parents of children in the neighbourhood.

Consumers Societies have increased to fifteen with two more about to be formed. However only half of these carry out business on strict Co-operative Consumer lines. The development of such societies among urban and rural communities in the North requires constant supervision by the department's staff. The supply situation has improved during the year.

Labour

Offices have been established at Kano and Minna: at the same time the ever-decreasing need for a separate organisation to deal with the resettlement of ex-servicemen has led to the closing of a number of registration offices whose functions have been taken over by the Department.

The registration of workers in the Plateau minesfield area is going on satisfactorily and nearly 7,000 have already been registered. The next step may be to apply orders to restrict employment to registered workers and thus to control the influx of migratory labour; meanwhile some employers have already co-operated by engaging only registered workers.

The regulations governing housing conditions, sanitation and workers' welfare in camps, and the Orders-in-Council fixing minimum wages and conditions of service in the minesfield area, have now been in operation for over a year. Inspections have been conducted at the establishments of Government contractors to see that the Fair Wages clause is in operation.

During the year 145 accidents, two of them fatal, were investigated and £287 was paid out under the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance. The department also dealt with a considerable number of complaints from workers about wages, wrongful dismissals and employment conditions generally, and recovered over £300 on behalf of complainants.

There has been considerable Trade Union expansion and activity but unfortunately it has not always been wisely directed; there is a tendency to resort to precipitate and ill-considered strike-action rather than to the established methods of negotiation and conciliation, and this has led to some very regrettable incidents during the past year.

A Regional Wage Committee has now been created which will have under review cost of living statistics compiled in the Provinces. It will be in a position to advise me regarding such factual changes affecting wages which might merit adjustments in the wage rates of the Region.

Commerce and Industries

Apart from the staff of the industrial schemes for which it is responsible, the only representative of the department in the Northern Region during the last year has been an Assistant Commercial Officer who in June took over the office in Kano formerly occupied by the Deputy Controller of Motor Transport. A start has now been made with the establishment of a Trade Advisory Service which has already proved popular. If the economic development of the North is to be pursued with proper vigour it is essential that the campaign be planned and carried out locally and with this end in view the department will strengthen its regional organisation.

Since January Textile Training Centres have been completed at Ilorin, Minjibir (Kano) and Sokoto, and work has begun with a full complement of trainees at the first two. At Sokoto trainees are not yet coming forward in number but it is expected that the demonstrations now being held in various areas of the Province will have the effect of bringing the work of the Centre to the notice of weavers. It is proposed to set up a fourth centre early in 1950, in the Benue Province.

At the beginning of the year the Kano Citizens Trading Company decided to establish a weaving, bleaching and dyeing plant at Kano and received from the Regional Development Loans Board a loan

of £35,100 for this purpose. The department has been responsible for advising the company at each stage of the operations leading to the establishment of the mill which is designed when in full production to manufacture sheeting, shirting and drills. Machinery purchased for the company in the United Kingdom is expected to arrive this month and the mill buildings are already nearly completed.

Responsibility for the dairies scheme was transferred to the department on the 1st of April, 1948, but it was not until January this year that a fully qualified Dairy Products Officer was appointed. There has since been an improvement in the quality of the butter, cheese and clarified butter fat, produced at the Vom and Kumbul dairies, and economies have been effected in the use of cream. The number of milk buying units has been increased to fifty-three from the twenty-three taken over last year. 233,475 lbs of butter were produced in the first nine months of the year compared with 158,517 lbs in the same period last year; production of clarified butter fat has also risen from 34,149 lbs to 77,479 lbs during the same months while cheese at 62,780 lbs shows a 9 per cent increase on last year. During the first year of operation by the department the scheme showed a profit of £1,200 after meeting heavy renewal charges, paying staff and meeting other costs. The clarified butter fat scheme which has been operating since January, 1948, in the Sokoto and Niger Provinces has fallen short of expectations and will probably be closed down. A similar scheme on a small scale may be started on the Mambilla Plateau in Adamawa Province.

The Northern Regional Development Board has approved a loan not exceeding £6,000 for the erection of a Palm Oil Mill at Ayangba in Igala Division. Machinery and equipment for this mill is now arriving and will be erected under the supervision of the Pioneer Palm Oil Mills staff based on Aba. If, after a period of operation by the department, it proves to be a success the intention is that it should be sold to Nigerian enterprise.

It is planned to establish six groundnut oil expressing mills, together with a central workshop and administrative office, at a total capital cost of £63,000. The sites for these mills have yet to be decided but the Northern Regional Development Board has voted an advance of £38,360 for the purchase of the plant and machinery. While operating on a reasonable profit margin the mills are designed to produce high grade groundnut oil for human consumption and cake for cattle fodder at prices lower than those now in force.

Despite the lack of a Fisheries Officer for this Region some work has been done on fisheries development. An extensive survey has been made of a number of reservoirs on the Plateau and with the co-operation of the mining companies concerned fast breeding food fish have been introduced into them. As an experiment

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larvivorous fish have recently been introduced into the pools at Katsina and plans have been made for introducing fish into the new Minnia reservoir. The progress of fish introduced into the Okene reservoir has been surveyed and is satisfactory.

I have already referred to the establishment of an export department at Kano. The main function of this department is to provide advice to exporters and importers resident in the Region on overseas trade, controls, availability of preferred sources of supply, and, when requested, to give information on general business practice. In addition a trade library has been set up which importers may consult. The department is also engaged in collecting information and statistics on trade trends, supply shortages and trade requirements. Information so obtained is transmitted to Headquarters in Lagos and compared with reports from other Regions and appropriate measures necessary are taken.

The work of the department in this Region, insofar as it concerns commerce and overseas trade, is still in its early stages. It is hoped that as funds and staff are forthcoming the department will be expanded until merchants and business men in the Provinces will suffer no disadvantages from being so far from so great a distance from the main ports of entry and from the seat of the Central Government.

Mines

The output of tin concentrates during the first nine months of 1949 was 9,043 tons compared with 9,389 in the corresponding period last year. No new large mining areas have been discovered. A large number of applications for mining land in the known areas have been received, considerably greater than in previous years. The question of possible economic deposits under the ground continues to interest some operators, the difficulties of access, approach and exploitation remain unsolved.

As a result of the devaluation of the pound, H.M. Government announced in September, 1949, its intention to discontinue the purchase of tin as soon as alternative arrangements could be made. After discussions between His Majesty's Government and the Committee of the London Metal Exchange it was decided to open the Market for dealings in tin on the 15th November, 1949, the interim period between the date of discontinuation of the purchase and the opening of the metal market (*i.e.*, 15th September, 1949, to the 14th November, 1949) His Majesty's Government to pay the selling price of tin in the United Kingdom at the time of purchase of metal, and the price to be paid to Nigerian producers of metal on account subject to adjustment by an amount to be determined later. When the Metal Exchange opened on the 15th November, 1949, at the end of the first day's market the quotation for

£719 buyers, £720 sellers, that for forward delivery £655 buyers, £658 sellers.

Although acclaimed as the world's largest producer of columbite Nigeria's output this year reached only 624 tons by the end of September as against 864 tons last year. Prospecting of the iron ore deposits at Patti Hill behind Lokpja has been abandoned. There was no increased activity in lead mining despite the fact that the price of lead rose to over £95 per ton. The lead proposition near Izom to which I referred last year has not merited further attention on a company scale of operations, and work at the Zurak mine has temporarily ceased.

Although the price of gold rose to £12 8s per ounce mining has been on a limited scale. Unless the price of tin falls there is not much likelihood of any material increase in gold mining owing to difficulty in obtaining labour.

Instructional classes in the department have been maintained. Two members of the department succeeded in obtaining scholarships, one to the United Kingdom to study mining and the other to Ibadan University to study science. An officer who has been studying at Glasgow University is expected to qualify and take up duties with the department next year. Due to the dearth of experienced mining engineers in the world and the attractive conditions of service now offered by commercial undertakings it has not been possible to fill the existing vacancies for Inspectors of Mines and the department is now 42 per cent under strength.

Geological Survey

The re-mapping of the Plateau Tinfields has been completed and a new publication with a coloured geological map will be available shortly. The investigation of the lignites to the north of Gombe is still in progress but the results so far obtained indicate that the amount of coal available is limited. A big deposit of limestone at Iuwa some thirty miles to the north-west of Lokoja has been examined and a large tonnage of high-grade limestone has been proved.

The department has kept in close touch with the geologists of Mines Development Syndicate Limited and A.O. Nigeria Limited who are engaged in exploration work on the lead-zinc deposits in Benue and Adamawa Provinces. The principal deposits have been examined by the Geological Survey, and a general study has been made of the cretaceous rocks in the Benue valley. The investigation of the mineral resources of the Cameroons by A.O. Nigeria Limited on behalf of the Government of Nigeria and the London Tin Corporation has been continued. A party of geologists and prospectors has carried out extensive surveys in the northern and central parts of the trust territory.

The department has continued to advise on water supply problems, and a hydrological survey has been made of Bui

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.

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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.

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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.

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The Fixed Aeronautical Telecommunications Service now includes a northern network connecting Kano, Katsina, Kaduna, Jos, Bida and Maiduguri, whilst radio beacons have been installed at Bida, Sokoto and Katsina, in addition to those existing at Kaduna, Kano, Jos and Maiduguri.

The internal air services were suspended for a time after an aircraft had crashed but services are again normal and are being enlarged as aircraft become available. In all probability limited cheap services will be introduced next year by the use of "Wayfarers" divided by a bulkhead into First and Second Class compartments. The Pilgrimage air service again proved popular.

Accountant-General (Treasury)

Progress towards the complete regionalisation of the accounts of the Northern Region has been maintained, but the lack of experienced staff in the Junior Service has proved to be a severe handicap. Minna Local Treasury was taken over from the Provincial Administration on the 1st of April, and as soon as experienced staff becomes available other local treasuries will come under the direct control of the department. During the early part of this year the travelling accountants carried out extensive tours of inspection with most satisfactory results.

The Treasury in each Region receives revenue and effects payments not only for itself but also in respect of the Nigerian estimates and for the other Regions. There is thus added to the regionalised department the responsibility for classifying receipts and payments not only in accordance with its own heads and sub-heads, but also for ensuring that each item is allocated to its correct Region; the same principles extend to the many ramifications of the work of the Treasury.

During the financial year 1948-49 the sum of £4,492,918 was collected in the Northern Region and £4,354,151 was expended. The costs of the Regional Treasury in handling this turnover of nearly nine million pounds came out at a little over one halfpenny in the pound.

Very considerable nickel supplies have been made available this year by the Currency Officer and have been distributed throughout the Northern Provinces. Approximately £10,000 of this coin in the denominations of pence, halfpence and tenths have been put into circulation within the last six months.

The activities of the Mines accounts section of the Treasury continue to expand. For the work of this section a specialised knowledge is required, hence the provision in the 1950-51 Estimates for an Accountant to take charge of the section.

Audit

The department has kept pace with the ever expanding activities of Government and of the Native Authorities. The

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.

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