



NIGERIA

# Western House of Assembly Debates

11th October, 1949

PRICE 1s 6d NET

*Printed and Published by the Government Printer, Lagos, 1950  
To be purchased from the C.M.S. Bookshops, Lagos and  
Port Harcourt, the S.I.M. Bookshop, Jos, and  
the Crown Agents for the Colonies  
4, Millbank, London, S.W.1*



# Debates in the Western House of Assembly

Tuesday, 11th October, 1949

Pursuant to notice the Members of the Western House of Assembly met in the Conference Hall, Benin, at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, the 11th of October, 1949.

## PRESENT

### OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,  
His Honour T. C. Hoskyns-Abrahall, c.m.g.
- The Senior Resident, Oyo Province,  
Mr P. V. Main.
- The Resident, Benin Province,  
Mr R. J. M. Curwen.
- The Resident, Ijebu Province,  
Mr H. L. M. Butcher.
- The Resident, Ondo Province,  
Mr R. A. Vosper.
- The Acting Resident, Abeokuta Province,  
Mr I. F. W. Schofield.
- The Acting Secretary, Western Provinces,  
Mr T. M. Shankland.
- The Acting Secretary (Finance), Western Provinces,  
Mr A. G. R. Mooring.
- The Acting Secretary (Development), Western Provinces,  
Mr H. Spottiswoode.
- The Acting Resident, Warri Province,  
Mr A. R. A. de Garston.
- The Deputy Director of Medical Services,  
Dr S. L. A. Manuwa, O.B.E.
- The Acting Deputy Director of Education,  
Mr W. T. Mackell, O.B.E.
- The Deputy Director of Agriculture,  
Mr R. Johns, O.B.E.
- The Acting Deputy Director of Public Works,  
Mr W. A. Anderson.
- The Senior Crown Counsel,  
Mr R. A. Doherty.

## UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Honourable Omo N'Oba Akenzua II, C.M.G.,  
The Oba of Benin.
- The First Member for the Oyo Province,  
Chief I. B. Akinyele, O.B.E., the Osi Balogun of Ibadan.
- The Second Member for the Oyo Province,  
Chief J. R. Turton, the Risawe of Ilesha.
- The First Member for the Benin Province,  
Chief H. O. Osagie, the Aighobahi of Benin.
- The Second Member for the Benin Province,  
Chief Idogu, the Olokpe of Okpe.
- The First Member for the Warri Province,  
Chief Jessa Ogboru.
- The Second Member for the Warri Province,  
Mr W. E. Mowarin.
- The Member for the Ijebu Province,  
Chief A. O. Okupe, the Alaperu of Iperu.
- The First Member for the Abeokuta Province,  
The Honourable A. Soetan, the Aro of Kemta.
- The Second Member for the Abeokuta Province,  
Mr S. O. Bankole.
- The Second Member for the Ondo Province,  
Mr P. A. Oladapo.
- The First Nominated Member,  
The Venerable Archdeacon I. A. Iennon, O.B.E.
- The Second Nominated Member,  
The Honourable Akinpelu Obisesan, O.B.E.
- The Fourth Nominated Member,  
The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.
- The Fifth Nominated Member,  
Mr E. A. Sanda.

## ABSENT

## UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Honourable the Oba Aderemi, C.M.G.,  
The Oni of Ife.
- The First Member for the Ondo Province,  
Mr J. B. Arifalo.
- The Third Nominated Member,  
The Honourable T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.

## PRAYERS

His Honour the Chief Commissioner opened the proceedings with prayers.

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 18th of December, 1948, having been printed and circulated to Members, were taken as read and confirmed.



Debate

## OATHS

The following took the oath as Members of the House:—

- Mr H. L. M. Butcher,  
The Resident, Ijebu Province.
- Mr R. A. Vosper,  
The Resident, Ondo Province.
- Mr I. F. W. Schofield,  
The Acting Resident, Abeokuta Province.
- Mr A. G. R. Mooring,  
The Acting Secretary (Finance), Western Provinces.
- Mr A. R. A. de Garston,  
The Acting Resident, Warri Province.
- Mr R. Johns, O.B.E.,  
The Deputy Director of Agriculture.
- Mr W. A. Anderson,  
The Acting Deputy Director of Public Works.
- The Second Member for the Abeokuta Province,  
Mr S. O. Bankole.
- The Second Member for the Benin Province,  
Chief Idogu, the Olokpe of Okpe.
- The Second Member for the Ondo Province,  
Mr P. A. Oladapo.
- The Second Member for the Warri Province,  
Mr W. E. Mowarin.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:**

**MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,**

It is unusual for your President to address you on occasions other than the Budget Session and you may think it particularly so in view of the fact that we shall be embarking on our Budget Session in the comparatively near future.

But this is an occasion. For the first time this Assembly is meeting here in this historic City of Benin. The history of Benin would fill a large volume, today we are adding our own modest page to that long history. Our thanks are due to the Oba of Benin and the people of Benin for their welcome to us here; we are indeed grateful to them. Much benefit has been derived from having meetings of Legislative Council at Kaduna and Ibadan and similarly I feel we shall all benefit by having this meeting of the House here at Benin. New friends are to be made, new activities and undertakings visited and our experience widened.

Some of you must inevitably be thinking back over the years to another meeting of significance and importance which took place in this City. I refer to the Chiefs' Conference which was held here in 1942. I think I am right in saying that before the Chiefs'



Conference came into being this region consisted of a large number of water-tight compartments, each sufficient unto itself and a little suspicious of what its neighbour was up to. The bringing together of Chiefs in Conference did go a long way to destroy that attitude. Chiefs met each other, some for the first time, and found many matters of common interest to discuss and problems to solve. Barriers of mutual suspicion were broken down.

Then came the new Constitution and the place of the Chiefs' Conference was taken by the House of Assembly which I now address.

This House, from its very inception, has worked in harmony and mutual understanding and it is to the original spadework put in by the Chiefs at their Annual Conferences that we largely owe our success.

On the whole we can fairly congratulate ourselves on Western Region solidarity. I do not believe that a serious student of Nigerian affairs can honestly believe that fragmentation or splitting up of this region would provide any answer at all to its many problems: it would merely add a further load to those which we already bear.

Planning Constitutional reform is very exciting and there are very few of us who do not believe that we have a worthy contribution to make. But to me it is a relief to turn to something which is infinitely more important. Something on which the future of Nigeria must depend whatever may be its Constitution—I refer to the land. The population of the world—and of Nigeria—is increasing, the supply of food for that population is not. We must, as someone put it, make three ears of corn grow where one—or none—grew before. To conserve and to restore the fertility of the soil is going to be vital. You will therefore be interested to know that preliminary work has started by the setting up of an Agricultural Enquiry branch for the Western Provinces. A mechanised Farm Unit is planned, together with workshops and training facilities. Some of the machinery ordered has arrived and is being assembled.

The standard of farming by settlers from established Farm Schools has unfortunately not proved as high as it should be and it is thought there may be something wrong with the settlement policy. There are indications that one or two large group settlements may well produce better results than small scattered and isolated groups. This is being pursued. Fertilizer trials are being conducted at Moor Plantation and on the Benin Sands.

We have then the vital problem of Soil conservation and we are investigating three different means by which it can be attacked—by mechanised farming, by large group farming settlements and by the use of chemical fertilizers. I am sure that your Regional Deputy Director of Agriculture, Mr Johns, will be glad to discuss this most important matter with those who are interested—and who is not?—and to listen to any advice or suggestions which you may

have to offer. It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of this matter of the soil, compared with which other matters seem to pale into insignificance. Danger lies in the fact that so many people are unaware of the fact that this problem exists at all.

Before I close I should like to give you two quotations and to commend them as deserving your deepest consideration. The first was spoken in this hall some years ago to the Chiefs' Conference by the late Sir Bernard Bourdillon, then Governor of Nigeria. "It must be our policy," he said, "to work for closer co-operation between the traditional leaders of the people and the people themselves, especially those people who have had the advantage of greater education. This requires some sacrifice on the part of the traditional leaders on the one hand, and on the other hand a real attempt by the educated classes to understand the attitude and problems of those who, by tradition, are entitled to a portion of authority. Only by this careful blending of what is best in the old and what is best in the new can our object be achieved." Our object being of course, the progress of Nigeria.

The other quotation is from the speech of His Majesty the King at the opening of Colonial Month in London on the 21st of June, this year. "Progress depends on a true sense of partnership between all sections of society, rulers and ruled, each giving its best to the common weal; and I look confidently to the traditional rulers and chiefs, and also to the political leaders and representative bodies, to promote co-operation in their various spheres and to set their faces against faction and the sowing of distrust."

I do ask you in all sincerity to accept and believe the vital truth which is contained in these two quotations. Troubles we have had and troubles doubtless we shall have; the vast majority of these are caused by an inability—or perhaps a deliberate refusal—to accept this truth. Progress depends on co-operation, on partnership in its widest sense; progress ceases where people, actuated by whatever motive, try to make co-operation impossible. As I have said in another place, this Government is not prepared to sit back and see progress sunk into stagnation or stirred into turmoil by irresponsible people. In the state of development reached by this country irresponsible people who find themselves in a position of responsibility can do untold harm. It is the obvious duty of Government to see that this does not happen, a duty which Government has been called upon to perform recently in a part of the Western Region.

In the particular instance I have in mind, a Town Council consisting in the main of young elected counsellors refused, after warning and advice, to co-operate with their Town Head. All progress was at a standstill and a quite impossible situation existed. I visited the town myself and after personally making quite certain in regard to the complete irresponsibility of the Council, I gave instructions for its dissolution. Had I not done so, Government would have been



rightly accused of condoning lawlessness and irresponsibility. I can do no more than express the hope that those who may be tempted to behave as did that Town Council, will see the light in time.

There is, I believe, a Yoruba proverb to the effect that if there are no elders a town is spoilt; if the head of a family dies, the family house becomes a ruin. We do not want our town—our Western Region—to be spoilt because responsible people fail to play their part, giving place to others who allow themselves to be swept off their feet by political clichés the meaning of which they do not begin to understand. What we want today is solid, steady progress controlled by solid citizens, by those who want Rome built but know it cannot be built in a day. Let us beware of the high sounding phraseology of political theories, whether we are talking about the Constitution of Nigeria or the Constitution of an Authority or Town Council. Let us above all else be realistic and evolve something which is going to work. I hope you will forgive me if I say that in this particular respect—in respect of realism—the recommendations of the Western Regional Conference on the Revision of the Constitution fell far short of those of the other two regions. This fact was, I am sure, fairly obvious to some of you and a real, but alas unsuccessful, effort was made to call the discussion back from the “Cloud Cuckooland” (to quote a member) in which it was floating to the realms of reality. It is no use crying over spilt milk but I do earnestly ask those of you who will be forming the Western Region’s team at the General Conference to keep your feet firmly on the ground and refuse to be swept up into the clouds by the heady wine of political rhetoric.

Not only has the Ship of State itself got to be seaworthy; but its crew has got to know its business. Otherwise disaster is inevitable.

I hope members will agree with me that there have always been in this House that true sense of partnership and that close co-operation which spell progress and I believe that in the Western Region steady progress will continue in spite of occasional attempts at sabotage.

We are blending what is best in the old and what is best in the new and with goodwill on both sides and with the guidance without which the affairs of men must go awry, we can confidently carry on our part in building up a progressive and prosperous Nigeria.

#### PETITIONS

**The Second Member for the Oyo Province (Chief J. R. Turton, the Risawe of Ilesha):**

Your Honour, I have now in my possession a Petition addressed through me to the President and Members of this House, by the people of the Illa District in the Ife Division of the Oyo Province, regarding their close relation with the Igbomina tribe inhabiting a fairly large area in the confines of the Northern Region of



Nigeria. The main object of the Petition is to obtain the assistance of the House to have the Igbominas grouped with their brethren in the Western Provinces. The Petitioners are not peculiar in their desire, since it is commonly known that in the recommendations of the Western Regional Conference on the review of the Nigerian Constitution recently held at Ibadan, the same view has been clearly expressed with particular reference to modification of boundaries in the administrative re-arrangement of Nigeria in the near future. The recommendation, as will be seen from the pamphlet to which I may be allowed to refer, states as follows:—

“ . . . . . That States should be formed with a view to ethnic and/or linguistic basis, such area as may be found by the Commission to have affinities with a particular State shall belong to the State to which it is related.”

The Illas and Igbominas have been enduring very patiently for a long time the inconvenience arising from the Government Administrative boundary separating them from one another, but they now entertain the hope that the portion just referred to in the Recommendations of the Western Regional Conference would be successful, and they are anxious to leave no stone unturned with a view to recording their wishes and their needs before their more powerful, militant and articulate neighbours and friends such as the Egbas, the Ijebu, the inhabitants of other parts of the Oyo Province, and even of the capital city of Lagos, come forward with their cases.

It may probably be suggested that the petition has not been couched in particularly scholastic terms, but I may point out that Illa has but a few, if any, sons in the “learned” professions at present, and that the petition has at least the merit of blunt simplicity and frankness. Your Honour, it is the first petition of the sort to come before this House since its inauguration and it is my pride and privilege to present it now with the motion that it may be referred to a Select Committee of the House for discussion and such action as may be deemed fit having due regard to the particulars and facts cited in the Petition.

Your Honour, I beg to move.

**His Honour:**

Official Members will abstain from voting. The question is in the terms of the motion. Those in favour say “Aye”, those to the contrary, “No”. The “Ayes” have it.

Details of the Select Committee will be discussed at a later date.

#### PAPERS LAID

**The Acting Secretary, Western Provinces:**

Your Honour, I rise to lay on the table the following papers:—

Bill for the Mandated and Trust Territories Ordinance,  
1949.



Bill for the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949.

Bill for the Excise (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949.

Bill for the Native Courts Ordinance, 1948, Amendment Ordinance, 1949.

Bill for the Mineral Oils (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949.

Bill for the Native Children (Custody and Reformation) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949.

Bill for the West African Cocoa Research Institute (Nigeria Status) Ordinance, 1949.

Ordinances and subsidiary legislation applicable to the Western Region enacted or made since the last meeting of the House.

Certificates of Urgency in respect of:—

Bill for the Native Children (Custody and Reformation) Ordinance, 1949.

Bill for the West African Cocoa Research Institute (Nigeria Status) Ordinance, 1949.

#### **The Acting Secretary (Finance), Western Provinces:**

Your Honour, I beg to lay on the table:—

The Report of the Standing Committee on Finance for the period December, 1948 to September, 1949.

#### **The Acting Deputy Director of Education:**

Your Honour, I beg to lay on the table

A Digest of the Harlow-Thorp Report on Higher Technical Education.

### **NOTICES**

Notices of the following motions were read out:—

- (a) Motion by the Acting Secretary (Finance), Western Provinces that the House adopt the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance for the period December, 1948 to September, 1949.
- (b) Motion by the Acting Secretary (Development), Western Provinces, that the House do ratify the appointment of members of the Shadow Oil Palm Produce Representative Committee.
- (c) Motion by the Acting Secretary (Development), Western Provinces, that the House do ratify the appointment of Members of the Western Regional Production Development Board.
- (d) Motion by the Acting Secretary (Development), Western Provinces, that the House do appoint members of the Oil Palm Produce Representative Committee.
- (e) Motion by the Acting Secretary (Development), Western Provinces, that the House do appoint members of the Western Regional Production Development Board.



- (f) Motion by the Acting Secretary (Development), Western Provinces, that the House do appoint members of the Western Cotton Representative Committee.

### QUESTIONS.

*NOTE.*—Replies to Questions Nos. 35, 66, 73 and 77 by the Fifth Nominated Member; Nos. 46, 49, 50, 53, 56 and 78 by the Second Member for the Warri Province and No. 44 by the First Member for the Benin Province are not yet ready. Parts (a) and (b) of Question No. 64 by the Fifth Nominated Member are disallowed. Question No. 38 had been withdrawn by the First Member for the Benin Province.

The First Member for the Oyo Province (Chief I. B. Akinyele, O.B.E., the Osi Balogun of Ibadan):

4. To ask the Secretary, Western Provinces:—

(1) What is the population of each District or Sub-Native Authority in the Ibadan Division?

(2) How many (a) Primary Schools (b) Secondary Schools (c) Teachers' Training Institutions are there in each District?

*Answer*—

The Acting Secretary, Western Provinces:

(1) The approximate population, based on the number of taxpayers (adult males) multiplied by four, is:—

Ibadan	...	...	...	...	292,000
Iwo	...	...	...	...	84,000
Egbedore	...	...	...	...	30,400
Aiyedade	...	...	...	...	39,600
Igboora	...	...	...	...	38,800
Binukonu	...	...	...	...	18,000
Oshogbo	...	...	...	...	56,800
Ede	...	...	...	...	46,800
Ogbomosho	...	...	...	...	76,800
Ejigbo	...	...	...	...	21,200
Ifelodun	...	...	...	...	58,000
Odo-Otin	...	...	...	...	22,400

(2) (a) *Primary Schools.*

	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Junior</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ibadan	64	190	254
Iwo	12	50	62
Ogbomosho	5	13	18
Ejigbo	1	2	3
Odo-Otin	6	23	19
Ifelodun	14	33	47
Ede	5	16	21
Oshogbo	12	24	36
Egbedore	4	16	20
Aiyedade	1	4	5
Binukonu	—	8	8
Igboora	—	1	1



(b) *Secondary Schools.*

Ibadan ... .. 4.

(c) *Teachers' Training Institutions.*

Ibadan ... .. 4.

Iwo ... .. 1.

The First Member for the Benin Province (Chief H. O. Osagie, the Aighobahi of Benin):

39. To ask the Secretary (Development), Western Provinces:—

(a) Will a detailed statement be made of the various developments carried out under the Ten Year Development Plan during the years 1946-1948 in the four divisions of Benin Province, *i.e.*, Benin, Asaba, Ishan and Kukuruku Divisions, and the total costs of such developments?

(b) Will Government state how many applications for loans from the development funds by individuals or groups of individuals or societies in the Benin Province have been received by the appropriate authorities in the past two years?

(c) How many such applications have received consideration and the amount of loans granted?

(d) If no applications have been received, will an assurance be given that applications for loans from individuals, groups of individuals or societies will receive due consideration?

*Answer—*

The Acting Secretary (Development), Western Provinces:

(a) Details of developments carried out and in progress under the Ten Year Development Plan during the years 1946-48 and expenditure thereon during the period 1.4.46-31.3.49 were as follows:

BENIN DIVISION		£
Ijebu-Ode-Benin Road ... ..		2,580
Benin-Sapele Road—tarring ... ..		11,339
Ife-Ilesha-Benin Road—tarring ... ..		1,008
C.M.S. Elementary Training Centre, Ebvoneka— building grant ... ..		5,000
Ogba Farm—Agricultural Office ... ..		786
General consolidation survey and demarcation of Forest reserves, construction of labour villages and camps ... ..		2,612
Purchase and operation of ambulance, Benin ... ..		1,053
Free grants of tools and cement for improvement in nine villages ... ..		400
Free grants for town planning improvement Benin City ... ..		200
Rural Water Supplies—one dam and ground tanks ... ..		1,430
		£26,408

iction



## ASABA DIVISION

	£
St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Mission School, Asaba grant-in-aid ... ..	1,233
St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Mission School, Asaba building grant ... ..	16,540
Agbor-Ogwashi-Uku trunk telephone and telegraph connection ... ..	400
Re-survey Ogwashi-Uku Forest Reserve ... ..	70
Alidinma-Ijemo Road ... ..	80
Assistance to villages for clearing of Leper villages and Dispensary Sites ... ..	349
Rural Water Supplies—tanks at Ugbodu and Okpanam ... ..	72
	£18,744

## ISHAN DIVISION

Roman Catholic Mission Elementary Training Centre, Ubiaja—grant-in-aid ... ..	1,895
Roman Catholic Mission Elementary Training Centre, Ubiaja—building grant ... ..	7,000
C.M.S. School Sabongidda, building grant ... ..	2,950
Re-examination, demarcation and reconnaissance of Forest Reserves ... ..	401
Grants for improvements of Village Layouts ... ..	297
Rural Water Supplies—tanks at Uromi and Ebelle, and canalization in catchment area, Ubiaja ... ..	968
	£13,511

## KUKURUKU DIVISION

Survey, demarcation and reconnaissance of Forest Reserves ... ..	183
Auchi Textile Centre ... ..	5,459
Auchi Rural Health Centre ... ..	6,204
Osse River crossing, Ibillo-Ishua road ... ..	322
Village Improvement grants—Community Centre, Jattu and Safes for Village Postal Agencies ... ..	550
Rural Water Supplies—nine wells at Ibillo, one well at Ugbekpe, dams and delivery tanks in four villages, and general investigations ... ..	484
<i>Note:</i> In addition to the above the following development has been carried out, although not under the Ten Year Plan:	
Auchi Post Office ... ..	1,592
	£14,794



## NOT ATTRIBUTABLE TO A PARTICULAR DIVISION

	£
Agbor-Ubiaja—trunk telephone and telegraph connection ... ..	372
Miscellaneous Development expenditure—Forestry Department ... ..	1,885
Miscellaneous Development expenditure—Agriculture Department ... ..	1,393
Oil Palm Research Station ... ..	202,461
Ossiommo Leper Settlement ... ..	31,433
Asaba Rural Training Centre ... ..	5,009
	£242,553

## SUMMARY

Benin Division ... ..	26,408
Asaba Division ... ..	18,744
Ishan Division ... ..	13,511
Kukuruku Division ... ..	14,794
Not attributable ... ..	242,553
	£316,010

(b) Nineteen applications from Benin Province have been received by the Nigeria Local Development Board and the Western Regional Development Board.

(c) (i) Considered by Nigerian Local Development Board ...	5
Considered by Western Regional Development Board ...	1
	6

(ii) Loans granted—one of £800; one of £200 ... ..	2
Reasons for rejection—	
Outside scope of Ordinance ... ..	2
Schemes unsuitable ... ..	2
Applicant failed to proceed with application when asked for further details ... ..	7
(iii) Now under investigation ... ..	6

19

(d) The Western Regional Development Board held its inaugural meeting on the 13th of September and the Board intends to issue a statement in the near future inviting applications and giving details of the policy by which it will be guided. The Board's main object will be to foster the development of private enterprises which will develop the economic wealth of the country. Individuals, groups of individuals or societies can therefore be assured of sympathetic consideration for applications which will further that object.

**The First Member for the Benin Province (Chief H. O. Osagie, the Aighobahi of Benin):**

40. To ask the Deputy Director of Medical Services:—

It is reported that the incidence of small-pox in the Benin Province as a whole and Benin Division in particular has been high:



- (i) What steps have been taken to arrest the spread of the deadly disease?
- (ii) What is the total number of cases reported during 1948 and up to date?
- (iii) What is the total number of deaths reported during the same period?

Answer—

**The Deputy Director of Medical Services :**

(i) Isolation of reported cases and vaccination of contacts. Mass vaccination of population in villages and surrounding areas where cases have been reported. The number of vaccinations performed in recent years has been :—

			Benin Division	Agbor Division
1947	...	...	129,257	26,861
1948	...	...	79,906	35,982
1949*	...	...	45,117	26,226

\* first five months

(ii) In 1948, seventy-four cases were reported in Benin Division and 120 cases in Agbor Division.

In 1949 for the first half of year 144 cases have been reported from Benin Division and 215 cases from Agbor Division. The number of cases reached a maximum in March and the outbreak has since been on the decline although sporadic cases were still being reported in June.

(iii) In 1948, eight deaths were reported from Benin Division and fifteen deaths from Agbor Division.

In 1949 for the first half of year there were fifteen deaths in Benin Division and fifty-one deaths in Agbor Division.

**The First Member for the Benin Province (Chief H. O. Osagie, the Aighobahi of Benin):**

41. To ask the Deputy Director of Medical Services :—

In view of the high incidence of small-pox in the Benin Province, is it not necessary to introduce compulsory vaccination and an intensive campaign for vaccination?

Answer—

**The Deputy Director of Medical Services :**

Vaccination is already compulsory as laid down in the Vaccination Ordinance No. 60 of 1917 as amended by the Vaccination (Amendment) Ordinance, 1945.

An intensive vaccination campaign has been proceeding but it is considered that the number of vaccinations performed could have been greatly increased had there been more co-operation on the part of the public. Vaccinations performed in Benin Province during the past three years have been as below :—

1947	...	...	156,118
1948	...	...	115,888
1949	...	...	71,343 (first five months of year).



The First Member for the Benin Province (Chief H. O. Osagie, the Aighobahi of Benin):

42. To ask the Deputy Director of Medical Services:—

It is understood that the existing Magistrate's Court in Benin City will be converted to a Maternity and Infant Welfare Clinic. Will an indication be given as to the time this will take place?

Answer—

The Deputy Director of Medical Services:

Yes, Sir. The intention to do so cannot, however, be carried out until a new Court House has been built and this will not be before 1950-51 at the earliest.

The First Member for the Benin Province (Chief H. O. Osagie, the Aighobahi of Benin):

43. To ask the Deputy Director of Medical Services:—

(a) How many cases of tuberculosis were reported in Benin City General Hospital during the past five years, *i.e.*, 1944-48?

(b) If none, will a statement be made that medical attention has not been directed to the treatment of this dangerous disease?

Answer—

The Deputy Director of Medical Services:

(a) The number of cases of tuberculosis reported from Benin City Hospital during the past five years were:—

1944	1 case	0 death
1945	4 cases	1 death
1946	1 case	0 death
1947	8 cases	0 death
1948	9 cases	0 death.

A total of twenty-three cases and one death as compared with thirty-eight cases and four deaths in the previous 5-year period 1939-1943.

(b) Does not arise.

The Second Member for the Warri Province (Mr W. E. Mowarin):

45. To ask the Deputy Director of Public Works:—

(a) What are the reasons for the stoppage of the tarring of Warri-Sapele road since March last?

(b) Is it a fact that an indent for tar made for this work was cancelled at the Headquarters, Lagos?

(c) Would Government give an indication as to how long it will be before the tarring of this thirty-one mile road will be completed?

(d) Is Government aware that this is the only road lying between the two important Western ports; *i.e.*, Warri and Sapele, and that the work of tarring this road requires A.1 priority?

Answer—

The Acting Deputy Director of Public Works:

(a) End of the previous year's programme and commencement of the rainy season. Collection of material is in hand and work on this year's programme will begin at the end of the rains.



- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Two years.
- (d) Yes, Sir.

**The Second Member for the Warri Province (Mr W. E. Mowarin) :**

47. To ask the Secretary, Western Provinces:—

(a) Is it a fact that at present, in Warri, it is the practice to allocate telephones only on Commercial rates of £14 per annum, even though the applications are for residential installations?

(b) If yes, is the practice not considered extortionate and should it not be stopped?

*Answer—*

**The Acting Secretary, Western Provinces :**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. While supplies of telephones and other stores remain short, it is considered advisable that they should be reserved as far as possible for business purposes.

**The Second Member for the Warri Province (Mr W. E. Mowarin) :**

48. To ask the Secretary, Western Provinces:—

In view of recent development and establishment of the Warri College at Ughelli, will Government consider the advisability of dredging the Okpari-Iwreku River to allow all-seasonal services of river crafts from the Niger to Ughelli?

*Answer—*

**The Acting Secretary, Western Provinces :**

No, Sir; the tortuous and overgrown state of this creek makes dredging impracticable.

**The Second Member for the Warri Province (Mr W. E. Mowarin) :**

51. To ask the Secretary, Western Provinces:—

(a) What are the Development Officers in the Western Provinces developing—the Region or the people?

(b) Would Government kindly give some indications as to what the benefits are in any direction (either in the Region or upon the people) arising out of these Officers' services to necessitate further retention of their offices?

*Answer—*

**The Acting Secretary, Western Provinces :**

(a) Development Officers are assisting in the development of the Region for the benefit of the people.

(b) Thirteen Development Officers, of whom three are Africans, were on the Western Regional Staff on 1st October, 1949. Of these

Two were on leave

Two were attached to the Co-operative Department

Two were posted to the Oil Palm Research Station

One was lent temporarily to the Electrical Engineer-in-Chief, Lagos.



The balance of six were engaged on miscellaneous provincial duties either directly connected with development, or on duties that relieved other officers for development work.

**The Second Member for the Warri Province (Mr W. E. Mowarin) :**

52. To ask the Deputy Director of Education :—

(a) What are the reasons, if any, for the smallness of the amount of money allocated to Warri Province in respect of Grants-in-Aid to schools in the Western Provinces if the following are correct figures of School Children in each Province?

	<i>Enrolment.</i>	<i>Grants-in-Aid.</i>		
		£	s	d
Abeokuta ... ..	22,491	6,187	10	0
Benin ... ..	57,319	9,982	0	0
Ijebu ... ..	26,094	12,988	0	0
Ondo ... ..	39,960	10,698	0	0
Oyo ... ..	49,191	13,930	0	0
Warri ... ..	41,638	4,841	10	0

(b) When will Government review these grants with a view to putting Warri in its proper place comparatively?

*Answer—*

**The Acting Deputy Director of Education :**

(a) It is assumed that reference is to the year 1948 since figures for 1949 are not yet available.

The correct figures for 1948 are as follows :—

<i>Province.</i>	<i>Enrolment.</i>	<i>Grants-in-Aid.</i>
		£
Abeokuta ... ..	30,197	33,384
Benin ... ..	61,683	52,019
Ijebu ... ..	32,268	43,038
Ondo ... ..	61,150	59,591
Oyo ... ..	66,408	83,452
Warri ... ..	40,702	38,936

2. Grants are not allocated on a Provincial basis but are paid according to the number of schools which qualify for assistance under the grants-in-aid regulations.

(b) The system of grants-in-aid has been reviewed and the number of Primary Schools receiving assistance in 1949 is as follows :—

	<i>N.A. and Community.</i>	<i>Voluntary Agency.</i>
Abeokuta ... ..	17	195
Benin ... ..	20	443
Ijebu ... ..	7	213
Ondo ... ..	4	379
Oyo ... ..	23	403
Warri ... ..	48	286

**The Second Member for the Warri Province (Mr W. E. Mowarin) :**

54. To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture :—

(a) What are the reasons for closing down of the Agricultural Offices in Warri Province?



(b) Is Government aware of the seriousness of this action; and that it is viewed by the people as a grave disappointment?

(c) When will the offices be re-opened and the staff posted to duty?

(d) If not, why not?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture :**

(a) Shortage of Senior Service Staff.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) When sufficient Senior Staff, including reliefs, are available. The African Agricultural Superintendent at Benin is at present responsible for agricultural work in Warri Province.

(d) Does not arise.

**The Second Member for the Warri Province (Mr W. E. Mowarin) :**

55. To ask the Deputy Director of Medical Services:—

(a) Would Government kindly consider the advisability of having a "floating dispensary" on the Niger and Benin Rivers for the use of those villages on the banks of these Rivers?

(b) Is Government aware that outbreaks of smallpox are rampant in these areas; and that most cases of smallpox in Warri and Sapele urban districts trace their origin from the villages along these rivers?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Medical Services :**

(a) Yes, Sir. An attempt is already being made to organise "floating dispensaries" in specially fitted canoes to enable medical treatment to be made available to the population between the Forcados and Benin Rivers. In addition, one motor barge fitted as a floating ambulance and dispensary is already provided for in Development Advance Proposals for 1950-51 and a motor launch is to be based on Forcados, for the use of the Medical Officers, Warri, Sapele and Forcados. This will facilitate a more regular and adequate medical supervision of these areas.

(b) No, Sir; but two sporadic outbreaks of smallpox occurred in the Benin River area during May and July this year. There were forty-eight cases with fifteen deaths. A mass vaccination campaign and other anti-variola measures which are still in progress in the Warri Province have brought the outbreaks under control.

**The Second Member for the Warri Province (Mr W. E. Mowarin) :**

57. To ask the Deputy Director of Medical Services:—

(a) In view of the growing importance and population of Burutu and of the declining position of Forcados would the removal of the hospital from Forcados to Burutu be considered?

(b) If not, why not?

(c) What is the population of Burutu and Forcados respectively?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Medical Services :**

(a) No, Sir,



(b) The hospital was originally established at Forcados for the benefit of the considerable number of Government officials and employees stationed there. The Marine Department, which has always been numerically the largest Department in Forcados, still remains there and while that is the case Government does not contemplate moving the hospital. Patients from Burutu are within easy reach of Forcados.

(c) Burutu: 6,228.

Forcados: 2,016.

**The Second Member for the Warri Province (Mr W. E. Mowarin):**

58. To ask the Deputy Director of Medical Services:—

(a) When will an Assistant Medical Officer be posted to Warri?

(b) What is the average number of people calling daily to see the Doctor at Warri?

(c) Is it a fact that any worker in Warri whose wife has reason to go to the hospital must forgo his mid-day meal because of the congestion at the hospital and is it a fact that patients are known to wait till 4 p.m.?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Medical Services:**

(a) An Assistant Medical Officer will be posted to Warri as soon as the staff situation permits.

(b) 133, of whom fifty-two are new cases.

(c) No, Sir.

**The Second Member for the Warri Province (Mr W. E. Mowarin):**

59. To ask the Deputy Director of Public Works:—

(a) What is the reason for dropping the one time approved construction of new Police Quarters in Warri?

(b) If none, when will they be built?

*Answer—*

**The Acting Deputy Director of Public Works:**

(a) The proposal has not been dropped and is shown in Appendix I of the Regional Estimates 1949-50. It has not yet been possible to release funds for this work but a sum for this purpose has been included in the Agenda to be considered by the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance.

(b) To ensure that the work goes forward next year also, provision has been made in the draft Estimates for 1950-51 for consideration by the House of Assembly at the forthcoming budget session.

**The Second Member for the Warri Province (Mr W. E. Mowarin):**

60. To ask the Secretary, Western Provinces:—

When will the telegraph line to Obetim be laid?

*Answer—*

**The Acting Secretary, Western Provinces:**

This line is high on the priority list of the Western Provinces. Owing, however, to the difficulty in recruiting qualified Posts and



Telegraphs technical staff and the continued shortage of telephone and telegraph supplies, it is not possible to say when this project will be completed.

**The Second Member for the Warri Province (Mr W. E. Mowarin):**

61. To ask the Deputy Director of Public Works:—

(a) Is Government aware that water pipes laid in Warri about two years ago for purpose of water supply are becoming rotten and that not a drop of water has yet come from them?

(b) Is Government also aware that materials ordered through firms in Nigeria for construction of any kind arrive earlier than those ordered through the Crown Agents?

(c) If so, why is this advantage ignored in spite of so many painful hold-ups of schemes now being experienced in the country's development programme?

*Answer—*

**The Acting Deputy Director of Public Works:**

(a) The asbestos-cement pipes are reported to be in good condition with an estimated life of about sixty years. The 120,000 gallons service reservoir is nearing completion and bore hole pumps are being installed. It is expected that a limited water supply will be available shortly, pending the installation of booster pumps to complete the full scheme.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Materials are ordered through the Crown Agents in the interest of economy and to take advantage of the engineering inspection department. The cost of materials supplied by firms locally is considerably above the contract prices obtained by the Crown Agents. The Engineering Department of the Crown Agents for a nominal fee advises Government on the suitability of certain plant and inspects all machinery to see if it is up to specification. As regards the usual building materials the post-war shortage has been made good and there are ample stocks in Government stores. Provincial Engineers have limited authority to purchase locally when certain materials cannot be supplied from Government Stores. There is still a large demand for heavy plant and machinery in the United Kingdom and delays in completing indents are experienced.

**The Fifth Nominated Member (Mr E. A. Sanda):**

62. To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture:—

(a) What is the basis of selection of candidates for the Trinidad course?

(b) What is responsible for the many failures of our boys sent to Trinidad for this course?

(c) Is it a fact that the Agricultural Department attaches no significance to successes in the courses taken at Trinidad?

(d) Is it a fact that while some people who were successful in their courses at Trinidad have not been promoted, others who failed have been promoted?

(e) If so, does the Department of Agriculture not think that this is likely to encourage future entrants not to struggle for a pass?



*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture:**

(a) Candidates are selected entirely on an estimate of their capacity to benefit from training at the College.

(b) Inability to pass the prescribed examinations.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

**The Fifth Nominated Member (Mr E. A. Sanda):**

63. To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture:—

What promotions have been given to each of

(a) successful Nigerian candidates since their return from Trinidad and

(b) the failures who have gone through the course and returned?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture:**

(a) One to post of Produce Officer.

Three to post of Agricultural Superintendent.

Three to post of Assistant Agricultural Officer, Grade I.

(b) Four to post of Assistant Agricultural Officer, Grade I.

One has not been promoted and one has resigned.

**The Fifth Nominated Member (Mr E. A. Sanda):**

64. To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture:—

How many products of the Agricultural College, Ibadan, who are also products of the Agricultural College, Trinidad, have been made Agricultural Officers and what proportion is the figure?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture:**

None, Sir.

**The Fifth Nominated Member (Mr E. A. Sanda):**

65. To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture:—

(a) How many Senior Agricultural Officers and Agricultural Officers in Nigeria today have passed through the Agricultural College in Trinidad?

(b) What proportion of the Senior Agricultural Officers and Agricultural Officers in this number?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture:**

It is assumed that the Member requires information covering all posts for which post graduate training at Trinidad is a normal requirement. If this assumption is correct the answer is:

(a) Twenty-five.

(b) Sixty-four per cent.



**The Fifth Nominated Member (Mr E. A. Sanda):**

67. To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture:—

Is it a fact that the Nigerian Department of Agriculture is a much larger Department than the Gold Coast Department of Agriculture?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture:**

Insufficient information regarding the Gold Coast Department of Agriculture is immediately available to enable a useful comparison to be made. If the member wishes to press for comparative figures, an endeavour will be made to obtain them.

**The Fifth Nominated Member (Mr E. A. Sanda):**

68. To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture:—

Is the Nigerian Department of Agriculture aware of the many promotions of Africans by the Gold Coast Government to the Senior Service of the Agricultural Department as published in the Gold Coast Agricultural Bulletin?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture:**

Yes, Sir.

**The Fifth Nominated Member (Mr E. A. Sanda):**

69. To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture:—

Is the Department in a position to tell this House—

(a) How many Agricultural Officers there are in Nigeria and how many of these are Nigerians?

(b) How many Agricultural Officers there are in the Gold Coast Government and how many of them are Gold Coastians?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture:**

(a) Thirty-one, of whom none are Nigerians.

(b) The information is not available.

**The Fifth Nominated Member (Mr E. A. Sanda):**

70. To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture:—

What steps is the Nigerian Department of Agriculture taking to effect the Nigerianisation of the Department?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture:**

The steps recommended by the Nigerianisation Commission. The member's attention is drawn to recent gazette notices announcing the award of scholarships to members of the Agricultural Department both to Universities in the United Kingdom and to Ibadan University College. Fourteen such scholarships have been awarded, designed to train the recipients for Senior Service posts. In addition five other officers have been promoted or recommended for promotion to the Senior Service.



**The Fifth Nominated Member (Mr E. A. Sanda):**

71. To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture:—

(a) How many Nigerians have been offered Scholarships to do degree courses in Agriculture in the United Kingdom? If none, why?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture:**

(a) Three Nigerians have been offered Government Scholarships to undertake Degree Courses in Agriculture in the United Kingdom.

**The Fifth Nominated Member (Mr E. A. Sanda):**

72. To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture:—

(a) How many Nigerians have been offered Scholarships to study other subjects in United Kingdom that will qualify them for the Senior Service in the Agricultural Department?

(b) What courses are these men pursuing and what posts are they likely to fill on their return?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture:**

(a) Seven. (Apart from the Scholarships referred to in the answer to question 71).

(b) (1) Three are studying for an Honours Degree in Botany.

(2) Two are studying for B.Sc. degree in Botany.

(3) Two are studying for a degree in Economics.

The posts to which these men may be appointed can only be determined on the completion of the courses on which they are now engaged.

**The Fifth Nominated Member (Mr E. A. Sanda):**

74. To ask the Secretary, Western Provinces:—

To enumerate the Political Divisions and give their latest estimated populations in Oyo, Ondo, Benin, Abeokuta, Ijebu and Warri Provinces?

*Answer—*

**The Acting Secretary, Western Provinces:**

<i>Province</i>	<i>Division</i>	<i>Population</i>
Oyo	Ibadan	993,000
	Ife-Ilesha	154,000
	Oyo	271,000
Ondo	Ekiti	215,000
	Okitipupa	95,000
	Ondo	110,000
Benin	Owo	161,000
	Benin	270,000
	Ishan	130,000
	Asaba	135,000
	Kukuruku	160,000



Province	Division	Population
Abeokuta	Egba	272,000
	Egbado	166,000
Ijebu	Ijebu	313,000
Warri	Aboh	160,000
	Itsekiri	77,000
	Urhobo	243,000
	Western Ijaw	53,000

Population figures are based on the 1948 Provincial Annual Reports.

**The Fifth Nominated Member (Mr E. A. Sanda):**

75. To ask the Deputy Director of Public Works:—

(a) Whether the Government is satisfied with the slow progress of the Lagos-Ijebu-Ibadan Road?

(b) How many miles have been completed and how many more remain to be constructed?

(c) What total amount has been expended up to date on this road construction?

(d) Whether Government can say at this stage when the whole work is likely to be completed?

(e) What will be the total length of the road from Lagos-Ibadan when completed?

*Answer—*

**The Acting Deputy Director of Public Works:**

(a) No, Sir. Staff and plant shortages beyond control have retarded progress on the heavy construction between Yaba and Ikorodu.

(b) (i) Colony: Seven miles new road completed, work on remaining eight miles in hand.

(ii) Western Provinces: Nineteen miles of new road completed, fifteen miles of existing road improved. All open to traffic.

(c) Expenditure to end of August was:—

	£
Colony ... ..	77,960
Western ... ..	48,310
Total ... ..	<u>£126,270</u>

(d) The road should be completed in the year 1951-52, including bituminous surfacing.

(e) Ninety miles.

**The Fifth Nominated Member (Mr E. A. Sanda):**

76. To ask the Secretary, Western Provinces:—

In view of the fact that the 1948 Ordinance has precluded Chieftaincy Disputes from the Magistrate's and the Supreme Courts,



what steps has Government taken, so far, to set up machinery or machineries in the Western Provinces for the final settlement of all Chieftaincy Disputes according to Native Laws and Customs?

*Answer—*

**The Acting Secretary, Western Provinces :**

Details of the machinery necessary for settling Chieftaincy Disputes are being worked out by each Resident in consultation with the Native Authorities of his Province.

**The First Member for the Benin Province (Chief H. O. Osagie, the Aighobahi of Benin):**

79. To ask the Secretary, Western Provinces:—

It is understood that a Superintendent of Police was proposed for Benin Province, if so how soon will the posting be made?

*Answer—*

**The Acting Secretary, Western Provinces :**

Supplementary provision has already been approved in the current year for the post of Senior Superintendent, Benin Province. A substantive appointment will be made as soon as the staff position allows.

**The First Member for the Benin Province (Chief H. O. Osagie, the Aighobahi of Benin):**

80. To ask the Deputy Director of Medical Services:—

It is understood that a Senior Medical Officer is proposed for Benin to take medical charge of the Benin, Warri and Ondo Provinces. If so, when will the posting be effected?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Medical Services :**

Yes, Sir, during the course of the next financial year provided the staff position permits.

**The First Member for the Benin Province (Chief H. O. Osagie, the Aighobahi of Benin):**

81. To ask the Deputy Director of Medical Services:—

Owing to high incidence of outbreak of epidemic diseases in the Benin, Warri and Ondo Provinces, does Government not consider it essentially necessary to post a Medical Officer of Health to Benin in order to control infectious diseases in the Provinces mentioned?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Medical Services :**

No, Sir. Staff position does not permit of the posting of a full-time Medical Officer of Health to Benin at present.

The epidemic of smallpox which is the only epidemic reported, has now been controlled by the Medical Officers and Sanitary Superintendents of these provinces.



## MOTIONS

**The Acting Secretary, Western Provinces :**

Your Honour, I understand that the First Nominated Member wished to propose a Motion but due notice has not been given, and I wish to move that Standing Rules be suspended to allow this motion to be put.

**His Honour :**

Those in favour say " Aye ", those to the contrary " No ". The " Ayes " have it.

**The First Nominated Member (The Venerable Archdeacon L. A. Lennon, O.B.E.):**

Your Honour, I rise to move that this House record its pleasure at being afforded the opportunity of holding a meeting in Benin City and its deep appreciation of the royal welcome given by the Oba and local community.

**The First Member for the Abeokuta Province (The Hon. A. Soetan, the Aro of Kemta) :**

Your Honour, I rise to second the motion, and in doing so I add a few observations to what has been said by the mover. Today marks a new milestone in the history of Benin and there is no doubt that the Oba and the people of Benin are not insensible to the honour conferred upon them. They already signified their approval and appreciation by the great welcome accorded to the delegates exemplified by the Oba's invitation of some of the delegates to the Egwa, which we call the Afin in our country, and by the sumptuous repast served. We do appreciate the gesture of the Benin people and we are grateful to them. We also appreciate the opportunity of meeting here, this being the first time the Western House of Assembly has gone beyond the headquarters of the Western Provinces in Ibadan to hold its meeting.

I second the motion.

**The Fourth Nominated Member (The Hon. G. I. Obaseki) :**

Your Honour, I wish to convey to Your Honour an expression of the deepest appreciation and thanks of my constituency and myself for Your Honour's consideration in holding the present meeting of the Western House of Assembly in Benin. It is, of course, not very difficult to guess that the departure from the usual meeting at Ibadan is due, in the main, to Your Honour's desire to assure us, the peoples of the Benin and Warri Provinces that unlike what I may call their earnest desire (or perhaps agitation) for a separate Region from the West arising from an increasing sense of frustration at the neglect of their two Provinces our interests and welfare have not been overlooked, as is generally believed, and the Government is as thoughtful about us as we are ourselves.



To the other Official Members and my Unofficial colleagues of this House I wish to tender on behalf of the people of Benin our most hearty welcome to this ancient City of Benin, and I wish for each and every one of you a very pleasant time among us.

I do not, Your Honour, propose to make a long speech this time, but with your permission I propose to draw attention to an old complaint which I have made to this House on more than one occasion. I refer to our roads. I do not propose to go over the same grounds again at the risk of repeating myself, but I would say this much, that sufficient evidence has not been forthcoming to show that the pleas which I have made to this House have received the urgent attention they deserve. However, it is very gratifying that the meeting of the Western Regional House should be held in Benin and I am sure that all of you who travelled by road here are now left in no doubt as to the awful state of disrepair of the Ibadan-Ilesha-Benin main road beginning from Ilesha to this City, and also of the Benin-Sapele-Warri road.

In conclusion, Your Honour, I would like to say that my people and myself do hope that this will not be the last meeting of the Western House of Assembly in this area and that the result of this, your first visit for the discussion of the internal affairs of the Western Region, would leave behind practical proofs of your good intentions towards us, and that the honour of dismissing the idea that this is a "forgotten area" may belong to the present meeting.

**The First Member for the Benin Province (Chief H. O. Osagie, the Aighobahi of Benin):**

Your Honour, I would like to say, Sir, a few words in associating myself with the mover of this motion and with the Honourable G. Obaseki.

When Your Honour intimated six months or more ago that a meeting of the Western House of Assembly would be held in Benin, it gave us a great deal of gratification, but, as it happened, most people were not quite sure whether such a promise would be implemented. Well, we find that our fears have been allayed. Another page in the history of Benin is being made, as has been said by Your Honour, by the holding of this meeting here in Benin today. On more than one occasion I have told this House that Benin has been neglected, but I will not dwell on that now. What I want to say, Your Honour, is that the people of Benin do appreciate this gesture, and Your Honour's intention and that of the Members in coming here. We thank Your Honour and the Members of the House.

**His Honour:**

The question is in the terms of the Motion. Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.



**The Acting Secretary (Finance), Western Provinces:**

Your Honour, I rise to move that the House adopt the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance for the period December, 1948 to September, 1949.

**The Acting Secretary, Western Provinces:**

I rise to second.

**His Honour:**

The question is in the terms of the Motion. Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

**The Acting Secretary (Development), Western Provinces:**

Your Honour, I rise to move the resolution standing in my name that the House do ratify the appointment of members of the Shadow Oil Palm Produce Representative Committee. The object of this resolution can be stated in very few words. At its last meeting in December, 1948, this House appointed a Shadow Committee—shadow, because the ordinance under which it is set up had not at that time been made law. It came into force in April of this year and I now ask the House, so to speak, to convert the shadow into the substance. I must add, Sir, that I have consulted the Unofficial Members of this House and I have received no intimation that any change in membership is required as between shadow and the substantive committee. The present members are:

Mr G. A. Akinfenwa of Ibadan.

Chief George Adetula, the Sashere of Owo.

Mr Reece Edukugho of Warri.

**The First Member for the Oyo Province (Chief I. B. Akinyele, O.B.E., the Osi Balogun of Ibadan):**

I rise to second.

**His Honour:**

Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

**The Acting Secretary (Development), Western Provinces:**

Your Honour, I rise to move a resolution standing in my name that the House do ratify the appointment of members of the Western Regional Production Development Board. This motion, Sir, is on all fours with the last one and I need not repeat the reasons. The members in question are:

The Honourable A. Soetan, the Aro of Kemta.

The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.

Mr J. B. Arifalo.

The Honourable Akinpelu Obisesan, O.B.E.

Mr E. A. Sanda.

Chief Jessa Ogboru.

Your Honour, I beg to move.



The First Member for the Oyo Province (Chief I. B. Akinyele, O.B.E., the Osi Balogun of Ibadan):

I rise to second.

His Honour:

Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

The Acting Secretary (Development), Western Provinces:

Your Honour, I must explain that the motions (d) (e) on the Order Paper should not be there. (f) should be (d) and should be in the same form as (b) and (c).

His Honour:

I think we should put it to the House that motions (d) and (e) be deleted from the Order of the Day. Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

The Acting Secretary (Development), Western Provinces:

Your Honour, I rise to move the resolution standing in my name that the House do ratify the appointment of the members of the Cotton Representative Committee. This motion is similar to the other motions.

The members are:

Mr J. F. F. Elegbede of Meko.  
Chief Obanla of Ijero.  
Mr J. O. Akinade of Oyo.  
Chief Elabor, the Onogie of Ubiaja.

Your Honour, I beg to move.

The First Member for the Oyo Province (Chief I. B. Akinyele, O.B.E., the Osi Balogun of Ibadan):

I rise to second.

His Honour:

Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

### BILLS

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PROVISION AS TO THE APPLICATION AND MODIFICATION OF WRITTEN LAWS IN RELATION TO MANDATES OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND THE TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Senior Crown Counsel:

Your Honour, I rise to move a resolution that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that this Bill is acceptable to the House.

The necessity for this Bill arises from the fact of the termination of the League of Nations and the creation of Trust territories



under the United Nations Charter. It becomes necessary, therefore, that the territory which is now known in our laws as the Cameroons under British mandate should cease to be so known and should be known in future as the Cameroons under the United Kingdom Trusteeship. It becomes necessary, therefore, to make necessary provision to achieve that object in our Interpretation Ordinance which is the definition ordinance. That is one object of this Bill.

The other object:—Clause 4 is consequential and proposes a certain amendment in respect of the expression "territory under British Mandate" which appears in certain ordinances, notably the European Officers' Pensions Ordinance (Chapter 26) and the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Ordinance (Chapter 28). The effect of clause 4 is to provide that such references shall

- (a) continue to apply to mandated territories which have not become Trust Territories, and
- (b) that this reference shall apply to mandated territories which have now become Trust Territories under the United Kingdom Trusteeship.

Your Honour, I beg to move.

**The Senior Resident, Oyo Province :**

Your Honour, I rise to second.

**His Honour :**

The question is "That this House do advise His Excellency that this Bill is acceptable in principle to this House." Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

**His Honour :**

The House will now resolve itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

*House in Committee.*

*Clauses 1-4.*

*Title.*

*Enactment.*

*House resumed.*

**The Senior Crown Counsel :**

Your Honour, I beg to report the Bill from Committee without amendment.

**His Honour :**

The question is "That this House do advise His Excellency that this Bill is acceptable to this House." Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.



A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE NIGERIA COCOA  
MARKETING BOARD ORDINANCE, 1947

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture :**

Your Honour, I rise to move a resolution that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Bill for an Ordinance further to amend the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board Ordinance, 1947, is acceptable to this House.

The objects of this amending Bill are :—

- (a) To limit the exemption from the Income Tax Ordinance, 1943, which the Board enjoys to the provisions of sections 26 and 43 of that Ordinance.
- (b) To enable the Cocoa Marketing Board to make and the Government to receive loans: The actual terms of each such loan will be a matter for negotiations between the parties, but an agreement will be of no effect until the terms have been approved by resolution of the Legislative Council.

Your Honour, I beg to move.

**The Fifth Nominated Member (Mr E. A. Sanda) :**

Your Honour, I rise to second.

**His Honour :**

The question is "That this House do advise His Excellency that this Bill is acceptable in principle to this House." Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

The House will now resolve itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

*House in Committee.*

*Clauses 1-3.*

*Title.*

*Enactment.*

*House resumed.*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture :**

Your Honour, I beg to report the Bill from Committee without amendment.

**His Honour :**

The question is "That this House do advise His Excellency that this Bill is acceptable to this House." Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE EXCISE ORDINANCE, 1941

**The Senior Crown Counsel :**

Your Honour, I rise to move a resolution that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Bill to amend the Excise Ordinance, 1941, is acceptable to the House,



The amendment proposed is purely formal and it is designed to bring section 13 of the Excise Ordinance, 1941, into conformity with the present Constitution of the Legislative Council under the new Constitution.

As Members are aware, the manner of legislating since the new Constitution came into operation is quite different from the old method. Unfortunately this section 13 (2) of the Excise Ordinance still remains in the old form and it is as follows:—

“ It shall be lawful for the Legislative Council from time to time by resolution, in so far as such resolution relates to the Colony and to the Southern Provinces, and the Governor by order, in so far as such order relates to the Northern Provinces, to impose excise duties and to revoke, reduce, increase or alter any such duties and to provide for exemptions therefrom.”

Well, as Members are well aware, that form of legislating is obsolete and antiquated. The object of this Bill is to remove the antiquity.

Your Honour, I beg to move.

**The Acting Secretary (Finance), Western Provinces :**

Your Honour, I rise to second.

**His Honour :**

The question is “ That this House do advise His Excellency that this Bill is acceptable in principle to this House.” Those in favour say “ Aye ”, those to the contrary “ No ”. The “ Ayes ” have it.

The House will now resolve itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

*House in Committee.*

*Clauses 1-2.*

*Title.*

*Enactment.*

*House resumed.*

**The Senior Crown Counsel :**

Your Honour, I beg to report the Bill from Committee without amendment.

**His Honour :**

The question is “ That this House do advise His Excellency that this Bill is acceptable to this House.” Those in favour say “ Aye ”, those to the contrary “ No ”. The “ Ayes ” have it.

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE NATIVE COURTS.  
ORDINANCE, 1948

**The Senior Crown Counsel :**

Your Honour, I beg to move a resolution that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Bill to amend the Native Courts Ordinance, 1948, is acceptable to the House.



**His Honour :**

The question is " That this House do advise His Excellency that this Bill is acceptable in principle to this House." Those in favour say " Aye ", those to the contrary " No ". The " Ayes " have it.

The House will now resolve itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

*House in Committee.*

*Clauses 1-2.*

*Title.*

*Enactment.*

*House resumed.*

**The Senior Crown Counsel :**

Your Honour, I beg to report the Bill from Committee without amendment.

**His Honour :**

The question is " That this House do advise His Excellency that this Bill is acceptable to this House." Those in favour say " Aye ", those to the contrary " No ". The " Ayes " have it.

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO FURTHER AMEND THE NATIVE CHILDREN (CUSTODY AND REFORMATION) ORDINANCE (CAP. 82)

**The Senior Crown Counsel :**

Your Honour, I beg to move a resolution that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that a Bill further to amend the Native Children (Custody and Reformation) Ordinance (Cap. 82) is acceptable to this House.

When, under the present law, a Judge or Magistrate issues a mandate for the detention of a child in a reformatory or such places, the expense of maintaining that child during the period of detention has hitherto been borne from the general revenue of Nigeria. Now the object of this Bill is to empower a Judge or Magistrate who makes an order for the mandate to include in that order a sentence to the effect that the father or step-father of the child, or the mother or step-mother or the guardian, should make some contribution towards the maintenance of the child. Members will observe that there is provision in the Bill that this power would not be exercised except in cases where the Court is satisfied that the need for the mandate arose from the neglect of the father or foster parent of the child. Also, the Bill provides two other safeguards. That is, before the Court makes any order, it will be satisfied by examination conducted by itself that the parent has the means to make the contribution required under the Ordinance and, secondly, no order for contribution will be in excess of £4 per month.

Your Honour, I beg to move.



**The Resident, Ondo Province :**

Your Honour, I rise to second.

**His Honour :**

The House will now resolve itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

*House in Committee.*

*Clauses 1-2.*

*Title.*

*Enactment.*

*House resumed.*

**The Senior Crown Counsel :**

Your Honour, I beg to report the Bill from Committee without amendment.

**His Honour :**

The question is " That this House do advise His Excellency that this Bill is acceptable to this House." Those in favour say " Aye ", those to the contrary " No ". The " Ayes " have it.

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE STATUS AND THE FUNCTIONS, INCLUDING THE POWERS AND DUTIES, WITHIN NIGERIA OF THE WEST AFRICAN COCOA RESEARCH INSTITUTE MANAGING COMMITTEE WHICH WERE ESTABLISHED IN THE GOLD COAST BY THE WEST AFRICAN COCOA RESEARCH INSTITUTE ORDINANCE, 1947, OF THE GOLD COAST, AND FOR THE PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture :**

Your Honour, I rise to move a resolution that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that a Bill for an Ordinance to provide for the status and the functions including the powers and duties within Nigeria of the West African Cocoa Research Institute and the West African Cocoa Research Institute Managing Committee which were established in the Gold Coast by the West African Cocoa Research Institute Ordinance, 1947 of the Gold Coast, and for the purposes connected therewith is acceptable to this House.

The objects and reasons of this Bill are :—

The West African Cocoa Research Institute whose research work and advice is of great benefit to the Nigerian Cocoa industry, was established by the Gold Coast Ordinance No. 1 of 1947. Nigeria is represented by four members on the Managing Committee thereof. It is thought essential that the Institute and Managing Committee should be given the status and some of the functions in Nigeria that they have in the Gold Coast, and that is the object of this Bill.

Your Honour, I beg to move.



The Second Member for the Ondo Province (Mr P. A. Oladapo):

Your Honour, I rise to second.

**His Honour:**

The question is "That this House do advise His Excellency that this Bill is acceptable in principle to this House." Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

The House will now resolve itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

*House in Committee.*

*Clauses 1-4.*

*Title.*

*Preamble.*

*Enactment.*

*House resumed.*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture:**

Your Honour, I beg to report the Bill from Committee without amendment.

**His Honour:**

The question is "That this House do advise His Excellency that this Bill is acceptable to this House." Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

**His Honour:**

And that, Gentlemen, brings us to the end of the business of this meeting of the House. The House will now adjourn *sine die*.

*The House adjourned at 11.55 a.m. sine die.*