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NIGERIA

# Western House of Assembly Debates

*14th, 15th, 16th and 18th December, 1948*

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# Debates in the Western House of Assembly

Tuesday, 14th December, 1948

Pursuant to notice the Members of the Western House of Assembly met in Mapo Hall, Ibadan, at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, the 14th of December, 1948.

## PRESENT

### OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,  
His Honour T. C. Hoskyns-Abrahall, C.M.G.
- The Resident, Abeokuta Province,  
Mr J. H. Blair, E.D.
- The Secretary, Western Provinces,  
Mr P. V. Main.
- The Resident, Benin Province,  
Mr R. J. M. Curwen.
- The Acting Resident, Warri Province,  
Mr R. L. V. Wilkes.
- The Acting Resident, Ondo Province,  
Mr T. B. Bovell-Jones.
- The Acting Resident, Oyo Province,  
Mr A. F. Abell.
- The Acting Secretary (Finance), Western Provinces,  
Mr W. R. Hatch.
- The Acting Resident, Ijebu Province,  
Mr O. V. Lee, E.D.
- The Deputy Director of Medical Services,  
Dr S. L. A. Manuwa, O.B.E.
- The Deputy Director of Education,  
Mr S. Milburn.
- The Acting Deputy Director of Agriculture,  
Mr A. V. Gibberd.
- The Acting Deputy Director of Public Works,  
Mr C. E. Andreae.
- The Senior Crown Counsel,  
Mr R. A. Doherty.

### UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Honourable the Oba Aderemi, C.M.G.,  
The Oni of Ife.
- 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 Member for the Benin Province,  
Chief H. O. Osagie, the *Aighobahi* of Benin.  
The Member for the Warri Province,  
Chief *Jessa Ogboru*.  
The Member for the Ondo Province,  
Mr J. B. Arifalo.  
The Member for the Ijebu Province,  
Chief A. O. Okupe, the *Alaperu* of *Iperu*.  
The Member for the Abeokuta Province,  
Chief A. Soetan, the *Aro* of *Kemta*.  
The Second Nominated Member,  
The Honourable *Akinpelu Obisesan*, O.B.E.  
The Third Nominated Member,  
The Honourable *T. A. Odutola*, O.B.E.  
The Fourth Nominated Member,  
The Honourable *G. I. Obaseki*.  
The Fifth Nominated Member,  
Mr E. A. Sanda.

**ABSENT****UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS**

- The First Nominated Member,  
The Venerable *Archdeacon L. A. Lennon*, 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 29th of July, 1948, having been printed and circulated to members, were taken as read and confirmed.

**OATHS**

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

- Mr A. F. Abell,  
The Acting Resident, Oyo Province.  
Dr S. L. A. Manuwa, O.B.E.,  
The Deputy Director of Medical Services.  
Mr A. V. Gibberd,  
The Acting Deputy Director of Agriculture.  
Mr C. E. Andreae,  
The Acting Deputy Director of Public Works.  
Chief A. Soetan,  
The Member for the Abeokuta Province.  
Chief *Jessa Ogboru*,  
The Member for the Warri Province.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The attention of the Unofficial Members is drawn to the note on their tables concerning the election of a nominated Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council in place of the Reverend Canon *Delumo*, who, as members are aware, has resigned his seat,

## PAPERS LAID

## The Secretary, Western Provinces :

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

- Report of the Standing Committee on Finance.
- Western Regional Estimates 1949-50.
- Memorandum on the Estimates.
- Bill for the Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Ordinance, 1949.
- Bill for the Nigeria Groundnut Marketing Ordinance, 1949.
- Bill for the Nigeria Cotton Marketing Ordinance, 1949.
- Bill for the Employment of Ex-servicemen (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949.
- Bill for the Local Loans (Registered Stock and Securities) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949.
- Bill for the Public Holidays (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949.
- Bill for the Manilla Prohibition Ordinance, 1949.
- Bill for the Royal West African Frontier Force (Nigeria Regiment) Courts-Martial Validation Ordinance, 1949.
- Bill for the Regional Development Boards Ordinance, 1949.
- Bill for the Diplomatic Privileges (Extension) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949.
- Bill for the Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949.
- Bill for the Widows' and Orphans' Pension (Palestine Ex-Officers) Ordinance, 1949.
- Bill for the Waterworks (Amendment) Ordinance, 1948.
- Bill for the Periodicals and Publication Ordinance.
- Development and Welfare Estimates and Memorandum.

The following Ordinances and subsidiary legislation applicable to the Western Region enacted or made since the last meeting of the House :—

- Ordinances Nos. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 and 39 of 1948.
- Orders in Council Nos. 27, 29, 30 and 32 of 1948.
- Orders Nos. 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 of 1948.
- Regulations Nos. 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 of 1948.
- Resolution and Order No. 2 of 1948.
- Rules of Court No. 4 of 1948.
- Public Notices Nos. 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 125, 127, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 137, 138, 139, 140, 142, 143, 144, 145, 147, 151, 153, 154, 162, 164, 165, 169, 171, 172, 173, 176, 177, 178, 179, 181, 182, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 194, 195, 197 and 198 of 1948.

## His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

## MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

When I addressed you at our Budget Session of a year ago the new Constitution was in its very early stages. We have now behind us a year of experience in its working, can appreciate its virtues and record constructive criticism based on actual knowledge. No one,

least of all its authors, have ever suggested that the Constitution spelled perfection; that can only come with experience of its working. The time has now come when we must start to clarify our ideas and we must look to members of this House, to the Native Authorities, and to informed members of the public to suggest how best can be rectified such defects as experience has revealed. You will remember that His Excellency, in his address in August last, announced that a select committee of Legislative Council would be set up after next Budget Session with a view to revision of the Constitution in 1950. Time moves fast, and it is therefore important to give early consideration in this region to possible changes.

By the provisions of Section 53 of the Order in Council, 1946, all bills, with the exception of appropriation and supplementary appropriation bills shall, subject to certain provisos, be laid on the table of the Regional Houses before introduction into Legislative Council. These provisions have come into operation since August of this year; previous to that date action was at His Excellency's discretion.

At our last meeting I discussed with you the desirability of informal departmental sub-committees of this House and stated in general terms what might be their useful functions. The committees have now been set up. It is too early as yet to report to you on their working, but I hope that some of the members may find place for reference to them in their addresses to this House. I look on this development as of the greatest importance and trust that all concerned will work together to ensure its enduring success.

Provincial Committees of Native Authority Representatives the short title of which might be simply Provincial Committees, are proving of great value in some provinces and I look for suggestions as to how they may be strengthened and improved. In other areas there are practical difficulties still to be overcome, but I do not believe that these are insoluble.

Development of local government through Native Authorities is discussed in some detail in the printed address, and I will do no more here than remind members once more of the principles on which our policy is based:—

- (1) A wider representation on Native Authority Councils and Committees.
- (2) Greater responsibilities.
- (3) Improved efficiency of the executive.
- (4) Federation of smaller Native Authorities into larger and stronger units.
- (5) Political education of the people, particularly in the more backward and rural areas, and this of course is closely related to my first point—wider representation.

Members will share with me a great interest in the work of the Select Committee of the Eastern House of Assembly set up to enquire into local government in that region and to make recommendations

Although conditions in the Eastern Provinces differ widely in certain respects from those which obtain generally in this region, there are of course many points of similarity, especially in the areas adjacent to the Niger. I feel sure that we shall find much of value to us in the report, and that members of the House will carefully study it in due course, and from that study will come suggestions applicable to this region or to parts of it. I do not, however, think it desirable to recommend that an entirely similar committee be set up in this area. I believe that we are working along the right lines and that if we keep constantly in mind the five points I have just now mentioned, and insist on pursuing the policy which they represent, there will be no call for radical change. The path of progress is surely best built on existing foundations where those foundations are sound. I believe—and have said so before—that in the Western Region we are in fact building on solid foundations and that in spite of the war very real strides have been made in the last ten years. At the same time I am fully aware that there is much room for improvement and no room at all for complacency. We must not build too slowly or we shall be left behind; nor too fast or our structure will prove jerry-built and down it will fall.

I consider that the time has now come for advanced Nigerian opinion to be more closely associated with the formulation of policy on local government. For this purpose I intend to set up an informal standing committee to consider and recommend proposals of general policy for the good conduct and advancement of local government in the Western Provinces. The committee may perhaps consist of four members of this House, elected by the unofficial members, and I have it in mind to nominate two additional members from outside this House to give adequate representation to modern thought. The chairman might be appointed by the committee itself from the elected members. Opportunity will be given for members to discuss the proposal during the course of this meeting. If the committee is the success I hope and expect it to be, it will enable local government policy to be kept constantly under review in the light of public opinion.

I feel it my duty to make some reference to the affairs of Egband. The events which led to the Alake's decision to leave Abeokuta are well known and I do not propose to refer to them here, nor to what has happened since his departure. There are many distinguished sons of Egband serving their country in different parts of Nigeria many of them in positions of great trust and responsibility. One cannot but feel that had these men taken a closer and more active interest in the affairs of their home-land, they might have saved the situation. Be that as it may, I sincerely hope that all Egbas will in future work together to re-establish their ancient city so that it may have reason to pride itself on its united and progressive administration. It has been suggested by several factions that Government should have intervened more vigorously or more ruthlessly on the one side or on the other: that a strong pronounce-

ment should have been made. I do not agree. People, and their leaders, must to an increasing extent work out their own salvation and be masters of their fate; it is for them to decide the form of government which suits them, otherwise how can they hope ever to achieve a satisfactory form of self-government. For Government to force an issue of this kind would be a grave mistake and a mockery of our clear stated policy. Let us hope that the troubles through which Egbaland is passing have taught her many valuable lessons and that from them she will reap full benefit.

At the last meeting of Legislative Council a good deal of criticism was levelled at Native Courts in general—and a promise was made by Government to institute enquiry into the whole system of the working of these Courts. Native Authorities and members of the House have already been asked to give this matter careful consideration, so as to be in a position to offer sound and constructive advice when the time comes. I myself during the last few months have attended, purely as an observer, quite a number of Courts, both of first instance and of appeal, and shall therefore be particularly interested to know whether criticism, favourable or unfavourable, coincides with my own view. To my mind the essential question, which applies to the Courts as much as to the administration, is simply this—are the people generally satisfied with the justice meted out to them?

Members will remember the statement which I made at our last meeting in regard to the setting up of new Produce Marketing Boards. That was followed by a more detailed statement issued by Government on the future Marketing of Nigerian Oils, Oilseeds and Cotton. It was laid on the table of Legislative Council in August, was accepted in principle and has been widely distributed since as Sessional Paper No. 18. A year ago I spoke about the world shortage of vegetable oils and the importance of increased production. That shortage is reflected in the high prices these commodities command in the world market. But these high prices themselves invite competition, which in time is likely to become acute, and in anticipation of which we must arm ourselves. Our weapons are increased production and improved methods of production; the money is there and the Boards will give us the organisation. We must be up and doing. A word of warning is however necessary. I appeal through Members of the House to farmers not to allow high prices of export produce to blind them to the need of raising crops for home consumption and of improving their methods of doing so. In some agricultural areas I have noticed a dangerous tendency to depend more and more on foodstuffs imported from a distance at a high price. Such places as I have in mind should insist on producing at least sufficient for their own consumption.

In a part of the cocoa growing area where swollen shoot disease has made its sinister appearance, there has been—as you are well aware—serious opposition to cutting out the diseased trees. I believe and trust that wise counsels are now prevailing and that it

is now universally accepted that there is no known cure for the disease and that cutting out is the only possible safeguard against ruin and devastation. Delay is disastrous as those who have visited the Gold Coast know full well, for they have a tragic tale to tell. We all of us sympathise deeply with those who are losing their trees when prices are at their highest. I felt the same when I saw in England a large field of potatoes dug up and the whole crop burnt owing to the discovery in it of the Colorado beetle: so too must one feel when a herd of cattle is attacked by rinderpest and all have to be destroyed. Pestilence of this kind occurs, and I fear will continue to occur; it is the manifest duty of Government and the people to do all in their power to confine it and stop it from spreading.

Members will remember that section 35F of the Native Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, 1948, was inserted at the instance of this House. Under this section the Governor may authorise any Native Authority to manage its own finances. As a first step towards the grant of financial autonomy, authority has now been sought for a large number of Native Authorities to make limited departures from their estimates without reference to higher authority. The responsibility with which Native Authorities use these powers will be a guide as to their fitness to shoulder further responsibilities in the future.

The Chieftaincy Disputes (Preclusion of Courts) Ordinance was passed at the last meeting of Legislative Council and came into effect on 6th of September. It is hoped that the machinery for dealing with these disputes will soon come into being. It must be speedy, efficient and acceptable to the people and, therefore, requires the most careful consideration not only by the Native Authorities themselves and Members of this House, but also by many others who have the public interest at heart and are in touch with the people. As you are aware responsible opinion in every province is being fully consulted.

Some of our members have recently returned from England, where they have attended the African Conference in London, and have enjoyed many an interesting experience which will be of great value to them now that they are back again. The people of England too, I am sure, will have benefitted by those personal contacts which help so much towards mutual understanding and goodwill.

The Budget Session of Legislative Council was held last March at Kaduna, it will be held next March at Ibadan and the following year at Enugu. The reasons for this have been explained and are well known to you. Reasons somewhat similar tempt me to the conclusion that there should on occasion be a change of meeting place and I have under serious consideration the possibility of holding one of our meetings, perhaps even the next one, at Benin. I want to make it abundantly clear to everybody that in the Western Provinces there is no such thing as a most favoured town or province



or tribe. There is not and, in so far as one can commit posterity, there never will be. A meeting of the House at Benin should help to dispel any idea of neglect and should do much to reinforce the solidarity of the Western Region without which it is in danger of being injured by disintegrating influences.

We deeply regret the untimely death of Chief Mukoro Mowoe who worked tirelessly for the benefit of the people of Warri Province. He set a fine example of service to us all. Canon Delumo has resigned and you will wish me to record here our appreciation of his hard work and devotion to duty both in this House and in Legislative Council. And finally, we heartily welcome here our two newly appointed members Chief Jessa Ogboru and Chief Adegunle Soetan, one a previous member of Legislative Council and the other our first unofficial member from the learned profession.

I now turn to the Budget. The draft Western Regional Budget sent out to Members is based on an assumed allocation of £1,920,440. It provided expenditure of £1,853,034 and a surplus of £67,406. The revised allocation made last week provides for certain increases in expenditure and there will be laid before you today an amended statement, showing the revenue allocation as £1,938,200 and expenditure amounting to £1,883,881, which leaves a surplus of £54,319. This figure for the surplus is not the customary 5 per cent of expenditure, but 2.8 per cent due to the fact that the revised revenue allocation does not permit of any larger surplus.

Regarding Nigeria as a whole there is a serious increase in recurrent expenditure without unfortunately compensating increases in revenue. Means must be found in due course to balance the Nigerian Budget, but the difficulties of seeing the shape of next year's finances is intensified because of the need to consider the matter in time for the Regional Budget Sessions. Information received since the Printed Address went to press indicates that the yield from Customs duties in the current year has so far been disappointing.

The ordinary forms of fiscal legislation are changeable by resolution of Legislative Council in order that any necessary action may be taken speedily when the revenue picture is completed at the end of the financial year. For convenience it is desirable that the method of regulating the rate of Companies' Income Tax should be similar to that of other forms of taxation. At present any change must be effected by Ordinance. So an amendment of the Bill to amend the Income Tax Ordinance will be proposed at this meeting to effect this change.

The only significant increases in regional expenditure for next year occur under Education, Police, Medical and Public Works Department heads. I need not go into further detail now.

This is perhaps the last time that we shall trespass on the generosity of the Olubadan and Council and borrow Mapo Hall for our Assembly meeting. I take this opportunity of offering the sincere thanks of this House to the Ibadan Native Authority for all the willing assistance they have rendered us in the past.

We have before us a ceremony which is also an historic occasion. His Excellency the Governor has very kindly consented to lay the foundation stone for the Western Provinces House of Assembly. Under the able direction of our Architect and Engineers it is springing up with commendable speed and we hope that it will be ready to house Legislative Council when it holds the Budget Session here in March next.

I do not think that we have any reason to decry our efforts for the progress of the Western Provinces since we first sat—a new-born Assembly—in Mapo Hall some two years ago. We have grown in knowledge and wisdom and can now fairly claim the right to a dwelling of our own.

May the ceremony of today, carried out by His Excellency in person, fire this House with an enthusiastic determination to work ever for the eradication of evil things and the triumph of good government and progress throughout Nigeria as a whole and the Western Provinces in particular.

**His Honour :**

Before adjourning till tomorrow morning, I would like to know whether it is the wish of the House that we should meet at 9 o'clock as we have met this morning, or at 10 o'clock. We have, of course at this meeting, a great deal of work to get through and a great deal of work for the Committee of the Unofficial Members, and perhaps it would be better on the whole if we met at 9 o'clock, but it may possibly be inconvenient for some Members so I should like to have your views on the matter.

**The Honourable the Oba Aderemi, C.M.G., the Oni of Ife :**

I beg to move that the House meets at 9 o'clock in accordance with the wishes of His Honour.

**His Honour :**

If that is the wish of the House, then we will meet tomorrow at 9 o'clock and the House will now adjourn until that time.

*House adjourned at 9.55 hours until 9 a.m. on Wednesday, the 15th of December, 1948.*

**APPENDIX TO FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS****ADDRESS BY HIS HONOUR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER,  
WESTERN PROVINCES**

GENTLEMEN,

A year has passed since I laid before you my last budget address, a year fraught with events of grave moment both to Nigeria and to the whole world. In the last century Africa was the dark continent. In the first half of this century Africa has been in twilight. She is now emerging into the full sunlight of world attention. Of special significance this year has been the Conference of Legislative Council members in London, which some members of this House were privileged to attend. The economic importance of Nigeria to the world has been emphasised by two missions, one on rice and the second on livestock. From the reports of these missions together with that of the oilseeds mission of last year we may look forward to plans for big developments. To Nigerians the opening of Ibadan University College must have a special significance. For from it in due course will come many of the trained administrators, professional and industrial experts and research workers, who will take a large share in the management of this country in the future.

We have been honoured this year by visits from the Secretary of State Mr Creech Jones and from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary Mr Rees-Williams and we have welcomed the arrival of our new Governor Sir John Macpherson and of our new Chief Secretary Mr Foot. I now turn to events in the Western Provinces.

**Finance**

This Budget Address is the first in which useful comparisons can be made between past performance and future prospects. Members will recall that the financial section of my last address was of necessity confined to looking ahead, for the simple reason that as a Region we had no financial past at which to look back. Now with eight months of a financial year behind us I propose to review the present situation.

We started the year with a total allocation of £1,796,630, which included Colonial Development and Welfare funds, and our estimated expenditure amounted to £1,729,618. We, therefore, had a surplus estimated at approximately £67,000 to cover supplementary and unforeseen expenditure for the current year. Inroads have been made upon that surplus, but savings have also been made, with the result that this Region now has a surplus in the order of £25,000 which is adequate for the remainder of the financial year.

Regional revenue is coming in according to expectations, and we have reason to believe that the general position in regard to current Nigerian revenue is satisfactory. It is still very early in the year to

forecast prospects for next year and Government has experienced the same difficulties in assessing the probabilities of the future as at this time last year. Members are well aware that it is no easy task.

The assumed allocation for this Region for 1949-50 is £1,920,440—an increase of approximately £590,000 over that of the current year. The memorandum on the Draft estimates prepared by the Acting Secretary (Finance) explains this increase in full detail.

The estimates of expenditure provide for a total of £1,853,000 (not including Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes). This somewhat spectacular increase over the current year is mainly accounted for by the decision to regionalise Education Grants-in-aid, which involve a sum of approximately £563,000. Other large increases occur under Public Works and Medical Heads of Expenditure, but these are offset by a decrease under Agriculture. This decrease does not mean a reduction in expenditure but a transfer to Nigerian Estimates of responsibility for the Produce Inspection branch of the Agricultural Department to be included under a new Department of Marketing and Export.

It would not be a complete picture of the public expenditure of this Region if I did not also refer to that of the non-regionalised departments, of the Native Treasuries and Townships, of the Ten Year Development Plan, and of the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board. This House is concerned at present only with the last of these four items.

Members will readily appreciate that if the Regions directly absorb about £8,000,000 of the available £22,000,000, they also benefit from the remaining £14,000,000 in varying degrees, but the complexity of the situation makes it impossible to go into greater detail of the non-regional expenditure, which is controlled by the Legislative Council.

The Native Treasuries and Townships, that is the local government of the Region, are responsible for expenditure in the order of £1,250,000, of which approximately £50,000 is expected to be Grants-in-aid approved by this House, leaving a net total of £1,200,000. The Native Authorities, as a whole, expect to close the current financial year with a surplus of £545,000, or 60 per cent of the ordinary annual revenue. But there are certain Native Authorities which I regret to say are not in this happy position. They will either have to increase their flat rate of direct taxation or improve their assessment of income tax, or do both these things, and also find other sources of revenue, if they are to continue to maintain existing services. I wish to lay emphasis on this need for extending the collection of income tax, more particularly in the cocoa areas. While dealing with the subject of

taxation I would add that the decision to abolish flat rate tax for women in two provinces has, with one regrettable exception, been reached with admirable restraint and sense of responsibility. The loss of revenue has in part been made good by an increase in the flat rate tax for men.

The estimates under the Ten Year Development Plan have not yet reached a sufficiently advanced stage to enable me to give you details of the expenditure which will be incurred in the Region in 1949-50. Owing to the accounting difficulties involved, the practice of putting before this House a statement of the Region's Development and Welfare expenditure has had to be abandoned, but the Development Estimates, when they are presented to the Legislative Council, will show separately the amounts to be spent in each Region.

Finally there are substantial sums provided by the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board for the benefit of the cocoa industry and those engaged in it. Members will have the opportunity of scrutinising and approving the estimates of expenditure to be undertaken by the Agriculture Department in this Region, which is reimbursable by Board. Over a period of five years it is expected to reach a total not less than £540,000.

There is a steady increase in recurrent commitments of expenditure, which inevitably require similar increases of revenue. The House is aware that the raising of revenue is a function of the Nigerian Government. Members will understand that the allocation of revenue which covers the expenditure estimates to be considered at this meeting depend to some extent on approval in Legislative Council of measures for raising the necessary revenue.

### **Abeokuta Province**

*Egba Division.*—The Egba Division has had a troublous year. In the latter part of 1947 there were disturbances arising in part out of a demand by the women to be relieved of the payment of flat-rate tax. This movement gathered strength and culminated in a demand for the Alake's abdication; popular feeling rose so high that in July the Alake left the Egba Division in order to prevent blood-shed and to allow tempers to cool.

The Egba Central Council was appointed to be the interim Native Authority until such time as the Egbas had decided on the eventual form of their administration. Party politics have hampered the council in the responsible conduct of its affairs and its decisions have resulted in financial embarrassment. It has not yet turned its attention to considering the future form which the Egba administration shall take.

In the Otta District of Egba Division, the administration has been carried on by a Board of Management in the absence of an Olotta. The dispute as to the appointment of an Olotta has not yet been settled.

*Ilaro Division.*—In Ilaro Division there are better things to report. The Native Authorities have decided to form one federation of the whole Division with one superior Native Authority Council. Each of the six existing Native Authority Councils will retain its powers as a Native Authority subordinate to the new Egbado Native Authority.

Meanwhile the Native Authorities in Ilaro Division have set up a number of small committees to which they have delegated power to carry out much of the executive work of the administration formerly done on their behalf by the District Officer. These committees have shouldered their new responsibilities creditably, and have made a good start.

### **Benin Province**

*Benin Division.*—The Benin Division has had a somewhat unsettled year. In 1947 it was becoming increasingly evident that considerable reorganisation was necessary both of the constitution of the Native Authority and of the machinery of Administration. After long discussion a general agreement was reached in October on proposals which I believe to represent a considerable step towards democratic local government and to provide every opportunity for men of ability and integrity to come to the forefront in the conduct of public affairs. The Oba himself is to be congratulated on his wise decision to agree that the Native Authority for Benin should in future be the Oba and Council. It remains for the Bini people to support the Native Authority wholeheartedly, and for the members of the new council to prove themselves worthy of election to it.

The finances of the Benin Native Administration remain stable, in spite of large increases in the annual wage bill. This is in no small part due to sound forestry management, for which the Forestry Department must be very much thanked. It is satisfactory, too, that increased attention has been given to the provision of public services outside Benin City and that a large programme of works, notably the extension of school buildings, is well in hand.

*Asaba Division.*—In the Asaba Division, plans have been approved for the establishment of a federal court of appeal for the Eastern Aniocha clans, based on Asaba. I hope that this will prove to be the nucleus of a larger political federation comprising all the clans in the Ogwashi-Uku district. Steps are being taken to improve the

representative character of the Native Authorities by increasing the number of non-titled persons on the councils, but progress is inevitably hampered by lack of administrative staff. In the Agbor district, the Ika Federal Native Authority now consists of representatives of all the Ika clans ; although at present rather an unwieldy body, it is beginning to overcome initial handicaps, and its management of the new federal court is giving cause for satisfaction. A new dispensary has been built at Ewuru by the Nsukwa Native Administration ; and two more dispensaries are in course of construction, at Okpanam and Ugbodu. The Native Authorities are responding well to the popular demand for maternity services. An ante-natal clinic is shortly to be inaugurated at Onicha-Olona, and six young women are at present being trained as midwives for service in other parts of the Division. I am particularly pleased to learn that at Asaba, Agbor and Ogwashi-Uku the Native Authorities are alive to the urgent need for proper town planning.

*Ishan Division.*—Sudden expansion of the export timber trade has brought into prominence the need for drastic overhaul of the Native Authority organization in the Ishan Division. In several areas, there has been a sharp difference of opinion between the older chiefs and the literate sections of the people, at home and abroad. With the proposed increase in the share of forestry fees payable to the Native Treasuries, it is clearly of benefit to the Ishan people as a whole that the best economic use should be made of their forests during the present timber boom. This is not, however, the occasion for discussion of this particular problem. What I wish to emphasize now is that the Ishan Councils, as they exist today, must understand that the pace of progress in Nigeria demands that they must move with it, unless they wish to find themselves no longer representative of the people. I believe that among the senior chiefs there is a genuine desire for progress and development, and that they are already taking steps to ensure that the councils are more broadly based. It is satisfactory that an Advisory Council for the whole Division is being formed, which promises well for ultimate federation.

*Kukuruku Division.*—The general progressive spirit noted last year in the Kukuruku Division is even more evident today. The Native Authorities take the keenest interest not only in ambitious schemes for the development of schools, dispensaries and communications but in the more humdrum details of routine administration. Representatives of the younger educated community begin to take their place on the councils. In addition to a finance committee and a discipline committee, each Native Administration now has an education committee, with a proportion of members drawn from outside the councils. An active Divisional Development Committee and a provisional Advisory

Council for the whole Division give promise of eventual fusion of the federations which have been successfully formed during recent years. I hear good accounts of the strides being made in adult education at some centres.

The Kukuruku Division is fortunate in seeing progress in works undertaken within the framework of the Development Plan. At Auchi, training is in full swing at a Government Textile Centre which is to serve the whole of Benin Province and the southern part of Kabba Province, and good progress has been made with the building of the Rural Health Centre. A new Post Office has been completed. Elsewhere in the province, save at the Oil Palm Research Station and the Ossiomo Leper Settlement, little progress can be reported under the Development Plan, though there is an early prospect of work being begun on sorely needed rural water supply schemes.

### **Ijebu Province**

The outstanding political event of the year was the grant of Subordinate Native Authority status to Ijebu Igbo in September. This wise and generous move by the Awujale will, I am sure, strengthen the bonds between Ijebu Igbo and Ijebu-Ode. The Orimolusi and his Council will recognise the fact that the increased powers now granted to them must involve an increased sense of responsibility. They will also recognise the necessity for Ijebu Igbo to work not only in their own interests but also in the wider interests of the Ijebu Native Administration of which the Subordinate Native Authority remains a part, though an important part.

Continued progress has been made by the Awujale's Advisory Council and the Ijebu Remo Council and their various sub-committees. Both here and in the districts literate men play an increasingly prominent part in the deliberations of councils, both as Chiefs and as Councillors. The courts have done a great deal of work, most of it extremely well. An increased scale of fees was brought into operation in all courts with effect from the 1st of May.

I would make particular mention of Ago Iwoye which has now adopted a local rating scheme, the first of its kind in the Western Provinces. From the proceeds of this new rate local improvements such as new markets stalls and town roads will be constructed. The people of Ago are to be congratulated on this material expression of their desire for progress.

Although it has not proved possible, owing to the staff position, to keep an Administrative Officer stationed in the Waterside Area of the province during the year, several visits to the area by Administrative



Officers and Departmental Officers were made. A house has now been prepared at Oni for an Assistant District Officer and it is hoped to post an officer there early in 1949. Educational facilities have improved and besides the Mission Schools, there are now three Native Authority Schools and three schools financed and managed by local Town Councils. The Native Administration assists these Town Council Schools financially.

Work has been commenced on the erection of a bridge over the Oshun River, on the main East to West Lagos-Ijebu-Ode-Benin road and in the meantime a co-ordinated feeder road scheme is being prepared. The main object of this scheme will be to link up areas and towns to the North and South with the Benin road.

A new launch for touring the waterside is being built in the United Kingdom ; it is expected that it will be in use by about the middle of 1949.

The report of the committee appointed by the Ijebu Remo Native Authority to enquire into the conduct of the Odemo of Ishara, to which I referred in my last budget address, was examined by Government early in the year. After full consideration of the report the Odemo was removed from membership of the Native Authority, from the Ishara Town Council and from the Native Courts of which he was a member.

Towards the end of the year the two Native Authorities in the province decided to abolish the payment of flat-rate tax by women. The matter had been the object of some agitation and the decision has involved a considerable increase in the flat rate tax for men, which it has been agreed they should shoulder. The Native Authorities concerned have shown wisdom and foresight.

Development of Native Administration Services has continued. This is especially true of medical services. Two new dispensaries and two maternity centres were opened during the year, while five dispensaries and five maternity centres are under construction. Most of these dispensaries and maternity centres have shown an increase in the number of patients attending, so much so that it has been found necessary to post second midwives to two of the centres.

Work has now started on the hospital at Shagamu and a preliminary survey has been made of the site of the new hospital at Iwopin.

### **Ondo Province**

The establishment during the past year of a Provincial Conference has been an experiment that shows every sign of being a marked success. Membership of the conference is composed of the accredited representa-

tives of all the Native Authorities in the province. Meetings are held a short time before each session of the House of Assembly and afford the Provincial Member an opportunity of discussing and obtaining the views of the Conference on all pending legislation and on other matters of general or local importance that may require ventilation in a wider sphere. Apart from discussions with the Provincial Member the conference deals with a variety of subjects of common interest to the Native Authorities and records its recommendations which are subsequently passed to the Native Authorities for suitable action.

*Ekiti Division.*—For the Ekiti Division the year has been, in the main, one of consolidation. The Ekiti Federal Council and its advisory committees have settled down well to the tasks of local administration entrusted to them. The enthusiasm with which they have accepted additional responsibilities is a happy augury for the future. It is, unfortunately, necessary to record the activities of a number of minute 'splinter-groups' which have not only refused co-operation but have actively hindered progress by their factious cries for independence. This much-sought independence is nothing but a mirage that can lead them nowhere.

*Ondo Division.*—The Ondo Division has had a disappointing year. Dissensions among the chiefs at Ondo has retarded progress to a marked extent and has stultified all efforts to constitute a Town Council with strong popular representation. There are some signs, not before time, of a change of heart. With its greater wealth, derived mainly from cocoa and timber, Ondo is in a happy position materially, but has been far from setting the example in progress and enlightenment that it should do to its less fortunate neighbours.

Akure has also had its trials and difficulties. Two towns which have been closely associated with it from the time of the first British connection, and possibly long before, have been tempted by the same vision of independence which has been apparent also in parts of the Ekiti Division. Every effort of the Administration has been concentrated on showing that in modern conditions there is no hope of real advance for a community unless it is a strong, well-knit group, fused by a true spirit of co-operation.

Idanre has been too pre-occupied with the possible repercussions of its struggle with Akure for land to devote more than cursory attention to development, political, social or economic.

*Owo Division.*—In the Owo Division the Akoko District has taken a big step forward in agreeing to a federation of its component village groups to form a single Native Authority. I attended the inaugural

Session of the Federal Council myself on October the 12th. At present Oka still stands aloof from the federation but the door has been left open should it decide to join the others. There are signs that it will do so.

There are also signs of federation between the Ifon and Sobe Village Groups though they hasten slowly.

*Okitipupa Division.*—For geographical reasons it is more than ordinarily difficult to bring development, in the fullest sense of the word, to the Okitipupa Division. Its tortuous network of waterways and swamps are a grave hindrance to communications. Energetic steps are, however, being taken to alleviate the rigours of nature. Town lay-outs are being planned and executed; roads and bridges are being constructed; educational facilities are being extended and attempts are being made to widen the sphere of dispensary services. A further step in the right direction has been the recent decision to federate all Native Authorities in the Division for a trial period of three years.

The 1947-48 cocoa crop was disappointing in the Ondo Province. With the announcement of the season's price the farmers had had every reason for satisfaction but the weather proved fickle and the crop was well under 50 per cent of the average of the last few years. The 1948-49 prices have bewildered the farmers who cannot believe that they are not dreaming. Rains have been far better spaced than last year and there are prospects of above average production in many areas. The repercussions of the new cocoa price on the price of locally grown foodstuffs and on the cost of casual labour remain to be seen.

## Oyo Province

*Ibadan Division.*—The principal political issue over the past year has been the campaign to cut out cocoa affected by swollen shoot. Opposition to the campaign increased rapidly during the early part of the year; in some places there was so much forceful resistance by a number of farmers, and feeling became so high, that the cutting-out gangs had to be withdrawn. An intensive propaganda campaign to overcome this opposition is now in progress and it is hoped that all cocoa farmers are now convinced of the wisdom of Government's policy in this matter and realise the urgency with which this most serious menace to the whole economy of the province must be tackled. Parties of pressmen, farmers and Native Administration officials have visited the Gold Coast to study the problem in that country and have returned to add their weight to the body of opinion which is aware of the extreme seriousness of the position. Government, on the advice of the

Native Authority, only agreed to a temporary cessation of cutting out because it was clear that farmers did not appreciate the danger of the disease or the methods which are necessary to combat it. Every effort has now been made to acquaint farmers with the reasons for Government's policy and, in the interests not only of the Oyo Province but of the country as a whole, it is imperative that cutting out should be resumed immediately the main cocoa crop has been harvested.

The Ibadan Native Authority has had an anxious year financially. The Budget has not been balanced and the reserves which have been accumulated over years of careful planning are dwindling. The wide gap between Revenue and Expenditure has been reduced by the recent 25 per cent increase in electricity charges in Ibadan, but considerable economies in expenditure will be required unless further means of increasing the revenue can be found.

The main constitutional problem confronting the Ibadan Division is the necessity to provide some sort of machinery for the day to day administration of Divisional affairs. Owing to the great distances separating the Districts from Ibadan, the Divisional Council is unable to meet as frequently as is desirable. This problem is now being considered by the Divisional Council. At the same time proposals are being considered to broaden the basis of the Ibadan and District Council and the Advisory Board, the main intention being to increase the representation of places outside Ibadan within the jurisdiction of the Ibadan and District Council. In the Districts the main lines of progress have been the broadening of representation by an increase in the number of Councillors and a more vigorous system of Town Councils. The Ede District Council, which for many years has held an enviable position as one of the most progressive Subordinate Native Administrations in the Oyo Province, has had a serious set-back due to the chieftaincy dispute concerning the appointment of a Timi of Ede. As a result the whole District has been torn by factions and the work of the council is practically at a standstill. The matter is at present sub-judice.

*Oyo Division.*—Politically the Oyo Division has made spectacular progress in the last few years, and this year has been spent in consolidating the position and allowing the five Subordinate Native Authorities to gain confidence and the Native Authority to adjust its ideas to this devolution of authority and financial control. The last of these five Subordinate Native Authorities, the Oyo Southern District, has now been approved and a happier relationship between this area and the Afin is now expected. Separate estimates for each of these Subordinate Native Authorities will be prepared this year in order to give some

responsibility to the newly formed Finance Committees and provide an incentive to the District Councils to plan ahead.

*Ife Division.*—The absence of the Oni on a visit to the United Kingdom may have resulted in a slowing down of the rate of political progress of the Ife Native Authority, but it has on the other hand given the Executive Committee members most useful experience in the handling of public affairs. This experience should prove of great value to the Oni on his return. The dispute between the Ifes and the Modakekes still drags its weary way through the courts. This dispute is affecting the happiness and prosperity of very many people and it is sincerely to be hoped that the return of the Oni will be made the occasion for a generous gesture by both sides: for with patience and goodwill a settlement could quickly be reached.

The Illa Native Authority continues to conduct its affairs with efficiency and despatch, and has achieved a high degree of co-operation with the literate progressives in the area.

*Ilesha Division.*—During the course of the year Government raised the status of the Ilesha District to that of a Division. This move has given great pleasure to the Ijeshas who for many years have resented being subject to the administrative control of a District Officer stationed at Ife. The Owa's Council has continued to work well and has recently included in their Finance and Staff Committees representatives from outlying districts.

### Warri Province

The two main political events of the year have been the establishment of the Warri Provincial Native Authorities Conference and the re-organisation and federation of the six independent Urhobo Native Administrations in the Jekri-Sobo Division.

The Provincial Conference has met three times. The seven Native Administrations and the two Township Advisory Boards of Warri and Sapele send representatives to this Conference in proportion to their tax paying population. It is advisory only, but its deliberations have given good grounds for believing that it will be of value in removing jealousies and misunderstandings and have augured well for the future.

The federation of the six independent Urhobo Native Authorities in the Jekri-Sobo Division was completed in August, when His Excellency approved the constitution of the Western Urhobo Native Authority. This was the culmination of much hard and patient work

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by a large number of people and it is pleasant to report that the people themselves not only expressed the desire for federation but also hammered out the details, such as those relating to the election of members of the subordinate and Central Councils. This spirit shows itself also within the new councils, whose members, many of them educated, have shown an admirable readiness to shoulder responsibility and carry out uninteresting and often tedious routine tasks.

Proposals for the re-organisation of the Itsekiri and Western Ijaw Native Administrations have been under active discussion among the peoples concerned for the past six months and it is hoped that proposals, fully acceptable to the great majority, will be put forward in the near future.

Proposals for the modernisation of the administration of the Warri and Sapele Townships are also under consideration and discussion with the people concerned.

Apart from the works mentioned below in the sections dealing with departments, building has begun on the new secondary school at Ughelli, and the pioneer oil mill at Ukan in Urhobo Division. The government rice mill at Ughelli is becoming increasingly popular and has evidently done much to encourage rice growing. A new hospital being built by the Baptist Mission at Eku is nearing completion. A telegraph line from Warri to Ughelli is under construction and materials for the Sapele Electricity supply have begun to arrive. Far-reaching schemes for the planning and improvement of living conditions at Sapele and Burutu have recently been submitted and are now under consideration. I think no one could complain that there is lack of development in the Warri Province.

### **Accountant-General**

The decentralisation of the Treasury has been completed, and the sub-accounting system was introduced on the 1st of April, 1948; this is the first step towards creating the Region a self-accounting entity. The Regional Treasurer has been acting in an advisory capacity both to the administrations and to Departments. Advice has also been given on Native Administrations accounts.

In order to increase efficiency the possibility of introducing some form of mechanical accounting has been carefully examined. The object is to eliminate the manual methods now employed in scheduling thousands of vouchers monthly and in posting the amounts shown thereon to the various ledgers. After careful consideration it has been

decided to instal book-keeping machines in the Regional Treasury ; with these machines the scheduling and posting of the monthly accounts will be completed in much less time and with assured arithmetical accuracy.

Progress has been made in taking over direct control and responsibility of local treasuries in the Western Provinces, and since the 1st of April, 1948, Nigerian departmental staff have taken over Sapele, Ondo and Akure treasuries. Ten of the twenty-one treasuries in the region are now directly administered by this department. At three of the remainder, young clerks have been posted to assist the Provincial Administration staff.

The Regional Treasury School was opened on the 21st of June, 1948, and regular sessions are held, each of which lasts four weeks. All new entrants to the junior staff receive a course in the school and examinations are held at the end of each session to test the ability of each pupil. Since the commencement of the school Native Administration personnel have been accepted at each session for training. Five have completed their training during the year.

Owing to unforeseen shortage of senior staff, it has not been possible to carry out the thorough and frequent inspection of local treasuries that is desirable, but fifteen treasuries in the region have been visited and inspected by the Regional Treasurer and touring accountants.

### **Agriculture**

Though the general policy of the Agricultural Department has not changed, work has been seriously hampered by shortage of qualified Agricultural Officers ; at one period only two were available, one of whom had less than six months experience of Nigeria. It has been most regrettable that active work in Benin and Warri Provinces has as a result been temporarily closed though a few essential lines are being carried on with the help of the administration.

*Oyo Cattle Farm.*—The N'dama Cattle Farm at Oyo is now well established and progress has been made in multiplying stock for eventual distribution to village herds and mixed farmers. Over sixty calves have been born without subsequent loss and though there was a slight outbreak of contagious abortion which has been controlled by the Veterinary Department, the general health of the cattle has been good.

*Oyo Poultry Centre.*—The Poultry Centre at Oyo has started work with new equipment and buildings. Fresh stocks of pure bred Rhode Island Red poultry have been successfully imported by air as day-old

chicks. Growth rates have been very satisfactory and some surplus cockerels have been available for distribution. Regular supplies of pullets, cockerels and hatching eggs are expected to be available towards the latter half of 1949.

*Pig-keeping.*—A steady demand for improved breeding stock from African pig keepers continues. Prices of feeding stuffs have risen considerably and only farmers with sufficient capital, good business instinct and plenty of energy are advised to take up pig keeping.

*Agricultural Schools.*—Sixty-three students are attending two and three-year courses at the Agricultural School, Moor Plantation. The School Farm is now 40 acres in extent and is providing much improved facilities for training. Preliminary experiments in mechanised cultivation with tractor and implements supplied by the Public Works Department are being carried out by the school. The Oyo Farm School, in contrast to the preceding year, found difficulty in recruiting its full quota of students for the 1948 class and some have refused to sign their contracts. Considerable attention is being paid to former students, some of whom tend to deteriorate in efficiency unless encouraged by frequent visits. Twenty-two out of twenty-four ex-servicemen passed out of their courses to settle on their farms; the remaining two resigned. The farm school at Ogbomosho has been opened and recruitment of the first class has begun.

*Cocoa Survey.*—The survey of cocoa farms in the Western Provinces is now complete except for a few areas in Ibadan Division where work has been retarded owing to opposition to the cutting out of trees infected by swollen shoot disease. A total of 326,299 farms comprising 588,553 acres has been surveyed since 1944. Swollen shoot disease is still mainly confined within a 30 miles radius of Ibadan and 524,932 trees have been cut out so far. This is equivalent to 1,050 acres; it will be necessary to cut out about 400 acres more in order to complete the work. The acreage of farm infected therefore represents only one-quarter per cent of that planted. Farmers whose trees have been cut out are encouraged to replant their cocoa with the aid of a grant from Cocoa Marketing Board Funds administered by the Ibadan Native Administration. Botanical work on cocoa includes the selection of high yielding trees to provide improved planting material. Multiplication plots of this material are being planted at strategic points in the Western Provinces. In continuance of the search for better types of cocoa, a collection of South American varieties has been obtained from the West African Cocoa Research Institute, Gold Coast. The campaign to improve the quality and cleanliness of cocoa was extremely successful and is being repeated for the 1948-49 crop.



*Botany.*—The botanical staff has continued its efforts to improve the quality of citrus, especially the use of better root stocks; there is a strong demand for budded fruit trees from Government and Native Administration Nurseries. Trial shipments of fresh grapefruit are being made to the United Kingdom and the possibilities of exporting fruit juices are being examined. Botanical work on the controlled pollination of outstanding oil palms at Moor Plantation to provide seed for the drier areas has been started, and trials of improved cassavas continue.

*Chemistry.*—The chemist has been engaged on soil surveys to assist in the selection of sites for Government experimental farms and also the production of trial samples of drying oil from "Awusa" nuts (*Tetracarpidium Conophorum*) which may possibly have a future as an export commodity.

*Rice Mills.*—Rice mills have been operating in Benin, Warri, Ondo and Abeokuta Provinces where the cultivation of paddy is being extended.

### Produce Inspection

The following table shows the tonnages of produce which were graded or passed for export in the Western Provinces during the year ended 30th September, 1948, as compared with the previous year:—

Year	Palm Kernels Tons	Cocoa Tons	Palm Oil Tons	Rubber lb	Cotton lb	Birdseye Chillies lb
1946-47	141,454	104,800	23,071	8,591,937	51,381	—
1947-48	147,099	71,163	22,508	11,564,475	116,094	—

*Cotton.*—Cotton production for export shows an increase over last year's figures but is still low. This is mainly due to the continued large demand for cotton for local weaving at higher prices than the export price.

*Chillies.*—During 1947-48 season roughly 220,000 lb of birdseye chillies were graded for export, but, owing mainly to marketing delays, all became sub-grade and were exported under special licence. In the previous year 90,000 lb were similarly exported under special licence.

*Cocoa.*—The total amount of cocoa graded is less than in 1946-47 owing to a severe attack of black pod disease but the quality was very much better. Grade I cocoa was 48 per cent of the total as compared with 22 per cent for 1946-47 while less than 8 per cent was classified as grade IV.

### Co-operative

The work of the staff has been devoted to supervising the two main groups of Co-operative societies, the Cocoa Co-operative Marketing Societies and the Salary Earners' Co-operative Thrift and Loan Societies.

During the 1947-48 season the cocoa societies, with a total membership of 22,764 farmers, sold 9,991 tons of cocoa, compared with 12,483 tons in 1946-47. The decrease was due partly to the smaller crop and partly to the closing down of several societies in the Benin Province because of the dishonest practices of certain secretaries and committee members.

It is encouraging to note that the campaign for better quality cocoa carried out in conjunction with the Agricultural Department had its effect. Of the total tonnage of main crop cocoa sold by Co-operatives 86 per cent was grade I and 8 per cent grade II, compared with 72.1 per cent grade I in the previous year.

It is a matter of great concern, however, to have to report an alarming increase in dishonesty amongst certain committee members and the staffs of societies and marketing unions in general. No doubt the increase in the price of cocoa is partly responsible for this trend ; but it means that the time of the department's staff has to be devoted to closer supervision rather than to expansion.

Members are becoming keener on using the cocoa societies not only as a means of marketing their cocoa but also as small village banks where they can deposit their money. They can also then secure small loans at reasonable rates of interest instead of paying exorbitant charges elsewhere. During the last financial year the total sum of £12,674 was saved by members, and £11,893 issued as loans. Practically four-fifths of the loans were for the payment of labour on members' farms.

One new Co-operative Marketing Union covering the Owo-Akoko area reached exporting status. This means that every society in the Onā, Oyo, Abeokuta and Ijebu Provinces is now exporting its cocoa through the Association of Nigeria Co-operative Exporters. The turnover of this association is over half a million pounds.

There are fifty-seven Salary Earners' Co-operative Thrift and Loan Societies in the Western Provinces. The total savings in the course of the last financial year amounted to £26,286.

The seven Co-operative Chillies Societies in the Oyo Province marketed 90½ tons of chillies. Continued disregard of advice given by the department resulted in supervision being withdrawn.

Three Co-operative School Societies in the Ondo Province and four in the Benin Province operated during the year. The one at Ori-Ubiaja is being dissolved.

### **Education**

The Education Bill was passed by the Legislative Assembly in August and is expected to come into force on the 1st of January. The bill was debated in the Western House of Assembly in July and it is therefore unnecessary to describe it further. At the present meeting this House will be asked to elect members to the Regional and Central Boards, which are expected to meet in January and February respectively. Meanwhile Education officers and committees during the latter half of this year have been hard at work explaining the new ordinance and carrying out surveys of schools in each area. Education must now be planned to serve an area and a certain amount of re-arrangement is proving necessary. This particularly applies to the disposition of trained teachers, who must be distributed as fairly as possible in each area. In 1948, 158 new primary schools were opened and 311 new teachers came out trained from college.

Education Committees have further consolidated their position during the year. The more progressive have been successful in arranging refresher courses for teachers, for the development of school meals and for the improvement of education in general as far as their own particular localities are concerned. The time should not be far off when it should be possible to create Local Education Authorities and Committees with executive powers as provided in the new ordinance.

It is essential that the public should be kept fully informed on all questions of education and that schools should be closely integrated with the life of the community. For this reason the development of parents associations is welcomed. In some provinces parents meet regularly to discuss school affairs with their teachers. It is hoped that these associations will spread throughout the Western Provinces.

In September it was decided to put grants-in-aid under regional control. It is expected that the total need for the Western Provinces in 1949 will be about half a million pounds. Most of it will go into the primary school system, about one-tenth to secondary schools and about one-tenth to teacher training colleges. Statistics are being collected for the teachers' superannuation scheme.

The year 1948 has, like 1947, been occupied largely in reorganisation. The department has been short-staffed and little time has been left for consideration of the content of education. The curriculum

sub-committee, however, has continued its work and it is expected that new syllabi will be in the hands of teachers in January to enable them to widen and improve their work.

Not only has there been a gradual widening of the school curricula in the direction of art, domestic science, handwork and rural science, but there has been further development of post-school education. The extra-mural studies delegacy of Oxford University sent a lecturer, Mr Collins, to organise classes and to lecture on trade unionism and political theories. The lectures were extremely popular and it has not been easy to find successors who would command equal respect. It is hoped that the University College at Ibadan will shortly appoint a director of extra-mural studies.

The British Council early in the year organised the Nigerian art exhibition, which drew large crowds. The council has now opened a centre at Ibadan and provides a library and organises lectures and meetings. The council also provides a film service to schools in Ibadan and Abeokuta.

A regional committee of the Nigerian Amateur Athletic Association has recently been formed. It is the aim of this committee to foster athletics throughout the region. The schools have done a great deal to develop athletics, but so far little has been done to organise them on a post-school basis.

Tests have been held to select entrants to the trade centre at Yaba, where boys from the Western Provinces will be trained to become skilled artisans. Teachers have also been sent to Yaba to be trained as Handicraft Instructors. A proposal has been made by the Deputy Director of Education (Technical), on the advice of the Resident and the Education Officer, Warri Province, for a trade training centre at Sapele. The scheme would be expensive and it is hoped to enlist the interest of some of the commercial firms who would mainly benefit from the output of trained artisans. New domestic science centres are to be opened by Government in Ibadan, Irrua, and Agbor. There are at present nine domestic science centres in the Western Provinces. Selection has been made of teachers to attend a rural science teachers' training course in Ibadan in 1949.

The Conference of Western Principals has further consolidated its position as a responsible force in secondary school education. It is gratifying to find that this conference stresses that education is not concerned merely with examinations and book-learning, but also with the more fundamental duty of developing character and true citizenship.

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The Conference of Western Principals has further consolidated its position as a responsible force in secondary school education. It is gratifying to find that this conference stresses that education is not concerned merely with examinations and book-learning, but also with the more fundamental duty of developing character and true citizenship.

The conference was addressed on these subjects early in the year by Mr Speer, acting Chief Inspector. In July Mr Speer also conducted a course on training in citizenship, which was attended by ten secondary school teachers.

The importance of quality rather than quantity in secondary school education must be repeatedly emphasised. With the addition to the list of schools at Sabongidda, Owo, Ijebu-Remo and Oyo, the number of boys' secondary schools must remain fixed until they are all efficiently staffed and equipped. More graduates have returned from the United Kingdom and towards the end of the year the University released for one year a number of students for whom no degree course was immediately available. It has also been decided to continue the special teachers' training course in conjunction with University College, Ibadan. But in spite of all this the supply of trained teachers remains extremely short. In addition the total amount of money available for secondary education makes it impossible to contemplate any increase in the number of assisted boys' secondary schools for the next few years. It will still, however, be possible to consider an increase in the number of girls' secondary schools. At present there is only one in the whole of the Western Provinces, but it is hoped that the proposed Government girls' secondary school at Ede will be started in 1949.

The scholarship selection committee met in October. There were 295 applicants, of whom sixty were interviewed and forty-one selected for a further interview by the Central Selection Board in Lagos. The Western Selection Board chose Dr. S. L. A. Manuwa, O.B.E., F.R.C.S., as its representative on the Central Board.

The Government Teacher Training Centre at Ibadan and Abraka are being extended to double their existing capacity. At the Ife Roman Catholic Mission Training College there were 400 applicants for thirty vacancies. It is expected that enough Middle VI boys will wish to enter St. Andrew's College, Oyo, to provide a full class for a two-year course. These facts reflect the increasing popularity of the teaching profession.

The Mass Education Officer has campaigns started or projected in Ilaro, Ado-Ekiti, Ishan, Ibadan Northern District and Ijebu-Ode. Booklets have been printed and published in Nigeria. They may serve as the foundation on which a Nigerian printing and publishing industry can be developed. There has been an increased flow of Yoruba publications from publishers in the United Kingdom, and one or two from publishers in Nigeria.

The following money has been paid to voluntary Agencies from Nigerian Development Loan Funds :—

<i>School/Centre</i>	<i>Total approved</i>	<i>Total paid</i>
	£	£
St. Patrick's College, Asaba .. ..	25,000	10,000
Ijebu-Ode Grammar School .. ..	10,000	5,000
Oduduwa College, Ife .. ..	30,000	11,100
St. Theresa's College, Ibadan .. ..	30,000	30,000
C.M.S. E.T.C., Owo (Men) .. ..	23,000	12,156
R.C.M. E.T.C., Abeokuta .. ..	10,000	10,000
R.C.M. E.T.C., Akure .. ..	10,000	10,000
R.C.M. E.T.C., Ubiaja (Women) .. ..	10,000	2,000
St. Andrew's C.M.S. College, Oyo .. ..	12,000	2,900
C.M.S. Archdeaconry E.T.C., Ibadan .. ..	10,000	2,000
U.M.C., Ibadan (Women) .. ..	30,000	10,000
C.M.S. E.T.C., Owo (Women) .. ..	17,500	11,900

### Forestry

During the year the Forestry Regulations and Southern Provinces Native Authority Rules, 1943, were amended. In future the exploitation of any licensed area must be in accordance with a definite working plan, which will be laid down in the agreement made with the licensee. It will then be possible to stop the methods of selective logging which have been so destructive in the past. It will also permit the regeneration of the exploited forest in an orderly manner so that the yield is increased and maintained in perpetuity. The first agreement, between the Benin Native Authority and the United Africa Company was signed on the thirtieth of August, 1948, and others are now in preparation in respect of areas in Benin Division and Ondo and Ijebu Provinces.

All the tariffs for forest produce in the Western Provinces were revised and the rates for timber were substantially increased to give the owners the benefit of the high prices for timber now obtainable in the export markets.

It is necessary, however, to comment on the activities of several irresponsible and unscrupulous exporters, who have supplied buyers with timber much below the agreed specifications and in some cases in quantity considerably less than those for which advance payments have been made. Such short-sighted and reprehensible business methods tend to destroy the reputation of the country in the export markets and cannot be too strongly condemned.

Government gave a promise that when an adequate forest estate had been constituted in any district, the forestry regulations over the areas outside the reserves would be removed. This promise is now being fulfilled in the case of the Ilaro Division of Abeokuta Province, the Owo Division of Ondo Province and the Ishan Division of Benin Province where the regulations are being removed. Similar action in other divisions is under consideration. When, however, the regulations have been removed and the forest area remaining is sufficient to bring in a reasonable sum of revenue, it is hoped that Native Authorities will impose rules to enable such revenue to be collected.

Progress is being made in the preparation of working plans for the more valuable forest reserves and will gradually accelerate as trained staff becomes available.

The installation of sawmills for the supply of sawn lumber, primarily for local use, has been held up in several cases by the difficulties of obtaining early delivery of machinery.

The plywood mill at Sapele has increased its production of veneers which are now being exported ; but the production of plywood locally has not yet begun. The Forestry Department mill at Aponmu has continued its production of lumber for local use and considerable stocks are available.

Good progress has also been made in the clearing of reserve boundaries and the exclusion of areas subject to farming rights, with a consequent decrease in the number of forest offences in forest reserves. There is an increasing awareness throughout the Western Provinces of the value of forest produce in general, and of the fuel and pole plantations maintained by Native Administrations in the neighbourhood of large centres of population.

Two Nigerian Regional Forest Officers from the Western Provinces have proceeded to Oxford for a special forestry course.

### **Labour**

The normal activities of the Department in the Western Provinces are confined to a Labour Office and Employment Exchange at Benin, a Juvenile Employment Centre at Ibadan and an Employment Exchange at Sapele. It is hoped that a labour office will be established in Ibadan early in 1949. Staff has been provided from headquarters when necessary for areas not served by the offices mentioned.

The Benin Labour Exchange deals chiefly with the Ondo, Benin and Warri Provinces. Regular weekly visits are now made to Sapele. During the year complaints about wages, wrongful dismissals and working conditions numbered 169. An instance of child labour was



brought to light and a case of illegal recruitment from Makurdi involving seventy-seven labourers was successfully prosecuted. Twenty-four timber camps, rubber and palm plantations were inspected during the period and a visit was made to a gold mining area. In most of the establishments housing conditions left much to be desired. Fourteen cases of industrial accidents were reported of which three were fatal. In such cases the parties were advised of their rights and obligations under the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance. Regular visits were paid to any injured workers in Benin General Hospital. There was a scarcity of labour in the timber and rubber industries owing to unattractive wage-rates and working conditions. The labour force employed in the timber industry is fluctuating consisting mainly of migrant labour. To encourage continuity of employment some employers are advocating a return to the old system of wage-payment at six-monthly intervals.

The juvenile employment exchange at Ibadan has continued to operate in the exclusive interests of secondary-school-leavers. The purpose of the exchange has not been fully understood by the people it is designed to serve. To remedy this several talks and interviews have been held. During the year 450 juveniles were registered and 190 placed in employment. Figures for the previous year were 138 and 129 respectively. There is lack of adequate employment opportunities in the Western Provinces for juveniles leaving school. Enquiries recently carried out by the Exchange Manager, Ibadan, indicate that the opportunities in her area were negligible compared with the number of children leaving school and seeking employment.

The Sapele exchange has become increasingly popular. During the year 2,953 employed and 422 unemployed adults and fifty-one employed and 199 unemployed juveniles were registered. A total of 1,038 vacancies for adults and five for juveniles were filled.

A scheme for the registration and identification of Public Works Department employees has been in operation for some time. It is carried out by teams of registration clerks, who work under the supervision of the Exchange Manager.

Industrial relations were generally calm. There were four major disputes involving Ijebu Native Authority road labour, a timber concern in Warri Province, the conservancy labourers of a township and another timber concern in Benin Province. In each case a settlement was achieved and only in the fourth case was there a strike, and this lasted only two days.

A commission was appointed during the year to enquire into the disturbances which occurred in 1947 among labourers employed by the United Africa Company at Burutu. The findings of the commission

have recently been published. They indicate that the trade dispute and the resulting disturbances, were due largely to the indiscretion and irresponsible action of the labour unions. The findings seem to have been taken in good part by those concerned.

### **Legal**

The burden of legal duties in the region continues to be heavy. The staff situation, however, has shown no improvement and it was not possible to post an additional Crown Counsel to the region or even to maintain reasonable continuity. Ibadan and Warri are both busy Judicial Divisions and the civil and criminal work with which Crown Counsel has to deal, appears to be increasing both in volume and complexity. It is hoped, therefore, that the proposal to post a second legal officer to the Western Provinces will materialise at an early date since the combination of long hours in court with disposal of the mounting chamber work due to regionalization, entails too great a strain on one officer alone.

During the past session of the Western House of Assembly, nineteen Bills were tabled and in each case His Excellency the Governor was advised of the Bill being acceptable. The most important of these Bills were the Education Bill, the Administration of Justice in Criminal Matters by Native Courts Bill and the Agriculture Bill. Of considerable interest to the Western Region was the Chieftaincy Disputes (Preclusion of Courts) Bill which removes these troublesome disputes from the jurisdiction of the courts and will enable the Department to deal expeditiously with the large number of cases which have accumulated.

### **Medical**

A new hospital at Akure is taking shape and, it is hoped, will be in operation by the beginning of the coming financial year. Notable expansion has taken place in the hospital at Adeoyo by the addition of fifty beds and eight cots. New annexes for X-Ray and laboratory work are being built. Through the wisdom of the Ibadan Native Administration Adeoyo now enters on an even wider sphere of usefulness as the hospital for the Ibadan University College Medical School.

The building of two Rural Health Units at Auchi and Ilaro, which include accommodation for medical officers and sisters, is making good progress and will, in the near future, serve to demonstrate the scope and function of comprehensive health services in rural areas. The first of the Medical Field Units of the Western Region will shortly begin to operate on completion of its training. Among its first duties will be a

systematic health survey in the Ilaro area and in a selected area of Oyo Province. The unit will be equipped and staffed to attack epidemic and mass diseases and to assess the medical and health needs of an area.

Nursing Sisters have been posted to Benin, Oshogbo and Akure during the year. Hospital training and district ante-natal training and maternity services have benefited, but the headlong pace of competitive clinic construction in some areas will render supervision increasingly difficult.

Facilities for transport of the sick have been much improved by providing ambulances at Oshogbo, Benin and elsewhere during the year.

Progress has been made in hygiene and sanitation, including the promulgation and application of building and sanitation rules in many areas.

In Abeokuta the lessening of hospital attendances has been noticeable during the recent troublesome times of that town. There has also been a considerable disregard of health and sanitation regulations and a degree of hostility towards the sanitary inspectorate. When more settled times return it is to be hoped there will be an improvement in these respects.

### **Mines**

The number of operators actually employed on active mining operations in the Western Provinces has now fallen to fourteen. This shows a decrease of five compared with last year. For the first eight months of 1948 twenty-five prospecting rights have been issued for the Western Provinces, seven of which are held by Africans.

*Gold.*—At the end of 1947 Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria Limited, London and Nigerian Mines Limited and London African Mining Trust Limited decided to discontinue prospecting on the Special Exclusive Prospecting Licences which were granted to them during 1946 and 1947. All these areas have now either been withdrawn or surrendered by the Companies.

A new Special Exclusive Prospecting Licence for gold and columbite was granted to Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria Limited during the year on the Oyo/Ondo boundary near Igbara Oke.

The output of gold during the first eight months of 1948 was 1,412 ozs. compared with 1,220 ozs. for the first nine months of 1947.

*Coal.*—As a result of their investigations into the Nigerian coal and lignite deposits the Powell Duffryn Technical Services have

recommended that more field work should be carried out on the Moroko, Asaba and Ute deposits before final recommendations as to the development and utilisation of these deposits can be determined.

### **Police**

There has been no change in the command of the Nigeria Police Force in the Western Provinces during the year.

The establishment of the Force has been increased by one superior police officer, one sub-inspector and one hundred and thirty-six rank and file during the year. Of these one superior police officer, one sub-inspector and forty rank and file have been posted to the new motor traffic unit, seventy-five rank and file to Sapele, fifteen to Burutu and three each to Forcados and Oyo. These increases were foreshadowed last year and the reasons for them were set out in my address at the last budget session.

Recruiting was stepped up during the early part of the year to fill the increase in establishment. The response has been so good that it has been possible to raise the educational standard from Class II Middle to Class IV Middle. Recruiting has now returned to normal and the formerly heavy pressure on the training school at Enugu has eased. All vacancies will soon be filled by men who have completed their recruit training.

A much improved annual musketry course on pre-war lines has now been authorised by the Commissioner. This is bound to effect a considerable improvement in the musketry standard of the Force.

The new motor traffic unit consists of four mobile sections operating from Abeokuta, Ibadan, Ife and Benin. It is not yet in full operation as its personnel and vehicles are not complete. Modified patrols are, however, being carried out with satisfactory results. All traffic control posts throughout the region have now been closed.

Motor traffic offences and motor accidents are still high. The number of vehicles using the roads has increased and the general standard of driving has deteriorated. Superior police officers are therefore being appointed as traffic inspectors responsible for the inspection of all commercial vehicles and hackney carriages, the issue of certificates of road worthiness and the testing of drivers. It is hoped that these inspectors together with the mobile patrols already mentioned will materially reduce the present high incidence of road accidents and offences.

Criminal statistics continue to indicate a slight general increase in crime but this may definitely be attributed to the expansion of police services throughout the area. There has, however, been a very

noticeable increase in offences against property at Asaba. This is probably due to the recent rapid growth of the residential area of that town. An increase in the present establishment of the Asaba Detachment has been included in the 1949-50 Draft Estimates.

It was necessary to send police reinforcements to Abeokuta on three occasions during periods of unrest there. The arrival of these reinforcements invariably had a sobering effect and apart from a few minor incidents a major breach of the peace was avoided.

In Ibadan there has been considerable opposition to Government's policy of cutting out diseased cocoa trees infected with swollen shoot. This came to a head on July 22nd near Apatere when a gang of agricultural labourers engaged in cutting out operations were attacked by a large number of farmers armed with machets. The police were quickly on the scene, a number of arrests were made and order was restored. Seven labourers received minor injuries.

During January in the Kwale Division a serious land dispute took place which resulted in an affray between two villages. Two men were reported killed and five missing believed killed. Police restored order and no further disturbances have occurred.

Excellent relations continue to be maintained between the Nigeria Police and the various Native Administration police forces in the region. Two superior police officers are seconded to Native Administration Police Forces, one at Ibadan and the other at Abeokuta. The closest co-operation exists between the two forces.

Police buildings and barracks continue to be improved and extended. Existing buildings have been kept in good repair.

The general health of the men is extremely good and the morale of the Force is excellent.

### **Posts and Telegraphs**

The new post office at Ijebu-Ode was opened on the 27th September, 1948. The post offices at Ikirun, Ifo and Auchu are nearing completion and the existing postal agencies will shortly be converted to departmental post offices.

With the improving staff position it is hoped to convert Isseluku postal agency to a departmental post office in the near future. The existing agency building will be utilised until the approved post office is erected.

*Postal Agencies.*—There are now 182 postal agencies operating in the Western Provinces. Nineteen of these are new in this year.

There was some difficulty in maintaining mail services during August owing to the petrol shortage but few serious delays occurred.

A Rural Postman route, Auchi-Afuje, has been introduced bringing the total routes in Western Provinces to twenty-four.

*Air Services.*—To provide connection with aircraft at Benin a twice-daily mail service between Benin-Sapele-Warri-Burutu-Forcados was introduced in June, 1948.

Additional air services between Lagos and the North, and calling at Ibadan, were introduced during the year, giving Ibadan connection to Lagos and the North on four days per week in each direction.

*Telephones.*—Demand for telephones continues to grow everywhere but supply is limited by lack of equipment and stores. A new telephone exchange was opened at Ondo in April. New exchanges are being installed at Ogwashi-Uku and Ifo. Larger switch-boards for Ibadan, Oshogbo, and Warri are now ready in the United Kingdom and are awaiting shipment ; part of the auxiliary apparatus has already been received.

Trunk lines to Ogwashi-Uku and Ifo are nearing completion. Preliminary work has been carried out on a trunk to Ado-Ekiti and construction work will commence shortly. A telephone line is being constructed from Akure to serve the Pilot Sawmill at Aponmu.

*Radio Diffusion.*—At Ijebu-Ode overhead distribution lines for Radio Diffusion Services have been erected and subscribers premises wired. Power plant and wireless equipment is now available and the service should soon be ready for opening. The proposed system for Warri has been held up by negotiations for a site for the receiving station and studio. These are now completed and funds have been issued for the new building. At Ibadan and Abeokuta growth of the system has been limited by lack of stores.

*Telegraphs.*—With regard to telegraphs, teleprinter working has been introduced between Oshogbo and Lagos. It already exists between Ibadan and Lagos. This system is of course a marked improvement on the old, and saves time and staff.

There is heavy tree clearing between Oshogbo and Akure for the rebuilding of the Oshogbo-Akure route. This has now proceeded as far as Ilesha. Carrier equipment is now available and the necessary power plant has been installed at Oshogbo. Installation of such plant at Benin has been held up for a new building.

### Prisons

Discipline was well maintained throughout the year in most prisons, but in Abeokuta where discipline had been allowed to become slack, there was a riot and the police had to be called in to restore order.

An overhaul of the administration of the prison is now under consideration. The general health of the prisoners has been good, and the various prisons were again free from epidemics.

Distinct progress has been made in the re-organisation and improvement of After-Care work, and deserving long sentence prisoners are assisted financially on discharge.

The Government Warders' Training School is now open to Native Administration staff, and thirty-six warders received courses of instruction during the year.

Much progress has been made in the matter of classification, and first offenders are almost everywhere separated from habitual criminals.

It has been found possible to post an Inspector of Prisons to the Western Provinces and the prisons are now inspected with much greater frequency.

### **Public Relations**

The activities of the Public Relations Department have considerably increased during the year. The Regional Public Relations Officer has toured every part of the Western Provinces holding "Question and Answer" meetings and conferring with Reading Room Committees. There are now fifty-one Reading Rooms in the Western Provinces. The Public Relations Officer has also given talks and lectures to schools and various organisations.

Every month the Department produces pamphlets explaining Government policy and providing information on other subjects of interest to the people of the Western Provinces. The distribution is very wide, reaching all Native Authorities, Education Establishments, Reading Rooms, Schools, Government and Native Administration Departments.

Liaison with the press has become an important part of the functions of the Department as there are now three newspapers published in Ibadan. Regular press conferences are held at which Regional heads of Government Departments discuss and explain policy to press men; press releases were issued.

A Regional Public Relations Week was held in January at Ibadan. Representatives were invited from all towns and villages having a library or literary society. The purpose of the week was to allow the Public Relations staff to make closer contact with educated opinion, and, secondly, to provide an opportunity for discussing some of the problems of the Western Provinces.

A Mobile Cinema Van attached to the Regional Office has toured the Western Provinces during the year giving film shows.

Radio Advisory Committees reviewed monthly the broadcasting programme at both Ibadan and Abeokuta. It is hoped that the broadcasting studio at Ijebu-Ode will be started before the end of the year.

Proposals are being considered for the publication of a periodical for the Western Provinces on the lines of the *Nigeria Review*. This paper would be printed in Ibadan, but it is thought an extra page of provincial news might be inserted in each copy when distributed in the different provinces, so that there would be an added local interest for readers.

### **Public Works**

There has been a slight improvement in the supply of engineering staff and there are now altogether twelve in the Western Provinces. Of these, two are Africans, one in charge of Ijebu Province with six Europeans under him and the other in charge of Oshogbo District. The general outlook for recruitment of engineering staff is however still very uncertain and although numbers of Africans are now taking degree courses in the United Kingdom, it will be some time before they will appear in the ranks of Executive Engineers to any appreciable extent.

The supply of Inspectors of Works on the other hand has been almost embarrassing and for a time the Crown Agents for the Colonies had to be asked to slow up recruitment of Building Inspectors, as there was insufficient engineering staff to direct them.

The supply of materials has improved generally but there are still difficulties, notably with roofing materials, steelwork and sanitary fittings.

*Buildings.*—Some thirty permanent quarters for Senior Service have been under construction or have been completed during the year and a few semi-permanent or bush quarters in addition, but the shortage of accommodation remains largely unaltered owing to the increasing requirements of additional staff. Several Junior Service quarters have also been built.

Of the public buildings under construction by far the most important is the new Western House of Assembly which is now growing up and will be ready (if not entirely completed) for the first Legislative Council Meeting to be held in Ibadan in March, 1949. When not in use by the House of Assembly this building will be available for debates and meetings of all kinds and as such should prove a useful asset to the community. Other important buildings include the second extension to the Ibadan Secretariat now nearing completion, the Ife Museum begun this year after some eight years of discussions, preliminaries,



difficulties and delays and now almost complete, also the Provincial Office at Akure and Police Barracks at Benin. The new Provincial Office at Warri has suffered many delays but it is now just starting and should be properly under way before the year is out.

Of the building works being undertaken from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds the most important are the Oil Palm Research Station near Benin. A considerable amount of work has been done including offices and laboratories, permanent quarters for three Senior Service officers, five Junior Service officers and sixty-four labourers. These are actually completed and further buildings approximately the same in number should be completed by the end of March.

The Ossiomo Leper Settlement has been extended and a start has been made on the £130,000 project for the Boys Secondary School at Ughelli.

*Roads.*—Development work on roads includes the Ijebu-Ode-Benin road where a start has been made on the bridge over the Oshun river twelve miles east of Ijebu-Ode, on preliminary clearing and building a pilot road between Okitipupa and the River Owena at Siluko in Ondo Province, and on widening the road from Benin to Ighoriaki on the Osse river where considerable earthworks are in hand for the western approach to the Osse Bridge.

Tarring is progressing well on the Ife-Ilesha-Benin road, work being now in progress near Erinmo and ten miles east of Akure.

Tarring is also being carried south on the Benin-Sapele road after a seasonal hold up through the rains, and repairs and improvements are in hand on the Ologbo bank where the Ossiomo river overflowed and caused much damage in September last. Tarring is commencing on the Warri-Sapele road and general improvements and widening are well in hand on the Ukan-Ughelli-Kwale-Utagba-Uno road.

The feeder road programme is progressing gradually. Funds to the value of £5,500 have been allocated during the first seven months of the current financial year and work on further projects will be put in hand. The programme has however been hampered by lack of staff.

*Water Supplies.*—Progress on water supplies has been handicapped by shortage of staff, but in Warri the reservoir has been built, most of the mains laid and the first of three tube wells sunk to a depth of 200 feet. The programme of wells in rural areas has progressed slowly; nevertheless since the work began 212 wells have been sunk and 126 water tanks built.

In all, the Public Works Department have budgetted for a total expenditure in 1948-49 of £370,000 on Public Works Recurrent and Extraordinary (including some £50,000 worth under Nigerian as opposed to Regional estimates) and some £200,000 on Colonial Development Works.

### Veterinary

Veterinary activities have increased since October last year and are to be organised on a better footing now that there is a Regional Officer appointed to the Western Provinces.

There is as yet no field veterinary officer but it is hoped that in a short time at least one will be posted to the Western Provinces. Meanwhile veterinary activities in the field continue to be controlled by the Veterinary Officer at Ilorin. They do not at present extend beyond the Oyo Province.

There are now two Government Grade III veterinary assistants in the Western Provinces, one at Ibadan and another at Oyo. The latter is attached to the Agricultural Officer, Oyo. He is concerned with the welfare of Agricultural Department stock on the Farm School and Oyo Stock and Poultry Farm, and undertakes any other work which may be necessary. The former is concerned with the treatment of agricultural stock, horses and dogs in Ibadan; he is also held in readiness to go anywhere in the Western Provinces if the occasion arises.

The two Native Authority veterinary assistants continue their work—one at the cattle control post at Ago-Are and the other touring in the bush, tending the cattle there. Oyo has a third veterinary assistant-in-training who has just gone to the Veterinary Training School at Vom for a year's course; he has almost completed a year's field training in Ilorin where he showed good promise. He should take up his duties next July.

41,178 cattle, 12,790 sheep and 4,333 goats of French and Nigerian origin passed through the cattle control post at Ago-Are in 1947. During the same year 64,652 cattle, 50,608 sheep and 2,438 goats left the Ilorin control post for the Western Provinces.

*Hides and Skins.*—There are three Government sub-inspectors of hides and skins: one at Ibadan, another at Ife and the third at Oyo. There are also two Native Authority sub-inspectors at Ibadan and Oshogbo. Others further south are supervised by the Veterinary Officer, Lagos. This year the sub-inspector at Oyo made a tour of Ondo Province submitting a very interesting report on hides and skins there, which showed that an additional sub-inspector was required for Ondo Province.

All reports show considerable improvement in flaying and drying. During 1947, 43,491 hides were bought for export in the Western Provinces and 6,498 for local tanning.

*Disease.*—One outbreak of rinderpest was reported from North-west Oyo. It appears to have come from Borgu. Prompt action by the Veterinary Department stopped further spread. Six animals died from the disease. Two outbreaks of foot and mouth disease were reported, one at Oyo Farm School, another at Iwere-Itasa, Oyo. Both outbreaks were prevented from spreading by prompt quarantine measures. Many cases of trypanosomiasis have been treated in the bush, but this disease continues to cause a steady loss, not large but still serious. It is hoped that it will be possible to immunize the cattle of Oyo Province against rinderpest next year.

### Conclusion

Since the last meeting of this House, the Western Provinces have lost the services of Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, the Senior Resident, Oyo Province, through his promotion to be Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces. His many friends will miss him sadly but will wish him the best of luck in his new appointment.

Mr Brodie-Mends, Assistant Secretary in the Secretariat, Western Provinces, has recently retired after thirty-six years service. We wish him every happiness in his retirement.

The administrative service suffered a grievous loss during the year through the death of Mr M. G. Mack-Smith. He had spent two and a half years in Ijebu Province and as Acting District Officer had endeared himself to the people not only by his enthusiasm and hard work but also by his kindness to those in misfortune.

In general we can look back upon the year 1948 as a year of prosperity in the Western Provinces. Produce prices have been high and a low rainfall has not had the adverse effect on foodcrops that might have been expected. To those who study this address carefully, there may seem to be a lack of spectacular achievement. But may it not be true that nowadays our eyes are too prone to search for the spectacular and to ignore the humble achievements of day-to-day administration. It is on the latter as much as the former that the happiness of men and women depend. And the happiness of men and women at the present and in the future is the ultimate aim of all good administration.

# Debates in the Western House of Assembly

Wednesday, 15th December, 1948

Pursuant to notice the Members of the Western House of Assembly met in Mapo Hall, Ibadan, at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, the 15th of December, 1948.

## PRESENT

### OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,  
His Honour T. C. Hoskyns-Abrahall, C.M.G.
- The Resident, Abeokuta Province,  
Mr J. H. Blair, E.D.
- The Secretary, Western Provinces,  
Mr P. V. Main.
- The Resident, Benin Province,  
Mr R. J. M. Curwen.
- The Acting Resident, Warri Province,  
Mr R. L. V. Wilkes.
- The Acting Resident, Ondo Province,  
Mr T. B. Bovell-Jones.
- The Acting Resident, Oyo Province,  
Mr A. F. Abell.
- The Acting Secretary (Finance), Western Provinces,  
Mr W. R. Hatch.
- The Acting Resident, Ijebu Province,  
Mr O. V. Lee, E.D.
- The Deputy Director of Medical Services,  
Dr S. L. A. Manuwa, O.B.E.
- The Deputy Director of Education,  
Mr S. Milburn.
- The Acting Deputy Director of Agriculture,  
Mr A. V. Gibberd.
- The Acting Deputy Director of Public Works,  
Mr C. E. Andreae.
- The Senior Crown Counsel,  
Mr R. A. Doherty.

### UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Honourable the Oba Aderemi, C.M.G.,  
The Oni of Ife.
- 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 Member for the Benin Province,  
Chief H. O. Osagie, the Aighobahi of Benin.
- The Member for the Warri Province,  
Chief Jessa Ogboru.
- The Member for the Ondo Province,  
Mr J. B. Arifalo.
- The Member for the Ijebu Province,  
Chief A. O. Okupe, the Alaperu of Iperu.
- The Member for the Abeokuta Province,  
Chief A. Soetan, the Aro of Kemta.
- 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 First Nominated Member,  
The Venerable Archdeacon L. A. Lennon, O.B.E.
- 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 14th of December, 1948, having been printed and circulated to members, were taken as read and confirmed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### Clerk of the Western House of Assembly :

Members' attention is drawn to the cyclostyled paper on Elections to the Central and Regional Education Board as laid on their tables yesterday. These elections will take place after the meeting of the Select Committee on the Estimates on Friday December 17th and the results will be announced in the House on Saturday, December the 18th.

#### NOTICES

Notices given of the following motions were announced:—

- (i) Motion by the Acting Secretary (Finance) that the House adopt the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance.
- (ii) Motion by the Acting Deputy Director of Agriculture that the House select members of the Board of Agriculture.

- (iii) Motion by the Secretary, Western Provinces, that the House select members of the Shadow Oil Palm Produce Representative Committee.
- (iv) Motion by the Secretary, Western Provinces, that the House select members of the Shadow Western Regional Production Development Board.
- (v) Motion by the Secretary, Western Provinces, that the House select members of the Shadow Western Cotton Representative Committee.
- (vi) Motion by the Second Nominated Member, the Honourable Akinpelu Obisesan, O.B.E., relating to the revision of the Constitution.
- (vii) Motion by the Acting Secretary (Finance), relating to the estimates of expenditure for the service of the Western Region during 1949-50.
- (viii) Motion by the Acting Secretary (Finance), relating to the expenditure to be reimbursed by the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board.

### QUESTIONS

*NOTE.*—Replies to Questions Nos. 1, 4 and 5 by the First Member for the Oyo Province; No. 29 by the Member for Ondo Province and Nos. 32 and 35 by the Fifth Nominated Member are not yet ready.

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

To ask the Secretary, Western Provinces:—

(a) Whether any or adequate compensations are paid to farmers or planters whose economic trees like Cocoa, Coffee, Kolanuts, Palm trees, etc., are destroyed by Miners?

(b) If paid, at what rate per tree?

(c) Is it not considered necessary to grant a portion of the Royalties collected on mining to the Native Administrations in whose area there are mining operations?

(d) If necessary, what proportion?

(e) And if not why?

*Answer—*

**The Secretary, Western Provinces:**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At a rate agreed upon between the farmer and the operator.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Minerals are a potential source of great wealth. It is Government policy to use the revenue from such wealth to the benefit of the whole country and not of a limited area.

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

To ask the Secretary, Western Provinces:—

(a) How much from the Development Fund was granted towards Ibadan Town Planning and Town Road improvement?

(b) When will the work be started?

*Answer—*

**The Secretary, Western Provinces:**

(a) None, Sir.

(b) No detailed town plan has yet been prepared. The preparation is likely to take two years and is expected to start within the next year. Individual schemes, however, may be put in hand before the detailed investigation is completed.

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

To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Western Provinces:—

In view of the recent decision on the Cocoa Riot Incident and taking into consideration the Magistrate's remarks as published in the Western Echo of 21.9.48 to the effect that "those Cocoa Survey Officers who went to cut the trees did not produce any identity card to prove that they were authorised by the Agricultural Officer" and taking into consideration that most farmers are illiterates, what steps is the Department of Agriculture taking to ensure that in future the farmers will have no difficulty in recognising the staff of the Department who are out on official duties?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture:**

The staff of the Agricultural Department engaged on Cocoa Survey are provided with letters of identity. The question of providing means of visual identification is under consideration; but normally it is not considered desirable that Agricultural Staff should wear uniform. It has been proposed that in future swollen shoot cutting-out gangs should be accompanied by two representatives of the Native Authority and a senior official trained in the detection of the disease.

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

To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Western Provinces:—

(a) How many Cocoa Survey Officers are there in Nigeria?

(b) What are their respective qualifications and duties?

(c) How many of these are Nigerians?

(d) In view of the Government policy of Nigerianisation what encouragements has the Department given to Nigerians to qualify for this post?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture:**

(a) Three.

(b) Cocoa Survey officers must have had a good secondary education, preferably with some experience of Agriculture or

Forestry; they must also have proved administrative ability. The duties of the post entail the supervision and administration of the Cocoa Survey organisation under the direction of the Officer-in-charge Cocoa Survey.

(c) None.

(d) The claims of Nigerian candidates for filling vacancies in this establishment are always given full consideration. The proposal to place the post of Cocoa Survey Officer on the permanent establishment should offer adequate encouragement for Nigerians to qualify for such posts.

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

To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Western Provinces :—

(a) How many Agricultural Officers are in Nigeria?

(b) What are their respective qualifications and or Agricultural experience?

(c) How many of these are Nigerians?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture :**

(a) Thirty-six.

(b) The Member is referred to "A Guide to posts in the Permanent Establishment of the Senior Service of Nigeria" (N.S.S.4, C.M.S. Bookshop, Lagos, price 3d) which states :—

"Posts are open to men and women, who should normally be not less than twenty-one and a half nor more than thirty years of age. A candidate must have acquired a University degree in Agriculture or natural science or a diploma of an Agricultural College of recognised standing which involved at least three-year course of study in agriculture or horticulture (or some similar subject). In addition the candidate must have had not less than two years' post-graduate training in agricultural science or two years' approved post-graduate or post-diploma experience."

(c) None, as yet.

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

To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Western Provinces :—

(a) (i) How many Agricultural Superintendents or (ii) Development Officers are in Nigeria?

(b) What are their respective qualifications and or Agricultural experience?

(c) How many of these are Nigerians?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture :**

(a) (i) Four Agricultural Superintendents.

(ii) Eleven Agricultural Development Officers.

(b) *Agricultural Superintendents.*

The Member is referred to "A Guide to posts in the Permanent Establishment of the Senior Service of Nigeria" (N.S.S.4, C.M.S. Bookshop 3d) which states :—



“ Posts are open to men and women, who should normally be not less than twenty-one and a half nor more than thirty years of age. At present a candidate must have taken a two years' course of study in agriculture, horticulture or dairying at an approved College or Institute and have been granted a degree or diploma. He must also have had not less than one year's post-graduate or post-diploma experience. The question of modifying these qualifications is at present under consideration ”.

*Agricultural Development Officers.*

Agricultural Development Officers have in the past been appointed for their practical experience in Agriculture. The matter is now under consideration by Government.

(c) None, Sir.

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

To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Western Provinces :—

(a) How many Gold Coast Students have so far been trained for that Colony in the Agricultural Department School, Ibadan?

(b) Is the Department aware that three of such students have been given Senior Service Appointments by the Gold Coast Government as a result of their training in Nigeria?

(c) What are the posts at present held by Nigerian students trained along with these Gold Coast students?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture :**

(a) Ten.

(b) It is understood that two such appointments have recently been made.

(c) Senior Assistant and Assistant Agricultural Officers. The member is also referred to the answer to question 11 (d).

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

To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Western Provinces :—

(a) How many Nigerians have been sent to the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad?

(b) How many of these have successfully gone through their prescribed courses?

(c) What are the benefits of these courses to the Department and to the individuals concerned?

(d) How many of these men have been considered for appointment in the Senior Service as :

- I. Agricultural Officers.
- II. Cocoa Survey Officers.
- III. Agricultural Superintendents.
- IV. Development Officers?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture :**

(a) Fifteen.

(b) Five. Two results not yet to hand.

(c) The benefits are enhanced efficiency of the Department and of the individual.

(d) The following appointments are under consideration:—

- I. One.
- II. None.
- III. Three.
- IV. None.

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

To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Western Provinces:—

(a) How many Senior Service holders are engaged on Extension Work in Nigeria?

(b) How many of these are Nigerians?

(c) Does the Department not consider that an increase in the number of Senior Service Extension Officers will speed up the Agricultural Development of the country?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture:**

(a) It is not possible to state exactly how many Senior Service holders of the Agricultural Department are engaged on extension work in Nigeria at any one time. The work of the specialist officers of the Department (Chemists, Botanists and Entomologists) is closely dovetailed into general extension work; all Senior Service officers may be called on to perform extension work duties at any time.

(b) None, as yet.

(c) Yes, Sir.

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

To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Western Provinces:—

(a) Is the Department satisfied that the farmers of this area are taking full advantage of the activities of the Department for the improvement of local agriculture?

(b) If so, does the Department not consider the appointment of Nigerian Agricultural Propaganda Officers a desideratum?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture:**

(a) It is not possible to generalise. The Department is satisfied that farmers have taken full advantage of some of the facilities offered; but not of others.

(b) No, Sir. As a general rule the existing trained staff of the Agricultural Department is best qualified to carry out agricultural propaganda work. In special circumstances, however, it may be desirable to supplement the existing Advisory staff by the engagement of special propaganda teams for specific purposes. Such teams have in fact actually been engaged when the need has arisen.

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

To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Western Provinces:—

(a) What is the policy of Oyo Farm School?

(b) What are the results so far obtained from the scheme?

(c) Does the Department contemplate the opening of more of such schools in this area? If not, why not?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture :**

(a) The Oyo Farm School is still experimental. Its object is to examine the possibilities of training elementary school boys in improved methods of agriculture suitable for the orchard bush districts of Oyo Province. The aim is to settle the boys, with the assistance of scholarships, on farms of their own.

(b) Six classes have so far completed the two year period of training. Sixty-seven students were given scholarships out of the seventy-two places available and sixty completed the course. In addition to the twelve students who passed out in 1948, forty-one students from previous classes were still farming, seven having left their farms for various reasons. Twenty-two out of a class of twenty-four ex-servicemen completed the course in 1948 and have gone out to their farms.

(c) Yes, Sir. A school has been opened at Ogbomosho. The opening of others will be made possible when staff and land are available.

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

To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Western Provinces :—

(a) What is the average yield of cotton on local farms in Oyo Province per acre per annum for the last seven years?

(b) If a fall in yields is indicated what is responsible for the drop in yields and what steps has the Department taken to remedy the situation?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture :**

(a) Figures are not available.

(b) The Department is aware that falls in yields have occurred in the past few years and investigations have shown that this has been due to a combination of unfavourable seasons and several kinds of insect pests. This matter has been the subject of a joint enquiry between departmental specialists and specialists of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation. Current experiments at Moor Plantation indicate that the use of an insecticide containing D.D.T. shows promise of being successful, but its practical application to local cotton growers is as yet unproved.

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

To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Western Provinces :—

(a) Why is it necessary to appoint a European Secretary in the Department?

(b) Is the Department of Agriculture satisfied that this post cannot be filled from local material?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture :**

(a) Provision has been made in the development estimates for two secretaries for Nigerian Headquarters and one each for the Northern and Western Regional Headquarters. Their purpose is to deal with the increased office work resulting from agricultural development and thereby to release Agricultural Officers from office work.

(b) Two secretaries only have been appointed. One is a Nigerian, the other is a European. The Department is satisfied that local material could not fill both posts.

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

To ask the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Western Provinces :—

(a) Does the Department contemplate the employment of a Statistician as indicated in the 1948-49 Estimates?

(b) Is it a fact that an Assistant Agricultural Officer, Grade III, who has a Yaba Diploma in Agriculture, an Inter. B. Com. (London) and seven years experience in the Agricultural Department has sometime in 1948 been transferred to the Department of Statistics?

(c) If so, and if the answer to my question (a) above is in the affirmative, does the Department of Agriculture not consider this a wastage of trained personnel?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Agriculture :**

(a) Yes, Sir. Provision has been made in the Nigerian Development Estimates 1948-49 for the employment of two Assistant Statisticians.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The officer was transferred at his own request.

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

To ask the Secretary, Western Provinces :—

(a) What are the qualifications required for an individual before being gazetted by the Government as a Produce Expert?

(b) Who are the Produce Experts in Nigeria? and what produce experience have they?

(c) Are some of these Experts not appointed because they are employees of Produce Firms and not because they are all individually, practically qualified as Experts?

(d) Is Government aware that there are many Africans with many years of closer and longer experience in produce trade, who are better qualified than those now appointed as Experts?

(e) Is it Government's policy not to appoint Africans as Produce Experts?

(f) If (e) above is in the negative, can Government give undertaking that qualified Africans will be appointed among Produce Experts in future?

*Answer—*

**The Secretary, Western Provinces :**

(a) The qualification hitherto demanded has been that an individual should be a "fit and proper" person. Under section 23 (1) of the Agriculture Ordinance, 1948, the qualification is changed to read "suitably experienced . . . in respect of any kind of produce". It is generally understood that an individual who is selected is a person who can give a reliable opinion by virtue of his technical training and/or his practical experience in the marketing, storage and export of the produce concerned.

(b) The member is referred to the lists of produce experts given in Government Notice No. 1509 in *Gazette* No. 74 of 13th December, 1945. Government Notice No. 1551 in *Gazette* No. 57 of 30th October, 1947. Government Notice No. 1719 in *Gazette* No. 61 of 27th November, 1947. It is not possible to give details of the experience of all these individuals.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government is aware that there are many Africans with years of experience in the produce trade, but this of itself does not necessarily make them better qualified to act as Produce Experts than those hitherto appointed.

(e) Africans have already been appointed as Produce Experts, as a study of the Notices mentioned in (b) above will show.

(f) Does not arise.

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

To ask the Secretary, Western Provinces :—

(a) Whether it is true that a scheme for Local Government Reforms was tabled at the last session of the Eastern House of Assembly and accepted?

(b) If so, what arrangements are being made in the Western Provinces (i) for a similar bold scheme towards autonomous Local Government system and (ii) for the provision of superior posts in the Native Administration Service?

(c) How soon will such a scheme be laid on the Table of this House for debate?

*Answer—*

**The Secretary, Western Provinces :**

(a) No, Sir. A select committee was appointed by His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces, to carry out a full review of local government in the Eastern Provinces and to make recommendations. The Committee's report has recently been made public.

(b) (i) Circumstances are different in the Western Provinces and it is not considered that a full-scale review of local government is necessary. Proposals have, however, been made for the appointment of a standing committee of this House, which will meet regularly to consider and make recommendations on matters of general policy.

(ii) With regard to Native Administration senior staff the member is referred to the answer to question No. 23.

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

To ask the Secretary (Finance), Western Provinces:—

(a) Whether it is true that retiring allowances and gratuities to Native Authority employees are already being paid in the Eastern Provinces?

(b) If so, to know the reason for the delay in regard to the Western Provinces Scheme which delay it is understood is causing embarrassment to officials and employees of Native Authorities who have recently or are about to retire from the services of Native Administration?

(c) If the protracted delay is caused by the Native Authorities by not expressing opinion on the Scheme, what is being done to accelerate final approval?

*Answer—*

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Decision was delayed in order to co-ordinate the Western Provinces scheme with those of the North and East. The Western Provinces draft scheme was issued to Native Authorities in July. Native Authorities are democratic bodies and it is necessary for them to consult their people before large financial commitments are undertaken. This is bound to take some time.

(c) Native Authorities are being pressed not to delay their decisions unreasonably.

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

To ask the Secretary (Finance), Western Provinces:—

(a) Whether the Unestablished Staff of the Western Provinces have now been paid arrears of the revised wages retrospective to January, 1946, as in the Eastern Provinces and as recommended by a Joint Committee of Native Authorities and F.U.N.A.S. representatives since July last?

(b) If not, what accounts for this delay and what are the authorities doing to give the same immediate relief, as in the Eastern Provinces, to the Unestablished Staff of the Western Provinces?

*Answer—*

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

(a) The unestablished staff of some Native Authorities have been paid arrears to January, 1946. Others have not.

(b) It was left to Native Authorities themselves to implement the recommendation of the joint committee held in July. Some Native Authorities have not been able to afford the expense involved.

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

To ask the Secretary (Finance), Western Provinces:—

(a) (i) Which Native Administrations in the Western Provinces have received benefits under the Colonial Development Funds within the last three years and (ii) what kind of benefits have they received?

(b) What plan or plans are being made towards construction of new roads widening and tarring of the existing roads of the important towns of the Western Provinces, under the Colonial Development Funds?

(c) When will the Ibadan Town Planning Scheme already surveyed be undertaken by either the Central Government or Ibadan (Local) Authority?

*Answer—*

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

(a) (i) All Native Administrations.

(ii) The member is referred to His Honour's printed address, which provides information on the developments carried out each year.

(b) Plans are being drawn up by committees appointed in accordance with the Town Planning Ordinance. One-third of the cost of approved plans will be met from Colonial Development Funds.

(c) The member is referred to the answer to question No. 3.

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

To ask the Secretary, Western Provinces :—

What arrangements are being made by Government for the training under the recent recommendation of the Foot Commission of suitably qualified candidates in the United Kingdom as Municipal Treasurers, Town Clerks or Administrative Secretaries and as Heads of other Native Administration Departments, *e.g.*, Electricity and Waterworks Undertakings and the Health Services, etc.?

*Answer—*

**The Secretary, Western Provinces :**

Facilities for the training of treasurers in Nigeria are considered adequate. Employment of full time heads of departments can only be justified in the case of a few of the larger Native Authorities and in such cases officers are seconded from Government Departments where full facilities for training exist. The question of training Town Clerks and Administrative Secretaries is under consideration and Government will welcome suggestions from members of this House on this very important matter.

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

To ask the Secretary, Western Provinces :—

Whether Government is now in a position to suggest a substitute for the word "Native"?

*Answer—*

**The Secretary, Western Provinces :**

The member is referred to the Honourable the Chief Secretary's speech on this subject in the last meeting of the Legislative Council—at pages 197-200 of the Debates. No single suitable alternative for the word "native"—in its proper sense—is available in the English language. Government has, however, agreed to avoid the word as far as possible in the future.

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

To ask the Deputy Director of Education, Western Provinces:—

(a) Why Native Authority Teachers of the Western Provinces are being treated, as regards recent revision of salaries, differently from Government and/or Native Authority Teachers of the Northern and Eastern Provinces?

(b) Does the Government or the Native Authorities not think that in any radical changes of policy, as in the case of the conditions of service of the Western Provinces Native Authority Teachers, affecting a section of the workers their views should be ascertained before any desired changes are made?

(c) (i) If so, can this differential treatment be justified on the conviction by Government that the financial position of the Eastern Provinces is sounder than that of the West? (ii) If not, what was responsible for the decision made?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Education :**

(a) The Native Authority Teachers in the Western Provinces were never on the same scales of salary as Government or Native Authority Teachers in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. They were on the same scales as Voluntary Agency Teachers (*i.e.* Mission Teachers). It was considered both logical and fair therefore that Native Authority Teachers should follow the procedure prescribed for Voluntary Agency Teachers in regard to the recent revision of salaries. Furthermore, by doing so, another step is taken to achieve the unified teaching service which is the declared policy of Government.

(b) No radical change in policy is involved so the question does not arise.

(c) (i) No, Sir.

(ii) The member is referred to paragraph (a) above.

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

To ask the Deputy Director of Education, Western Provinces:—

(a) Whether in view of the shortage of Science teachers in Nigeria today, Government will not consider the use of Colonial Development Funds, for the secondment of fifty or more Science teachers from the United Kingdom on special contract for five years, to teach in all our Secondary Schools in Nigeria?

(b) Whether Government does not consider it necessary to encourage such Science teachers by offering them specially high salaries and payment of adequate sums towards their pensions and Provident Funds?

(c) Whether Government does not feel that the British Ministry of Education will come to Nigeria's aid if approached for this purpose?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Education :**

(a) Provision is made in the Nigerian Estimates Head 50. Development and Welfare Section 1, for the payment of expatriate



staff for Voluntary Agency Secondary Schools in Nigeria. The Director of Education has recommended to Government that eighty-eight graduates, of whom about thirty should be qualified in Science, should be recruited for Government and Voluntary Agency institutions.

(b) In view of the need for all types of teachers it would be invidious to make distinction between the salary terms of members of the same profession. The member is no doubt aware that there still exists a great shortage of Science teachers throughout the Commonwealth.

(c) Government has already approached the British Ministry of Education, and certain local Education Authorities in the United Kingdom have already agreed to second teachers to post in the Colonial Service for periods of up to five years, without loss of superannuation rights. The Ministry of Education has recently issued a Circular encouraging Local Education Authorities to bring the existing vacancies to the notice of their teachers.

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

To ask the Secretary, Western Provinces:—

(a) What are the reasons why the projected telegraph lines between the important Commercial towns of Oshogbo and Ogbomosho in Oyo Province have not been constructed?

(b) Whether Government can say precisely when the work of construction will commence?

*Answer—*

**The Secretary, Western Provinces:**

(a) The Oshogbo-Ogbomosho telegraph line has ninth priority in the Telecommunication Development Programme for the Western Region. These priorities were fixed by the Regional Development Committee.

(b) The exact date cannot be given at present. The project has not been included in the 1949-50 Estimates.

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

To ask the Secretary, Western Provinces:—

(a) How many applications for telephone installations are now on the waiting list in the Western Region?

(b) How many such applications have been received from Ibadan, Abeokuta, Ijebu-Ode, Oshogbo, Ilesha, Ife, Ondo, Akure, Warri, Sapele, and Benin City respectively?

(c) Whether the inability on the part of the Posts and Telegraphs Department to supply the telephones is due to (i) technical difficulties, (ii) lack of funds (iii) lack of material and/or lack of men?

(d) If Government is now in a position to say when the applicants in the different localities can hope to have telephones installed?

*Answer—*

**The Secretary, Western Provinces :**

(a) Four hundred and thirty-five.

(b) Ibadan	...	...	...	...	152
Abeokuta	...	...	...	...	41
Ijebu-Ode	...	...	...	...	57
Oshogbo	...	...	...	...	37
Ilesha	...	...	...	...	16
Ife	...	...	...	...	23
Ondo	...	...	...	...	20
Akure	...	...	...	...	8
Warri	...	...	...	...	16
Sapele	...	...	...	...	16
Benin City	...	...	...	...	12

(c) Due to lack of material and staff.

(d) Every effort will be made to provide all the telephone services required when the outstanding materials arrive and staff is available. It is regretted that no specific times for the different localities can be given.

**The Member for the Ondo Province (Mr J. B. Arifalo) :**

To ask the Deputy Director of Public Works, Western Provinces :—

(i) Is it a fact that Government has approved of the construction of the Ose River Bridge to connect Ishua Kukuruku Road to be financed from the Development Funds, and

(ii) To ask when work on this bridge is likely to commence?

*Answer—*

**The Deputy Director of Public Works :**

(i) Yes, Sir.

(ii) It is not possible to give a definite reply as to the date of commencement. This will depend on the nature of the bridge site, which is now being surveyed, and on the availability of Engineering Staff.

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

To ask the Secretary (Finance), Western Provinces :—

(a) In view of the fact that the Nigeria Local Development Board will make loans to African Business Men only on production of Security, whether the Board will consider and accept landed properties in the Protectorate as good security for such loans?

(b) If not, why not?

*Answer—*

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

(a) The Nigeria Local Development Board is being replaced by Regional Development Boards in accordance with the Bill at present before this House. The question of security for advances will be primarily one for the Boards themselves to decide.

(b) Does not arise.

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

To ask the Secretary, Western Provinces:—

(i) Is it a fact that Protectorate land and landed properties are not mortgageable to Banks and Commercial Firms without the permission of the Governor, and

(ii) That it usually takes six to eighteen months before permission can be obtained?

*Answer—*

**The Secretary, Western Provinces:**

(i) Yes, Sir. The policy established by Sir Donald Cameron in 1935, and approved by the Secretary of State was that mortgages of urban land to aliens whatever the title of the mortgagor leasehold or otherwise were to be permitted

(a) Only in Yorubaland,

(b) Only in areas in which the Native Authorities concur,

(c) And provided that on foreclosure the mortgagee receives no more than a lease, or a right to occupy for a number of years not exceeding fifty.

The Native Authorities who have so far concurred are those of:—

(i) The Egba Division of the Abeokuta Province,

(ii) The Towns of Ibadan, Oshogbo, Ife, Ilesha in the Oyo Province, and

(iii) The Towns of Ijebu-Ode, Shagamu, and Ijebu-Igbo in the Ijebu Province.

The reason underlying this policy is to prevent large scale alienation to aliens and the consequent dispossession of indigenous persons and families of their land.

(ii) No, Sir. Now that the Regional Land Office has been established at Ibadan, any delay which may have been experienced in the past should not recur.

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

To ask the Secretary, Western Provinces:—

(a) Whether Government does not consider that the unnecessarily long time taken to obtain the Governor's approval to those land deeds is indirectly restricting trade and impeding Commercial progress of the people of the Protectorate?

(b) Whether Government will consider the amendment of the provisions of the Laws, which will enable His Excellency the Governor to delegate his powers of final approval of the land-documents in the Protectorate to the Chief Commissioners in order to save the unnecessary waste of time that is usually involved?

*Answer—*

**The Secretary, Western Provinces:**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps have already been taken to this end and the delegation of the Governor's powers to the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces, should be published in the near future.

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

To ask the Secretary, Western Provinces:—

In view of the economic and commercial development of the country and the fact that the European Banks in Nigeria will neither countenance nor consider any land or landed property in the Protectorate as a good security for obtaining financial facilities by African business men; is it not time that Government should seriously consider an immediate establishment of Land Banks in the Protectorate of Nigeria, from where land property owners in the Protectorate can obtain financial facilities to develop their lands and to do active trade?

*Answer—*

**The Secretary, Western Provinces :**

No, Sir. The establishment of banks is a matter for private enterprise. Government is promoting credit facilities by the establishment of Regional Development Boards and by the encouragement of Thrift and Loan societies.

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

To ask the Secretary, Western Provinces:—

Whether Government will consider the setting up of a Court of Inquiry *re* land tenure generally in the Protectorate with a view to settle technical problems of outstanding difficulties?

*Answer—*

**The Secretary, Western Provinces :**

No, Sir. The problems of land tenure have been receiving the attention of Government for a long time. Progress has been held up by the War and by shortages of staff. When the staff of the recently established Regional Land Office at Ibadan is brought up to full strength such problems will receive early attention from the Regional Assistant Commissioner of Lands.

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

Your Honour, I beg to move:

“ That the House adopt the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance ”.

**The Secretary, Western Provinces :**

Your Honour, I rise to second.

**His Honour :**

The question is “ That this motion is acceptable to the House ”. Those in favour say “ Aye ”, those to the contrary “ No. ” The “ Ayes ” have it.

**The Secretary, Western Provinces :**

Your Honour, I rise to move:

“ That Standing Rules and Orders be suspended to admit amendment of the published Order of the Day by postponing the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th motions as they appear on the Order until after the Bills have been taken and in the case of the sixth Motion that it be postponed until a later date in this meeting. ”

Now, Your Honour, may I return to methods by which this organisation will work, the methods laid down in this Bill.

The first part of the Bill is formal and contains definitions.

Parts II, III and IV cover the constitution and the functions and the finance of the Marketing Board. The Board will consist of a Chairman, and two official members, who will be the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Marketing and Exports, and three Unofficial Members of whom two will come from the Eastern Provinces and one from the Western Provinces. Now, lest that predominance of the Eastern Provinces should cause any heart-burning, let me remind the House that important as the Oil Palm industry is in the Western Provinces, except in the Warri and Benin Provinces it takes a second place to Cocoa, whereas in the Eastern Provinces it is unrivalled as the paramount export crop. The tonnage of Palm Oil exported in 1947 from the Eastern Provinces was 105,000 tons compared with 20,000 tons from the Western Provinces; and of Palm Kernels, 123,000 tons from the Eastern Provinces compared with 54,000 tons from the Western Provinces. That is to say, in Palm Oil the Eastern Provinces exported five times as much as the Western Provinces, and in Palm Kernels, two-and-a-half times. I trust that the House will take a wide enough view, Your Honour, to accept that the greater representation of the Eastern Provinces in the light of these facts is right and fair.

The function of the Marketing Board is to obtain the most favourable prices from the buyers overseas for Nigerian produce. In doing so they will have the advice and assistance of their selling agent, the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company in London. The Board will fix the price which it can pay to the producer and in this it will act with the advice of the Representative Committee. Having decided the price it will also decide what part of its profit, if any, shall be devoted to the Stabilisation Fund and what part to Development.

Part V of the Bill prescribes the constitution of the Representative Committee, one body drawn both from the Eastern and the Western Regions. It will have a Chairman and one Official Member and one representative of the licensed buying agents and nine Nigerian unofficial members, two of whom will be members of the Marketing Board and seven will be appointed by the Houses of Assembly; four from the Eastern Provinces and three from the West. The function of the Representative Committee is to advise the Marketing Board on all matters concerning the purchase and grading of produce, and also to advise the Regional Production Development Boards as to the development works which they will undertake.

Part VI of the Bill brings in a new organism; the Eastern and Western Regional Production Development Boards, which are absent from the corresponding organisation for the Cocoa industry.

Each of these Boards will consist of a Chairman and one official member, two unofficial members of the Representative Committee, and not less than four, nor more than eight unofficial members of the House of Assembly appointed by the House of Assembly. The function of the Regional Production Development Board is to develop the industry and to secure the prosperity of the producers and the areas of production.

Part VII gives the Marketing Board a monopoly of the export of palm products. Some criticism has been heard of the provision in clause 62 of the Bill which gives the Board power to direct that produce which is purchased for any manufacturing process shall be purchased through the Board. I would like to emphasise that word "may". It does not say "shall" direct, it says "may" direct. And the decision whether to direct or not is a decision which would not be made, indeed could not lawfully be made without taking the advice of the Representative Committee, which consists predominantly, nay overwhelmingly, of Nigerian unofficial members. That is a safeguard. There is in the Cocoa Marketing Ordinance a proviso which excludes the Board from purchase for local processing and consumption within Nigeria, but who knows what some very large commercial organisation might not be able to do under such an exemption? It might corner the whole of the crop and manufacture from it something that none of us has ever thought of, and thereby secure power to force the price down; or even without forcing the price down, itself to obtain all the profits which it is the intention of this Bill should be obtained by the Marketing Board and devoted to the interests of the producers. It is surely very much better to trust our own Marketing Board and our own Representative Committee, whom we have ourselves appointed, to act in the interests of the people of Nigeria. Better to do that than to make some loophole through which clever commercial interests might be able to make a way in order to damage the interests of Nigeria.

Parts VIII and IX of the Bill cover offences and penalties and make provision for what should take place if the Marketing Organisation were to come to an end and provides for appeals.

Your Honour, if Members have followed what I fear has been a somewhat lengthy dissertation, I hope that they will see that this Bill faithfully carries out the principles which were accepted by the Legislative Council in its resolution on the 19th of August. It provides a buffer between the farmer and the world market. It assures the farmer of a steady prosperity instead of the ups and downs of capricious fortune which he experienced between the wars. And it places the fate of the Nigerian farmer very largely in his own hands through his representatives on the various bodies which the Bill sets up, and it maintains that close personal touch between the Marketing Board and the Representative Committee and the Regional Production Development Boards and the Houses of Assembly, by providing that the Production Development Boards

might happen in the future I feel we should do something, also to protect the local processing even if for the near future. Your Honour, I beg to support.

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

Your Honour, I rise to support the Mover of this Bill with certain amendments.

**The Member for the Benin Province (Chief H. O. Osagie, the Aigho' Lhi of Benin):**

Actually I have nothing against the Bill, but I have to congratulate the Mover a great deal for his able way of presenting it to the House. I have just one or two points to criticise when the time comes.

Your Honour, I beg to support the Bill in principle.

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

Your Honour, I have no new points to make against this Bill save the one that has just been mentioned, that is the local processing which, according to this Bill, if passed into law, shall entirely be binding against Nigerians. Your Honour, I support the Bill.

**The Resident, Abeokuta Province:**

Your Honour: There is very little for me to say in summing up that very brief debate, but I would like to reassure Members that there is no indication of small scale African industries being subjected to the provisions of this directive in clause 62. The Pioneer Oil Mills will not be affected by it, nor will anything except very large scale industry, if it becomes clear to the Marketing Board that the operations of that industry are a danger to the welfare of the Producers. It is simply a safeguard in the event of unforeseen dangers.

**His Honour:**

The question is "That this House do advise His Excellency that this Bill is acceptable in principle to the 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 and 2.*

*Clause 3.*

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

Your Honour, I wish to suggest clause 3 (2) be amended to read:—

"The Marketing Board shall consist of a Chairman to be appointed as such by the Governor, two official members to be appointed by the Governor, and four Nigerian Unofficial

Members to be appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Chief Commissioner concerned and of whom two shall be normally resident in the Eastern Region and two in the Western Region ”.

**His Honour :**

The question is that the clause be amended as suggested. I think we will take a division and the official members will abstain from voting.

The Fifth Nominated Member	...	...	...	Aye
The Fourth Nominated Member	...	...	...	Aye
The Second Nominated Member	...	...	...	Aye
The Member for the Ijebu Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Member for the Ondo Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Member for the Warri Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Member for the Benin Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Member for the Abeokuta Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Second Member for the Oyo Province	...	...	...	Aye
The First Member for the Oyo Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Honourable Omo N'Oba Akenzua II, C.M.G., the Oba of Benin	...	...	...	No
The Honourable the Oba Aderemi, C.M.G., the Oni of Ife	...	...	...	Aye

**His Honour :**

The result of the voting is “ Ayes ” 11, “ Noes ” 1. The amendment is therefore adopted.

*Clauses 4-8.*

*Clause 9.*

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

Your Honour, I move that clause 9 be amended by substituting “ three ” instead of “ two ” so that it should read “ At a meeting of the Marketing Board three members and the Chairman shall be a quorum ”.

**His Honour :**

The question is that clause 9 be amended as proposed. Those in favour say “ Aye ”, those to the contrary “ No ”. The “ Ayes ” have it.

*Clauses 10-16.*

*Clause 17.*

**The Member for the Abeokuta Province (Chief A. Soetan):**

Your Honour, I beg to move that sub-clause (g) clause 17 be amended by the deletion of the words “ for each crop year ” in the first line.



**His Honour :**

The question is that sub-clause (g) clause 17 be amended as proposed. Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary say "No". The "Ayes" have it.

*Clauses 18-59.*

*Clause 60.*

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

Your Honour, I rise to move that clause 60 (b) be amended by the deletion of the last five words, and the insertion of a proviso.

**His Honour :**

The question is that clause 60 (b) be amended as proposed. Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary say "No". The "Ayes" have it.

*Clause 61.*

*Clause 62.*

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

Your Honour, I rise to move that clause 62 be amended by the addition of a proviso.

**His Honour :**

I propose that the question be considered in a Sub-Committee of this House, under the chairmanship of the Resident, Abeokuta Province. This Sub-Committee should also consider the proviso to be added to clause 60 (b). The Sub-Committee will consist of the Senior Crown Counsel and all Unofficial Members.

*Enactment.*

*Title.*

*House resumed.*

**His Honour :**

The Bill stands committed to a Select Committee of the House who will study two of its clauses.

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE MARKETING  
AND EXPORT OF NIGERIAN GROUNDNUTS AND CERTAIN OTHER  
OILSEEDS AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH

**The Acting Deputy Director of Agriculture :**

Your Honour, I rise to move a resolution that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Nigeria Groundnut Marketing Ordinance, 1949, is acceptable to this House.

The object of this Bill is to implement proposals relating to the marketing of groundnuts and benniseed which are set forth in the Statement of Policy for the Future Marketing of Nigerian Oil, Oilseeds and Cotton. This statement was published as Sessional

Paper No. 18 of 1948 and was accepted in principle by the Legislative Council at a meeting in August last. The provisions of this Bill are identical with those of the Oil Palm Produce Marketing Ordinance which have already been very ably explained to you in considerable detail by the Resident, Abeokuta Province. It would be entirely superfluous for me to go over that ground again.

There is, however, one aspect of the Bill which, Sir, deserves some comment. Members will doubtless have noticed that the Bill makes no provision for representation by the Western Region either on the Marketing Board or on the Representative Committee, nor is there any provision for the establishment of a Western Region Production Development Board. The reason for this is of course that the Bill does not apply to the Western Region since groundnuts and benniseed are not export crops in the Western Provinces. I wish to emphasise, therefore, that this Bill does not in any way interfere with the production, buying, selling, and processing, of groundnuts produced by farmers in the Western Region.

The Bill is based, with necessary modifications, on the Cocoa Marketing Ordinance of 1947, which is now in successful operation. I am convinced, Sir, that it will be of the very greatest benefit to farmers and others engaged on the production and marketing of groundnuts and benniseed in the areas to which it applies.

Your Honour, I beg to move.

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

Your Honour, I beg to second this Bill and in doing so I will say briefly that this Bill is very necessary to confer economic benefits upon the people in the North who are in the groundnut belt. There is a proverb that says that the proof of the pudding is in the eating: anyone who lives in the cocoa belt of the Western Provinces will know what a great amount of benefit the Bill which is now on the table—the Bill for the export of cocoa—has conferred upon farmers and people who are engaged in the cocoa industry so for that matter I say that the benefits should not be confined to the Southern Provinces alone but should be extended to those parts of Nigeria where there is this kind of produce, so, Your Honour, I beg to second the Bill.

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

Your Honour; I agree with this Bill in principle subject to two or three amendments as we get along.

**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,

*House in Committee.*

*Clauses 1-2.*

*Clause 3.*

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

Your Honour, I recommend that the last word in clause 3 should be amended by the addition of the words " on the recommendation of the Chief Commissioner ".

**His Honour :**

The question is that the amendment proposed by the last speaker is acceptable to this House. We will take a division on this, with both Official and Unofficial Members voting.

The Fifth Nominated Member	...	...	...	Aye
The Fourth Nominated Member	...	...	...	No
The Second Nominated Member	...	...	...	No
The Member for the Ijebu Province	...	...	...	No
The Member for the Ondo Province	...	...	...	No
The Member for the Warri Province	...	...	...	No
The Member for the Benin Province	...	...	...	No
The Member for the Abeokuta Province	...	...	...	No
The Second Member for the Oyo Province	...	...	...	Aye
The First Member for the Oyo Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Honourable Omo N'Oba Akenzua II, C.M.G., the Oba of Benin	...	...	...	No
The Honourable the Oba Aderemi, C.M.G., the Oni of Ife	...	...	...	No
The Senior Crown Counsel	...	...	...	No
The Acting Deputy Director of Public Works	...	...	...	Aye
The Acting Deputy Director of Agriculture	...	...	...	Aye
The Deputy Director of Education	...	...	...	Aye
The Deputy Director of Medical Services	...	...	...	Aye
The Acting Resident, Ijebu Province	...	...	...	No
The Acting Secretary (Finance), Western Provinces	...	...	...	Aye
The Acting Resident, Oyo Province	...	...	...	No
The Acting Resident, Ondo Province	...	...	...	No
The Acting Resident, Warri Province	...	...	...	No
The Resident, Benin Province	...	...	...	No
The Secretary, Western Provinces	...	...	...	No
The Resident, Abeokuta Province	...	...	...	No

**His Honour :**

The result of the voting is " Ayes " 8, " Noes " 17. The amendment is therefore defeated.

*Clauses 4-8.*

*Clause 9.*

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

Your Honour, I suggest that the word " two " in clause 9 should be changed to " three ".

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

Your Honour, I would like to add, in addition to the above, that "one of whom should be unofficial".

The Acting Secretary (Finance), Western Provinces:

Your Honour, I suggest we leave it as it is as it does not refer to this Region at all.

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

Your Honour, I suggest we make further amendment "that one of whom shall be a Nigerian Unofficial" should be inserted.

His Honour:

We will take the amendment "At meetings of the Marketing Board two Members of whom one shall be a Nigerian Unofficial and the Chairman, shall be a quorum". We will take a division.

The Fifth Nominated Member	...	...	...	No
The Fourth Nominated Member	...	...	...	Aye
The Second Nominated Member	...	...	...	Aye
The Member for the Ijebu Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Member for the Ondo Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Member for the Warri Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Member for the Benin Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Member for the Abeokuta Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Second Member for the Oyo Province	...	...	...	Aye
The First Member for the Oyo Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Honourable Omo N'Oba Akenzua II, C.M.G., the Oba of Benin	...	...	...	Aye
The Honourable the Oba Aderemi, C.M.G., the Oni of Ife	...	...	...	Aye
The Senior Crown Counsel	...	...	...	Aye
The Acting Deputy Director of Public Works	...	...	...	Aye
The Acting Deputy Director of Agriculture	...	...	...	Aye
The Deputy Director of Education	...	...	...	Aye
The Deputy Director of Medical Services	...	...	...	Aye
The Acting Resident, Ijebu Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Acting Secretary (Finance), Western Provinces	...	...	...	No
The Acting Resident, Oyo Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Acting Resident, Ondo Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Acting Resident, Warri Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Resident, Benin Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Secretary, Western Provinces	...	...	...	Aye
The Resident, Abeokuta Province	...	...	...	Aye

His Honour:

The "Ayes" have it 23 to 2.

Clauses 10-64.

Clause 65.

**The Hon. the Oba Aderemi, C.M.G., the Oni of Ife :**

Your Honour, I suggest that on the fifth line after " of the ", " Eastern and Western " be added.

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

Your Honour, I agree with above.

**His Honour :**

The suggested amendment is following the wording of the Oil Palm Produce Marketing Bill which would read:—

" In such manner as the Northern, Eastern and Western Houses of Assembly, made respectively by resolution direct "

**The Acting Deputy Director of Agriculture :**

Your Honour, I cannot possibly support the view.

**His Honour :**

The amendment should read:—

" That if the Marketing Board Area Production Development ceases for any reason " funds of the Board shall be disposed of for the benefit of the Northern, Western and Eastern Regions and of the Colony in such proportion as the Legislative Council may by resolution direct "

We will take a division on this amendment.

The Fifth Nominated Member	...	...	...	Aye
The Fourth Nominated Member	...	...	...	Aye
The Second Nominated Member	...	...	...	Aye
The Member for the Ijebu Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Member for the Ondo Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Member for the Warri Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Member for the Benin Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Member for the Abeokuta Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Second Member for the Oyo Province	...	...	...	Aye
The First Member for the Oyo Province	...	...	...	Aye
The Honourable Omo N'Oba Akenzua II, C.M.G., the Oba of Benin	...	...	...	Aye
The Honourable the Oba Aderemi, C.M.G., the Oni of Ife	...	...	...	Aye
The Senior Crown Counsel	...	...	...	No
The Acting Deputy Director of Public Works	...	...	...	No
The Acting Deputy Director of Agriculture	...	...	...	No
The Deputy Director of Education	...	...	...	No
The Deputy Director of Medical Services	...	...	...	No
The Acting Resident, Ijebu Province	...	...	...	No
The Acting Secretary (Finance), Western Provinces	...	...	...	No
The Acting Resident, Oyo Province	...	...	...	No
The Acting Resident, Ondo Province	...	...	...	No

The Acting Resident, Warri Province	...	...	No
The Resident, Benin Province	...	...	No
The Secretary, Western Provinces	...	...	No
The Resident, Abeokuta Province	...	...	No

**His Honour :**

The amendment is lost by 12 votes to 13.

*Clause 66.*

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

Your Honour, I suggest clause 66 be amended to read :—

“ Any person aggrieved by the exercise by the Marketing Board of any of the powers or privileges conferred upon it under section 17 of this Ordinance may, within 21 days of the date on which the immediate cause of the grievance arises, appeal in writing to the Governor in Council, whose decision shall be final ”.

**His Honour :**

The question is that clause 66 be amended as proposed. Those in favour say “ Aye ”, those to the contrary “ No ”. The “ Noes ” have it.

*Enactment.*

*Title.*

*House resumed.*

**The Acting Deputy Director of Agriculture :**

Your Honour, I rise to report the Bill from Committee with one amendment.

**His Honour :**

The question is that this Bill as amended 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 MAKE PROVISION FOR THE MARKETING AND EXPORT OF NIGERIAN COTTON AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH

**The Acting Resident, Oyo Province :**

Your Honour, I rise to move a resolution that His Excellency be advised that the Bill entitled the Nigeria Cotton Marketing Ordinance, 1949, is acceptable to this House. This Bill carries into effect the proposals in regard to cotton, set out in the statement of policy which was published as Sessional Paper No. 18 of 1948 and laid on the table of the Legislative Council at the meeting held in August last.

You have heard, Sir, a very able and detailed account of the provisions of the Oil Palm Produce Marketing Ordinance from the Resident of the Abeokuta Province and I do not wish to bore

members by going over the same ground again. These two Ordinances are in fact very similar both in the objects they set out to achieve and in the organisation they create. They follow the pattern of the Cocoa Marketing Board Ordinance of 1947 which we have seen in successful operation. I think therefore it will be sufficient if I say a word or two on the Cotton Industry generally, and how this Bill will affect it, and in what respects this Bill differs from those other Marketing Ordinances that have gone before it.

The objects of the Bill have been published in recent numbers of the Gazette and were set out in the Sessional Papers to which I have referred; they are, in brief, the development by all possible means of the Cotton Industry in Nigeria, and to obtain the most favourable arrangements for the purchase, grading, ginning, export and sale of cotton. The Cotton Industry differs from the Oil Palm, Cocoa and Groundnuts Industries in that Cotton is not primarily an export crop. In fact very little Cotton is at present exported from the Western Provinces; the reason is that the present export price does not compete favourably with the price offered by the weavers and spinners in this country. During the war there was a great shortage of imported textiles with the result that the Textile Industry in this country made very great headway and became firmly established. But as world-market prices re-establish themselves we must expect, Sir, in the near future to have to face severe competition from other countries both in regard to imported textiles and our cotton exports. In pre-war days seed cotton was purchased at competitive prices by the Commercial Firms and the price fluctuated from year to year. The danger of these fluctuating prices has been explained by the Resident, Abeokuta Province, in his speech on the Palm Oil Marketing Bill and his warning applies equally in the case of cotton, but in regard to cotton there is, I think, an added danger. If the price of cotton in other countries rises steeply the export price in this country will also rise and this in turn will increase the price that our local Textile Industry has to pay for its raw material, and this in turn will increase our already high cost of living. There would also be the danger that our flourishing and growing local weaving industry would be starved of cotton with disastrous results at a time when Government is doing everything it can by way of expert advice and the introduction of improved looms to develop the industry.

It is clear therefore that some control is necessary to ensure that Nigerian cotton obtains the full market price in overseas markets and that the interests of the weaving industry are safeguarded. This Bill provides the means whereby a Cotton Board can exercise this very necessary control.

There is an urgent need for increasing the production of cotton and it is essential that the industry should receive advice and guidance at this most important time. Unlike the Palm Oil and

Cocoa Industries large accumulated funds are not available but if the export price increases it should be possible for the Cotton Board to put aside funds while carrying out its policy of controlled marketing whereby a proper balance is maintained between the locally purchased cotton and the export crop. These sums can be devoted to the formation of a price stabilisation fund or for use in research, and there is much to be done in the protection of cotton from disease, alike in the interests of the export trade and of the local weaving industry. I see there is a question that was answered to-day about the fall in cotton production and the answer was that it is a result of cotton diseases, and I think everyone will agree that research is very necessary.

The Bill does not in any way interfere with the local industry in the buying and selling of cotton in this country. The Board will buy only cotton which is graded as suitable for ginning and is offered for sale. The Bill does however provide the means whereby the best possible advice is available to cotton farmers.

I think I should refer now very briefly to the organisation which is set up by the Bill:—

First there is a Cotton Board consisting of a Chairman, three Officials and three Nigerian Unofficials,—the duties of this Board are as follows:—

- (a) Development of the cotton industry
- (b) To make suitable arrangements of grading, ginning, export and sale of cotton.

The Cotton Board is assisted by two Cotton Representative Committees, one in the Northern Provinces and the other in the West. The Western Representative Committee will consist of a Chairman, two Officials, one Unofficial representing the licensed ginning agents and four Nigerian Unofficials appointed by the Western House of Assembly. The Representative Committee advises the Board in all matters connected with the purchase and grading of seed cotton and on any other matters referred to it by the Board. We have the same difficulty, Sir, as regards clause 42 (1) as we had in the Palm Oil Ordinance and which we discussed at length. Presumably that matter will arise at a later stage and there is one other amendment that may be necessary.

You will note that the Oil Palm Produce Marketing Ordinance and the Groundnut Marketing Ordinance provide for Production Development Boards who apply the surplus funds of the Board to the development of the industry. In the case of cotton it is not considered necessary to set up Production Development Boards at the present time in that the Cotton Board will receive all the assistance it requires from the Representative Committees.



I do consider, Sir, that this Bill is a very important one for the future development and expansion of the Cotton Industry and I commend it to the members of this House.

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):**

Your Honour, I beg to second.

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

Your Honour, I suggest that the Mover in saying that the question of Cotton is not so important in the West is wrong. I come from an area where it is now grown. I am not prepared to oppose the Bill but I have one or two clauses to speak about when it comes to Committee. Your Honour, I support the Bill.

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

Your Honour, I support the Bill subject to one amendment.

**His Honour:**

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

Would the Members prefer to meet at 2.30 or 3 p.m.? If this is satisfactory to Members, we will adjourn until 2.30 this afternoon.

*House adjourned at 12.20 p.m. until 2.30 p.m.*

*House resumed at 2.30 p.m.*

**His Honour:**

The House will now resolve itself into Committee to consider the Bill for the Nigeria Cotton Marketing Ordinance, 1949.

*House in Committee.*

*Clauses 1-2.*

*Clause 3.*

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

Your Honour, I suggest that as regards clause 3 (2) the interest in Oil is Nigeria-wide and it is important that Nigeria should be represented if we are to work. Instead of the Governor in the last line, I would like "Governor in Council".

**His Honour:**

Amendment to read "Three Nigerian Unofficial Members to be appointed by the Governor in Council". Clause 3 to be amended as proposed. Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". We will take a division, the Official Members abstaining from voting.

The Fifth Nominated Member	...	...	...	No
The Fourth Nominated Member	...	...	...	No
The Second Nominated Member	...	...	...	Aye
The Member for the Ijebu Province	...	...	...	No
The Member for the Ondo Province	...	...	...	No
The Member for the Warri Province	...	...	...	No
The Member for the Benin Province	...	...	...	No
The Member for the Abeokuta Province	...	...	...	No
The Second Member for the Oyo Province	...	...	...	Aye
The First Member for the Oyo Province	...	...	...	No
The Honourable Omo N'Oba Akenzua II, C.M.G., the Oba of Benin	...	...	...	No
The Honourable the Oba Aderemi, C.M.G., the Oba of Ife	...	...	...	No

**His Honour :**

The result of the voting is "Ayes" 2, "Noes" 10. The proposed amendment is therefore lost.

*Clauses 4-8.*

*Clause 9.*

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

Your Honour, just exactly the same as that of the Groundnut, I would like to suggest an amendment to read "At a meeting of the Marketing Board two Members, one of whom shall be an Unofficial Member and the Chairman, shall be a quorum".

**The Secretary, Western Provinces :**

Your Honour, I do not think any objection should be made to this amendment.

**His Honour :**

I ask the Member to alter the amendment to tie up with the previous Bill. "Two Members, one of whom shall be a Nigerian Unofficial Member and the Chairman shall be a quorum". Those in favour say "Aye" those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

*Clauses 10-31.*

*Clause 32.*

**The Acting Resident, Oyo Province :**

Your Honour, I suggest that clause 32 (d) should be amended to include one representative of the Producers as is done in the Cocoa Advisory Committee. Clause 32 (d) would therefore read:—

"Six Nigerian Unofficial Members of whom one shall be appointed by the Cotton Marketing Board and one by the Producers which follows the Cocoa Marketing Bill Ordinance, and four by the Western House of Assembly".

Giving six Unofficial Members the same as the Northern Provinces have in their Representative Committee.

**His Honour :**

The question is that clause 32 (d) be amended as proposed by the Member. Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

*Clauses 33-39.*

*Clause 40.*

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

Your Honour, I suggest that clause 40 (b) be amended on similar lines to the amendment suggested in the case of the Oil Palm and Groundnuts.

**His Honour :**

In the circumstances I think it best to refer this clause to the Select Committee as has been done with the others.

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

Your Honour, I agree.

*Clause 41.*

*Clause 42.*

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

Your Honour, I propose that the same amendment be made in this clause.

**His Honour :**

The whole of clause 42 shall be referred to the Select Committee of the House.

*Enactment.*

*Title.*

*House resumed.*

**His Honour :**

The Bill will be referred to a Select Committee in regard to two clauses.

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE EMPLOYMENT OF  
EX-SERVICEMEN ORDINANCE, 1945

**The Acting Resident, Ondo Province :**

Your Honour, I rise to move a resolution that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Bill to amend the Employment of Ex-servicemen Ordinance, 1945, is acceptable to this House.

Sir, members are aware that the object underlying the Employment of Ex-servicemen Ordinance, 1945, was to ensure that those soldiers who enlisted in the armed forces between the month of May, 1939, and the end of the war should not lose their chances

of civilian employment after the war. There are still on the register of able-bodied ex-servicemen certain soldiers who served during the war and their numbers are being increased by soldiers who have enlisted since the end of the war and who are entitled by virtue of section 21 (2) of the Ordinance, to have the right to register in the same way as soldiers who served during the war.

The object of this Bill, and I feel sure that members will agree that it is necessary, is to enable the Commissioner of Labour to fix a date after which no ex-serviceman who has registered since the end of the war and whose service is defined in section 2 of the Ex-servicemen's Ordinance, shall be entitled to be placed on the register.

Power is given also to make further regulations entitling such ex-servicemen or particular classes of them to be put on the register notwithstanding.

Members will have noticed that this applies to able-bodied ex-servicemen only and not to disabled ex-servicemen who are still entitled to be registered as they were before.

Your Honour, I beg to move.

**The Member for the Ondo Province (Mr J. B. Arifalo):**

Your Honour, I beg to second.

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

Your Honour, I beg to support this Bill.

**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.*

*Enactment.*

*Title.*

*House resumed.*

**The Acting Resident, Ondo Province:**

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

**His Honour:**

The question is "That this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Bill is acceptable to this House without amendment". Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LOCAL LOANS (REGISTERED STOCK AND SECURITIES) ORDINANCE, 1946

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

Your Honour, I rise to move a resolution that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that a Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Local Loans (Registered Stock and Securities) Ordinance, 1946, is acceptable to this House.

The objects and reasons published in the Gazette with this Bill has given very simply the purposes of this amendment. I would like to add in explanation that the Nigerian Government 3½ per cent loan issued under the main Ordinance did not prove as attractive to individual African investors as was hoped, owing to the possibility of transfers and the complications which may arise on the death of a stockholder, local banks are not prepared to accept loan stock as security for temporary advances to clients unless arrangements are made for their registration and if registered to have a lien on such stock. For the same reason such stock is not acceptable to the Nigerian Railway.

These circumstances and similar ones obviously lessen the attractiveness of the loan. It is therefore proposed to amend the Ordinance to enable the Accountant-General to register a lien on such stock, providing that such stock is registered.

It is quite a simple Ordinance and I think it will be found acceptable to the House.

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 the Governor that the Bill in principle is acceptable 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.*

*Enactment.*

*Title.*

*House resumed.*

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

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

**His Honour :**

The question is " That this House do now advise His Excellency that the Bill is acceptable to the House without amendment ". Those in favour say " Aye ", those to the contrary " No ". The " Ayes " have it.

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE  
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS ORDINANCE

**The Senior Crown Counsel :**

Your Honour, I rise to move a resolution that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that a Bill for an Ordinance further to amend the Public Holidays Ordinance is acceptable to this House.

The object of this Bill is to declare the birthday of the Prophet Muhammed a public holiday in Nigeria and to include that day in the list of holidays we have for the year as published in the schedule to the Public Holidays Ordinance, Cap. 152. At present there are ten such days on which public holidays may be declared in Nigeria as follows:—

New Year's Day.

Good Friday.

Easter Monday.

Empire Day.

The day appointed by the Governor for the official celebration of the anniversary of the Birthday of the Sovereign.

The first Monday in August.

Christmas Day.

Boxing Day.

Such day as the Governor may declare a public holiday in celebration of the Mohammedan festival of Id el Fitr, which, I understand, is known as the Lesser Bairam.

Also a similar day for the festival of Id el Kabir, or the Greater Bairam.

The intention of this amendment is to include in that list the birthday of the Prophet Muhammed so that we will have eleven public holidays declared in Nigeria.

It is to be noted that it is already the custom in some parts of the country—notably in the North—to celebrate this day as a birthday, so it is thought desirable to make it uniform and it is in deference to the wishes of the Moslem community everywhere in Nigeria that this amendment is being proposed.

Your Honour, I beg to move.

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

Your Honour, I beg to second,

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

Your Honour, I beg to support.

**His Honour:**

The question is "That this House do advise His Excellency that this Bill is acceptable to the House in principle". 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 and 2.*

*Enactment.*

*Title.*

*House resumed.*

**The Senior Crown Counsel:**

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

**His Honour:**

The question is "That this House do advise His Excellency that this Bill is acceptable to the House without amendment". Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary say "No". The "Ayes" have it.

#### A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF MANILLAS AS CURRENCY

**The Acting Resident, Ijebu Province:**

Your Honour, I rise to move a resolution that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that a Bill for an Ordinance to prohibit the use of Manillas as currency is acceptable to the House.

I would briefly explain to the House the origin of the use of Manilla as currency. The word "manilla" is a Portuguese word meaning "bracelet" and manillas might be described as metal bracelets used as currency in some parts of the Eastern Provinces. They were introduced by early European traders and gradually became the predominating currency between the Cross River and the Lower Niger. Today they are being exchanged at a rate varying from 4 to 24 to 1s according to the type of manilla. As members are no doubt aware a withdrawal scheme has been in operation since 1st October and Government notices have been published in the Gazette and in the Press giving details of this scheme. Latest reports from the area show that the scheme is proceeding smoothly and that manillas are being exchanged in large numbers.

Your Honour, it must be obvious to all that the withdrawal of such a cumbersome form of currency as are manillas is long overdue in such a progressive country as Nigeria. The Bill now before the

House is designed to ensure that the withdrawal scheme may be completely effective by making it illegal for any person to use manillas as currency or to have more than 200 in his possession.

Your Honour, I beg to move.

**The Member for the Ijebu Province (Chief A. O. Okupe, the Alaperu of Iperu):**

Your Honour, I beg to second.

**His Honour:**

The question is "That the House do advise His Excellency that this Bill is acceptable to the 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 1-5.*

*Enactment.*

*Title.*

*House resumed.*

**The Acting Resident, Ijebu Province:**

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 the House without amendment". Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO CERTAIN COURTS-MARTIAL CONVENED BETWEEN THE 30TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1945, AND THE 11TH DAY OF JULY, 1946, BOTH DATES INCLUSIVE

**The Senior Crown Counsel:**

Your Honour, I rise to move a resolution that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Bill for an Ordinance for the Royal West African Frontier Force (Nigeria Regiment) Courts-Martial Validation Ordinance is acceptable to the House.

The reason for this Bill is this. The Army Act ceased to apply to the Royal West African Frontier Force (Nigeria Regiment) on the 30th of October, 1945, that is, on the day that the Royal West African Frontier Force ceased to be on active service, but Courts-Martial were held from that date and they could only lawfully be held under section 49 of the Royal West African Frontier Force Ordinance if the Governor authorised an Officer to hold them. Actually although several Court-Martial proceedings were held as from the 30th October, 1945, the warrant of the Governor convening these proceedings was not signed until the 11th of July, 1946, so that unless this Bill is passed, these proceedings will be invalid. Also it is necessary to indemnify all officers who not only held the



proceedings of these Courts-Martial, but the Officers also who confirmed the proceedings, and this is provided for under Clause 4 of the Bill.

Your Honour, I beg to move.

**The Member for the Abeokuta Province (Chief A. Soetan):**

Your Honour, in rising to second this motion I wish to observe that this is only a Bill which seeks to regularise certain defects arising from proceedings of court-martial. It is a mere 'validation' and also an indemnifying Ordinance with respect to the court-martial proceedings which, unless this Bill is passed, may become invalid. The object and the reason for the Bill are formal. Your Honour, I beg to second.

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

Your Honour, I rise to support the Bill in principle subject to one or two amendments in due course.

**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.*

*Enactment.*

*Title.*

*House resumed.*

**The Senior Crown Counsel:**

Your Honour, I rise 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 the House without amendment". Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF FOSTERING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA BY MAKING GRANTS AND ADVANCES OUT OF SUCH MONEYS AS MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH

**The Acting Resident, Warri Province:**

Your Honour, I rise to move the resolution that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that a Bill for an Ordinance entitled the Regional Development Boards Ordinance, 1949, is acceptable to this House.

clause 12 of the 1946 Ordinance with the very important difference that the Regional Boards established under this Bill may make grants or advances to individuals as well as to approved authorities. The limitations of the Board's powers in this respect are set out under clause 21 sub-clause 2 and sections 22 and 23.

Parts 6 to 10 inclusive of the Bill provide for the carrying out of the Board's functions in a proper and business-like manner.

The wording of clause 4 describes the composition of the Board and has I understand, been the subject of adverse criticism. This provides that the Board shall have a minimum membership of five of whom three shall be members of the Regional House. There is, as the clause is at present worded, nothing to prevent the appropriate authority—that is Your Honour—from appointing such a number of official members as to ensure a strong official majority. This of course is very far from Your Honour's intention. In the past two or three years numerous boards and committees have been established by law and though I am sure none of us have heard of any complaints, these Boards and Committees have placed a heavy burden of weighty responsibility on the shoulders of unofficial members of this House and these members have their own business and private interests as well as other responsibilities in their own Native Administrations to consider. The intention rather of the wording of the clause is to enable Your Honour to seek for men of good will and public spirit outside the confines of this House and even outside the Native Authority Councils. I also understand that the opinion of the three regions as to the selection of members of these Boards is not unanimous and this one Bill covers all three Regions.

Other points will no doubt be raised in Committee, but I would re-assert my conviction that the three Provinces will give this Bill the warmest welcome.

Your Honour, I beg to move.

**The Member for the Warri Province (Chief Jessa Ogboru):**

Your Honour, I beg to second the motion.

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

Your Honour, I agree with the principles of this Bill and in accordance with the wishes of the mover, we in the Oyo Province shall give it a very warm welcome.

**His Honour:**

Does any member wish to address the House?

The question is "That this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that this Bill is acceptable to the House in principle". 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 1-43.*

*Enactment.*

*Title.*

*House resumed.*

### **The Acting Resident, Warri Province :**

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

### **His Honour :**

The question is " That this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Bill is acceptable to this House without amendment ". Those in favour say " Aye ", those to the contrary " No ". The " Ayes " have it.

### **A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES (EXTENSION) ORDINANCE, 1947**

### **The Senior Crown Counsel :**

Your Honour, I beg to move the resolution that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that a Bill to amend the Diplomatic Privileges (Extension) Ordinance, 1947, is acceptable to this House.

In short, Your Honour, the reason for the Bill is to bring the 1947 Ordinance into line with international practice and to give representatives of His Majesty the King who may attend international Conferences in Nigeria the same diplomatic privileges as are enjoyed by representatives of foreign sovereigns in Nigeria.

Your Honour, I beg to move.

### **The Member for the Ijebu Province (Chief A. O. Okupe, the Alaperu of Iperu) :**

Your Honour, I beg to second.

### **His Honour :**

The question is " That this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Bill is acceptable in principle to the 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.*

*Enactment.*

*Title.*

*House resumed.*

**His H<sup>r</sup> Senior Crown Counsel :**

Th<sup>r</sup>our Honour, I beg to report the Bill from Committee without favour or amendment.

**His Honour :**

The question is that this House do now advise His Excellency that this Bill is acceptable to the House without amendment. Those in favour say " Aye ", those to the contrary " No ". The " Ayes " have it.

**A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE INCOME TAX  
ORDINANCE, 1943**

**The Resident, Benin Province :**

Your Honour, I rise to move a resolution that this House do advise His Excellency, the Governor that the Bill for the Income Tax Amendment Ordinance, 1949, is acceptable to this House in principle.

There are four things to be said about fiscal legislation, of which the first is the obvious one that it is intended to produce revenues of state. There are two other aspects of fiscal legislation which any House considering legislation must bear in mind: one is that no unfair burden should be laid on any individual or on any particular section of the community; the second is that the Ordinance should be so framed as to leave few loopholes for fraud or for that ingenuity which approaches fraud. The last aspect of income tax legislation is the bewildering number of amendments which appear from year to year. I visited a number of offices in studying this Bill and was unable to find in either my own office or in any other a complete and up-to-date edition of the Ordinance until I found in the Regional Treasury a newly printed version far preferable to my own copy with layers and layers of typewritten amendments which were exceedingly confusing. In addition to the heavy amendments, there is another remarkable feature, which is the numbering of sections. I would draw the attention of Members of the House to Clause 5 (c) of the Bill now before the House which purports to amend proviso (iii) of sub-paragraph (i) paragraph (m) of sub-section (1) of section 10. I find that rather hard going. I have covered my own copy of the Bill with green and red pencil marks to show me my way about.

It is not necessary for me to go through every single clause of this Bill, even though Members cannot be as familiar as the Income Tax Commissioner with the main Ordinance, but I would like to refer to one or two.

In the first place there is a group of amendments relating to the administration of the Ordinance. These are the last three clauses of this Bill, 10, 11, 12. 10 is one of these consequential amendments: someone forgot to put in an amendment to section 57 when

section 25 was amended. This is of no great importance. Clause 11 is of interest. It appears that it is the invariable practice income tax payers to refuse to accept an unfavourable decision the Board of Commissioners in the case of substantial amounts: the invariable practice is to appeal to the Supreme Court. This Clause provides a little relief to the Board of Commissioners in that appeals can lie to the Board only if the sum payable in tax is less than £50. That is to say, in all substantial cases the appeal goes direct to the Supreme Court. Clause 12 is an easy one. Section 76 of the main Ordinance is out of date in that the Legislative Council now legislates for the whole of Nigeria, therefore we have a new section.

There are several clauses designed to stop gaps or fill loopholes. They are not of any great importance, but they show how clever people are in getting round Ordinances.

Clause 2 relates to aliens who marry Nigerian women by Native Law and Custom but who may subsequently repudiate the contract. In the present Ordinance it is possible for such people to claim tax relief for a wife by Native Law and Custom, but Clause 8 provides a new definition to include the wife only where both husband and wife are subject to Native Law and Custom.

The next evasion is covered by clause 3 which lays down what is taxable for persons in employment. It makes it clear that all gains and profits are taxable, "including any allowances paid or payable in money to or on behalf of the employee other than in respect of any passage to or from Nigeria". It appears to be the practice for certain people to claim exemption on allowances supposedly paid in respect of their wives' quarters, and this clause is designed to obviate that.

Thirdly, there is a series of amendments giving new relief. Clause 4 relieves from Income Tax wound and disability pensions of members of local forces and Civil Defence. The original bill covers only "His Majesty's Forces".

Clause 5 (c) of the Bill is relief in respect of certain premises owned by Companies. At present the Ordinance provides for relief in respect of premises used entirely for the welfare of employees. The amendment changes "entirely" into "wholly or mainly", and is intended to cover such things as Hospitals or Dispensaries conducted by firms which benefit members of families or employees, not the employees themselves only.

Clause 6 (b) is a relief of some interest. The existing Ordinance is based on the United Kingdom Ordinance in respect of reliefs for life insurance premiums. The amendment provided by clause 6 (b) increases the relief allowed from 7 per cent to 10 per cent of the capital sum insured for, and also increases from one-sixth to one-fifth of a person's income the total amount of deduction which he may claim in respect of life insurance premiums.

Dec. 15 use 6 (a) provides another relief, in some sense compensating the loophole closed in clause 2. Under the existing Ordinance, His Definition of a child includes " a child adopted in accordance with any statutory provision " but does not include illegitimate children. The Bill is intended to assist the father of an illegitimate child if he wishes to adopt the child. As there is no statutory provision for adoption in this country, the taxpayer must prove " to the satisfaction of the Commissioner " that he has adopted such a child.

Lastly, there is what is by a great deal the most important clause of this Bill. It refers to Companies' Income Tax. Clause 8 provides relief over the first six years of the existence of any Company " incorporated and controlled in Nigeria on or after the 1st day of April, 1944 ". The object is to assist financially local Nigerian Companies by providing substantial income tax relief over the first six years of their existence. The Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax was good enough to give me some figures, which took a long time to work out, to show the extent of that relief.

For the year of assessment in which Companies are incorporated and for the next following year Members will find that relief is allowed up to £1,000.

For the two years of assessment following the rate of two-thirds of the normal tax is imposed, again above a limit of £1,000 which remains non taxable.

For the two subsequent years the rate of one-third tax is remitted.

Sub-section (3) of the new Section 27A provided by Clause 8 of this amending Bill is explained in the Objects and Reasons. A Company is entitled to relief up to £1,000. If the income of the Company exceeds £1,000, " the amount of the income to be relieved of tax shall be reduced by one-half the excess of such income over the sum of £1,000 ". That is to say on a total income of £1,500, the relief of £1,000 is reduced by half the difference between £1,000 and £1,500, so the Company pays tax on the sum of £750.

Now for the figures worked out by way of example in the income tax office. A hypothetical firm earning £1,200 steadily throughout the first six years of its life would be entitled, at the full rate of seven shillings and six pence, to pay £2,700 in tax over six years: £450 a year for six years. Its relief in the first two years would be £337 10s 0d; the relief in the middle period of two years, that is the third and fourth years, drops to £225; in the last two years, that is the fifth and sixth years, it drops to £112 10s 0d. This gives a total relief amounting to £1,340 on a taxable capacity over six years of £2,700. That is £10 less than half the tax they would normally have to pay, which is a very substantial relief.

A firm making steadily increasing profits, a firm for instance starting with a profit of £1,000 in its first year and increasing up to £2,500 by its sixth year, would be liable for tax at the full rate of £3,450 in the six years. Relief in the first and second years

would be £375. By the sixth year, if they are making £2,500, relief will be dropped to £31 5 0d. The total relief of this progressive company is £1,256 out of a taxable normal capacity of £3,250. That is to say that the first firm we considered, earning a steady £1,200, cut half its tax. The firm which increased its profits yearly, progressively decreased its eligibility for relief. For this hypothetical firm whose profits went from £1,000 in the first year to £2,500 in its sixth year, the relief is about one-third. Here again, Members will agree that the relief is very substantial.

There is a sting in the tail of clause 8. Under sub-section 4, no relief shall be granted "to any Company formed to acquire the whole or any part of a trade or business previously carried on by another company".

Your Honour in your speech yesterday made reference to the rate of Companies' Income Tax as being laid down within the body of the Ordinance. With permission, I would refer to this matter by way of amendment in Committee.

Your Honour, I beg to move.

**The Honourable Omo N'Oba Akenzua II, C.M.C., the Oba of Benin :**

Your Honour, I beg to second.

**His Honour :**

The question is "That this House do advise His Excellency that the Bill is acceptable in principle to the 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 1-7.*

**The Resident, Benin Province :**

Your Honour, I propose that a new clause 8 be added and the present clause 8 re-numbered as clause 9. The new clause 8 to read as follows:—

"Section 27 of the principal Ordinance is hereby repealed and the following section substituted therefor:—

27. There shall be levied and paid for each year of assessment in respect of the chargeable income of every company tax at the rate set forth in the Third Schedule:

Provided that where any such Company proves to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that any dividends have been paid out of such chargeable income, an amount equal to such dividends may be charged with any tax, as the Commissioner shall determine.

**His Honour :**

The question is that Clause 8 be amended as suggested. Those in favour say " Aye ", those to the contrary " No ". The " Ayes " have it.

The question is that the new Clause 8 will stand as part of the Bill. Those in favour say " Aye ", those to the contrary " No ". The " Ayes " have it.

*Clause 9, formally clause 8.*

*Clause 10, formerly clause 9.*

**The Resident, Benin Province :**

Your Honour, it is proposed that Clause 10 should be altered—or that a new Clause 10 should be inserted and the subsequent clauses renumbered.

" 10. Sub-section (1) of section 29 of the principal Ordinance is hereby amended in the following respects:—

(a) by the deletion of the words " at the rate of seven shillings and six pence " where they occur in the fourth line and by the substitution therefor of the words at the rate set forth in the Third Schedule; and

(b) by the deletion of the words " seven shillings and six pence " where they occur in the fourth line of the proviso to the sub-section and by the substitution therefor of the words " that set forth in the Third Schedule ".

**His Honour :**

The question is that there shall be a new Clause 10 as proposed. Those in favour say " Aye ", those to the contrary " No ". The " Ayes " have it.

The question is that the former Clause 9 shall stand as part of the Bill. Those in favour say " Aye ", those to the contrary " No ". The " Ayes " have it.

*Clause 11, formerly clause 9.*

*Clause 12, formerly clause 10.*

*Clause 13, formerly clause 11.*

*Clause 14, formerly clause 12.*

**The Resident, Benin Province :**

It is proposed that the principal Ordinance be amended by the addition thereto, immediately after the second schedule, of the following schedule:—

" Third Schedule.

(Section 27).

The rate of tax in respect of the chargeable income of every company shall be seven shillings and sixpence for every pound "



**His Honour :**

The question is that there will be a new Clause 15 as proposed. Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

The question is that Clause 15 shall be considered as part of the Bill. Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

*Enactment.*

*Title.*

*House resumed.*

**The Resident, Benin Province :**

Your Honour, I beg to report the Bill for the Income Tax Amendment Ordinance from Committee with three amendments. These amendments as set out include re-numbering.

**His Honour :**

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

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PROVISION WITH RESPECT TO  
FORMER CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PALESTINE WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS'  
PENSION FUND WHO ARE APPOINTED TO THE SERVICE OF THE  
GOVERNMENT

**The Secretary, Western Provinces :**

Your Honour, I beg to move a resolution that His Excellency the Governor be advised that the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to make provision in respect of former contributors to the Palestine Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme" is acceptable to this House.

Your Honour, after the intricacies of the last bill this is a very simple and short one. The objects and reasons as set out are clear, but there are just one or two points to mention. Usually when an Officer is transferred from one territory to another he continues to contribute to the Widows' and Orphans' fund of his first territory. For example, after he has been transferred to the Gold Coast from Nigeria, he would continue to contribute to the Nigerian Widows' and Orphans' fund. Since the mandated territory of Palestine is no longer a part of the Commonwealth, Palestine Officers find themselves without a fund to which to contribute since their own has been closed down. These officers are mostly transferring to other colonies and, as the objects and reasons indicate, other colonies are passing similar legislation to this end to assist these officers in their difficult position.

The Bill is designed to enable such an officer, if he wishes to do so, to make a contribution of all previous payments into the Palestine Fund, as now refunded to him, to our Widows' and Orphans' Fund here. I may say that the number of Officers concerned is very small.

Your Honour, I beg to move.

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

Your Honour, I beg to second.

**His Honour :**

The question is " That this House do advise His Excellency that this Bill is acceptable to the House in principle ". 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.*

*Clause 4.*

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

Your Honour, I suggest that " s " be deleted, in the last line, from the word ' Pensions ', in clause 4.

*Clause 4 as corrected.*

*Enactment.*

*Title.*

*House resumed.*

**The Secretary, Western Provinces :**

Your Honour, I rise to report the Bill out of Committee without amendment and with one slight correction only.

**His Honour :**

The question is " That this House do now advise His Excellency that this Bill is acceptable to the House without amendment. Those in favour say " Aye ", those to the contrary " No ". The " Ayes " have it.

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE  
WATERWORKS ORDINANCE

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

Your Honour, I rise to move a resolution that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that a Bill entitled " The Waterworks (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949," is acceptable to the House.

Your Honour, this Bill is a very brief and simple one and requires little explanation.

The majority of Waterworks in Nigeria offer facilities for recreation and sport in boating and fishing but it is at all times necessary to preserve the water area and its immediate vicinity from any possibility of contamination, and these pursuits if carried to excess might very well prove a source of embarrassment to the Water Authority. In the case of boating for instance, any form of mechanical propulsion would be abhorrent to any Water Authority.

Furthermore, with regard to fishing. Your Honour, I am not an expert on fishing, but fish are introduced into the reservoirs as a health measure to keep down mosquito and other larvae and if fishing were carried to excess by netting or other means, the result would be that the stock would be reduced to nil and incidentally the sport would go too.

Hitherto there has been no ordinance for any control of boating or fishing. For these reasons this Bill is now introduced, to provide for control, and prohibition if necessary, of boating and fishing.

Your Honour, I beg to move.

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

Your Honour, I rise to second the motion for the reasons which appear to me to be very clear and acceptable.

**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 and 2.*

*Enactment.*

*Title.*

*House resumed.*

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

Your Honour, I rise 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 the House without amendment". Those in favour say "Aye" those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE FOR THE REGISTRATION AND MAKING KNOWN OF THE NAMES AND PROPRIETORS OF PERIODICALS AND FOR THE PRESERVATION OF COPIES OF BOOKS PRINTED IN NIGERIA AND FOR THE REGISTRATION THEREOF

**His Honour:**

This is a private Bill under Section 31 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the House. A Bill, other than a Government Bill which has been laid on the Table of the House, may be introduced in the House by an Unofficial Member. If no Member can be found to introduce or to second it, the President shall propose a resolution to

the effect that His Excellency the Governor be advised that no Member could be found to introduce the Bill or to the effect that His Excellency the Governor be advised that no Member could be found to second the resolution.

Is there any Unofficial Member here who is introducing this Bill?

In that case I propose a resolution that His Excellency the Governor be advised that no Members could be found to introduce the Bill.

The question is that this resolution be put forward to the Governor.

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

**His Honour ·**

Is it your wish that the House should resume again at 9 o'clock tomorrow?

The House will resume at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

*House adjourned at 4.20 p.m. until 9 a. m. on Thursday, the 16th of December, 1948.*

# Debates in the Western House of Assembly

Thursday, 16th December, 1948

Pursuant to notice the Members of the Western House of Assembly met in Mapo Hall, Ibadan, at 9 a.m. on Thursday, the 16th of December, 1948.

## PRESENT

### OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,  
His Honour T. C. Hoskyns-Abrahall, C.M.G.
- The Resident, Abeokuta Province,  
Mr J. H. Blair, E.D.
- The Secretary, Western Provinces,  
Mr P. V. Main.
- The Resident, Benin Province,  
Mr R. J. M. Curwen.
- The Acting Resident, Warri Province,  
Mr R. L. V. Wilkes.
- The Acting Resident, Ondo Province,  
Mr T. B. Bovell-Jones.
- The Acting Resident, Oyo Province,  
Mr A. F. Abell.
- The Acting Secretary (Finance), Western Provinces,  
Mr W. R. Hatch.
- The Acting Resident, Ijebu Province,  
Mr O. V. Lee, E.D.
- The Deputy Director of Medical Services,  
Dr S. L. A. Manuwa, O.B.E.
- The Deputy Director of Education,  
Mr S. Milburn.
- The Acting Deputy Director of Agriculture,  
Mr A. V. Gibberd.
- The Acting Deputy Director of Public Works,  
Mr C. E. Andreae.
- The Senior Crown Counsel,  
Mr R. A. Doherty.

### UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Honourable the Oba Aderemi, C.M.G.,  
The Oni of Ife.
- 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 Member for the Benin Province,  
Chief H. O. Osagie, the Aighobahi of Benin.
- The Member for the Warri Province,  
Chief Jessa Ogboru.
- The Member for the Ondo Province,  
Mr J. B. Arifalo.
- The Member for the Ijebu Province,  
Chief A. O. Okupe, the Alaperu of Iperu.
- The Member for the Abeokuta Province,  
Chief A. Soetan, the Aro of Kemta.
- 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 First Nominated Member,  
The Venerable Archdeacon L. A. Lennon, O.B.E.
- 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 15th of December, 1948, having been printed and circulated to Members, were taken as read and confirmed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

An announcement was made concerning the election of Members of Marketing Boards and Committees and the Agriculture Boards.

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

Your Honour, I rise to move :

- “ Be it resolved that the Estimates of Expenditure for the  
“ service of the Western Region during the year 1949-50  
“ be considered by the House and thereafter referred to  
“ a Select Committee of the House ”.

Last year, Sir, it was my privilege to introduce this resolution at the first Budget Session. May I say how sensible I am of the honour and responsibility, with which I have been entrusted a second time, and express the hope that the ensuing debate will continue in the same happy atmosphere as the first?

Members will recall the tedious explanation of the revenue allocation which I gave last year. There has been no change in the way we do these things, but certain adjustments in

responsibility for services between Nigerian and Regional Estimates, which have resulted from decisions taken during the year, will have the effect of considerably increasing our turnover next year. Details of these adjustments are given in the revised memorandum and revised estimates which Members have received. Members will have had time to study this memorandum and Your Honour's Address. I need not, therefore, long detain this House with a wearisome recital of figures, but would like to point out that our budget covers over half a million pounds more for next year than it does in the current year, excluding the Development Estimates. Members will be glad to hear with regard to the current year that our position is satisfactory. As Your Honour pointed out in your speech, the revised estimates of expenditure indicate that we still have a surplus from savings of about £25,000 upon which to draw if need arises.

The Draft Estimates which were sent to Members last month unfortunately were issued before the revised allocation of revenue was made. In fact it was only a week ago that I received notification from His Excellency that the amount approved was increased. The revenue declared regional is now £218,259 and the allocation for non-declared revenues is now £1,719,941, making a total of £1,938,200 which is £607,370 more than we had for the current year.

Passing on, Sir, to the actual estimates of expenditure Members will follow we with less strain in mental arithmetic if they turn to the revised page 5 of the draft estimates. The revised page 5 is a Summary of expenditure. The total provided for all regional services is £1,883,881 leaving an estimated surplus of £54,319, or 2.8 per cent of estimated expenditure. I wish to emphasise the relative importance of the services for which provision is made by inviting Members' attention to the percentage which each is to the whole. On page 5 you will see Education comes first with 35 per cent, a very large proportion! Public Works Recurrent Maintenance Works second with 11 per cent and the rest in the following order—Medical 10 per cent, Police 9 per cent, Administration 9 per cent, and Public Works Extraordinary 6 per cent, each of which accounts for considerably more than £100,000. ("Administration" is the same as the current year's "Provincial Administration" Head of Expenditure). The remaining 20 per cent of expenditure is divided between the other eleven Heads of Expenditure, which need not concern us in detail today. Members will of course go through each item in Select Committee.

Your Honour has referred in the Address to a reduction in the vote for Agriculture. I have no doubt that Members will wish me to expand those remarks because this is a subject of great importance to them. The figure of merely £71,883 shown under the heading "Agriculture" is actually only a small decrease in the expenditure for the current year if the cost of work on cocoa and produce

inspection is excluded. The decrease of £72,405, or roughly half the current vote, is nearly all a transfer to another head of estimates. My friend the Regional Deputy Director of Agriculture will no longer be responsible for the Produce Inspection Branch or the Entomological Section. He will henceforth be able to devote his energies to the production, as distinct from the inspection, side of the Department's work, while the new Department of Marketing and Export will take over the latter, and the cost of the Entomological Section will be borne on the Nigerian Estimates. At the risk of repeating myself, may I explain further, Sir, a fact which is not shown by perusal of the summary, that provision for purely agricultural work, excluding cocoa, has been decreased merely from £76,933 in the current year to £71,883, a decrease of £5,050. But this amount is only a part of the funds for which the Agriculture Department is responsible in this Region. In a different motion this House will be invited after this Debate to consider a further set of estimates which will be reimbursable by the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board instead of being covered by the ordinary revenue allocation. Members of this House who are also members of the Board and the Advisory Committee will be well aware of the proposals which the Board is making for the assistance of the cocoa industry. Your Honour's Address referred to the substantial sums which it is proposed to set aside. It is pertinent to mention them now, making provision for next year of approximately £85,000, although it is irrelevant to the present motion, because, unless this £85,000 is taken into account, Members will gain an entirely false impression of the magnitude of the provision being made and the extent of the work intended to be carried out by Agricultural Officers. The Department of Agriculture is, therefore, expected to account for a total of £157,000, if the necessary staff is forthcoming, which is a much larger sum than it is responsible for now. This brings it into sixth place in the list of spending departments in this Region. I trust that Members will find this satisfactory. The present state of recruitment and the staff now available does not warrant further expansion in this direction. But the figures which I have just quoted do not include the cost of Development Schemes now in progress or to be undertaken next year. The schemes at Oyo are outside this.

Let us now turn to next years' part of the Ten Year Development Plan. Your Honour has briefly mentioned the solid, if unspectacular, achievements to date. The Address stated that Development Estimates would not be available, but by superhuman efforts the Government Printer has managed to get them here in time. Also a half-yearly report has recently become available. I have no doubt that Members will be asking, in fact they have already asked in writing for more detailed evidence of progress under the plan. After studying the Printed Address, these Development Estimates and the Memorandum accompanying them, Members have a further opportunity of asking Deputies in Select Committee for



further information they require. Development Estimates which have already been handed to Members are, I hope, easier to follow than those of the current year. Members will note that all are combined in a single set instead of being printed separately. This is to simplify the keeping of accounts and to avoid the duplication of the numbers of items. The total sum provided in these Development Estimates is £871,953. Nearly £480,000 of this sum—in fact more than half—will be provided from the Colonial Development and Welfare Vote by His Majesty's Treasury. The rest comes from Nigerian revenue or locally raised loan. I hope nobody will try to make futile comparisons between Regions. Your Honour, I use the word 'futile' advisedly. Taking the whole Ten Year Plan it is purely accidental whether one Region gets more money than another in any particular year, because the work goes on according to the Plan. When compared with the current year's total £684,423 it is an increase of £187,530. It represents a realistic approach to the problem of how much can be undertaken and fairly accurately reflects the capacity of the Departments to spend more than is provided in the regional estimates under consideration today. In regard to Staff I think I am right in saying that we now have twenty-four Development Officers working in this Region assisting various Government Departments in different ways.

Your Honour's Address contains a reference to the part played by the non-regionalised departments and by the Native Administrations. The former expend several million pounds in this Region, and the latter about one million pounds. I cannot now give a forecast for next year because the Native Treasury Estimates are still in course of preparation. It is, however, quite clear that in spite of what looks at first sight like a sound position as regards the surplus funds, there is real need for increased revenue if any progress is to be made. May I repeat what Your Honour's Address has already stated, that Native Administrations are not collecting enough income tax? Nor is the flat-rate tax high enough in some parts of this Region, if we take into account the six million pounds extra to be expected from Cocoa and the increased income of the Region from other sources. There are one or two Native Administrations which are really in a bad way. May I emphasise that those Native Administrations which think that they can sit back and expect to be rescued from financial difficulties by Regional Grants-in-Aid, are making a mistake? These Grants are not intended to balance Native Administration budgets, and they will be withheld if real efforts have not been made by the Native Administrations to raise the revenue which they require.

I did not intend, Sir, to end this brief survey on a gloomy note. It is obvious that we are entering upon a period of considerable prosperity with the greatly enhanced cocoa prices and it is natural enough that Government and Native Administrations revenues should reflect this. But there is one more warning which I feel that I must make. The prosperity of this region will soon be on

the wane, if the ravages of the Swollen Shoot Disease of cocoa are not checked. The team of experts from abroad who recently visited the Gold Coast has announced its considered opinion that there is now no alternative to ruthless cutting out of diseased trees. Unless the menace of this disease, and a grave menace it is, can be swiftly and thoroughly swept away, we shall have a different story to tell at future budget sessions of this House. Finally, Sir, may I emphasise the Government's genuine determination to raise the standard of living of the people. It is apparent in the increased rates of salaries and wages, the generous provision of loan facilities which we discussed yesterday, the marketing arrangements with their price stabilisation funds for primary products and, in particular, the high proportion of the available total set aside for Education. But, as has been frequently stated, good character and hard work are the sound foundations on which alone can be set up self-government, turning it from a cherished ideal to an actual fact.

In conclusion, if I may finish on a personal note, I should like to pay tribute once again to the members of the Secretariat staff who have contributed to the successful preparation of these estimates, and to express my appreciation of the co-operation and constructive attitude of the Unofficial Members of this House with whom I have had great pleasure in working in Finance Committee throughout the year.

Well aware that Members are anxious to discuss this budget I now submit it to the House.

Sir, I beg to move.

**The Secretary, Western Provinces :**

Your Honour, I rise to second.

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

Your Honour. It gives me great pleasure this morning to make some comments on the estimates of this Region which have again, this year, been ably introduced into this House. Last year we said in this House that the 1948-1949 Estimates which were the first to be prepared in this Region could not then be fully criticised by Members since they were an innovation.

We however made a promise that this year we would have enough time to study the working of the several estimates of the Region. The time has now arrived, and it is gratifying to note that the same officer who prepared the last Year's Estimates, the result of which showed great skill and ability, has again this morning introduced the 1949-1950 Estimates. I praise the efficiency and the co-operation of the officer and his staff; and judging from what during the out-going year we have seen in the financial sub-committees I could say that the officer was as anxious as we are to meet all demands that may be put before him. This morning I have a particular

point to hammer and I am very sorry that the officer has stressed the thing more than anything else. I do so much against my feelings. That point is the grant given to the Native Administrations in the Western Provinces. The excuse made by Government for not increasing the grants and not encouraging the Native Administrations to rely more on Government is that the Native Administrations have not been collecting enough from the flat rate taxes and the local income taxes. This, I am sorry to say, is an excuse, and I hope I would be pardoned for using this word. Government should not be short-sighted. What I said last year is equally true now. That is that if Government were to run the expenditure of the region themselves taking the Native Administrations out of the picture, it would cost about three times what it is costing the Central Government today. That alone is sufficient to make the Government look not only with pity on these Native Administrations but also with appreciation upon the fact that the Native Authorities are doing their best with the limited means of revenue they have. Government has to my knowledge been approached by several Native Administrations to allow them to impose certain levies and to collect certain kinds of revenue which they consider to be within their right; but to our regret the answer is always "that is not government policy". Another answer is that it is not legally possible for Native Administrations to collect such revenue direct; but at the same time Government expect these Native Administrations to do their best for their people. And may I ask from what will they do their best for their people? To make their people happy and healthy from the little money they collect is impossible. I represent all the local governments in this House; I am soliciting the Government to reconsider the matter, and they will discover that the burden that is being borne by Native Administrations is the Central Government's burden; therefore the more help offered to these Native Administrations the better and happier the whole region would be. I would not give a catalogue of such sources of revenue that are being closed to the Native Administrations. The taxes paid by the Syrians who take the lion's-share of the profits do not go into the coffers of the local administrations within which they live, but rather they pay to the Central Government. The little that is left to these Native Administrations they are expected to make the best use of. Government, I know, is doing things with good intention, but as the machinery of Government is run by human beings, they are liable to make mistakes by taking for granted that people who are not happy and rich, are prosperous and happy people. It is a fact that cocoa has brought much money into this region this year, but the farmers and all people who deal in cocoa and handle this money pay it back to the firms in exchange for manufactured goods required for their happiness, and on these peoples' purchases the firms make big profits. If Government would act according to their ability and my wish a great percentage of the direct taxes should be given to Native Administrations to run the essential services in their local

areas. Your Honour, I have no other criticisms to make this morning. Looking into the estimates I find that even under the Subventions the grant of £5,295 is regarded as a decrease whereas I expected this morning to find about £50,000 as an increase upon the last year's estimates on this particular item. I am urging Government to review the whole situation.

I cannot shower enough praise upon the officers who are concerned with the preparation of these estimates; but what I deeply deplore is the policy which made it impossible for the Acting Financial Secretary to make adequate provisions for the aid of the Native Administrations.

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

Your Honour, in the first place I would like to add my word of welcome to our friends of this House who recently visited England for the Summer Conference. We have not yet seen the official report though from accounts that we read from the Daily Papers we know that our friends have not only brought back great gifts, but they have done their best in bringing to the notice of the people of the United Kingdom our beloved Nigeria. In supporting the Western Region Appropriation Bill, I should like to sound a note of warning in the way that our expenditure of the Western Region is being run. If it is run in the way it is being run now, we are likely to face bankruptcy in a few years. I wonder whether we can set aside certain of the revenue as a stabilisation fund in the same way as is done with the Native Administration finance. I am well aware that our friend, the Secretary Finance, told us this morning that there is likely to be a surplus of some £54,000, but that surplus is a very small percentage of the revenue of the Western Region.

In the matter, Sir, of Nigerianisation of the Civil Service, or rather the bringing into play the black and white keys, I should like to congratulate the Government, and particularly the Director of Medical Services, in the way he has started by the appointment of Dr Manuwa to the coveted position of Deputy Director of Medical Services, Western Region.

As regards Forestry, I wish to thank those people who are responsible for the idea of planned Forests. We in Benin know what it means because for over forty years our Forests were ruthlessly and and hopelessly exploited without replacement of the timber, but now, with the introduction of planned forest exploitation, we have a ray of hope that at last we shall have our Forest all the time.

Now, turning to Roads. I should like to turn to the matter of the tarring of the Ilesha-Benin-Asaba Road. I do not know why this road should not be tarred with the use of Contractors. Over and over again appeal has been made to the Public Works Department to allow Contractors to tar this road. I am sure that

if Contractors had been used in the matter of the tarring of this road, the work could have been completed years ago. But perhaps the Deputy Director of this Region will be kind enough to give to this House an idea as to when the tarring is expected to be completed.

Now, turning to Agriculture, Your Honour, I would like to say that it is surprising to see in Benin that the Agricultural Department has not only withdrawn their Officers, but has closed down all Agricultural activities in Benin and Warri Provinces. We are known as an agricultural country. The Agricultural Department has done a lot of development work in the Yoruba country. They now withdraw their Officers from the Central Province (as our area is known) to concentrate them again in the Yoruba country. If we are asked, Your Honour, not to be parochial, Sir, I appeal that we must not be teased or else one would say that this advice is only meant that we should shut our eyes whilst others share the development benefits of Nigeria.

I would like to pass on, Your Honour, to the question of Electricity. Any visitor visiting Benin now will tell you that of all the amenities that are badly and urgently required in Benin, electricity is priority No. 1. Last March, looking at the Development Estimates and the priority list, it was found that in all other places, principally in the Yoruba country, electricity projects are either to be started shortly or have been already started. I personally am not quarrelling with the Yoruba people, in fact I congratulate them for their good luck. But I would like to appeal to the people who are responsible for the planning of priorities—and I am reliably informed that they are at Ibadan—I am appealing to their conscience to pause for a moment and think whether other parts of the Region are not entitled to the benefit of the Development Funds, or the benefit of the revenue of Nigeria. I do not know why we have to fight, and fight, and fight, in the Central area of this Region, or in Benin and Warri Provinces, before anything is done for us. I remember how much we fought before we got the only Secondary School we have. We not only fought, we had to provide the money ourselves for the building, the equipment and the maintenance for several years, and we had to lead a lot of deputations before Government could hear our prayer and take over the School only last year.

Now, as regards Electricity, Sir, I should like to congratulate Ibadan people; the Ijebu people; the Ife people; the Ilesha people, and the Oshogbo and Ede people for their good luck. I say again, Your Honour, that it will be very difficult for anybody to take a lively interest in debates in this House if he is aware that he is only called upon to O.K. estimates of expenditure running to millions for the benefit of others whilst he is asked not to be parochial.

Thank you, Your Honour.

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

Your Honour, I will have to associate myself with the previous speakers in praising the effort of the Finance Secretary, Western Region. Last year during the Budget Session I stated that as that was the first estimate prepared I might know the next would be much the same, but nevertheless I appreciate the effort that was made by the Finance Secretary and his team of staff.

The Estimates of Expenditure introduced to this House this morning have got a very good story to tell indeed. They tell us that what we spent last year was small comparing with what we will spend in the year 1949-50. Sir, the previous speaker has spoken much on matters on which I had wanted to speak. It is very sad indeed that parts of the Region have been attended to and other parts seem to be neglected. I know Your Honour told us on the Opening Day that there is no idea of neglect of any particular area. I would say, Sir, that that statement may not harmonise with the practical application of the funds of the Region. Each time people in the Benin and Warri Provinces have to fight for essential services, not to talk of amenities, this, to the people of the Central Provinces is not encouraging.

In passing through many of the towns in the Yoruba countries we find that all important streets are tarred; drainage system introduced; but if you get to Benin, it was only last year that two streets were tarred, but during the rains many houses fall down; streets flooded; and from the medical point of view such flooding is breeding places for mosquitoes which are dangerous to human life.

In our effort to progress as other places in Nigeria, we have to ask for many things. But unfortunately these things that we ask for are not implemented. I take the case of Hospitals. I have even said it here; we have two Hospitals in the Benin Province. And these, Sir, according to present civilisation would be put down as apologies. They are not equipped such as a modern Hospital should be. In our efforts to move with the times we ask for Hospital for Ishan Division in the Benin Province. Last year I was told that the project of building a Hospital in Ishan was put down for 1950. Well, up till the moment there is no practical sign of any preparation being made at all and, worse still, I have been told that a Missionary Hospital is being suggested for Ishan. The people of Ishan Division are not against a Missionary Hospital or Hospitals or any private Hospitals, but they definitely require Government assistance to compensate them for the tax paid, and as it is the duty of the Government to look to the health of the people, they want a Government Hospital. A Mission or any other private body may establish one or two or more Hospitals in any Division, but the Ishan people of the Benin Province want a Government Hospital.

In the same way, as has been stated by a previous speaker, we have had to fight for a Secondary School. We fought, and fought, and in an effort to evade our request we were asked to provide money for the building, or rather, to provide the buildings and equipment. And, as you have been told, it was only last year that the Secondary School has been actively taken up by the Government.

Looking at things in this way, Sir, the people of my Province are needing something to encourage them. The Ishan people have been asking for a Secondary School for a very long time. On a previous occasion the Deputy Director of Education told me that a Secondary School had been established at Sabongida. That is quite fine. We know the help that has been given by the Missionaries in this country in providing Missionary Schools and Colleges. I am not suggesting in the least that Missionary Schools are not good. Far from that, but the advantages derived from Government Colleges are well known. Therefore, the people of Ishan Division have asked me to tell Your Honour that if anything good is to be done for them they should be provided with a Secondary School.

I will now pass on to the Police Force. Benin Province, or Benin City, has always been put under Warri and the Chief of Police has always been posted to Warri. I think Benin is a sufficiently large place to get a Superintendent of Police for itself. I wish, Sir, that Superintendent of Police be posted to Benin City to take charge of that Province.

Electric lighting for Benin. I remember in the Area Development Committee I endeavoured to expedite what could be done for Benin as far as lighting was concerned. I was told that unfortunately Benin was not included in the indents for plants. I urged that plant for Benin should be included in that order. I was assured that it would be included. From early last year to this time I have heard nothing, and all enquiries suggest nothing before 1949-50 or 1950-51. I am sure many Members here know Benin City. We have natural advantages over Ibadan people or over Ibadan town or over many towns in the Yoruba country—that is, we have flat and level land, and it only requires some artificial development, and that in the way of assistance from the Government. Lighting will be one of the amenities that will bring Benin just a little bit up from what it has been.

Telegraphic communications in Benin, or rather in Benin Province. I advocated some time ago that a Post Office for Auchi was a necessity. I was told that the project was well in hand. Telephone communications are terribly lacking in that area. The same thing applies to Ubiaja in Benin Province. I am asking Government to take active steps for the provision of these amenities for this area.

Another burning question is water supply. Early in the working of this new Constitution I was told that about £5,000 was provided for rural water supply in the Benin Province. People in Ishan

Division, the Asaba Division, and the Benin Division, are suffering very badly for want of water. Particularly at this time of the season. If you go to any village, you can hardly find any water at all to drink, and the villagers use well-water and pond water which, according to the medical people, is dangerous to life. People in the Ishan area are infested with guinea-worms for lack of good potable water. I am asking Your Honour, Sir, the question of water supply should be taken up seriously if anything at all is to be done to help the people of these areas.

Some few years ago it was stated that a new Post Office was earmarked for Benin. It was understood that a site had been chosen, and that operations would soon start. That was about 1946. 1948 is going, and there is no sign that that work will start even in 1949. I appeal to you, Sir, that the question of a new Post Office for Benin is a necessity.

Take the roads. The roads in Benin I would say are not what they ought to be. This does confirm the idea that one area, or one Division, or one Province, suffers a great deal while other Provinces, or Areas, are developed. The tarring of the Benin-Sapele road started about two years ago. I do not think members here would be pleased to hear that they have only done about eight miles in two years. The road between Sapele and Warri is so bad that during part of the year all traffic has to be held up. The same thing happened, this year between Benin and Sapele. A motor going to Sapele has to be diverted and has to take about seventy miles instead of thirty-three or thirty-two miles, and that is due to a bad road. I am appealing today to the Deputy Director of Public Works to see to it that these roads are properly mended and tarred.

Well Sir, I come back to Hospitals. I have been told that new Hospitals for Benin have been projected for 1950, and during the Committee Meeting I held with the Deputy Director last Monday, I understood that a Grade I Midwifery Training Centre that we have been asking for would not be possible, until a new Hospital is built for Benin. As it is the intention of the Central Government that our women folk should grow along with the men folk, I think it is essentially important that the training of our girls be given very serious consideration. If we have a Grade I Midwifery Training Centre in Benin, I think our girls—who at the moment are not actively participating in the development of the country for lack of essential services—will be encouraged to do so. We have seen in the Yoruba countries girls who are midwives, nurses, nursing sisters and so on, adequately doing so with their menfolk. Their social status is thereby enhanced. We feel, Sir, that it is useless if we train our girls to a certain standard of education and then do not employ them. Their training will be wasted. If we train our girls and then employ them, I think they will be useful. I was told that a Grade II Midwifery Training Centre may be possibly attached



to the present inadequate or poorly equipped Hospital in Benin. The Benin people want the best institutions for training of midwives. Therefore, Sir, I advocate very strongly that the Training Centre for Midwives Grade I should be considered for Benin.

Well Sir, I have to thank the Nigerian Government for the way that it has taken up the question of Nigerianisation. We have been given practical proof of Government intention to help in this line by the appointment of Dr Manuwa to the enviable post of Regional Deputy Director of Medical Services, and we Nigerians appreciate what I will call the sacrifices made by Dr Manuwa by accepting that position. Dr Manuwa is demonstrating the spirit of helping his people in the best way possible. We know what it is to leave a job that he has been doing for Nigeria. We know how useful he was in that branch of the job, and we know what he has sacrificed by leaving it. Many Nigerians have been benefitted by his professional experience; personally I appreciate his taking over the appointment of the Deputy Director of Medical Services.

Well Sir, not to waste the time of the House, I would have one or two more things to say, but when opportunity is given to me sometime during the meeting, I may have one or two points to touch in the speech made by Your Honour.

I support the motion introducing the Budget to this House.

**The Second Nominated Member (The Hon. Akinpelu Obisesan, O.B.E.):**

Your Honour, I rise to support the Motion which has been ably moved by the Acting Secretary, Finance. I feel, Your Honour, that I must seize this opportunity to express my indebtedness to the Members of this House and the general public of Nigeria for the opportunity given to me to visit England in company of others who attended the London Summer Conference. Mention has just been made by my friend the Fourth Nominated Member the Honourable Gaius Obaseki that although the Conference has been held and report of its deliberations have appeared in the press, up till now he is still ignorant of what actually happened; that is so, Your Honour. But I can assure him that there were lots of good things done in England. Amongst the things discussed which concern this House were the development of this country, public relations and modernisation of Native Administrations generally. All these subjects were considered by the Conference and I can assure the House that when the reports of the activities of the Conference are released, the value of the work done for Nigeria will be realised.

I come now to the estimates for the Region; there is nothing today which agitates the minds of the people of this country more than the development work of the country which Government has in hand. The Development Secretary has been very kind to send from time to time the report of the work being done and for this I praise him highly; but my constituents are ignorant of what is being done.

For instance one reads of poultry rearing, and cattle rearing in certain parts of the country and so forth. All these are good but what one would like to see is that the Government should endeavour from time to time to ascertain what particular line of development the people like instead of telling them we have done this and we have done that and so forth. The farmers who are living in the bush want nothing but construction of roads to connect their villages with the main roads which would lighten the burden of their transport and on this subject I tackled the Government in one of the questions to the House last year. The farmers who do reside in towns and cities pay tax for light and water which they do not enjoy; I feel that the line of development suggested here ought to be taken up energetically for which the people will ever be grateful. In your Honour's Address to the House yesterday you made mention of education and it is very gratifying that the central Government has been able to vote a large sum of money for its improvement and that the Regional Estimates contain a figure which is appreciable. But I say that no sum of money is too large to meet the constant needs of education generally, because today we have a large exodus of teachers who express discontent at the salaries being paid to them which in comparison to the Government's scale are low and I ask every Member of this House to think seriously of this. Your Honour, we have been told not to be parochial and I will try as much as possible not to be so. In your able Address you discussed the trouble the Co-operative Movement has been called upon to face because according to you, there have been dishonest practices among certain of its members. This I admit to be the correct picture of the matter, but one finds dishonesty in the Government's and mercantile offices and it cannot be claimed that the movement should be immune. However, more vigilance in the future will put a stop to it.

Your Honour, I will now deal with the Labour Department. In 1947 I called the attention of Government to the Labour problems in this country. The Senior Resident, Oyo Province, who spoke for the Government, promised to set up a Committee to deal with it—but up till now nothing has been done. Also, Your Honour, when the Officer Administering the Government came to Ibadan we had a discussion with him on this matter and immediately he got back to his headquarters he sent the Commissioner of Labour to discuss the question with us. The discussion took place, but nothing also has been done up till today. Your Honour, all will agree with me that no farmer or farmers can engage farm labourers and pay them daily as the Public Works Department does. I know this because I am in the industry myself and I know what is happening. We have children going to schools and they cannot be engaged to do any farm work and the Government said that the farmers in this country do their work on family basis and I challenge the Government to prove this on the face of what I said here, and by this I do not mean any insult to the Government.

Medical Department. Your Honour, I am not here to sing a song of praise of any particular area or areas. When I talk of development, Your Honour, I do not mean development of the head or the body, but of the amenities and all other things that can be done for this country. Not all the people in this country can get medical treatment; some live far away from hospitals and for those people I feel that we should provide dispensaries, in the rural areas.

In your able Address to the House, for the first time we hear of the political trouble at Abeokuta; I know that anybody who dares to discuss it would be treading a dangerous spot but I will take a risk and say a few words. Our progress politically and otherwise is not what it should be. This assertion may be right or wrong and to my mind the present trouble in Abeokuta is not in any way to be regarded as progress or retrogression but as an expression of self-determination which people who are not at Abeokuta greatly regret. Anyone who has met people in England who know the kind of reputation built up for Egbas by the Alake will feel sad because it is said he has not delivered the goods in the way the people like. It is to be hoped that the Obas in Yorubaland will put their heads together in seeing that peaceful settlement is effected between the Alake and the people of Abeokuta.

Your Honour, I come now to what the Fourth Nominated Member said about the London Conference. In order to make every Native Authority and other bodies in the country conversant with what the Conference has done, I am prepared with Your Honour's permission, to give an oral account to any Native Authority who may wish to see me. I expect invitation from everyone of them for a visit.

Your Honour, I support the Estimates Bill.

**The Member for the Ijebu Province (Chief A. O. Okupe, the Alaperu of Iperu):**

Your Honour, I rise this morning to support the Motion for the Appropriation Bill. The former speaker has said a lot and I need not now repeat his remarks. In going through Your Honour's speech, I saw a great many things for which the Western Provinces as a whole must be grateful. In the first place I would refer to the policy of Government in that the kind of training they have given to us Nigerians is very satisfactory.

The Committees in different Provinces I am aware are functioning as satisfactorily as possible. The Administrative Officers in their turn are in many cases friendly and very anxious. So far on the whole we find that if one goes from Province to Province, one cannot fail to observe that many buildings which are emerging here and there are a sign of progress.

The Agricultural Department have arranged visits to different parts of the Provinces so that foreign farmers can study our crops at this time of sudden food depression. We must have a word of

praise for the Agricultural Department. I hope, however, that the expense made upon the Oyo Farm School by introducing piggery, stock of cattle, and poultry will be shared by the rest of the Provinces in this Region. I hope that the Farm School, when it has passed through its experimental stage, will extend its usefulness to other Provinces and that it will not be long before similar Institutions will be put up in other Provinces; we are in need of such a School in Ijebu Province.

I made a strong speech last year about water supply. I am happy, Your Honour, to notice that during the current year we have had Water Engineers in our Province going from town to town and from bush to bush in order to find out how best the scheme can be carried out. We hope that at no distant date the work will be begun. Our thanks too are due to the Public Works Department for the handsome Post Office and the establishment of the Radio Diffusion Service now in Ijebu-Ode. Only there are still complaints about the carrying of mails and the delivery of telegrams which we still cannot understand. The public is suffering a great deal. The mails from Ibadan to Ijebu-Ode and other towns in Ijebu Province still take three to four days to reach their destination; so far I have been round some towns and I am glad to say there is not a single town which does not appreciate what has been done.

Unless we are told a good deal more about the action and policy of the Government we shall be in the dark as to what the Government is doing now. In one word there are so many things that we still need. The first speaker has referred to the policy of Government of reducing Grants-in-Aid to the Native Administrations; this condition is to be deplored. I would advise that Government should find one way or the other of implementing their good intention to assist Native Administrations where their sources of revenue are limited.

I had spoken about development scheme some time ago in this House; in the Committee we made the suggestion that arrangements should be made whereby non-British technicians might be imported into this country in order to accelerate the development of the country. I hope Government is not unready to heed this advice. We are in arrears already by many years on the programme of development. I do not know yet how long it will take us to stand up in this House to thank the Government for the construction of roads, the completion of hospitals here and there and the water supplies in different towns. Unless we are up and doing, unless arrangements are made on these lines we shall ever cry for want of materials and lack of staff. In my Province we are eagerly awaiting the supply of electricity; I was taken aback when Ijebu-Ode was mentioned this morning as one of the towns already on the development scheme for Electricity; this I can only say is a good sign.

Last year we spoke a lot about tele-communication between Ijebu-Ode and Shagamu. We have not been able to say anything of the activities of the Government in this direction. We also have

complaints about the tarring of roads. A Member has told us how many miles had been tarred in one year. I would say that in my own Province we still have much there to do.

Indeed we are grateful to Government for a successful beginning of the building of an Hospital at Shagamu which is the headquarters of Ijebu Remo Native Administration but the work there to all appearances seems to be at a standstill. I would say the same thing for the projected hospital in the water-side. If men and materials cannot be found at this time after the war, I think it is time that we made arrangements to obtain them one way or the other. Perhaps Your Honour may like to hear from one of the Members here the opinion formed about the present Richards' Constitution which Your Honour is arranging to revise. On the day we first spoke of it, my statement was that the "Proof of the pudding is in the eating". We have seen the effects of the Constitution for well over a year and I am happy to state, Your Honour, that the Constitution with all its faults is a great step towards the advancement of the Nigerians. When however it has come to be revised, we shall all be very happy to see that important ingredients contained in it are not lost.

Your Honour, I will come straightway to the subject matter before the House this morning, *i.e.* the Draft Estimates. It has been a pleasure to me to be present at the sittings of the Standing Committee always throughout the year. We have been very familiar with the Secretary, Finance, and we are all pleased with the way he has explained things to us. He has always been very courteous and ready to explain anything that may be difficult for us to understand. The Draft Estimate is a great credit to his ability. I have been able to go through almost every item; it must have been a tedious job to collect the figures and even more tedious to put them down. The various items of expenditure have been very interesting. We are happy that in the Estimates much money has been devoted to Education and we feel that that is a great step forward in our policy because if Education is more widespread the better for Nigeria and the better for the citizens therein.

I will heartily support the Motion that the Appropriation Bill should be adopted by this House. Your Honour, I end my speech.

**The Member for the Ondo Province (Mr J. B. Arifalo):**

Your Honour and all the Members of the House. What I had wanted to say has been said by the previous speakers.

We are, indeed, fortunate to be the foundation members of this great organisation and to have had the co-operation of His Honour the Chief Commissioner and the Provincial Residents who are mainly responsible for moulding its destiny.

The Acting Financial Secretary who prepared the Draft Estimates deserves our thanks for his keen sense of duty, and he is a worthy man for the post.

As regards the Development plans, the operation is very slow and I feel that Government will find men and materials to carry out the work so that our dreams may not take too long a time before they are realised.

We come to the question of amenities, it is a matter which has been perturbing us in my Province and has constantly been brought up in this House which comprises of the lacking of the following:—

- (a) Water Supply.
- (b) Electric Light.
- (c) Government Secondary School.
- (d) Telephone communication, and
- (e) Sufficient Postal Services.

However, I very much hope that Government will realise these great needs and pay early response to the needs.

Regarding the matter of Medical attention there is only one Hospital and one Medical Officer in my Province which means that when the Medical Officer is on tour there is no other to replace him and thereby there is a congestion of urgent cases which need early attention. Again should the Medical Officer remain at his station it consequently follows that the patients of the out stations will be left to decide their fates preferably by death. I therefore urge the Government to send an Assistant Medical Officer to Ondo Province especially to Ekiti area.

Regarding the present standard of postal services in Ekiti Division, I feel it is very inconvenient because some towns are about thirty or fifty miles from the Post Office, thereby the people experience much difficulty in getting postal services.

As regards Public Works Department, their work is very slow as I have discussed with the Head of the Department who promised to do his best and I also wish Government should pay keen attention to this Department.

As for the Appropriation Bill, I quite support it.

**The Member for the Warri Province (Chief Jessa Ogboru):**

Your Honour, I support the Appropriation Bill. My Province has asked me to enquire into the Hospital promised to be built in Kwale Division. Several attempts have been made, but nothing has been done. Even priority has been given to have the Hospital built but up to the present date there is no movement. Apart from that, there were two Hospitals, in Warri and Sapele, that required extentions, but they have been stopped meantime until the Kwale Hospital has been built, since people of Kwale have been suffering a great deal from the lack of Hospital facilities. I have to point out that the distance of Agbor Hospital from Kwale is about eighty miles, and the distances of Warri and Sapele Hospitals about seventy miles from Kwale. Under these circumstances urgent

action is required in the building of Kwale Hospital and not to wait for the Ten Year Development plan. The lives of Kwale people are at stake at the present moment.

I would add also that there should be a Scholarship to the University College, Ibadan, for deserving Native Administration candidates.

I support the Appropriation Bill, Your Honour.

**The Member for the Abeokuta Province (Chief A. Soetan) :**

Your Honour, Members of the House. I have not come this morning prepared with a speech for the debate on the Estimates, but as a new Member and a first timer here, I have come to listen to watch, and to learn from the proceedings and procedure of this meeting to enable me in the future to contribute my own quota. Having listened so far I shall make a few observations on the subject under discussion.

First of all I join the chorus of those who congratulate the Acting Secretary for Finance for the preparation of these comprehensive Estimates. I go further, also, to congratulate him on the way he has introduced the Estimates to this House with his happy choice of words and convenient explanations of certain points. To us who are not accountants it is just a conglomeration of figures which require some explanation as regards details. Nevertheless, without much effort you can see what is required, and the provisions that are made for every item. I think the goal of our ambition is responsible self-government and towards this end we need many things, especially economic development and education. We, as a people, are really more of an agricultural set, and at first I was taken aback when looking through the Estimates I observed that there was a decrease in the amount set apart for Agriculture, but upon the explanation of the Acting Secretary for Finance it appears that there are some other funds to be expected to make up this decrease. I advocate for the farmers in general more effort of the Agricultural Department to assist and instruct them as to how to improve planting, reaping and all other needs which will improve their efforts on Agriculture. I am not trying to minimise the efforts of this Department hitherto, but I am only advocating that more attention be paid to all these things in different areas, particularly in my own Province, Abeokuta and Ilaro Division. There is already a Rice Milling Machine on Wasimi but at present it does not appear that most of the farmers understand the use of this machine. Again, the planting of citrus. I think efforts should be made to educate the farmers more in this connection, not only to plant, but also to get the Marketing Board to exert its influence to get in touch with the world market and to bring Nigeria into the light, and so put Nigeria on the market. Most of the farmers in the past were encouraged to plant Grapefruits; sweet oranges and such like citrus, but it appears that they are getting disheartened

for not getting a proper market for these commodities. I think efforts should be made to help them in this direction, because I think that Europe is not a country which can afford to plant citrus and such like commodities. They will depend upon what they can get from outside and from us. Experiment of planting here has yielded some good results and we may in time come into the world's market so that the farmers may get adequate remuneration for their efforts. As it is with the cocoa production, so it should be with some other commodities that could be planted to advantage. I think that more efforts should be made in this direction.

Another thing in this connection is the Labour problem which the Honourable, the Second Nominated Member, has raised. Farmers suffer terribly for want of labour and consequently the farms are being deserted. Although there is a lot of unemployment, yet it does not appear that our people are turning their attention to farming. The farmers need the labour problem to be solved and I think more depends upon the payment of wages to attract labourers. The little farmers cannot pay as much as the Government pay their labourers because the ultimate result will not justify the outlay. At any rate, at the present moment, I think the Government may assist and advise the farmers as to how they can get sufficient result from farming and be able to pay encouraging wages for labour. In that way I think labour problems will be solved.

Previous speakers have addressed themselves to the question of Nigerianisation of the Civil Service. I think it is a wise step in the right direction. I think it is the Judicial Department that first started on this venture by appointing Africans into the higher posts in the Service, and also, recently, by appointing them to the Magisterial Bench and also to the Judicial Bench. The results have been encouraging and I am happy to say that those who are filling the posts are trying their best to carry on the best tradition of the Africans and to prove to the world that what a man has done men can also do. These pioneers are holding the forts so that those who hazarded the experiment have not had occasion to regret it, and I am sure that if wider fields are being opened to the Africans in the Civil Service there will be no cause for regret. I only hope that in the near future we shall get Africans holding, side by side with their European colleagues, the posts of Heads of Departments. I do not think the time is far distant, considering the way that the present Deputies are carrying on, and the efficiency that is being shown will no doubt encourage those who are responsible for the posting to take further risks. It is a risk, as they say, but I think the result will justify the undertaking. I contribute my own quota of congratulations to my countryman, Dr Manuwa, in his recent appointment. We have every hope that he will fill the post with credit to himself and honour to the race to which he belongs.

Now Sir, the next thing after economic development towards our responsible self-government is Education. We need this very badly and it is heartening to see in the Estimates that much has



been set apart towards education, and His Honour in his Address, which has been circulated, has given a comprehensive account of education, and I hope that all necessary needs in this regard will be achieved. We want education, mass education, and perhaps more money may be spent in diffusing the light of education to those who in this country stand in great need of it.

Sir, in the Development Scheme Estimate I think the Secretary for Finance gave the figure of £871,983 as being set apart for education, and that about half of this amount will come from the Imperial Treasury while the other half comes from our Treasury. This is very good news, but it appears that in the distribution thereof there is some dissatisfaction. The Secretary has, however, said that those who could not get much this time may hope to get more as time goes on. The plan is still going on and we cannot expect everything to be perfect.

Coming to the Native Administration Grants-in-Aid. The Fifth Nominated Member has dealt with this subject at length and has accurately hit the nail on the head when he said that Native Administrations really need more sympathy from the Government. To say that they are not collecting enough income tax or flat-rate tax and therefore are not qualified to receive Grants-in-Aid I think needs a little modification. If a Native Administration really strives hard to do as much as lies in its power I think Grants-in-Aid should not be withheld from it. I also endorse his appeal to the Government that a portion at least of the tax paid by non-Nigerians should go into the Native Administration's Treasury. This will enhance the progress of the Native Administration concerned by making available more money than hitherto and I commend this to the Government.

Looking at the speech and Address by His Honour, His Honour mentioned about the state of affairs in Abeokuta and I am sure you are all expecting to hear more about that from me being the Member for Abeokuta Division. I regret that I will have to disappoint you on that score. But I can give you this assurance that no stone will be left unturned and the Native Administration and all lovers of Abeokuta will do their best to bring our beloved country into its pristine glory so that we shall soon sing not "Ichabod" but "Ebenezer". While on this matter I wish to mention and place on record the thanks of the people of Abeokuta to the Administrative Officers for their assistance in seeing that Abeokuta does not regress; although the town is now passing through troublous times, she will soon come back to her own.

In Abeokuta Province, quite apart from the political upheaval which my friend the Second Nominated Member referred to, we need several improvements, not only in Abeokuta but also in Ilaro Division. The Ogun River for instance needs improvements. We can do with a water communication between Abeokuta and Lagos.

In days gone by that was one of the communications that our fathers had. Most of their produce was transported on the Ogun River route down to Lagos. Now we have the Railway and Motor transport, but I think we should have it in view that when the time offers we should also improve the condition of our river to make river communication possible. Although I am aware that it will involve some difficulties, as true to our name, we have many rocks, yet it is worth while making the effort.

We also require a Maternity Hospital in Abeokuta, and the condition of the town itself later on will need planning, so that Abeokuta will be also brought into line with other large towns in Nigeria. I think Abeokuta is the next largest town to Ibadan, at any rate in population.

Now, going through the Estimates one will have no doubt that a great deal of effort, time and skill have been spent and I have no word but praise for the efforts so made, and as the mover of the motion registered his thanks and appreciation of the services of those who helped him to bring out the Estimates, I think they all deserve praise. There is no doubt that the Estimates are a great credit to the Acting Financial Secretary and I have great pleasure in supporting the Estimates.

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

Your Honour. With your permission I wish to preface my speech by a vote of thanks to His Excellency Sir John Macpherson for the favour he showed Members of this House in coming to lay the foundation stone of the Western House of Assembly on the 14th of December. All of us, or many of us, who had been acquainted with Sir John Macpherson when he was holding a post which was not so high as the one he is holding now will agree that he was a very painstaking officer; and he also has a retentive memory to an amazing degree. I remember the occasion when I met him after ten years separation, he was able to mention almost every African Clerk in the Secretariat who had had the honour to work under him. Sir John has done very well in undertaking the tedious journey from Lagos to Ibadan. In divorcing himself for the time being from the many official duties, very important and multifarious, with which he has to deal and in coming down here to lay the foundation stone of the House, Sir John has done the work to a very satisfactory degree by giving us a very excellent speech and advice which, I am sure, all will keep in mind. Sir John has only recently arrived in Nigeria as Governor of the territory but he has most of the facts of the problems of the country at his finger tips, he had no sooner arrived than he started to face difficulties. He deals with schemes and ideas and crystallises them with great rapidity. To him we must give the credit of setting up the Nigerianisation Commission which has for its object the Nigerianisation of the Senior Service whereby shall be appointed fit and

proper Nigerians to sit side by side with Europeans, be on the same salary, enjoy the same status and look up for further advancement to even the top of the grade. He is also responsible for setting up the Conditional Sales Commission the good effects of which we are now realising and which have tended to soften the hardship of controls some of which have now been removed. He is to a great extent responsible for the University College, and has come up very readily on this occasion to lay the foundation stone of the House for this Assembly. He is also engaged upon arranging that Nigeria's political constitution, popularly known as the Richards Constitution, will be revised at no distant date. We wish him health and strength and happiness in the discharge of his duties and we wish him also the rewards of "the powers that be" at home.

Now with regard to the very instructive and interesting speech of His Honour delivered on the 14th of December, we have nothing but praise for the time and labour and care bestowed upon the preparation of the Address delivered by the President of this Assembly.

Now generally speaking I have in the first place to draw attention to the Nigerian Political Constitution and register my observation that I am happy to notice that that Constitution, which at the outset was a target for attacks by many opponents, is now becoming the people's friend, and that most of its staunch opponents have abandoned the idea of boycotting it and are striving hard for its improvement. Thanks are due to Lord Milverton, and also to Sir John Macpherson for condescending to give it the desired revision in the near future.

Now to the Estimates; our thanks are due to the Acting Secretary Finance for the very excellent way in which he has laid the paper before this Assembly. Anyone acquainted with him at close quarters, at Finance Committees and other Boards which I have had the privilege to attend, will agree with me that he is, as previous speakers have commented, the right man in the right place. Our thanks also are due to his Assistant and to the African officials in the Secretariat who have taken so much trouble in the typing out in a very decent manner the Estimates now set before us. I have no doubt that when we come to examine the Estimates in detail we shall find nothing but satisfactory results.

Now Your Honour, I have to speak about the general affairs in the Oyo Province of which I am one of the representatives in this Assembly. One of the things which have been worrying us is now being remedied, and that is the anxiety, the expense and the waste of energy that are usually incurred when chieftaincy disputes are settled in the Supreme and Magistrates' Courts. I think recent results have justified the ground upon which we stood a few months ago when we begged this House to adopt the Motion. We congratulate those who have already benefitted from it. My particular division has also reaped benefits by it in that recent

Chieftaincy Disputes were quickly dispensed with by the Central Council with no hope of their ever rising again in the future. But I have to bring to notice another canker which is disturbing the general peace and welfare of the peoples of Oyo Province; this is disputes, constant disputes about their boundaries. As the House is aware, the boundaries have been fixed, but the latest boundary which most people are prepared to agree with was that made in 1913 under the Presidentship of the Senior Resident, Oyo Province, at a Conference with all representatives of Native Authorities in Oyo Province. That boundary unfortunately was merely settled on paper, and it would be difficult now for any one leaving this room and going to look for it to say exactly where it is. The result is that there has been much confusion, much heart-burning and much bad blood between tribes and tribes, and between neighbours and neighbours in the Oyo Province. It is the wish of my people that the cause of this dispute may be removed at an early date. We have been so particularly concerned in the division to which I personally belong that we have essayed to place on our estimates for the ensuing year funds for the appointment of a surveyor to survey our boundary, because we wish to make matters clear so far as our boundary is concerned.

Another point to which I would like to turn my attention is Finance in the Oyo Province. The House is aware that in the course of the current year meetings were held and decisions taken that arrears should be paid to Native Administration staffs at Harragin rates and increased wages for labour should also be paid. This was a matter that could not be helped. We had to undertake the burden somehow, but the result is that in most cases our finances have been so hard hit that we have no alternative but to seek quickly the way of raising revenue from other sources and to increase our flat rate and income taxes.

I turn to the Judicial, or rather the Native Courts, its system and administration. I think the condition of the Native Courts, both to ourselves and to our friends outside Oyo Province, seems to leave much to be desired. The reason for such a condition must be found and remedied at an early date otherwise the alternative suggestion, which we hear as a rumour, and which is hanging over us like the 'sword of Damocles', may fall not only upon the Courts but also upon Native Administrations generally. I will not immediately suggest the remedy because it is a matter which is at present under consideration of the different Native Authorities, but I should say that care must be taken to find the cause of the irregularities and dissatisfaction in order to afford a remedy for them. In this connection I will not forget to mention that the pay of the chiefs who are generally the presidents and associate members in Native Courts is very low. It is ridiculous that some chiefs, obas, and important village heads should be earning only £1 10s a month or that even one of them earns as low as 5s a month. What sort of justice could we expect from a 5s judge compared with that of a

magistrate whose salary ranges from £500 to £1,000 a year. I feel, Your Honour, that the cause should immediately be found and remedied. Another thing which comes to my mind is that the system of judicial administration in Native Courts is quite different from that in the Magistrates' Courts. It must naturally be so since every Native Court Warrant makes it imperative upon the President of a Court consisting of about six to seven or more members to record the judgment of the Court according to the decision of the majority of the members.

It is only in British Courts with very highly cultured judges upon the Bench that justice could easily be done in such circumstances without any risk arising from the fact that no one is particularly responsible for judgments delivered. In Native Courts that cannot always be so having regard to the fact that the illiterate associate judges are paid very ridiculous salaries.

I come now to the Administrative Service. I am happy to say that as far as the Administrative Officers who are helping us towards the goal of our ambition (self-government) are concerned we have first rate officers who have been doing their best to see that we do not lag behind in the onward movement towards self-government. But the fact still remains that until we have well educated, well trained and very efficient African personnel on our Native Administration establishments we cannot go as fast as we should.

I come now to the Public Works Department: This Department like Birnam Wood now begins to move, and we are thankful to the officers who are responsible for the movement, because in the past we have come here often and often to complain that we could not see that there is any appreciable development works going on in Nigeria and particularly in the Oyo Province. But now we are happy to report that in some parts of the Province, the Public Works Department are doing well and are doing all they could with the tarring of our roads. They have sent to us people who will carry out our rural water supply scheme: they have sent us an Architect to do his own bit on the Women Training Centre at Ilesha; and recently at Ife I actually saw one of the Engineers on the spot supervising the men on the roads and urging them on. We are also obliged that our plea that whatever work could be done by local Contractors should be given to them in order to expedite the work of development has been accepted, and that as far as one of the Divisions is concerned work is being carried out by local Contractors. Five of our roads have been placed under contract and tenders for more are coming in. We are glad that our people can now realise that something is being done for them.

One of the important events in Oyo Province is the grant of the divisional status to Ijesha-land. I am glad to hear from our people that their plans which have been held up are now beginning to

progress. With strength and determination they will continue to progress as in other Divisions. With regard to Posts and Telegraphs Department we may say that this Department, unlike other Departments, has so far done little or nothing in the Oyo Province. That may not be the fault of its officers, but it was a long time ago that a new Post Office was promised to Ilesha, and nothing has been done. The trunk telephone is very inefficient, and we hope that the Officers responsible will look into it. In many parts of the Province there is a hue and cry for want of telegraphs, post offices and telephones.

As regards Education, we are thankful to the Education Department for the real efforts they have made in developing education in the Oyo Province, and we hope that by increased efforts the results of their work will not require a pointer.

As regards Agriculture, we are also thankful to the Agricultural Department for their efforts within the Oyo Province; they are experimenting upon a scheme whereby if a farmer has a large piece of land on which he plants he may be requested to divide it, fifty-fifty, with officers of Agricultural Department. They are not wresting the land from him or depriving him of it, but they are taking it temporarily from him in order to teach or demonstrate their own methods of growing cocoa which if adopted, all the benefits therefrom will accrue to the farmer. They are at present arranging to invite, or have invited, farmers in certain districts, particularly Ilesha/Ife, to come and see with their own eyes a portion of cocoa which they have grown in their farms side by side with the other farms on which the farmers have been growing it. It is understood that the result far exceeds expectation in that where about 92 lbs of beans of cocoa were produced from the Department area only 40 lbs were harvested by the farm-owner from his own plot. We are therefore thanking the Agricultural Department for their efforts and we wish them more and more successful activities in Oyo Province. I need not go too far into details because some of us have received reports from the Secretary to the Development Board showing the various works which are being carried out under the Development Scheme. In Forestry I would invite the attention of the Forestry Department to the necessity for providing for the future in respect of the planting of fuel and trees like Teak and other kinds, so that when the necessity arises we may not have to look about for fuel, especially as it is proposed that water and light will be installed in Ilesha Division and Wood fuel may be used. We shall be obliged if the planting of Teak trees is hastened, because it takes years before trees grow to an appreciable extent and, as I have said, we want to go far ahead and see that we do not have to look about when necessity arises. Now I have again to thank the Secretary, Finance, for the excellent preparation of the Estimates which he has placed before us and to support the Appropriation Bill.

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

Your Honour, we thank the Government for the creation of this new constitution whereby we have every opportunity to express our opinion and to have a voice in the affairs of our country.

Previously, I had no faith in the reality of the assertion of the Government that it was their real intention that we should be a self-governing Unit; but the practical steps taken in these current years by the Government wipe away all my doubts and fears, and I now believe that they really mean what they assert.

The first step which is a proof of the Government sincerity is the appointment and Report of the Commission upon the Recruitment and Training of the Nigerians for Senior Posts in the Government Service of Nigeria. This I believe to be a real and practical training towards self-Government, and for this we should be thankful.

The second and more important step is the establishment of the University College, Ibadan, this clears away every particle of doubt as to the good intention of the Government to train us for self-Government; by this Act, the British Government has risen to that high standard of morality required by the Holy Writ, viz "Love thy neighbour as thyself."

The above-mentioned steps are but primary moves towards self-Government, and we shall continue to exercise more faith that the Government will leave no stone unturned until it is completed. Moreover, self-Government is a sham without Economic Independence; there must be an industrial progress if we are to become a self-governing and self-supporting Unit; we need industrial Education along with the University Education; endless Degrees and Initials are not sufficient. Up till now not a single Nigerian has been able to manufacture a needle which is the smallest article manufactured in Britain. We look to the Government for strong assistance towards this end.

Another serious matter which requires the prompt attention of the Government is the inadequate provision for the Primary and Secondary Schools in Nigeria. Every year thousands of children can gain no admission into Schools in all Urban Towns, more especially to Secondary Schools. For example, at the Ibadan Grammar School this year, over three hundred boys sat for the entrance Examination whilst there were only forty-five vacancies. The rest are compelled to give up all desire and hope of secondary Education. If this condition is not improved it will surely affect our University College. And again, there are insufficient Schools to accommodate all the children of school age in Nigeria; this shows the impossibility of stamping out illiteracy from Nigeria. I am one of those whose views are against the present system of Adult Education adopted by the Government to stamp out illiteracy from

Nigeria. Whilst leaving the source and fountain of illiteracy open thousands are added to the list of illiteracy every year by birth, and nothing is done to check it. The only remedy is to provide sufficient Schools for these new streams of children flowing in daily. I regard the present system of Adult Education as a waste of money, and that money could be better diverted towards the training and opening schools for these children; adult illiteracy then will die a natural death.

The two principal agricultural products or economic trees in most of the Provinces in the West are Cocoa and Kolanuts; and both are now in danger of being swept out totally by diseases. The Agricultural Department is now busy with combating the diseases of Cocoa, and we fully hope for success; but nothing has yet been done as regards Kolanuts; although Kolanuts are not exported to Europe, yet they form a great bulk of the trade between the Northern and Western Provinces of Nigeria; we shall be very thankful should the Agricultural Department pay strict and kind attention to the Kolanut Pest with the same zeal as that of the Cocoa.

I feel I must touch on the policy or the attitude of the Government towards the Native Administration. The Government ought to fully assist the Native Administration, because all their trouble and burdens have their sources from the Government; for example, the Native Authorities were not consulted before the institution of Harragin by the Government. By it, they raised the salaries of all their employees who were working side by side with our own workers, and thereby cause dissatisfaction and agitations which compelled us to adopt their method which finally ruined our purses. They thereby created trouble for the Native Administrations. The Government ought to fully pay the arrears instead of the fifty per cent paid. In the year 1900 the Government paid £2 to Third Class Clerks. If at the time they were subordinate to a superior Government, who forced them to pay £6 instead of £2 per month, how would they fare? The Native Authorities are just crawling and we should therefore enlist the sympathy of the Government.

I congratulate the Secretary Finance for the arduous work, and Your Honour, I beg to support the motion for the adoption of the Estimates.

**The Honourable Omo N'Oba Akenzua II, C.M.C., the Oba of Benin :**

Your Honour, after about two years of existence of the Western House of Assembly I have nothing but admiration for the minds that have designed these things. Things seem to work according to plan. Now, speaking on the Estimates, one finds it difficult to make very strong comments, because of the expert way in which they have been prepared. The Acting Secretary Finance is to be praised, especially with regard to the savings which he has made which have given us a surplus of £25,000. But in spite of all the efforts that



have been made, one cannot appreciate the excuse that has been made that the Grants-in-Aid are not intended to help Native Administrations. When one realises that Government also draws from the Native Administrations by the way of Capitation Tax and so on one cannot but feel that it is the duty of Government to come to the rescue of the Native Administrations. Otherwise one may be tempted to say Government unconsciously is killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. Be that as it may, may I sum up in a few words by emphasising that the Benin/Warri Province which, perhaps, may not have been neglected, still must be neglected, in all forms of Development.

I support the Appropriation Bill.

**The Honourable the Oba Aderemi, C.M.C., the Oni of Ife :**

Your Honour, many Members have spoken. In fact they have covered practically all the ground and I feel I am left with nothing new to say.

I have not much to say about the Budget and if I have anything at all to say I will say that in the Committee.

I have to congratulate Your Honour and your staff on the progress which we have made during the year and on the wisdom with which you have handled many delicate and most difficult questions during the year. Much progress has been made during the year, including the establishment of Departmental Sub-Committees by which means the members of the House of Assembly can be consulted on all the affairs of the Regions, the federation of smaller Native Administrations into larger Units, the development of local Government and the opportunity that there is at present for efficient Native Administrations to be allowed to manage their own finances. All these are progress. As to the development of which nearly everybody is complaining, I am in sympathy with those who think that their areas have been neglected. I myself would have had to make some complaints but I consider that it is unwise of me to do so since I have made so much complaint at the very source of supply. I did know that the Government was most willing to do its best for the people and I knew that there was a shortage of materials and they could not get men—but in spite of all this I had to complain when I was in England.

If you say Secondary Schools, I say you are in need of very many, but we have not got the teachers—you cannot staff existing Secondary Schools adequately—where are the teachers?

If you say Electricity—that is all right—there are no engineers—that is our trouble. I must tell my people that we should be a little patient and ask the Government to do more and more to see that these works are done.

There have been two unfortunate incidents during the year. The trouble at Abeokuta and the dispute on the cutting out of cocoa trees affected by swollen shoot. Both are tragic—the first one is so tragic that I fear to make further comment on it. As for the second, I wish to ask Your Honour to take some steps to be able to go on with the cutting out of the cocoa trees affected by swollen shoot as otherwise the industry will be ruined. This particular Region would suffer if the cocoa industry is allowed to go into ruin.

While I was in England I lived in that part of the country known as “the garden of England”—Kent. I visited many farms one of which was in East Malling. A very senior official there was asked to take me round. While we went round we went into a place with a glass roof where they were doing experiments on disease of fruit trees, and I was told that they were not able yet to do anything to cure these diseases except by cutting-out the affected trees. I said “we have the same trouble in my country with our cocoa trees”. He told me “The best thing for you to do is to cut the sick trees otherwise the others will be ruined”. While in England I read of a farmer whose entire stock of 10,000 turkeys was destroyed because some of them were affected with disease! I would say Your Honour, that it is high time some step was taken to resume the cutting-out of these trees in spite of everything some people may have to say.

I have nothing else to say this morning. As I have just said before, if I have anything to say about the Estimates I will say that in the Committee. I support the Budget.

**His Honour :**

Before we adjourn till this afternoon, I would like to know if it is the wish of the House that the message should be conveyed to His Excellency in the terms indicated by the Second Member for the Oyo Province?

I take it that this is the wish of the House.

*House adjourned at 12.25 p.m. until 2.30 p.m.*

**His Honour :**

The House will now proceed with discussion of the Motion of the Acting Secretary Finance and Development.

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

Your Honour, I have been asked a number of questions this morning by numerous Members. I trust I may be able to give adequate expression to my replies without unduly prolonging the session of this House.

The Fourth Nominated Member, Mr Obaseki, has asked about the tarring of the Benin roads. According to my information there is no provision for tarring the Benin-Asaba Road. We are only

concerned with the Ife-Ilesha-Benin section. He has asked why we have not put it out to contract. So far as experience has shown, the question of tarring roads has never been really seriously considered from a contract point of view because we have not yet found any contractors who we consider were able to undertake such work. For that reason we have had to rely on direct labour. The progress on these roads, however slow it may have been in the past, is I think I may say, going reasonably satisfactorily now. We have gangs working somewhere beyond Ilesha about mile eighty and now that the dry season is here and we are free from the embarrassment of storms we are able to undertake four miles per month and our programme is so worked that we expect to be able to complete to mile ninety-six by the end of this year. Another gang is working in Ondo Province some ten miles east of Akure but they have not the same amount of plant available and progress is not quite so rapid; we do however expect that they will reach mile one hundred and forty-four at the end of this year. I anticipate that unless there are unforeseen circumstances we should complete the tarring and reconstruction of the whole road to Benin by the end of 1950—approximately two years from now.

The Honourable Obaseki has asked about Electricity. That is a matter which is outside the purview of the Public Works Department but I am advised that the priority of electricity supplies is as follows, so far as the Western Provinces is concerned:—

- (1) Ijebu-Ode.—which was supposed to start last year.
- (2) Ede.—which was supposed to start this year:
- (3) Ife-Ilesha and Benin.—which are supposed to start next year.

That was the programme which was envisaged in March, 1946. I am afraid I have no more recent information at my disposal on this subject, but the fact that Benin seems to be omitted from the 1949-50 Development Estimates I sincerely trust is an error. I regret I am unable to give any more specific information.

The Member for Benin complains that only two streets have been tarred in Benin and that two years ago, and that during the rains the streets are flooded and generally speaking there is much discontent. I understand that Benin Native Administration have been advised that they should obtain suitable plant for tarring some of these roads. I am afraid I do not agree with that advice because the amount of tarring work which the Native Administration would have to undertake would not be sufficient to justify the expenditure on plant. I have already informed the Resident this morning that I shall take steps to have this amended and that the Native Administration should use a cold emulsion for tarring their roads.

So far as flooding is concerned I was made aware of the situation when I was in Benin two and a half months ago and I agree it certainly is very bad. What we shall have to do is to undertake a

survey of the whole of the area and work out a scheme. How soon we shall be able to do that I am at the moment unable to say, but I have the matter already under consideration and will endeavour to provide adequate staff so that the work can go ahead as soon as possible.

Mr Osagie has spoken about Hospitals. He says there are only two in the Province fully equipped. This is more a matter for the Deputy Director of Medical Services, but I am able to give some information regarding the proposed programme for Benin. A Rural Health Centre is already under construction at Auchi, while at Asaba, Ekpoma and Benin new hospitals are envisaged. So far as Ekpoma is concerned this is bound up with the question of water supplies. On the Ishan Plateau we have conditions which I think are unique in the Western Provinces, in that the ordinary form of well digging will not do, and we shall have to resort to deep well boring which requires special plant and special staff. Provision has been made in the 1949-50 Development Estimates for the work to be put in motion and I hope it may be possible to advance that to a sufficient state of completion to enable Ekpoma Hospital to be started in 1950-51. At the moment it would be quite useless to attempt to do any work because there is no water and the building would merely be a "white elephant" until such time as water was available.

Mr Osagie has also asked about Secondary Schools. There is no provision for secondary Schools in any Development Programme, but I would rather leave this matter to the Deputy Director of Education. He has also asked about Electricity and I have already dealt with that in my reply to Mr Obaseki.

Mr Osagie has asked about the Post Office at Auchi. This and the Postmaster's quarters have been completed and so far as I know have been opened and are now in use. I am unable to say anything about the question of telephones and refer that to the Post and Telegraphs Department.

About Water Supplies. He referred to a figure of £5,000 for rural water supplies. In actual fact so far as Benin Province is concerned the Development Programme envisages a total expenditure of £33,000 on rural water supplies spread over a number of years, £3,000 for the current year, £10,000 for the next year, £10,000 for 1950-51, £5,000 for 1951-52 and £5,000 for 1952-53.

Mr Osagie has asked also about the Post Office at Benin. It was first proposed in 1946 and he says there is still no sign of it. This item has been entered under appendix "T" for 1949-50, that is to say the schedule of Approved Works which shall be undertaken as soon as staff and funds permit. I may say, however, that this is a type "A" Post Office which is estimated to cost over £16,000 and on that account it may be rather difficult to make any start in 1949-50.

We shall just have to see how matters go. I would also say it was a matter for Nigerian Estimates and not Regional Estimates. We in the Western Provinces are concerned only with the provision of the staff and not the money.

Mr Osagie has asked also about Roads. He says that some areas are better off than others, and that the tarring of the Benin-Sapele road started two years ago and eight miles only have been done. It is quite true. Five miles of the road were done in 1946-47 but I regret that I have been unable to ascertain in my records why no further work was done last year. I can only stress it was probably a question of staff. I have no further information. We did some more of the work in April this year before the rains came when we had to stop. But work is going ahead again now with satisfactory speed. So far as the southern half of the Benin-Warri road is concerned, it was stated that the Sapele-Warri road was closed for some parts of the year; but I believe that Mr Osagie really was referring to was with regard to the Ologbo Bank, which is north of Sapele and which was closed for ten days about two months ago due to extreme floods which occur about once in ten years. Active measures are now being taken to raise the road so as to fortify it against any possible further attack by flood waters.

The Second Nominated Member, Mr Obisesan referred to Roads generally and the only reply I can give there is that on our Development Programme we budgetted for an estimated expenditure this year of £73,000. At one time we thought we should not keep to it but by careful organisation we fully anticipate that we shall be able to spend effectively that sum of money. Compared to that £73,000, provision in the 1949-50 Development Estimates is £130,000, and we hope we shall be able to deal with that as effectively as we anticipate we shall do in the 1948-49 Programme.

The Member for Ijebu has referred to Water Supplies and he said that he was glad the Water Engineers were going from town to town and bush to bush, and he hopes that we shall be in full swing at no distant date. I also hope we shall be in full swing, but as I see it at the moment our chief difficulty is one of staff. We have been considerably embarrassed over our waterworks staff and there are as yet no Waterworks Engineers at all in the Western Provinces. I will have one or two remarks on staff to make later on.

The Member for Ijebu has also said that he was awaiting Electricity. I have stated earlier on that Ijebu was put down for 1947-48. That was in March, 1946, and that town is first on the priority list for the Western Provinces but I regret that I have no further information on that subject at the moment. I will make enquiry from the Electrical Engineer in Chief so that I can give you a more adequate reply later.

Chief Okupe has referred to the tarring of roads and says nothing has been done yet in Ijebu Province. We are working on the seven miles section between Shagamu and Odogbolu which when complete will give a complete tarred road right through to Ijebu-Ode. Regarding the Ikorodu/Shagamu stretch I regret I am not completely familiar with the position to be able to say how much of that road has been tarred. Some of it was done many years ago and there may be a few sections to link up. We are also going to start this year if possible on tarring the road from Shagamu to Iperu which will form a part of the new trunk road from Lagos to Ibadan—a road which will proceed via Ikorodu, Shagamu and Asha, and which will reduce the distance by about twenty miles or more, in comparison to the present road via Abeokuta.

Chief Okupe has referred to the Shagamu Hospital and says it is at a standstill. I am afraid I cannot wholly subscribe to that view. I was down there about ten days ago and I admit the progress was not quite as rapid as I had hoped. Various changes in the organisation have, however, been made, and I fully anticipate that the present year's programme which provides for the Maternity or Ante-natal block will be completed by the end of March. Next year provision has been made for the completion of the whole Hospital.

The Member for Ondo Province states that there is only one Hospital. Here again I may say that provision has been made in the Development Programme for the following works:—

- (a) Maternity Hospital at Akure—which is near completion and for a further extension; in all a sum of £40,000.
- (b) Rural Health Centre to be built at Owo next year.
- (c) A new Hospital to be built in Okitipupa in 1951/52.
- (d) A new Hospital is to be built at Ikare at an unknown date.

So far as I know at the moment no definite agreement has been arrived at so far as the site is concerned.

The Member for Ondo has referred to Public Works Department activities being very slow, but he has also had an assurance from me that I will do my best. I may say that in the past few weeks we have been able to increase Public Works Senior Service staff by posting one Development officer entirely for Public Works and we also have the assistance of another Development Officer on road maintenance. With this increase in staff I hope that we may be able to make sufficient progress to satisfy the Member.

The Member for Abeokuta has referred to the opening up of the Ogun River and he says that in the past there was communication from Lagos to Abeokuta. This is a matter which the Marine Department would have to investigate to see to what extent opening up would be possible and what the cost might be. Personally I fear the cost would be somewhat prodigious, not only to open up but also to maintain. The Public Works Department in Lagos have been having considerable difficulty in getting stone down from Aro, and

some months ago they arranged to have supplies sent by canoe. I do not know what success that scheme had, but I have already written to Lagos to enquire and when I know more about it I shall be able to give better advice.

Mr Soetan has asked about Hospitals. An Hospital is to be built in Abeokuta, a very large hospital; a Mental Hospital, Your Honour. Apart from that there is a Rural Health Centre to be constructed at Ilaro. But I have no information of any other scheme for hospitals in Abeokuta Province.

The Second Member for Oyo Province has said some flattering things about the Public Works Department for which I am grateful, but he made one remark to which I may make special reference. He said that he actually saw the Provincial Engineer on the road at Ife. I sincerely hope he does not think, or wish the House to infer, that this is an unusual sight. He has asked also about Ilesha electricity and the question for arranging now for plantations to provide fuel for electric light plant. I have referred this matter to the Electrical Engineer-in-Chief and he advises me that he is preparing a questionnaire which he will circulate to the various places concerned to obtain information on which to base his preliminary schemes. So far as I know that questionnaire has not been completed but it is not very long since I received that letter from him and the document may come at any time.

That seems to conclude all the questions that have been put to me by the Unofficial Members but there is just one general question I would like to refer to. Many of the Unofficial Members have sounded a note of urgency and expressed the wish that the Public Works Department should expedite their various activities to the utmost degree. Your Honour, we are doing our best, but I feel that possibly the House is not fully aware of the enormous extent of our undertaking. We have in the present year a Development Works Programme amounting in round figures to £230,000. Next year that figure will be £520,000 and the 1950-51 Programme as at present envisaged will involve an expenditure of £920,000. That is the peak year. In 1951-52 there is a slight drop to £730,000 but in two years time we shall be faced with a Development Programme four times as large as at present. In order to face such an enormous amount of expenditure it has been necessary to consider a very large increase in staff. Before the Development Programme started the Senior Service establishment of the Public Works Department (European staff as it then was) was approximately two hundred and forty. The Development Programme envisaged necessitated an increase in Senior Service personnel at the rate of one hundred per annum for four years in succession. Needless to say, we have not yet been able to recruit men at that rate. I am not fully up to date with figures, but I do know that eighteen months ago we were working at approximately two thirds strength and I do not think there has been any improvement since then. Our particular

weakness is Water Engineers and so far as my information goes at the moment the number of Water Engineers is less than twenty-five per cent of Establishment. We just cannot get the men, so I have some misgivings for our waterworks progress particularly in regard to Urban Supplies.

Another point concerns stores. We are always having difficulties in obtaining stores, particularly the major commodities such as steel, cement and bitumen, but despite all we have managed to keep going and to expand. It may be interesting and surprising to know that since 1939 the annual tonnage of Stores handled by our Stores Department in Lagos has increased nine times. Last year tonnage handled was about 95,000 tons against some 11,000 tons in 1939.

In the matter of labour of which one can speak over a considerable length of time, I would say that labour is always an unknown quantity with us. We never know how things are going to work, difficulties, strikes, unrest and so on and we always have to work out our programmes with a weather eye looking in the labour direction.

Your Honour, I beg to support.

**The Acting Deputy Director of Agriculture :**

Your Honour, one or two Members made reference to the work of the Agriculture Department in the Western Provinces, and I will endeavour to answer those points which were raised and give as much information as I have at my disposal.

The Fourth Nominated Member mentioned that we have closed down all agricultural activity in Benin; that is not quite correct. The Member may not be fully conversant with the actual activities which we have been able to maintain in spite of the fact that it has been necessary temporarily to withdraw an Agriculture Officer. We are still continuing work on Ogba Farm. That is being managed for the time being by the Oil Palm Research Station staff. We have also made arrangements to continue the Nursery work at Ogba Farm and also at the Irrua Farm Centre. We have built up at both these places a stock of plants required by farmers and we are continuing to maintain a supply for future distribution. The Farm Centres at Irrua, Auchu, and Aviele are also being supervised by a skeleton staff. The cocoa survey and work in connection with the improvement of quality of cocoa and improved maintenance of cocoa farms is also being continued. Work on cattle is being supervised by the Native Administration with the assistance of the Administrative Department. The Ekpoma Rice Mill is still in operation. Finally I would like to make it clear that the Agriculture Officer at Akure makes periodic visits to Benin Province and gives a limited amount of supervision to the skeleton staff resident there and is always available for dealing with any matters of urgency or exceptional importance,



The suggestion was made, I believe, that we tend to concentrate our work in the Yoruba Provinces; that is not so, Your Honour. We have been obliged to try and make an insufficient number of Agriculture Officers go round the Western Provinces, and in order to do that we have to deal with the most important commitments and dispose of our staff accordingly. We did try to spread our staff out but it was a failure. It allowed no provision for officers going sick or for reliefs when they went on leave. This necessitated a tremendous amount of movement of staff from one station to another which caused a natural amount of dissatisfaction amongst the members of the staff concerned. I am absolutely satisfied that we were not making as much progress by attempting to stretch our limited resources over the whole of the Western Provinces as by using them to rather better advantage in the areas where we have the most urgent commitments and established lines of work of long standing. I do wish to emphasise, Sir, that this state of affairs is temporary and is much regretted, but as the Member has drawn my attention to it I wish to assure him that at the very earliest opportunity we will arrange to re-staff the Province as well as we possibly can.

The Honourable the Second Member drew attention to some difficulties in connection with labourers wages, and also to labour conditions in the cocoa industry. I would like first of all to draw his attention to the estimates, Appendix 'U' in which there is a scheme provided for the Investigation of the Economics of the Cocoa Industry. A sum of £9,872 is included in the Estimates for 1949-50. One of the main objectives of that investigation is to make a study of labour conditions in the cocoa industry. I have been personally associated with cocoa cultivation in this country throughout most of my service, and I have witnessed a number of changes in the employment of labour which have taken place in different parts of the Western Provinces as a result of changes in economic conditions, advances in Education and other causes. We realise that our present knowledge is inadequate, and for that reason we have advised that this matter should be a subject for special enquiry, which I hope it will be possible to commence next year. As regards the general difficulty of finding labour for cocoa and other farm work I would like to point out that this is not peculiar to this country; it applies all over the world. In England, for example, farmers are faced with exactly the same difficulty; and it is overcome there by special periodic recruitment of labour from the towns and fullest possible employment of women and children on school holidays and so on. However, I do agree that it is a very serious problem, which is going to become more serious in the future in view of the fact that more and more children in rural areas are receiving elementary education and when they leave school it appears that very few of them indeed are returning to their farms. I think, Sir, to some extent the parents are to blame there. I have experienced considerable difficulty in Oyo in getting elementary schoolboys to come to the Farm School where parents have

expressed the view that, "if I send my boy to school, I send him to learn book, and not to learn farming, I can teach him to do that myself". If that tendency continues, it is going to create a very serious strain indeed on the farmers of the future. I am not proposing at this moment to offer any solution, but I do wish to draw the attention of the House to it as it is one of the most serious agricultural problems which will have to be faced within the course of the next few years.

The Member for Ijebu Province mentioned the Cattle Multiplication Scheme at Oyo and the Poultry Centre, and asked whether other Provinces would be receiving any assistance or benefit from these schemes. I can assure the Member concerned that they most certainly will, since that is the primary object of both those schemes. We have already made a certain number of distributions of cattle to Government farms with a view to grading-up local herds, and experimental herds with the object of improving cattle at those centres and so provide an additional source of cattle for distribution to farmers in the future. The Stock Farm at Oyo is already multiplying in a very satisfactory manner, and we hope in the near future to be in a position to offer good stud bulls to cattle herds in various parts of the Western Provinces. I do not know to what extent there are cattle herds in Ijebu Province—I think they are very few in number—but if we are satisfied that they require assistance in that way, we shall be only too pleased to provide it. The Poultry scheme is also going ahead in a very satisfactory manner, and in the course of next year we hope to be able to distribute good breeding stock in fair numbers. In addition, I am pleased to be able to say that we have made provision for the establishment of sub-stations which will enable us to speed up the production of poultry at a much larger rate than is possible at the present moment from the Oyo Farm.

On the question of the Farm School, the Member for Ijebu said that he hoped that when the Oyo Farm School had passed its experimental stage we would be able to consider opening one in Ijebu Province. Well, I am very glad indeed that he mentioned the experimental feature of the school. The Oyo Farm School is still in its experimental stage, but we have been satisfied with the progress to date to such an extent as to justify the opening of a second one at Ogbomosho. I personally have always believed that Ijebu Province would be a very good centre at which to open a Farm School when facilities permit.

The Member for Abeokuta Province raised a number of points. Some of them are very controversial which I should like to discuss at some length but time will not permit. I hope he will give me an opportunity of talking to him after the Assembly is over. He suggested that more assistance should be given to farmers and more instruction regarding processing. Well, we have had an Agriculture Officer and subordinate Staff in Abeokuta Province for

some years. In that respect Abeokuta Province is much better off than some of the other Provinces in the Western Region. We are doing our very best to provide the actual type of assistance which the Member suggested we should endeavour to increase, and if he has any ideas as to the ways in which we may improve our services in that direction, I shall be very grateful indeed for suggestions. It was suggested that the farmers do not understand the use of the Wasimi Rice Mill. I do not know why that should be, for the reason that the Rice Mill was established as a result of a request from the farmers in that area. In addition it is comparatively rare for farmers to bring rice to the Mill. Rice Milling is normally done by women who buy rice from the farmers and take it to the mill for milling. The Mill is being very well supported indeed and it should be possible to make it run at a small profit if the support is continued.

On the question of citrus there is a great deal to be said. It was pointed out that there is no market for this crop. Our work on citrus goes back rather a long way. It began in 1931 in response to a request from farmers in the Colony and Abeokuta Province to find an alternative crop to cocoa, which was dying out at that time on a large scale in these areas, and also an alternative to Kola which was selling at very poor prices. We offered citrus as a possible alternative and we made many investigations in connection with the possibilities for export trade. There was a small export of citrus juices before the war and up to the beginning of the war we did make a limited number of distributions of citrus trees in the Colony and other Provinces. Now, the war altered the picture very considerably. The possibility of any further development of the export market for citrus and citrus juices had to be abandoned in favour of war priorities. But with the arrival in Nigeria of a large number of the Fighting Services, there was an enormous demand for fresh fruit and as a result farmers increased considerably the planting of citrus trees in their farms. They are now faced with reduced markets for these products. Now we are fully alive to this, and I have personally given the matter attention during my vacation leave in England. I have been in touch with the heads of the Departments of Ministry of Food concerned with the importation of fresh fruit and fruit juices, and if the quality of our fruit and fruit juices meets with requirements of the United Kingdom trade, it may be possible to develop an export industry in these products. Since my return I am pleased to be able to tell you we have already made one trial shipment of grapefruit to the Ministry of Food, and in addition samples of citrus juices have also been sent to the United Kingdom for examination. I wish particularly to point out that we have not overlooked the possibility of the local usage of citrus fruit. The figures that I have been able to obtain from the Blaize Industrial Institute are very striking. The Institute purchases normally from farmers over a million oranges a year for the production of soft drinks which

are sold all over the country and which most people regard as very palatable and superior to imported fruit drinks. About 160,000 bottles a year are being produced and 14,000 gallons of Lime Juice have been exported to South Africa involving the purchase of several million of Limes from the local farmers. The Institute also deals in grapefruit on a fairly large scale, but I have been informed that although they are willing to buy from local farmers, the price which was offered—which I might say was quite definitely an economic price—was considered by farmers as not being enough. There seems to be an impression in some quarters that the Blaize Institute is a Government concern, which of course is not the case, and many farmers are prepared to allow their fruit to rot rather than sell it at what is considered to be an economic price.

We have recently been informed that a new Canning Plant has arrived at the Blaize Institute and arrangements will be made in the near future for experiments in canning fruits, for both the internal and export trade. I hope, Sir, I have made it clear that the Citrus problem has not been overlooked.

The Member for Abeokuta mentioned the question of introducing new crops. It is not an easy matter to introduce a new crop into an area which is already growing most of the economic crops suited to that area. We have, as a matter of fact, extended the cultivation of rice in many parts of the Abeokuta Province where it was not previously grown. I wish, Sir, to stress that I am not satisfied that farmers are altogether making the fullest possible use of their existing crops. We have done considerable research on Oil Palms and we are constantly offering farmers planting material which we believe to be of a superior yielding capacity to wild trees. With the development of Pioneer Mills I think there is considerable scope for utilising the material which we can offer and for making more profit from the crops which are already being cultivated.

The Second Member for Oyo Province referred to Cocoa Observation Plots. I am very glad indeed that he mentioned this because we believe these Observation Plots are going to give us a great deal of valuable information on the best methods of maintenance and production of cocoa and the control of black pod disease. We are having a certain amount of difficulty in obtaining farmers' collaboration in obtaining a lease of suitable plots but I feel sure that once we have been able to convince them that we are not taking their farms, but are only using them for demonstration purposes, we shall be able to extend this work considerably. The Member mentioned the very much higher yield which is being obtained from those plots under control of the Agricultural Department as opposed to those which are run by the farmer. Now one of the primary objects of these plots is to demonstrate to farmers that with better methods of maintenance and disease control, higher yields of cocoa can be obtained. The figures which were quoted are not altogether surprising because they are what one

might normally expect when the advice which we have been giving for the last twenty years with regard to disease control is faithfully carried out. It is very simple but it involves a little extra work. I am absolutely convinced, Sir, that the present prices of Cocoa will certainly more than cover the extra cost which may be involved. Last year I estimated that 30,000 tons of cocoa were destroyed by black pod disease in the Western Provinces. In terms of cash, about one and a half million pounds were lost to the farmers who are growing cocoa all because of the want of a little extra care and attention. I do not suggest that the whole of the 30,000 tons could have been rescued, but I am quite certain that a considerable proportion of it could have been, and I hope that farmers will make the fullest use of the lesson to be learnt from our work in Cocoa Observation Plots and that the simple remedy advocated by this Department for the control of black pod disease will be followed on a much larger scale than at present.

The First Member for the Oyo Province mentioned Cocoa and Kola, both of which, I think, he stated were in danger of being swept away by disease. I am fully aware of the position in regard to Cocoa and the spectre of swollen shoot disease, but the question of Kola is new to me, and was not aware that it was in danger of being swept away by serious disease and I should be very grateful indeed if at some time he can give me further information and take me to see some diseased farms.

Swollen Shoot disease is a very vexed question indeed, but I am glad to say that through the very good offices of the Administrative Department which has handled this problem in a most tactful and helpful manner, we are hopeful that the opposition to cutting-out will have completely disappeared within the course of the next one or two months. The Maiyegun Society was at one time the most serious opponent to cutting-out, but some of its members have recently been to the Gold Coast together with representatives of the Press, and as a result of that visit they have come back convinced that the policy of cutting-out is the only course to be adopted. The Society has since been actively engaged in putting out propaganda amongst farmers in support of the cutting-out policy and I am informed by my fellow officers, and by the Development Officer who has been specially seconded to this work, that we can anticipate that farmers will agree to a resumption of the cutting-out policy in the near future.

I think, Sir, that I have dealt with the points raised. All I would like to say in conclusion is that we are very grateful indeed for certain words of praise which were offered and I wish to assure Members that we shall continue to offer and give the very best service to the farmers in the Western Provinces within the resources at our disposal.

**The Deputy Director of Education :**

Your Honour, I would like to deal with the few points which have been raised by Members, in the matter of Education.

They were no doubt impressed by the reference made by the Acting Secretary, Finance, to the surprising increase in Education costs—35 per cent of the total expenditure for the Western Provinces. Many Members may have felt that everything is now going well but as there are still demands coming forth I cannot help thinking of a quotation from Locke—“ It is one thing to say ‘ I am hungry ’: another to say ‘ I must have roast meat ’ ” and the present demands for further primary education and further secondary education should be thought about in the light of that quotation.

The increase of half a million pounds is not really an extra grant to the Western Provinces; it is a part of the revenue of the country which was paid last year out of central funds and it will be paid in future years out of regional funds with the corollary that on the Region will fall the responsibility for maintaining the increments of the teachers paid from the Grants-in-Aid vote, and the system of education which it supports.

I do not want to be too depressing but I do welcome the reference made by the Fourth Nominated Member to the question of bankruptcy. On going through the estimates of the Nigerian Government, a Member would find that the Education Department's vote for Grants-in-Aid to schools is the largest single item except that of the Public Debt. Actually, that is a useful comparison because Education is a public debt—a debt of the present generation to the future. We have to make provision for that future and that, coming down—in the popular phrase—to brass tacks, means that for some time to come taxes must be increased for Education. Members are aware that Mr Phillipson has helped to devise a new system of Grants-in-Aid and through that instrument we in this House should be able to control the growth of the cost of Education. There is also to be a new body to be called the Western Regional Board of Education.

The First Member for Oyo Province begrudged any money at all being spent on adult education. He and many other Members must be aware that the first action taken by missionaries in order to spread their teaching was to start adult classes in literacy. I cannot see that the Government can now avoid that duty. The ‘ roast meat ’ to which I referred before might be thought of as universal schooling which is very expensive. We cannot at present, therefore, say we do not need adult education: only one part of this is adult literacy. The other is “ community development ” for the education of the people in the work of all the departments.

Some Members ask what is being done about industrial training and I am pleased to be able to tell them that in a very short time there will be five hundred boys being trained in industrial arts, carpentry, cabinet making, motor mechanics and all the various artisan trades. This training will be at Yaba and the pupils are

being drawn from schools in the Western Provinces. There is also under discussion a proposal for a further trade training centre in the Warri-Benin area.

With regard to Secondary Education, the Member for Benin implied that each political Division should have its own Secondary School. I think Benin is more lucky than other Provinces for all Divisions, except Ishan, have one. But again I do not think it is possible to afford one Secondary School for each political division. Whether it is desirable or not, I feel that it is not possible for two reasons — one, money and the other, shortage of staff. Again we have heard of plans for Secondary Schools in every town but they will come to nothing owing to the difficulties of finding staff. The Second Nominated Member referred to this matter when he mentioned the exodus of teachers from the teaching profession. With his permission I shall take his remarks as applying only to the loss of graduates from secondary schools. This is a very great problem. There is now a trickle of recruits coming back to Africa: that trickle will, of course, grow and increase both from England and from the University here, but by that time it may be found that existing Secondary Schools have dwindled away. Many of them are even now unable to meet the requirements of the Education Code. The Department is unable to insist at present on the terms of that Code but I would like to remind Members that the demands for new Secondary Schools should be considered in the light of the staff situation in the existing ones. It is no help to Nigeria to pull one school to pieces and spread its staff out over six other places—none of the seven schools would then be efficiently staffed and of course none would be qualified to receive a Government grant.

The Member for Benin referred to the preference he had for Government over Mission schools for education. Whatever his preference may be, I think he will agree that a debt is due to the Missions for the work they have done, are doing and have been asked to continue to do in this country. I would mention here an incident when a Principal of one of our community Secondary Schools was trying to attract an Englishman to his staff. He had enquired what the salary would be and he was told that it would be according to the rates in Table IX of the Phillipson Report. His correspondent in England wrote back and said that nobody in England will come to West Africa on terms like that. I think that there should be a clear realisation here that people cannot just be bought or ordered on indents or requisition forms from England in order to come and serve Nigeria. In that respect we have to be doubly grateful to the Mission Societies for the success they have had in the past in recruiting expatriate teachers for the service of Nigeria. It is not at all easy to recruit staff for the new Secondary Schools and it is most encouraging that the University has started so quickly in order that part of this problem may be solved by the training of Africans for the staffing of schools.

In general then the policy for Education for the next two years must be consolidating what we have got and in that respect we must work on lines similar to those announced by the Deputy Director of Agriculture. So we must persuade the people of the Western Provinces to support their existing Secondary Schools. We must explain to them this policy of consolidation. I would ask the assistance of Honourable Members also to make known the reasons for reorganisation of Primary Schools so that we can prove that we have a better way than uncontrolled expansion of all types of schools. Our first duty is to maintain the present fabric of Education which I am by no means certain yet we shall be able to afford. Your Honour, I beg to support the motion.

### The Deputy Director of Medical Services :

Your Honour, I crave your indulgence to be allowed to express my thanks and gratitude to all Members for the gracious manner in which they have welcomed me to this House of Assembly.

As Members are aware, it is only two weeks ago that I was metamorphosed, so to speak, from a wielder of the scalpel to a wielder of the pen; and, like most surgeons, I feel very much happier in the operating theatre than to stand up in an Assembly such as this and make a speech.

Children, they say, may be seen but not heard. As the latest recruit amongst so many seasoned veterans, I had imagined I would enjoy complete immunity, if not from being seen, at least from being heard. The rules of the House have, however, decreed that not only must I be seen but I must be heard; but I know that, as the latest addition to the family, I shall be able to count on your indulgence for any shortcomings that I may reveal.

I confess, Sir, that I am relieved that criticisms of the Medical Department have not been as numerous, or as severe, as I thought they would be. I had feared mighty broadsides particularly from my friend the Second Member for the Oyo Province, with whom I imagine Deputies have to mind their 'Ps' and 'Qs' and might, as we saw yesterday, even be made to remove one or two redundant full stops!! I have escaped lightly on this occasion, but I am not under any illusions that I shall do so in future. Possibly Members are saving up their ammunition until their victim is more mature and succulent!

During the fortnight that I have been in office, I have been able to see something only of the Ijebu and Abeokuta Provinces, and Members will forgive me if my replies to the various points they have raised are not as detailed as they, or I, would wish them to be.

I propose, however, during the next few weeks to tour and get to know the remaining Provinces of the Region and I hope to return here, to the next sitting of Assembly, better and more fully armed.



With regard to questions which have been raised by Members, the Deputy Director of Public Works has stolen much of my thunder because he has explained very clearly the reason why many of the projects that we proposed for the Medical Department have not been constructed, particularly Hospitals.

The Member for Benin states that there are only two Hospitals in Benin Province. As he is aware, there is a new Hospital projected for Benin in the Development Plan for 1950-51. With regard to equipment, the Honourable the Oni of Ife has told us this morning that when he was in England he discovered a great shortage of many types of equipment, for example electrical equipment. Medical equipment is very specialised equipment needing the services of skilled technicians for its manufacture. Many of these technicians were lost during the war, and it has been very difficult to replace them. When the Hospital in Benin is built, we shall have overcome the question of equipment. The new Hospital will be well staffed and I hope well equipped.

With regard to the question of the Hospital for the Ishan Division, the Deputy Director of Public Works has mentioned that this depends very largely on the water supply for that area. I think that I need only say that we shall build that hospital when the water supply becomes available and I assure my friend, the Member for Benin Province, that the building of the new Roman Catholic Mission Hospital there will not, as he fears, prevent the Government from proceeding with the construction of its own Hospital.

We have an example of that in Ife where there is a very well equipped and well staffed Mission Hospital, but at the same time we hope to build a Hospital there in due course.

There is a Rural Health Centre to be built at Auchi and we are going to post there a Medical Officer. When this new Medical Officer arrives, he will be able to relieve the Medical Officer of Benin of much touring and enable him to give more attention to clinical work at Benin City itself.

The Member for Benin Province has also raised the question of establishing Grade I Midwives Training Centre at Benin City. The Department is quite aware of the fact and entirely agrees that Benin is very suitable for a Grade I Midwives Training Centre, but the Member may not be aware that there is a new scheme whereby we do not train girls as Grade I Midwives unless they have first qualified as nurses. The proposal to establish a Grade I Training Centre for Midwives in Benin will therefore have to await the establishment of a new and better Hospital there. There are, however, current facilities for training midwives in Benin. Quite apart from the Roman Catholic Maternity Centre there which trains midwives, we have recently posted a Nursing Sister to the Benin Hospital and she will undertake part of the training of girls as Grade II Midwives.

I am very glad that the Member has referred to the question of improved water supply particularly with reference to the high incidence of guinea-worm in certain areas. I have already stated that the building of the Hospital in the Ishan Division depends on the provision of a good water supply. Quite apart from the question of a good water supply being essential for any Hospital, I think that Members will agree with me that generally speaking the provision of a good water supply in any given district would prevent far more diseases than any Hospital in that district could ever hope to cope with. Whilst on the question of water supply I may say that now-a-days we lay a great deal of emphasis on preventive medicine. We are paying more attention to environment sanitation and hygiene in urban and rural areas, and we consider this is of as much importance as the building of hospitals. Indeed I think we can hope to look forward to the day when preventive medicine will become so effective that the building of hospitals and clinics will become progressively less necessary.

The Honourable the Second Nominated Member mentioned the question of the provision of rural dispensaries. The provision of rural dispensaries is essentially a function of Native Administrations. However, the Medical Department is going ahead with a scheme to provide each Province with a Rural Health Centre. These Centres will have dispensary facilities. We are going to post a Medical Officer to them so that the Centres will provide such supervisory facilities as will make existing Native Administration dispensaries better and will make possible the building of new ones. I might also mention that at the moment we are establishing at Ado in Abeokuta Province what we call a Mobile Field Unit. We propose to establish many more in due course. They will be in charge of a Medical Officer and we shall be able by these Mobile Field Units to attack rapidly and more effectively diseases in rural areas.

The Honourable Member for Ijebu Province mentioned the matter of the hospital for the waterside area of that Province. The question is still under discussion as to where that hospital is to be, whether at Abigi or Iwopin. The question does not appear to be as yet finally settled. As soon as it is, we shall proceed with the building of the hospital.

The Member for Ondo states that when the Medical Officer of his Province goes on tour, there is no one to relieve him at his headquarters. I am sorry that will have to be so for quite a long time because it will not be possible, owing to shortage of staff, to post an Assistant Medical Officer there. All the hospitals in the Western Provinces are suffering from the same disability. There is no hospital in the Western Provinces at present, except Adeoyo, to which an Assistant Medical Officer is posted. He may rest assured, however, that as soon as we have the staff available, the claims of Ondo Province will certainly receive attention.

With regard to Warri Province, the Member for that Province has mentioned Kwale Hospital. The date for construction has not yet been fixed but it is on our list. We are going to build it. It is provisionally on the schedule for 1951-53 and I assure him that as soon as staff and equipment are available the hospital will be built. I would remind him that we propose to extend the facilities at Sapele and Warri Hospitals shortly, and in the meantime before the Kwale Hospital is ready, the improved facilities at Sapele and Warri will serve Kwale needs temporarily.

The Deputy Director of Public Works has stated that a mental hospital will be built at Abeokuta. In addition, it is also proposed to build an entirely new Class A General Hospital of 296 beds when a site can be found. The first building will be the Maternity Section.

Sir, I am afraid I have not answered in very great detail the points raised by various Members. As I previously said, I took over the office of Deputy Director only a very short while ago and I am not yet quite conversant with all the details of the medical problems present in this Region.

Your Honour, before I sit down, I would like to pay tribute to the invaluable help which we of the Medical Services of this Region and myself in particular, in the short time I have been in office, have received from the Member for Benin Province. As you reminded us in your Address on Tuesday, Your Honour at the last meeting of the House suggested the desirability of the formation of departmental sub-committees to act in an advisory and liaison capacity between the various departmental heads and Unofficial Members. The Member for Benin has been the liaison member for the Department of Medical Services and, as a former member of the Medical Department, his wide knowledge of medical and local affairs has been very generously placed at our disposal. I also wish to thank him and other Unofficial Members for the appreciative remarks which they have made on my appointment as the first African Deputy Director of Medical Services.

As an African Official, perhaps Your Honour will allow me to say a few remarks regarding a word about which we have heard so much in this Assembly—namely, self-government.

Self-government is a word which today has acquired a very real significance to all Nigerians. Sitting here as I have been doing, as a newcomer, since the opening of this Assembly, I have been impressed by the anxiety, even the insistence, of Unofficial Members that the principle of self-government must be incorporated and given due prominence in even such things as some of the bills that we have passed here.

At present, the learned Member the Senior Crown Counsel and I are the only two African Regional Heads of Departments in Nigeria today. Our appointments have been widely acclaimed by the Press

and by the public as being unique. Possibly they are, but I do hope they will not long remain so. No doubt, the appointments are a happy augury of good and significant things to come to this country. We are, if I may say so, the forerunners. Others must and will follow. It is true that one, or even two swallows do not make a summer; but when we see the swallow we know at any rate that summer is near. The summer, if I may so put it, of Nigerian autonomy is slowly, steadily approaching, but it will not do so without hard work and without every African putting his shoulder to the wheel. The road to Nigerian autonomy cannot be paved only with good intentions, nor indeed by the mere passing of vague resolutions. It must be paved with hard work, and selfless service and sacrifice on the part of every individual African. With goodwill on one side—and I am abundantly convinced that that goodwill will always be forthcoming—and with hard, honest, and sustained endeavour on the other, that day will perhaps dawn much sooner than many of us sitting here would dare to hope.

We the African Members of the Civil Service look forward, and I believe we have the right to look forward, to the day—perhaps in this generation—when more and more Africans will take their place as Deputy Heads of Department, not only in this House, but in all our Houses of Assembly; when we will take an increasing share in the execution, and indeed perhaps the formulation, of Government policy; and when we will bear an increasingly larger part of the burden—and, Sir, it is essentially an African burden—of progressive and of responsible self-government.

#### **The Acting Resident, Warri Province :**

Your Honour, the Fourth Nominated Member has stated categorically that the Warri Province is a neglected Province, and he has been supported by inference by the Provincial Member for Benin and the Provincial Member for Warri. I have no doubt, Your Honour, that in an unguarded moment the Acting Secretary Finance would say that I have been endeavouring in official correspondence to keep that fiction alive. I do not propose to mend my ways in that respect, and with great reluctance I must make my confession that so far from Warri Province getting less than its fair share of development funds and the revenues of Nigeria, it is in fact probably getting a little more. I will not give a complete list of all the benefits which the Warri Province obtains from Regional or Central funds, but it is, I think, with one exception, the smallest Province in Nigeria and I think it is the only Province in Nigeria which has three Government Hospitals and three Doctors. We have an Elementary Training Centre at Abraka which is growing rapidly; we have a Secondary School at Warri which we hope soon will be moved to fine new buildings which have been started at Ughelli at a cost of £135,000; we have a new Post Office at Kwale. Work has started on a Radio Diffusion Station at Warri, tarring of the Warri/Sapele road, and re-building Warri/Ughelli/Kwale road. Then Warri

Urban Water Supply is nearing completion. We have a Rice Mill at Ughelli and two Pioneer Oil Mills. The Warri and Sapele Townships have been granted substantial loans for market improvements.

In next year's Estimates I observe we have provision for a Maternity Home at Warri; electricity extension of Warri and a supply for Sapele. A large sum is provided for a new road from Koko to Ajagbodudu. There is also provision for a telegraph and telephone to Kwale.

As I have said, Sir, we are a small Province and I think we are getting a fair share. We are not, however, content and I can assure Your Honour we are not complacent, and we will continue to press.

In conclusion, and on behalf of the people of Warri Province, I would like to thank Your Honour for your reference to the late Chief Mukure Mowoe, whose sudden death shortly after his return from the last meeting of this House was a severe blow to us.

Your Honour, I beg to support this Motion.

#### **The Acting Resident, Oyo Province :**

Your Honour, the Honourable the Second Nominated Member mentioned in his speech that electric light and water rates were payable in the Ibadan district rural areas. Well, Sir, it is not as bad as it sounds; in fact the Native Administration does collect 1s per head for street lighting and 3s per head for water rate from the rural districts around Ibadan because all these people are in fact Ibadan people and they have Ibadan town houses. It is often forgotten that Ibadan is a large farm camp and nearly all the inhabitants, except traders and professional men have their farms outside the town boundaries and the Native Authority is fully justified therefore in levying these dues.

The Second Member for Oyo Province mentioned boundary and land disputes between tribes in the Province. Well this is certainly a problem which seems to get worse instead of better. Nearly every Division has its boundary disputes. In the past the contestants were inclined to take these disputes to the Courts and I think it a very good thing that they do not do so so readily now. There is an Inter-Tribal Boundary Ordinance by which an Administrative Officer hears and records evidence and gives a decision which may or may not go on review to the Resident whose decision is irrevocable. We have been discussing this matter in our Committee of Native Authority Representatives and Members do not like either of these remedies very much and we are trying now to set up some machinery whereby parties can arrive at a mutually satisfactory agreement. It is felt that a new approach to these problems is necessary by the Native Authorities as the only satisfactory and abiding decision is one which is reached mutually and we therefore want a less selfish and parochial approach to such questions.

The Second Member for Oyo Province also mentioned a new Post Office at Ilesha. Well there is nothing about that in the Development Plan that I can find and it has not been raised at the Provincial Development Committee meetings, but there is to be a fairly extensive extension allowed for in the 1949-50 Estimates under "Minor Works".

He also mentioned the inefficiency of the telephone trunk service. I think the trouble has been in the past—out of date machinery—and that is being put right with new equipment and machinery at Oshogbo. The trunk line from Oshogbo to Akure which goes through Ilesha is being reconstructed and that will help. Also there is to be a new Switchboard at the Ibadan telephone exchange.

He also mentioned fuel plantations—teak and the like. Well Oyo Province has two hundred and sixty-seven acres of Government fuel plantation and two thousand two hundred and fourteen acres of land planted with teak by the Native Authority and ninety-two acres by local communities and I am surprised to find that not one acre of that is in the Ilesha Division. The Forestry Department are only too anxious to help but the local communities and Native Authorities must provide the necessary land and the very necessary security of tenure. It is therefore for the Ileshas to make the first move.

The Forestry Officers of the Division will be only too glad to tender the necessary technical advice and every help in regard to providing seeds and seedlings.

#### **The Acting Resident, Ondo Province:**

Your Honour, the Member for the Ondo Province has expressed impatience at the delay in implementing the Development Plan. Sir, we are all impatient. Some of us are aware of the reasons for the delay. It is somewhat reassuring to know that my Honourable friend, the Oni of Ife, has had a look at what he calls the source of supply and also now appreciates our difficulties.

The Deputy Directors of Public Works and Medical Services have in a very able manner dealt with most of the questions raised by the Member for the Ondo Province, but perhaps it would not be out of place to have a look back and see what has actually been accomplished since the inception of the Development Plan. During the last two/three years the following proposed modest programme of work has been effected:—

There is a Textile Centre at Ado which is training people who come from as far north as Adamawa, Kano, and Sokoto, they make all the looms, broad looms, for all the textile centres in Nigeria. The present Development Officer is on research work. He is looking for a cheap, a very much cheaper loom than there is at present. From that centre the Native Administration has established two other Centres which are beginning to flourish.

In Akure one block of the new Hospital has been completed and we wait for a water supply, which I hope will be completed by April.

New Post Offices have been built in Akure, Ondo and Ado Ekiti. There is an internal telephone service in Ondo, and there is provision in the Estimates next year for a telegraphic telephone service from Akure to Ondo.

The much wanted and long awaited telephone and telegraph line to Ado Ekiti is now well up the Ado Road.

Rural water supplies. We have been, I think, perhaps more fortunate than other Provinces in that we have completed well over one hundred and twenty rural water supplies in the last two years.

Urban water supplies are under investigation and I understand that a scheme for Ado Ekiti is also at the design stage.

Main town roads have been tarred in Akure, Ondo, Owo and Ekiti.

Feeder roads continue to be constructed and are being made at a most alarming rate by the people themselves. It is not unknown for a village head to inform the District Officer "We have just built twenty miles of feeder road", and then we have to make provision in the next year's estimate for the bridges and the culverts.

The Akure-Benin road has been tarred for ten miles and I am satisfied that the work is going on at a reasonable pace.

So much for the criticism of slow development.

Another criticism was Post Office facilities. It is the usual custom for postal agencies to be granted where a village can provide the Agent and where the local people are prepared to provide housing for those people. In very few cases are such applications turned down.

In regard to Secondary Schools, there are three, one in Ado Ekiti, one in Owo and one in Ondo, and negotiations are proceeding in respect of a Secondary School at Akure.

Your Honour, I support the motion.

**The Acting Resident, Ijebu Province :**

Your Honour, as regards Ijebu Province I think there are only two small points to clear up.

The Member for the Province complained about the delays in the delivery of mail. I cannot see any reason for these delays because there is a daily service from Lagos *via* Ikorodu to Ijebu-Ode, and a daily service from Ibadan direct. As regards my own mail I have not noticed any particularly long delays and neither have any

complaints been made to me. But I can assure the Member that if complaints, specific complaints, are put before me I will take them up with the Postal Authorities.

The other question was the Shagamu-Ijebu trunk line. Well, Sir, I would refer, indeed I have referred the Member, to page 150 of the Draft Development Estimates where £4,500 are provided for this trunk line next year, and I understand that before very long a preliminary survey will be made.

I think, Sir, that those are the only points to clear up, but I was rather surprised to hear from the Deputy Director of Medical Services that there was a dispute as to the site of the waterside Hospital. Well, Sir, as Your Honour has stated in the Address, a survey of the site at Iwopin has already been made as a preliminary to the notice for acquiring it; I have heard nothing officially about a dispute as to where the site is to be, in fact my records show that there was a dispute between Abigi and the Iwopin people about a year ago but that was settled and, I think my friend's predecessor visited the spot and confirmed that the Hospital should be at Iwopin. I have seen articles in the paper, or letters emanating presumably from the disappointed Abigi people, suggesting that there was a dispute. As far as I am concerned, there is no dispute.

Your Honour, I beg to support.

#### **The Resident, Benin Province :**

Your Honour, I should like to express my admiration of the very vigorous speech, I might almost say the fighting speech, of the Honourable the Fourth Nominated Member expressing his feeling that the Benin Province has been neglected. I would not deny that a feeling of neglect has been expressed to me in certain parts of the Province. Perhaps the feeling is one of remoteness as much as neglect, and I think the feeling will be very much mitigated, in fact has been mitigated already, by Your Honour's proposal that this House should sit at Benin. If that proposal is carried out, I know that the Province will feel the very liveliest pleasure in welcoming the House, and I trust that although it cannot offer the amenities Ibadan can offer, Benin will do its utmost to offer similar hospitality.

The Regional Deputy Directors have answered in full most of the points concerning this Province raised by the Honourable the Fourth Nominated Member and by the Provincial Member.

I should like to add a little to what the Deputy Director of Public Works said by way of thanking him for two pieces of news which he gave me yesterday, that a very Senior Engineer has been posted to the Province and will arrive next week, also an Inspector of Works should arrive and be posted to the Province next week, which will assuage the feeling of neglect I hope and will also enable



the acceleration of the Development Programme not only in Benin itself, but in dealing with the Divisions, more particularly the Kukuruku Division which is to have a Rural Health Centre which is nearing completion, and also in the Ishan Division where Rural Water supplies are very urgently needed. I understand that the posting of the senior Engineer to the Province will enable the present Provincial Engineer to devote a very much larger part of his time to rural water supplies.

The Provincial Member referred to Police matters. He said that the Province was annexed to Warri in regard to Police. This matter has been discussed with the Regional Assistant Commissioner, who told me only yesterday that in his opinion the Province should have its own Superintendent. That is his own personal view, and I understand that the case has been put, or will be put shortly, to the Commissioner and certainly to Your Honour, and that there is more than a possibility of the Assistant Commissioner's view prevailing, in which case there will be another charge of neglect removed.

The Provincial Member also talked of Posts and Telegraphs matters; many of which are covered in the departmental section of Your Honour's Printed Address. There are indeed several points in the Printed Address in which events have overtaken the Printer and it is possible to correct words like "nearing completion" into "are complete". That applies, for instance, to the Post Office at Auchi. The Post Office is completed. The telephone is already installed at Ogwashi Uku and a line is now being built from Agbor to Ubiaja.

There are at Benin aerodrome so many planes going and coming that one appears to get two or three mails a day from Lagos, not to mention two or three a week from the Eastern Provinces, and we can expect even quicker postal communication with Ibadan early in the New Year because there is a direct Ibadan-Benin Service which will start, I think, on the 3rd of February.

Your Honour, I should like to repeat the welcome in advance which I know the Benin Province will give to this House.

Your Honour, I support the resolution.

#### **The Resident, Abeokuta Province:**

Your Honour. Very few criticisms have been made in the course of this debate of the administration of Government Departments in Abeokuta Province, but the Province has, unfortunately, received a great deal of unhappy publicity, resulting from political events which have taken place there recently. Events which I propose to follow the wise example of my friend the Honourable the Oni of Ife in refraining from discussing here. I would like to take the opportunity of saying that despite these events, some efforts have been made for progress in the Province and hope that the Province will get some more favourable publicity in addition to the other.

The Deputy Director of Medical Services has told the House about the Mental Hospital costing £165,000 which is in the early stages of construction, and the Class A Hospital, with 296 beds, which is in the plan and of which he has promised to give us a Maternity Wing first in order that the Maternity Service may be developed with as little delay as possible; also the Rural Health Centre and the Mobile Field Unit to develop the rural health side, in Ilaro Division in the first place.

In addition to these, the Public Works Department has carried on with the construction of feeder roads and has made a very great effort over rural water supplies. Within the last two years no less than one hundred and forty-one Wells have been provided in villages, which before had very inadequate water, and I see in the Estimates there is provision of £3,000 for an urban water supply for Owode, where at the moment the people have to climb down a cliff and up again to get their water.

On the Educational side a certain amount has been done, and as Your Honour mentioned in your Address, £10,000 has been given to the Roman Catholic Mission to help with their new Elementary Training Centre at Abeokuta. That comes from Development Loan Funds. Another Training Centre has recently been started in the Province at Otta. That was done by private subscription by the Ansar-ud-Deen Society. The Divisional Education Committee in Ilaro Division has submitted a comprehensive educational scheme based on rural schools centred round four central schools, and they hope ultimately to lead up to a Secondary School.

The Acting Deputy Director of Agriculture told the House about efforts which have been made towards development of the Citrus industry, and I would like to say, Your Honour, that all those in the Province who know about it are extremely grateful to the Acting Deputy Director for the enthusiastic support which he has given to this scheme. In it there lies a hope of considerable prosperity for the farmers in Abeokuta Province. In addition to that, the Agricultural Department is preparing to set up an experimental farm in Egba Division. The Dairy in Abeokuta should be going soon, and a Sub-Committee of the Provincial Development Committee is studying a scheme for a communal farm. The Deputy Director of Agriculture mentioned the Rice Mill at Wasimi, and in addition one has just been completed at Owode. Unfortunately it suffered a small accident on the opening day but we hope that it will be working at full pressure within a matter of days. And Your Honour has recommended the construction of a Pioneer Oil Mill at Mokoloki. To help the cocoa industry, a cocoa survey officer is being posted to Abeokuta within a day or two.

Efforts have been made in other ways to develop the economics of the Province, and applications have been either granted, or anyhow favourably received, for loans from Development Funds for

a Shoe Factory, a Weaving Factory, a Brick and Tile Factory and a Sawmill; one at least of these is operating now. Moreover, in spite of our difficulties, the Province has just instituted a Provincial Conference of Representatives of Native Authorities.

Your Honour, I hope the House will not go away thinking that Abeokuta does nothing except cause trouble.

### The Secretary, Western Provinces :

Your Honour. It is one of my duties in this debate to fill in the gaps that Residents and Deputies may have left in their replies to criticisms from Unofficial Members. Unofficial Members, however, have been extremely kind and have not been critical to an undue extent; our Deputies and Residents have also given such full replies that all the moving notes I made at lunch time in case of their omissions are wasted. Replies have been given, except for one or two very small points.

The Honourable the Fourth Nominated Member praised the Afforestation Scheme of Benin Province. I am sure it must have been very pleasant for Forestry Officers who were in the Hall this morning to hear this—they are a fairly silent service and they do not often get much praise. Now they have had it, and from somebody who, if he had continued talking on the matter, might perhaps have added how far better off the Benin Native Administrations are financially because of their well planned Forestry schemes. We have heard that so many other Native Administrations are rather penniless these days. They should take note how Benin is better off through having their fine and well planned forests. There are possibilities of better forestry in all Provinces; let others see to it that they do not neglect their opportunities.

There was some question as to whether Government had agreed, in view of the shortage of British Technical Staff, to engaging non-British technicians to help us in our Development plans. I think I am right in saying that Government has agreed in principle, but alas, they too are just as difficult to find as the British ones. The Honourable the Oni of Ife and the Honourable the Second Member for Oyo Province will be able to confirm that in fact there is so much to build and repair in Europe after the devastations of war that the normal world supply of technicians is fully engaged, and probably also prefer to stay nearer their own countries. However, we hope that some may come.

Official Members have not yet had a chance to welcome our Deputy Director of Medical Services, Dr Manuwa, to this House. I am glad to be the one to do so and to tell him that he is as warmly welcomed among us officials as he has been by unofficials. I would like to say also that he is as warmly welcome in our Regional Headquarters and he will undoubtedly help us tremendously there. I have known Dr Manuwa since I was in the Eastern Provinces where I was always

amazed at his industry and his administrative ability in looking after the many Native Administration dispensaries in Onitsha Province. Now, we have him here and the whole of the Western Provinces will benefit from his experience and energy. He spoke of himself and of my learned friend the Senior Crown Counsel beside me as the first two swallows of a summer—the summer of self-government to which Nigerians and Government too, look forward. If all the later swallows that come are as excellent as these first two Nigeria may expect a fine summer.

I had a lot of notes down to make reply concerning those sad and neglected Provinces of Warri and Benin, but their Residents have given such clear answers to charges of neglect that I cannot add much. I am an old Warri boy—I was happily there for eight years—and now am here. I watch and see how my friend the Acting Secretary Finance distributes money and how Deputies distribute their staff. I am sure I would have been the first to realise that there was neglect if there had been. There is a feeling apparently that they have been overlooked but having listened to the Resident, Warri, in particular I am inclined to think that so far they have got as much if not more of their development projects than other Provinces.

The Honourable the Second Nominated Member has deplored the statements in Your Honour's Address covering some dishonesty that has been discovered from time to time among the staffs of Co-operative Societies, and asks why they should be so exposed to public gaze, whereas the sins of the staffs of Commercial firms and of Government remain hidden. Surely he will find that it is to the advantage of the Co-operative Societies that these things should be made known, and indeed it would be better if similar dishonesties in the commercial world or Government services could as easily be shown up. My Honourable friend will agree that it must be the very first essential in any co-operative movement, any co-operation, that there is mutual trust and it is for this reason that Your Honour used those words in the section on the Co-operative Department; without honesty and mutual trust the co-operative movement must die.

I was glad to hear the Second Member for Oyo Province stress his appreciation for the legislation concerning chieftaincy disputes which is now in force; and I am sure my learned friend, the Senior Crown Counsel is even more glad that this is so. In passing I would just like to remind the House that this piece of legislation is the outcome of work in this House. A motion a year ago by one of our Unofficial Members started this Legislative ball rolling and here we have our law. I think that this is a good indication of how usefully our House functions and how it seems to have its finger on the very pulse of necessity.

The same Member, the Second Member for Oyo Province, spoke concerning Native Courts. Now Your Honour mentioned this fairly fully in your Speech. You said Native Authorities and Members of the House have already been asked to give this matter careful consideration so as to be in a position to offer sound and constructive advice when the time comes to consider this matter. Then, Sir, you closed by saying "to my mind the essential question which applies to the Courts as much as to Administration, is simply this—are the people generally satisfied with the justice meted out to them?". I want at this point to quote statistics that are of interest. In 1947, last year, there were 112,000 cases heard in the Native Courts, out of these only 5.05 per cent were appealed or reviewed. Of these appeals and reviews only 2.75 per cent of the Native Court judgements were amended. Well, if statistics mean anything the position cannot be as bad as has been thought. By saying that I am not suggesting that there is no room for improvement; but let us think carefully and not jettison hurriedly something which apparently has been useful and start something which may not fit the country so well. The same Member talked about "five shillings" Judges. In my country, as the Honourable the Oni of Ife and the Honourable the Second Member may know, having recently visited there nearly all litigation comes before Justices of the Peace, who may be termed "not a penny" Judges. They do not get one penny. It is considered a privilege, an honour, a recognition of public respect and of integrity, to be asked to become a Justice of the Peace, and as such you hear the type of petty cases which come before our own Native Courts in this country. It is a fine, well-tested system with which we are content. We still, of course, have our Stipendary Magistrates in the more populated areas and the larger towns as we are beginning to have in this country, but for the most part the best among the people are chosen to do this work without reward. )

Very many appreciative words have been said about the success of the New Constitution. The First Member for Oyo Province confessed that he did not believe in it to start with but has been converted, and he has praised the Government for the way in which it has been conducted. I think that is very pleasing to hear. He has also praised the people of England for making the Ibadan University possible by out pouring so much of their money upon it. It is good that such recognition should be given and I thank the First Member for giving public utterance of gratitude.

There is one recurring theme in nearly all Unofficial Members' speeches—the lack of progress in Development schemes. I think you might remember what His Excellency said in his speech in Ibadan on Tuesday when he referred to "divine discontent". Residents and Deputies have given us facts and there is a considerable over-all achievement in development plans. In giving these facts we are not just trying to show Unofficial Members that they are complaining unnecessarily, we are just trying to show them that

something has been done. We in fact share their "divine discontent" and will press and urge more speed in our plans.

Sir, I beg to support the Motion.

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

In winding up this Debate, Sir, I hasten to say how gratified I was to hear the welcome given to this Motion, and in particular to express my thanks personally and on behalf of the staff for the very gracious compliments paid on the production of the Estimates. Next may I concur with what my friend the Secretary Western Provinces said in regard to my friend the Deputy Director of Medical Services. I listened with great interest to the many good speeches, one of the best of which was his. Although most of the points raised by Members have been referred to by Official Members, there are one or two points on which I should like to comment briefly.

The Fifth Nominated Member and the Members for Abeokuta and Ijebu Provinces, also I think the Oba of Benin, referred to the grants to Native Administrations. I thought I detected misunderstanding in some speeches as regards the amount set aside for this purpose. Members are aware that in the old days Government took a large share of direct tax. Now it only takes the 6d capitation. The revenue estimate shows the yield expected from the Regional share of direct tax as £25,200. If Members compare that with the £50,000 provided in the Subvention Head of the Estimates they will realise that the Government is prepared to pay almost double what it receives. The Grants-in-Aid were fixed at a very high figure last year in order to help those Native Administrations which previously received large subsidies from Government for the payment of cost of living allowance. Those Native Administrations which received no such subsidies in the past are naturally critical of a system under which they would contribute while others receive. This maladjustment is being corrected by a reduction of the Government assistance to the Native Administrations (including Ibadan) who have up to now received the larger share of whatever was available. The fundamental purpose of Grants-in-Aid is to stimulate Native Administrations into providing further developments. It is not intended to kill initiative and make them dependent upon Government. May I also add that Education Grants-in-Aid are a considerable relief—to the extent of perhaps £8,000 or £10,000, I am not quite sure.

The Fifth Nominated Member went on to say that the Native Administrations did not get a fair share of revenue from taxation. Government has decided that the administration of the Income Tax Ordinance should remain in the hands of the Central Government. The Fifth Nominated Member seemed to have forgotten the vast expenditure by the Central Government which has helped to develop this town and continues to do so. Unless it has definite sources

of revenue it cannot finance its services. That is obvious. On the other hand, Government has offered to take over from Native Administrations, services such as Police, Prisons and Hospitals. These services have been accepted as essentially a Government responsibility, and not of the local Government, although no pressure has been brought upon Native Administrations in the past to give them up. My point is that unless the Native Administrations find fresh sources of revenue (without robbing the Government sources) they will not be able to keep pace with the rising costs of these services.

The Honourable the Fourth Nominated Member asked for a larger surplus to be set aside in order to avoid bankruptcy. My answer to him is that the decision has not yet been made whether a thrifty Region will keep its surplus. While constitutional arrangements have not yet given responsibility for raising revenue to the Region, we must still leave it to the Central Government to arrange fiscal policy so that we do not go bankrupt.

The Member for Benin Province, as did the Oba of Benin, made a plea for the Benin and Warri Provinces, suggesting that they had perhaps been forgotten. Without keeping the House too long may I add briefly to what has been said by the Residents for Warri and Benin. I regard it as part of my duty to see that expenditure is spread fairly over the Region. At the beginning of regionalisation it was inevitable that Ibadan—the capital town—should get a temporarily unfair share of the expenditure, *e.g.*, the building of the Secretariat, the new chamber for the House of Assembly, have taken a great deal of money. But with the passing of the months there is no reason why the Benin-Warri area should not catch up in its building programme and if the Benin Province feels that it is off the map I would remind Members of a fact which the Resident, Benin, has mentioned—Benin City is one of the few places in this Region which possesses a landing ground and will shortly have regular air services. Surely this is a sign of progress, Sir. And puts Benin on the map. I should like to have proved to Members how much expenditure has been devoted to that area, but an examination of the Estimates by Provinces will take time and I have not been able to obtain figures since this morning.

Both the Members for Oyo Province referred to their Native Administrations being hard hit by the Harragin revision. They both realised the need for more revenue. That is the very point I made in my opening speech. The First Member for Oyo Province thought that the Harragin arrears should have been met in total by Government. This Region received £50,000 from Government to assist in meeting that Bill. May I remind him that his own Native Administration received the largest share not only because it is a large Native Administration but had a higher rate than any other to help to balance its budget. Government has been more generous than to any other Administration.

Much more could be said Sir, but I will leave further comment to Select Committee as we have other business to do today. This year I think we can claim to have struck a note of greater optimism than we had last year. This House has shown that it has a good appetite for expenditure. To ask for more is generally a healthy sign. It is my earnest hope that these Estimates are realistic and that the funds provided will be properly expended. Again I thank the House for their kindly words of appreciation and their attention.

**His Honour :**

The question is that the Estimates be referred to a Select Committee of the House.

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

The Select Committee will consist of the Unofficial Members of the House with the Acting Secretary Finance as Chairman.

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

Your Honour, May I suggest it meets at 9 o'clock tomorrow in the Secretariat Library?

**His Honour :**

9 o'clock tomorrow in the Secretariat Library.

*The House adjourned at 5 p.m. until 9 a.m. on Saturday 18th December.*



# Debates in the Western House of Assembly

Saturday, 18th December, 1948

Pursuant to notice the Members of the Western House of Assembly met in Mapo Hall, Ibadan, at 9 a.m. on Saturday, the 18th of December, 1948.

## PRESENT

### OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,  
His Honour T. C. Hoskyns-Abrahall, C.M.G.
- The Resident, Abeokuta Province,  
Mr J. H. Blair, E.D.
- The Secretary, Western Provinces,  
Mr P. V. Main.
- The Resident, Benin Province,  
Mr R. J. M. Curwen.
- The Acting Resident, Warri Province,  
Mr R. L. V. Wilkes.
- The Acting Resident, Ondo Province,  
Mr T. B. Bovell-Jones.
- The Acting Resident, Oyo Province,  
Mr A. F. Abell.
- The Acting Secretary (Finance), Western Provinces,  
Mr W. R. Hatch.
- The Acting Resident, Ijebu Province,  
Mr O. V. Lee, E.D.
- The Deputy Director of Medical Services,  
Dr S. L. A. Manuwa, O.B.E.
- The Deputy Director of Education,  
Mr S. Milburn.
- The Acting Deputy Director of Agriculture,  
Mr A. V. Gibberd.
- The Acting Deputy Director of Public Works,  
Mr C. E. Andrae.
- The Senior Crown Counsel,  
Mr R. A. Doherty.

### UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Honourable the Oba Aderemi, C.M.G.,  
The Oni of Ife.
- 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 Member for the Benin Province,  
Chief H. O. Osagie, the Aighobahi of Benin.
- The Member for the Warri Province,  
Chief Jessa Ogboru.
- The Member for the Ondo Province,  
Mr J. B. Arifalo.
- The Member for the Ijebu Province,  
Chief A. O. Okupe, the Alaperu of Iperu.
- The Member for the Abeokuta Province,  
Chief A. Soetan, the Aro of Kemta.
- The Second Nominated Member,  
The Honourable Akinpelu Obisesan, O.B.E.
- The Third Nominated Member,  
The Honourable T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.
- The Fourth Nominated Member,  
The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.
- The Fifth Nominated Member,  
Mr E. A. Sanda.

#### ABSENT

#### UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The First Nominated Member,  
The Venerable Archdeacon L. A. Lennon, 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 16th of December, 1948, having been printed and circulated to members, were taken as read and confirmed.

#### QUESTIONS

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

To ask the Secretary, Western Provinces:—

(a) Before the war, anyone could order or import anything from England and any part of the world; but today this facility is allowed to only a selected few; what is the reason for this restriction?

(b) What will be the evil effect if the restriction is taken away?

(c) What qualification is required before one can become a Licensed Importer?

(d) How many Licensed Importers are there in Oyo Province?

(e) What kinds of goods are prohibited from importation?

Answer—

The Hon. the Secretary, Western Provinces:

(a) The main object of import control is to conserve supplies of "hard currencies". All importers are free to import a very wide range of goods from England and other countries without licence.

(b) The wastage of dollar resources on unnecessary imports and a subsequent inability to obtain necessary imports from "dollar countries".

(c) There are no "licensed importers". Import licences for controlled commodities are not restricted to selected traders, but are available to any genuine importer who

(i) can produce satisfactory evidence of his ability to procure such commodities at a reasonable price and

(ii) has adequate facilities for proper distribution.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The member is referred to the second schedule of the Customs Ordinance. The importation of all goods from certain sources is restricted, but conditions vary from time to time. Information is always available from the Import Control Office.

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

To ask the Acting Secretary (Finance), Western Provinces:—

What specific development works have been undertaken in each District in the Ibadan Division for developing the following:—

Education, Roads, Means of Communications; *e.g.*, Telegraph, Telephones and Post Offices, Health and Water Supply?

*Answer—*

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

*Education.*—The following sums have been issued for work now in progress:—

	£
Government College, Ibadan ... ..	6,600
Government Elementary Training Centre, Ibadan	5,000
St. Theresa's College, Ibadan ... ..	30,000
C.M.S. Archdeaconry Elementary Training Centre, Ibadan ... ..	2,000
U.M.C., Ibadan ... ..	10,000

*Roads.*—Construction has been started on the Ibadan-Asha road and preliminary work has been done on the Igbo-ora-Sanusi and Iwo-Gbongan roads.

*Tele-Communications.*—The overhead line from Oshogbo-Akure is being reconstructed and an additional trunk provided. Carrier equipment is being installed at Oshogbo.

*Health.*—Work is in hand on the Nurses training school at Ibadan which should be completed during this financial year.

*Water Supplies.*—The dam at Ogbomosho reservoir has been raised and additional standpipes are being installed. Preliminary investigations have been carried out on supplies for Ikirun, Oshogbo, Ede and Iwo. Rural water supply schemes have been started in Oshogbo District.

**The Member for the Ondo Province (Mr J. B. Arifalo):**

To ask the Acting Deputy Director of Public Works, Western Provinces:—

Is it a fact that Executive Engineers on the long grade of £450-£1,000 per annum in the Public Works Department are not satisfied with their prospect of promotion to the Senior Grade in the Depart-

ment? And to ask if this is the result of great exodus of Executive Engineers of this class from the Department and if this is the reason why many vacancies in the grade are left unfilled?

*Answer—*

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

It is correct to say that there is a feeling among some potential recruits to the Department that the prospects of promotion to super scale posts are not sufficiently attractive and this may to some extent be responsible for failure to fill vacancies and for early retirements. There is in any case a serious shortage of Engineers and a demand for their services in the United Kingdom which is also a contributory factor to the present position.

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

To ask the Acting Secretary (Finance), Western Provinces:—

That in view of the fact that it is now the avowed policy of the Government to encourage Africans to associate in business, if Government will consider reducing the minimum Income Tax payable by Public Companies from 7s 6d to 5s in every pound (£1) in the case of a Limited Liability Company whose authorised or paid up capital is under £50,000?

*Answer—*

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

The Member is referred to clause 8 and paragraph 1 (a) of the Objects and Reasons of the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill which is now before the House. This amendment is designed to give a substantial measure of relief to small companies in their early years.

**MOTIONS**

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

Your Honour, I rise to move :

“ That for the financial year 1949-50 the Regional Deputy Director of Agriculture be authorised to expend upon the following purposes:—

- (a) Nigeria Cocoa Survey
- (b) Cocoa Soil Survey
- (c) Investigations into the Economics of the Cocoa Industry
- (d) Improvement of Quality of Cocoa
- (e) Long-term Rehabilitation and New Planting.

the several sum set out in the estimates laid before this House in Schedule ‘ A ’ to ‘ E ’ of Appendix ‘ U ’ of the Western Region Estimates 1949-50, such expenditure to be made in accordance with those Estimates and to be made in anticipation of reimbursement from Funds made available by the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board ”.

As I have already explained in the budget debate and in Select Committee, the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board has agreed in principle to provide funds for schemes for benefitting the cocoa

industry. The Board proposes to employ the Agriculture Department as its agent for disbursing these funds. It is, therefore, necessary that this House should approve the expenditure which will be incurred by the Agriculture Department. I am authorised by the Chairman of the Board to say that it is the intention of the Board to entrust the direction of the proposed investigation—Scheme (C)—to a high level committee in London. It is, therefore, premature to discuss detailed estimates of expenditure for the Scheme now Select Committee has agreed to a round figure of £10,000. Details have already been discussed in Select Committee, and this is a formal motion merely to ensure that the funds provided are voted in the normal way and subject to scrutiny by this House. Otherwise the Agriculture Department would be serving two masters, and they are not.

Sir, I beg to move.

**The Secretary, Western Provinces :**

Your Honour, I beg to second.

**His Honour :**

The question is that this Motion is acceptable to the House. Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

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

Your Honour, I have to present the report of the Select Committee on the Estimates, a copy of this report is in the hands of all Members.

I move that the House resolve itself into Committee to consider the report.

*House in Committee.*

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

Your Honour, I have the following amendments to move to the Expenditure Summary at Appendix 'B' of the Draft Estimates.

	£
Western Head 32, Administration ... ..	167,020
Western Head 44, Public Works Recurrent—	
Maintenance Works ... ..	209,956
Western Head 47, Subventions ... ..	51,275

*Amendments approved.*

*House resumed.*

**His Honour :**

The question is that His Excellency the Governor be advised to approve the Estimates of Expenditure for the service of the Western Region during the year 1949-50 with the amendments approved in Committee. Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

**The Hon. the Oba Aderemi, C.M.C., the Oni of Ife:**

Your Honour, at the Committee meeting of the Unofficial Members we have fixed the matter and we have unanimously nominated Chief A. Soetan to be the Fourth Member of the Legislative Council and I am happy to propose his name.

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

Your Honour, I beg to second.

**His Honour:**

I have to announce that Chief Adegunle Soetan has been appointed by the Unofficial Members of the House of Assembly as the Member of the Legislative Council for Nigeria. I congratulate him on the appointment.

**The Acting Deputy Director of Agriculture:**

Your Honour, I rise to move:

“ That this House do appoint two members to the Board of Agriculture in accordance with section 3 of the Agriculture Ordinance ”.

Two members have been provisionally appointed and the object of this motion is to ratify that election.

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

Your Honour, I beg to second.

**The Hon. the Oba Aderemi, C.M.C., the Oni of Ife:**

Your Honour, at the same meeting this question has been discussed and we are unanimously agreed that the Honourable Obisesan, O.B.E., and the Honourable Obaseki should be the members.

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

Your Honour, I beg to second.

**His Honour:**

The question is that this Motion is acceptable to this House. Those in favour say “ Aye ”, those to the contrary “ No ”. The “ Ayes ” have it.

**The Hon. the Oba Aderemi, C.M.C., the Oni of Ife:**

Your Honour, the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of the Unofficial Members to the Central Board of Education and the Regional Board of Education:—

Chief A. O. Okupe, the Alaperu of Iperu, to the Central Board of Education.

and to the Regional Board of Education the following:—

The Honourable Omo N’Oba Akenzua II, C.M.G., the Oba of Benin.

**His Honour :**

The question is that the House do now resolve itself into Committee to study the clauses of the Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board.

*House in Committee.*

*Clause 60.*

**The Resident, Abeokuta Province :**

Your Honour, I move that clause 60 (b) be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Amendment approved.*

*Clause 60 as amended.*

*Clause 62.*

**The Resident, Abeokuta Province :**

Your Honour, I move that clause 62 be amended by adding the proviso recommended in Select Committee.

*Amendment approved.*

*Clause 62 as amended.*

*House resumed.*

**The Resident, Abeokuta Province :**

Your Honour, I report the Bill for the Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Ordinance, 1949, from Committee with five amendments.

**His Honour :**

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

**The Acting Resident, Oyo Province :**

Your Honour, I rise to present the report of the Select Committee on the Nigeria Cotton Marketing Ordinance, which reads:—

" It was agreed in Select Committee as follows:—

(a) That a proviso be added to clause 42 (1) to read thus:—

'Proviso': Provided that in giving any direction under this sub-section the Marketing Board shall have regard to the interests of Nigerian industries. For the purpose of this sub-section the Marketing Board shall have regard to the Nigerian unless all the shareholders are natives of Nigeria.'

(b) That a proviso be added to clause 42 (2) to read thus:—

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

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

Your Honour, I rise to second.

**His Honour :**

The question is that this House do now resolve itself into Committee to consider the recommendations of the Select Committee.

*House in Committee.*

*Clause 42.*

**The Acting Resident, Oyo Province :**

Your Honour, I move that clause 42 be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Amendments approved.*

*Clause 42 as amended.*

*House resumed.*

**The Acting Resident, Oyo Province :**

Your Honour, I report the Bill for the Nigeria Cotton Marketing Ordinance, 1949, from Committee with three amendments.

**His Honour :**

The question is " That this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that this Bill is acceptable to this House with three amendments " as stated by the proposer. Those in favour say " Aye ", those to the contrary " No ". The " Ayes " have it.

**The Secretary, Western Provinces :**

Your Honour, I rise to move the resolution standing in my name, that this House do appoint three members to the Shadow Oil Palm Produce Representative Committee in accordance with clause 30 of the Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board Bill.

The Bill under which these appointments are to be made has already been considered by the House at the present meeting. The Board and Committees to be established under the Bill are as yet " Shadow " only, and will remain so until the Bill becomes law. They have had to be established in advance to deal with the large number of matters concerning the marketing of palm produce which need urgent attention. The Members have already been consulted by correspondence on the subject of these appointments and they have met already to discuss it. It now remains for the Members to ratify these appointments, and Your Honour, I beg to move.

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

Your Honour, I beg to second.

**The Hon. the Oba Aderemi, C.M.C., the Oni of Ife :**

Your Honour, in accordance with the decision reached by the Unofficial Members I beg to move the following persons be members of the Committee:—



Mr S. A. Akinfenwa of Ibadan.  
Chief (George Adetula, the Sashere of Owo.  
Mr Reece Edukugho of Warri.

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

Your Honour, I beg to second.

**His Honour :**

The question is that this Motion is acceptable to the House. Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

**The Secretary, Western Provinces :**

Your Honour, I rise to move the resolution standing in my name, that this House do appoint four Nigerian Unofficial Members to be members of the Shadow Western Cotton Representative Committee in accordance with Clause 32 (d) of the Nigeria Cotton Marketing Bill.

The circumstances of these appointments are precisely the same as the appointments for the Shadow Oil Palm Produce Representative Committee. Members are now being asked to ratify provisional appointments.

Your Honour, I beg to move.

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

Your Honour, I beg to second.

**The Hon. the Oba Aderemi, C.M.C., the Oni of Ife :**

Your Honour, we have discussed this matter in our meeting and I beg to move that the following be appointed to serve on the Shadow Western Cotton Representative Committee:—

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

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

Your Honour, I beg to second.

**His Honour :**

The question is "That this motion is acceptable to the House". Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

**The Secretary, Western Provinces :**

Your Honour, I rise to move the resolution standing in my name that this House do appoint between four and eight Unofficial Members from its number to be members of the Shadow Western Regional Production Development Board in accordance with clause 40 (c) of the Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Bill.

Members have already seen and approved this Bill and there is no need for me to say more on the subject. It is the desire that the Development Board should start work as early as possible and this House is, therefore, asked to appoint members to the Shadow Board. No provisional members have yet been appointed to this Board as in the case of Cotton and Palm Oil Representative Committees.

Your Honour, I beg to move.

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

Your Honour, I beg to second.

**The Hon. the Oba Aderemi, C.M.C., the Oni of Ife :**

Your Honour, we have discussed this matter in our meeting and I beg to move that the following be appointed to serve on the Shadow Regional Production Development Board :—

Chief A. Soetan, the Aro of Kemta.  
 The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.  
 The Honourable T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.  
 Mr J. B. Arifalo.  
 The Honourable Akinpelu Obisesan, O.B.E.  
 Mr E. A. Sanda.  
 Chief Jessa Ogboru.

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

Your Honour, I beg to second.

**His Honour :**

The question is " That this Motion is acceptable to the House ". Those in favour say " Aye ", those to the contrary " No ". The " Ayes " have it.

**The Second Nominated Member (The Hon. Akinpelu Obisesan, O.B.E.) :**

Your Honour, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name which reads :—

" Whereas His Excellency the Governor stated in his opening speech at the last meeting of the Legislative Council that he proposed to set up a Select Committee to review the existing Constitution following the Budget Session in 1949, and whereas His Excellency emphasised the importance of an adequate expression of public opinion, be it resolved, therefore, without prejudice to the deliberations of any Select Committee of the Legislative Council to be set up by His Excellency to examine the Constitution, that arrangements be made at a Provincial level for full discussion of the working of the Constitution in the Western Provinces and that the results of this be considered by this House ".

I feel it is hardly necessary for me to speak at length on this Motion since His Excellency and Your Honour have stated what Government's intention is regarding the revision of the existing Constitution; Sir, but it is pertinent in this connection to refer to a portion of Lord Milverton's last brilliant speech to the Legislative Council on the 28th day of August, 1947. He said, "I am pleased to hear that the Regional Houses under the new Constitution are already making their presence felt, and have already given evidence of an active constructive interest in affairs, and a determination to take their place in shaping them. May their stature continue to grow". This testimony coming from the Father of the constitution is a great tribute to the public-spiritedness of the members in the three Regions and in particular to Your Honour and the officers serving under you for all the trouble taken to remove doubts in the minds of the people as to what Government's intention was in giving the present constitution to Nigeria. The Constitution if revised will pass its first stage to the second and if experience justifies further revision, I have no doubt that as in the present case Government would not hesitate to make another move. 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):**

Your Honour, I beg to second.

**His Honour:**

The Motion as proposed by the Honourable Member is not in exactly the same terms as the Motion which was originally put forward and circulated to Members, and I ask leave of the House that the Motion in its original form should be withdrawn and the Motion in its present form should be substituted therefor. Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

**The Secretary, Western Provinces:**

Your Honour, I rise to support this Motion.

It is this sort of Motion which makes us all confident that our Constitution as it stands, un-amended, un-reviewed, is based on sure foundations and already developing on sure lines.

From an Unofficial Member of this House we receive the first concrete proposal for a method to carry out His Excellency's purpose, so widely applauded, of reviewing our Constitution. We have all probably been turning these matters over in our minds and perhaps some of us have come to the same conclusion, that the procedure suggested in this Motion should be followed, but the honour of putting it into concrete form goes to the Honourable the Second Nominated Member. He must therefore be congratulated.

Most Provinces have well established Provincial Committees and, if all shades of opinion are to be consulted, it is surely right that consultation should start there, and even I would say, without

suggesting any amendment to the Motion, at the Divisional level. At each of these levels there is excellent machinery for consulting not only Native Authorities, but also all members of the public who are informed and interested in such matters. As His Excellency has directed, it is essential that all shades of opinion should be consulted.

Your Honour, I congratulate the Mover of this Motion and I am sure all in this House will join me in supporting it.

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

Your Honour, I support this motion.

**His Honour :**

The question is "That the motion is acceptable to this House". Those in favour say "Aye", those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

**His Honour :**

Before I move the adjournment, there are just one or two points that I would like to make.

First of all I would like to congratulate Members of the House of Assembly on the high standard of the speeches which have been made at this Session in this House. I think that we can congratulate ourselves on developing in this respect in a highly satisfactory way. Members know just what they want to say and Members say it. The speeches mostly are not of great length, but they are packed with meat. I also feel that the atmosphere of this House throughout the Debate has been one of friendly co-operation, which is such an essential ingredient in any development of this country along the right lines. Many questions have been asked by Unofficial Members, and I congratulate the Official Members on the clarity and thoroughness with which they have answered these questions, and answered them, I hope, to the satisfaction of the questioners. Some matters could not be finalised here, but I am sure that the Official Members will be at pains to get all the information that is required and will pass it on in due course to the Members in question, and that, of course, is one of the great points of a Regional Sub-Committee to keep the Unofficial Members of this House in touch with the Departmental activities which are going on in the Western Provinces. The value of a speech does not depend upon its length. It depends upon what the speech contains of constructive criticism and of valuable suggestions.

I am sure that you all will be pleased to hear this telegram which I received yesterday from a very old friend of mine, and a very old friend of a great majority of the Members of this House, which reads as follows:—

“ Addressed to the Chief Commissioner, Ibadan.

Members of Eastern House of Assembly and myself much appreciate the kind message of yourself and the Western House. We heartily reciprocate your good wishes and convey our good will and assurance of the fullest co-operation towards the progress of Nigeria.

PYKE-NOTT,  
*Chief Commissioner,  
Eastern Provinces.”*

There was one matter which was raised in this House. It is a matter, incidentally, which was raised with me personally in a very large number of the places which I visit in my tours in the Western Provinces, and that is why is it thought so much is being done for other places and so little being done for us? That question was raised in debate, and two Members answering on behalf of Government pointed out that they did not consider that the Province—for the administration of which they are responsible to me—had been neglected, and I asked the Secretary Finance in the short time available if he could get me figures to prove, or to disprove, the contention that two Provinces did not receive their fair share in the way of expenditure. Well, curiously enough, the population of the two Provinces Benin and Warri, are in the ratio of 1 to 2 to the rest of the Western Provinces, and as regards area, they are in about the same ratio. And it is a particularly interesting thing to note that their expenditure taken from Regional Estimates gives a ratio of expenditure in those two Provinces of just about the same—a ratio of 1 to 2; and so far as it is possible to say by looking at figures, we can say that we are spending as much money in that group of Provinces as is being spent in the other four Provinces that go to make up the Western Provinces. That expenditure does not include money spent at the Headquarters of the Western Provinces on what we might call Central Regional expenditure.

It is always a great pleasure to us here to welcome observers from other parts of the Western Provinces, and we hope that we can organise this in future in such a way that we can get a reasonable number of people who are really keen on the development of the Western Region to come here and to listen to our debates and to take a healthy interest in what is going on, so that they may go back after the House has adjourned and tell their people just how the machine works in the Western Region.

We have listened to a motion by the Honourable Obisesan concerning the new Constitution. Going round the Western Provinces and discussing the Constitution with a large number of young people, I have discovered that there is a most abysmal ignorance of what the Constitution is. The great number of my listeners, keen though they are on politics and the political development of the country, could not possibly pass the simplest examination on the Legislative

body, either Legislative Council or the House of Chiefs in the North or the Houses of Assembly in the other three groups of Provinces. They simply do not know the first thing about the Government of their own country. I am not suggesting that there is any fault lying at their door in their ignorance, but as we are now going to have the new Constitution in the near future under review, it is of vital importance that people should not only have ideas as to what those improvements should be, but they should also have some idea of how they are made. I therefore propose to have printed a pamphlet—a simple pamphlet—which states factually just what the Constitution is, consisting of the Legislative Council, House of Assembly, and so on, with the names of those in the Western Provinces. That, I hope, will get widely and wisely distributed so as to give people a knowledge of what is the present Constitution so that they are able to get a greater knowledge to make suggestions as to what the future Constitution should be.

That, Gentlemen, brings me to the end of the remarks which I have proposed to make, and I will finally end by wishing you all a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year, not only for yourselves, but also for all the people you represent here in this Region.

The House will now adjourn *sine die*.

*House adjourned at 10.3 a.m. sine die.*